



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 16 : NUMBER 8 SEPTEMBER 2006



Acre Breakers

The old Butler Farm straddling the Falls Village-Cornwall line was the scene of a brainstorming session on Wednesday, August 9. Offered for subdivision by its owners, the river-front parcel, which includes 229 acres in Cornwall and 79 in Canaan, was subjected to an on-the-spot inspection by First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, State Senator Andrew Roraback, State Representative Roberta B. Willis, Housatonic Valley Authority land protection director Elaine LaBella, Hector Prud'homme, president of the Cornwall Conservation Trust, and Denny Frost, representing the Cornwall Land Trust. Representatives of the owners, the De Luca family (proprietors of a construction concern in Stamford), were not present, although they had been consulted.

The participants questioned the feasibility of subdividing the tract into as many as 40 building sites (as suggested in the broker's prospectus) while exploring more land-friendly schemes for the parcel, which contains steep terrain, animal habitats, wetlands, flood plain, railroad right-of-way, and an unimproved road. The less hilly Falls Village portion of the parcel, which has better road access, is considered to be more suitable for development.

Ridgway expressed the hope that public

funds might be found to preserve at least a portion of the property in an undeveloped state but did not rule out the possibility of limited residential development, despite the drawbacks. He stressed the mutual benefits when owners of large land tracts consult town agencies before placing their properties on the market.

A meeting with the owners to discuss a range of possibilities is scheduled for August 29.
—Matt Collins

Democratic Primary

It was a contest between political novice Ned Lamont and three-term incumbent Senator Joseph Lieberman. And, as reported, Lamont won the primary by 3.5 percent. Old news, yes, but here are some striking facts about Cornwall's vote and our role in the election.

The state totals were 146,587 to 136,468. Cornwall supported Lamont 243 to 24, which is a staggering 91 percent for Lamont, by far the largest margin of any of the 169 towns and cities in Connecticut. (Salisbury was next with 81 percent for Lamont.)

We also had a 73 percent turnout of eligible voters, the highest in the state according to the secretary of the state! The state figure was less than 50 percent.

While none of this could have been predicted, Lieberman never campaigned in the


Northwest Corner. In fact he apparently ignored most of the small towns in the state.

Soon after Lamont announced he was challenging Lieberman, he made an appearance in Torrington that was attended by several members of the Cornwall Democratic Town Committee who came away impressed. Within days the committee, led by First Selectman Gordon Ridgway and Chairman Steve Senzer, unanimously endorsed Lamont and went to work on his behalf. Cornwall Democrats called people on their party voter lists to remind them of the August primary. There was also a fundraising party attended by Lamont, who spoke to the gathering after some one-on-one conversations with many at the party.

Meanwhile, in the weeks before the primary, our registrars of voters, mainly Democrat Jayne Ridgway, were busy signing up new voters and changing the registration of others. During this period new voters included 14 Democrats, 2 Republicans, and 9 unaffiliated. In addition, 23 unaffiliated voters became Democrats, presumably to vote in the primary. Voter registrars were apparently busy across Connecticut, whose statewide figures showed that 11,496 unaffiliated voters became Democrats and that another 10,344 new voters signed on as Democrats.

(continued on page 2)

