



CORNWALL CHRONICLE



VOLUME 1: NUMBER 3

APRIL 1991

Open Season on Budget

The Board of Finance began work on the 1991-92 budget with two mid-March meetings. The budget breaks down into three categories of expenses — general government, capital, and education — and so far the latter sparked the most interest in town.

On March 14, 50 residents came out in a snowstorm to hear the presentation of the education budget. Board of Education chairman Lynn Cheney introduced the proposed budget of \$1,556,454.00 by saying: "This is an honest, bare bones budget with no fat. It can't go any lower." The proposal called for a 7.43% increase, much of it attributed to an increase in Cornwall's high-school enrollment and to \$31,000 needed to lease a new bus.

To keep the increase at 7%, the school board eliminated one teaching position, cut the ski program and reduced the music program by one-third. Those who spoke during the meeting felt that the school board had done a good job meeting the Finance Board's request to keep spending down, but some said they had cut too deeply. "This is a wealthy town," said one resident. "I'm disturbed that we've built a

new addition that might sit half-empty because of program cutbacks," said another.

The Board of Finance questioned the non-teaching staff salary increases of 6-8%, as opposed to the 4% offered to town employees. It asked the school board to take another look at this and to present the increases needed to restore the ski and music programs at the next meeting.

On March 12, the Selectmen presented the general government and capital budgets to the Board of Finance before an audience of none. The proposed general government budget was \$1,348,990.00, which is actually a 3.90% decrease from last year. This is primarily due to a reduction of \$128,000 in interest due on the school bond. (Debt service, even for the school, is considered a general government expense.) The Selectmen kept salary increases to 4% and did not take any increases for themselves. (The First Selectman's salary is \$27,470; the two Selectmen receive \$2,000 each.)

The capital budget proposed was \$369,356, up from \$102,624 in 1990-91. The major item here was an amount of \$230,000 marked for road reconstruction (on Great

Hill Rd and Dibble Hill Road).

It all adds up to a total of \$3,275,799, an increase of 11.9% over last year.

Further work on the budget will be done in April. A public hearing is scheduled for April 26, and the town meeting vote is set for May 10. — Ed Ferman

Chronicle Swimsuit Issue Set

The Chronicle will publish its first annual swimsuit issue as a special section in June. We are especially interested in photos from those in the following categories: Cornwall Bridge Merchants, Celebrities, Those in a Fiduciary Capacity. Submit photos (no baby pictures please) to the editors by May 16. — The Editors


News Highlights


The Housatonic River Commission met March 12 to hear reports on conditions along and in the river. Robert Orciani of the Department of Environmental Protection said the level of PCB's in river fish has declined to about 4 parts per million from a high of 16 in the 1970's. Broiling or frying such fish eliminates most of the risk of eating these fish, he said. DEP efforts to police the river bank have been (cont. on pg. 2)


APRIL 1991

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Income Tax will be due April 15	1 Happy Birthday Frank Calhoun Park & Rec. 7:30pm Town Off.	2 Inland Wetlands 8pm Town Hall	3	4	5	6 Concert see page 3
7 DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS	8 Plan. & Zoning 7:30pm Town Hall	9 Dem. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall Hous. Riv. Comm. CCS Lib. 7:30pm	10	11 Bd. of Ed. 4:30pm CCS Library Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall CCS Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm CCS	12 Town Meeting 8:00pm Town Hall or 19th	13 Info. hearing Housing Corp. 10:30am Town Hall
14	15 Income tax due. Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall	16	17	18 Bd. of Finance 8pm Town Hall	19	20 Poetry reading Cadwell's Corner 8 pm, see below *
21 Cornwall Vill. Improvement Soc. Annual Meeting 3:30pm Town Hall	22 Conserv. Comm. 7:30pm Town Off. if necessary ↓ Z.B. of Appeals 8pm Town Hall	23	24 Rep. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	25 Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	26 Budget Hearing 8:00p.m. Town Hall	27 Nancy Bevans Library show closes
28	29	30 Belle Becker photo show opens at library	LQ 7	NM 14	FQ 21	FM 28
						* Read your poetry or anyone's or just come to listen.

(cont. from p. 1) hampered by staff problems; the state budget mess is not expected to improve matters.

 The Inland Wetlands Commission has approved actor Michael J. Fox's plan to build a pond on his West Cornwall property which he and his wife, actress Tracy Pollan, bought last August.

 Cynthia Bianchi of West Cornwall has been appointed director of the newly created Region 1 Youth Services Bureau, which will provide counselling for troubled youths and their families. Ms. Bianchi, who holds a master's degree in rehabilitation