SEPTEMBER 2006

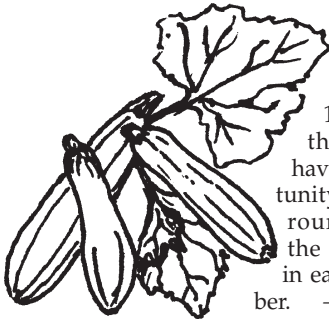
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Jam Session , 7:30 P.M. Village Meeting House; Adult Basketball , 8 P.M. CCS Gym Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball , 7-9 P.M. CCS Gym Wednesdays: Play Group , 10 A.M. Playscape or UCC; Stretch Class , 5 P.M. Town Hall Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers , 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room; Tai Chi for Beginners , 7:30 P.M. Call David Colbert 672-6726 for location Sundays: Meditation Group , 1-2 P.M. Debra Tyler 672-0229 for location					1	2
3	4 LABOR DAY 	5 CCS Opens 7:30 A.M. (p. 2) Park & Rec. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Ag. Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Inland Wetlands* 8 P.M. Town Hall	6	7	8	9 Cornwall Annual Agricultural Fair 11 A.M.-4 P.M. Village Green (see insert) Coltsfoot Mt. Hike 3 P.M. †
10	11 PATRIOT'S DAY Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House	12 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	13	14	15 Deadline: October Chronicle Copy	16 Bd. of Assessment Appeals 9:30-11 A.M. Town Offices † Hart Farm Preserve Hike 3 P.M. †
17 Hollaender Chamber Ensemble 4 P.M. UCC Church †	18 Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Democratic Town Committee 7:30 P.M. Library †	19 Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30-6:15 P.M. UCC Parish House † Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	20 Wings to Fly 6:30-7:30 P.M. Library †	21 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	22	23 AUTUMN BEGINS ROSH HASHANAH Pine Knob Loop Hike 3 P.M. †
24 Barbara Ensor reads Cinderella 4 P.M. Library †	25 ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall*	26 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	27 Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	28	29 Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Library †	30 Autumnfest Horse Show 9 A.M. Gunn Brook Farm † Dudleytown Hike 3 P.M. †

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued from page 1)

Up-to-date figures on Cornwall voter rolls now show 369 Democrats, 239 Republicans, 411 unaffiliated, and 10 others, mostly members of the Green Party, for a total of 1,029. All of them will have an opportunity to vote in round two of the senate race in early November. —John Miller



Back to School

All members of the Cornwall community are invited to join in the First Day Celebration at Cornwall Consolidated School on Tuesday, September 5, at 8:30 A.M. Dr. Fitz, State Senator Andrew Roraback, and others will welcome to the school community the 129 students currently registered. This is the first time in almost ten years that students have enjoyed the "whole summer" for vacation; that is, they will not have to return before the Labor Day holiday.

Teachers, however, have been back to school for three days of professional development, August 30–September 1. During one of those days they have learned how to implement a new framework for school conduct called Character Counts. All faculty and staff, plus one parent per class, representatives from the Board of Education, PTA, and the community participated in the training, led by two representatives from the Josephson Institute in Los Angeles. The source of funding is a REAP grant and PTA donation. Carla Whiteside, who attended a training session this summer in Princeton, New Jersey, reports there is a proven record of success among schools who have taught their populations to "think from the inside out."

Matthew Collins (not the frequent contributor to the *Chronicle*) joins the faculty as the social studies teacher for grades six through eight. He founded and for seven years directed a school for teaching English as a second language in Japan, then returned to Connecticut to complete the certification process. Dr. Fitz looks forward to the excitement and life experience he brings to his position.

As she begins her fourth year in Cornwall, Dr. Fitz maintains her enthusiasm and plans for making CCS "the best in all the land." —Barbara Gold

Murals Tell Cornwall's Story

Ever really looked at the murals in the National Iron Bank and the Cornwall Village Post Office? Do you even remember that there are pictures on those walls?

Both murals are the work of Clarence Meier, who came to Cornwall Village with his wife Virginia in 1953 to live in the pretty Victorian cottage that used to house the telephone exchange (14 Pine Street). A cartoonist, wallpaper designer, and accountant, Meier

worked for years in local organizations and developed an interest in local history.

The mural in the Cornwall Post Office (1959) depicts Cornwall Village in several periods in the 19th and 20th centuries consistent with the tenures of various postmasters. Interesting to see how the P.O. migrated about the town. All the postmasters are listed, too.

For this public art, Meier was awarded a silver medal for placing second in the eastern postal region (7,599 P.O.s) for interior decoration.

Cornwall Bridge in around 1900 went up on the bank's walls in 1965. Meier's real *tour de force* was the reconstruction of West Cornwall in 1900 (finished in 1973, also in the bank). He hunted out old foundations along the brook, destroyed in various floods. A fire in 1925 burned out the Mansion House, which sat in the parking lot between the West Cornwall Post Office and the West Cornwall Market. Other lost buildings visible in the mural are Judge L. J. Nickerson's law offices and Yutzler's tailor shop. All the old structures are in Meier's mural.

Next time you get the chance, take a good look. —Lisa Lansing Simont

Dragon Slain in Town Hall

So many children sat on the floor in the front of the chairs in the Town Hall today that it was hard to keep the aisle clear. "You'll get trampled by a dragon if you sit there," Leslie Elias admonished them as she gently swept them to the side.

Leslie, with her company Grumbling Gryphons, directs huge groups of children in original and colorful productions placed in far-off lands in real or surreal settings. Today it was a *Traditional Mummies Summer Revel*, and there were 25 children involved.

In *Saint George and the Dragon*, groups entertained a Royal Family and a Lord and Lady. There were stilt walkers, jugglers, acrobats, jesters, diabolo throwers, songsters, and mummies. The latter included dancing pigs, large-headed lions, slithery snakes, hopping frogs, a mad doctor, a huge hobby horse, and a "Big Head with Little Wit"—all fabulously costumed and presented with great gusto...until the ROAR of a dragon split the air, forcing everyone to flee, including the Royal Family and its entourage.

The dragon was on a rampage, and the audience knew it as ROAR after ROAR filled the hall. The noise of the roar and later loud growls came from somewhere inside a skillful guitar, harmonica, and violin player: Tom Hanford, the accompanist who also did the art with the children.

The Princess was to be sacrificed, but Saint George fell for her beauty and declared that he would slay the beast. When the dragon arrived, he was beyond-belief gorgeous and quite as long as the Town Hall. However, he was slain.

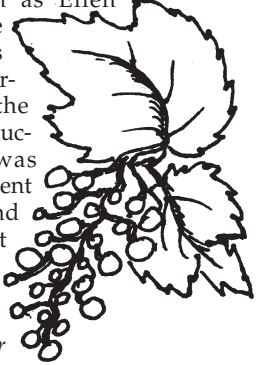
The Princess and Saint George had the biggest roles, and their acting was marvelous. But all the actors were good, even those

we could not see, for they were under the materials of the dragon's flamboyant body, and it was they who made him slink and writhe and threaten and finally collapse.

Leslie founded Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children's Theater, which in 2003 won the Connecticut Governor's Arts Award, the highest award achievable for arts in the state.

Many members of the community and professionals such as Ellen Moon contribute masks and costumes to the enchanted journeys Leslie offers the children. In this production the dragon was made for another event by Jane Prentice and the Youth Group at UCC. "It's time he came out of his lair," said Jane.

—Anne Zinsser



Good-Bye to a Friend

Joseph "Brad" Cass

Land Transfers

Nancy Sayles Day Foundation, Inc., to Ira B. Shapiro and Jacqueline Dedell, 24.237 acres on Dibble Hill Road and Route 125 for \$400,000.

Donald Craig Behn and Donald Craig Behn, Jr., to Sunset View LLC, property and 118.895 acres at 344 Furnace Brook Road for \$1,125,000.

Dudley H. and Mary R. Grimes to Mary Louise and John Rubin, house and 20 acres at 43 Ballyhack Road for \$650,000.

Robert G. Cassidy and Maria Luisa Kos to Matthew Hans and Amy Truax, property at 379 Kent Road for \$265,000.

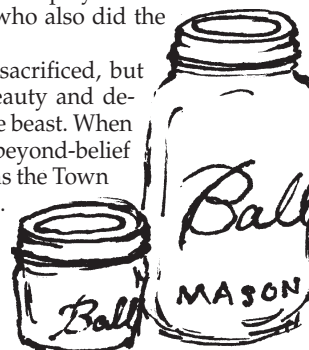
Estate of Lynnerna Niebergall to Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc., 1.43 acres on Kent Road.

Are We Growing Yet?

As Cornwall revises its Town Plan, a key question is: Is our population likely to grow in the next decade? The U.S. census, the most reliable count we have, found that there were 1,434 people in Cornwall in spring 2000, a mere 20 more than ten years earlier, when we had 1,414.

The census only counts residents, people whose legal residence is here and who, for the most part, live here full-time. But Cornwall has a second population, sometimes called "weekenders," who own or rent here but have their legal residences elsewhere.

The census does provide information that helps estimate the number of weekenders. Most useful in this regard is the number of housing units. In 2000, we had a total of 873 housing units, of which 615 were "occupied full-time." Most of the remaining 227 housing units were occupied on an "other than year-round" basis. Clearly, these were the houses of weekenders. If average household size for weekenders was the same as for year-rounders, then



Cornwall had about 530 weekenders in 2000, or 27 percent of a "real" total population of just under 2,000 people. The weekender figure is up from 1990, when I estimated it at just under 360.

Assuming that both weekenders and the resident population have continued to change at the 1990-2000 rate, I estimate that by now (summer 2006) Cornwall's "real" population is up to nearly 2,100. And by the time of the next census (2010), if our year-round population stays at about the same level or even declines a bit, I guesstimate that Cornwall's "real" population may rise to about 2,250. Of this total, only about 1,400 will be year-rounders, and the weekender total may swell to as much as 850, or about 38 percent of the total.

There is no existing census or source of useful information on the characteristics or interests of the growing weekend population of Cornwall. It could be useful for the selectmen and P&Z to survey our growing group of "weekenders" so we would know more about them and their concerns.

If you want to read more on this topic, visit the "Planning Cornwall's Future" page at www.cornwallct.org.

—David A. Grossman

Tennis Team Triumphs

Cornwall's 18-and-under intermediate tennis team was again victorious at the United States Tennis Association Team Tennis state tournament played in Branford, Connecticut. The team (composed of Rip Furniss, Byron Clohessy, Tyler Cheney, Graham Maharg, Mary Brunelli, Katherine Stewart, Krysia Lenzo, and Sara Barrett) qualified to represent Connecticut in the New England sectional tournament played in West Hartford at the Conard High School on August 22 and 23. This is the third year in a row Cornwall has sent a team to the New England championship. In both preceding years we won that tournament as well.

Unfortunately the 14-and-under team (composed of John Steines, Charles Van Doren, Sam Van Doren, TJ Lenzo, Helena Duffee, Jane Stewart, Camilla Busby, and Sabina Busby) narrowly missed advancing when they lost to the team from Woodbridge, Connecticut, 3-2. This 14-and-under team has a fantastic spirit and attitude; it is doubtless poised to be a winning team in years to come, so stay tuned!

—Todd Piker

Happy Cars in Cornwall

It's not easy to be happy about taxes, but Cornwall's cars and trucks may be. For example, if you owned a 2005 Subaru Forester, you paid \$323.51 in taxes last year. In Hartford, the same car's tax bill would be \$902.57, and in Waterbury, the tab would be \$801.36. Some towns do have lower taxes. In Sharon, the bill would have been \$210.73 and in Lyme \$192.92.

This happens because cars are assessed at standard values, while tax rates vary widely by town. It's nice, but is it fair?

—David A. Grossman

Letters to the Chronicle

THE GIFT OF LIFE

I agreed to accompany my young neighbor and friend, Liz Thompson (Pat & Kim Redmond's daughter), to Hartford Hospital. It was her first meeting to gain entry onto a "List" most of us pray we never need to be on. After being diagnosed at 13 with a rare, severe form of lupus, Liz went into renal failure seven years ago. I sat there as a supporter, advocate and friend listening to the litany of life changes, medical exams and other requirements Liz will have to make and go through in order to receive a new kidney. Meanwhile, she continues to spend four hours a day, three days a week in dialysis, not to mention the numerous after hours being nauseous, sick, and tired.

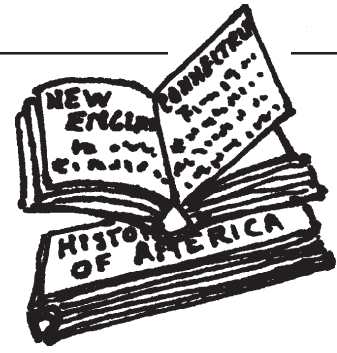
Because of Liz's debilitating condition she is unable to hold down a job, unable to keep a full collegial schedule and unable to live the life of a normal 24-year-old.

The average wait on the [kidney transplant] List is three years. That's three more years of dialysis! CORNWALL, we need a HERO! If you have type "O" or "B" blood and would consider such an enormous personal sacrifice, please call 672-0223 for more information.

—Sidney McCartin

THE CORNWALL CUP

Thanks go out to all those who made the community picnic a great success. A fun time



was had by all at this new Cornwall tradition. It was good to get the Cornwall Cup back in play.

The trophy, won by the Cornwall/Cornwall Bridge team, resides in the Selectmen's Office, despite the fact that the board's majority was on the second-place team, not that some people cannot accept results. No one holds a grudge, but there is interest in a rematch on Labor Day.

If you are interested, please call Ted Larson, Cornwall/Cornwall Bridge captain, at 672-4888, or Phil Hart, West Cornwall team captain, at 672-0247. Call even if you did not play in the first round.

—Gordon M. Ridgway

NEW HIGH FOR ROSE ALGRANT SHOW

This year's Rose Algrant Art Show topped last year's record-breaking success by several thousand dollars, taking in about \$20,000. Forty-two exhibitors showed a variety of work, including paintings, photographs, woodwork, rugs, lamps, objets d'art, and jewelry. A magnificent flower arrangement by Julia Scott enhanced the show. After expenses are deducted from the 15 percent commission received from the artists we will be able to donate several thousand dollars to the Cornwall Free Library.

—Bee Simont

Hunting and Trapping Schedule, Fall 2006

- Small Game
Species and dates vary. September 1-September 30 and October 21-December 30.
- Turkey, Archery
September 15-November 14, state and private lands. December 20-30, landowner.
- Turkey, Firearms
October 7-October 31.
- Deer, Archery
September 15-November 14, and December 20-30, state lands. September 15-December 30, state bow hunting areas only. September 15-November 14, and December 6-December 30, private lands Cornwall zone.
- Deer, Firearms
November 15-December 5, zones and dates vary. Shotguns, state and private lands; rifles, private lands only. November 1-December 30, shotguns and rifles, landowner only. Muzzleloader, December 6-December 19.
- Trapping
Twelve species may be trapped from November 12 to December 31. Dates and limits vary by species.

Sundays: No hunting.

Information: DEP Guide is available online at www.dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/wildlife. It includes hunting hours, rules, and regulations. Or call the DEP Wildlife Division at (860) 424-3011 for a guide.

Safety: Wear orange. If you will be out alone, let somebody know where you will be. Hikers, if you see someone hunting, call out to identify your location. Bikers, attach a bell to your bike to warn of your approach. Check yourself for ticks!

Sightings: The DEP Wildlife Division keeps track of sightings of Bobcat, Black Bear, Fisher, and Moose. If you see one of these species please contact the DEP at (860) 675-8130. You will be asked the date, time, and exact location of your sighting.

Hunters for the Hungry: This program allows hunters to donate their game to charitable food organizations. For information call Connecticut Food Bank at (203) 469-5000.

—Jim Levy



Events & Announcements

Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, September 19, from 1:30 to 6:15 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. This blood drive is in memory of Nancy Lawrence (Pat Blakey's sister) and Tom Blakey (Jerry's brother), who both died of cancer this past spring. For an appointment call the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVELIFE or Jerry and Pat at 672-6516. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Saturday Youth Hikes in September begin at 3 P.M., and all have a different theme.

September 9, Coltsfoot Mountain: native plants. Meet at southern corner of Hubbard Field in Cornwall Village. Leader: Bridget Lynch.

September 16, Hart Farm Preserve: land conservation and trails. Meet at HFP parking area on Cherry Hill Road. Leader: Dan Hubbard.

September 23, Pine Knob Loop: maps and orienteering. Meet at PKL parking lot on Route 7. Leader: Emilie Pryor.

September 30, Dudleytown: history in the hills. Meet at top of Bald Mountain Road in Cornwall Bridge. Leader: Dave Colbert.

Questions? Call Emilie Pryor at 672-4226.

Hollaender Chamber Ensemble will perform at UCC on Sunday, September 17, at 4 P.M. This fourth annual concert features works by Mendelssohn and Schubert. Tickets are \$20, or \$15 for seniors. Free for children under 16 accompanied by an adult.

The Annual Cornwall Agricultural Fair will take place on Saturday, September 9, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M., on the Town Green. (See insert.)

Mountain Lion Gossip

The latest rumor is that the state environment watchdogs have, in fact, reintroduced the mountain lion to our wooded hills. The reason: to control the deer population in a cost-effective, natural way. But all this is being denied because the state authorities fear political pressure from tender folks who get upset when nature gets too red in tooth and claw.

Remember that you depend on the *Chronicle* for the latest on mountain lions. Remember too that the *Chronicle* depends on you for financial support. Thanks.

Art in Cornwall: At the Library, the exhibit of *Contemplative Works* by Nancy Daubenspeck and Robin Raderman will continue through the month of September.

The Wish House will be hosting a reception for mixed-media artwork by Debbie Jones on Saturday, September 2, from 5 to 7 P.M. The show will be on display through September.

At the Insiders/Outsiders Gallery, the *Master Pastellists* show will continue through September 23.

Art with Agricultural Themes: Community-wide call to artists, photographers, writers, and appreciators of rural life for works and expressions related, but not restricted, to the cultivation and harvesting of our lands, forests, and streams, and the preservation of open spaces. Works will be exhibited at the second Cornwall Agricultural Fair Exposition in the Town Hall the second weekend in September. A special event will feature works with the Lorch Farm as a subject.

Please bring entries to the Town Hall by Wednesday, September 6. Hanging space will be available; artists must arrange their own display. Questions? Call Cilla Mauro, 672-6969.

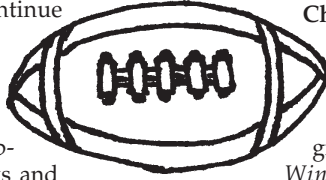
The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet in the Town Offices on Saturday, September 16, from 9:30 to 11 A.M. to hear appeals on motor vehicle assessments. No appointment necessary.

Democratic Town Committee will meet on Monday, September 18, at the Library at 7:30 P.M. Roberta Willis will be a guest. Plans for the November election will be discussed.

Gunn Brook Farm Autumnfest Horse Show will be held on Saturday, September 30, at 9 A.M. sharp. There will be classes for English and Western riders. Call Marianne Pirota at 672-0203 for information. Spectators are welcome.

Books, Books, Books are needed to replenish the Cornwall Transfer Station's "library," as it seems the heat of July has melted away all of the free reading material. Donations of paperback, hardbound, and children's books to restock the shelves can be left with Freddie or Steve.

The Cornwall House Tour, on Saturday, October 7, will benefit the Cornwall Housing Corporation. For information see www.cornwallct.org ("Coming Events"). Tickets will be available on the day of the tour at the Cornwall Package Store in Cornwall Bridge and at the Wish House in West Cornwall. For advance tickets call 672-6774.



Children's Programs at the Library: Starting September 20, the Library will hold a reading discussion group for third- and fourth-grade girls and their mothers entitled *Wings to Fly*. The program is sponsored by the Connecticut Humanities Council. For more information call the Library at 672-6874.

On Sunday, September 24, at 4 P.M., children's author, illustrator, and former Cornwall resident Barbara Ensor will read from her new book, *Cinderella (As if You Didn't Already Know the Story)*. A modern twist on the age-old classic, this witty book will appeal to nine-to-thirteen-year-old girls. Barbara will enhance her talk with shadow puppets, similar to the illustrations in the book. A book sale and signing will follow.

Story Hour will begin again on Friday, September 29, at 1:15 P.M., for four- and five-year-olds. Sessions will run for eight weeks each season. Kindergartners may take the bus to the Library after school.

Cornwall Free Library Book Sale: Columbus Day weekend, October 7, 8, and 9; Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; Sunday, 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. (half-price); and Monday, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. (bag sale). Donations of gently used books (no textbooks or Reader's Digest condensed) are gratefully accepted. Donations can be dropped off anytime when the Library is open.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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OCTOBER ISSUE

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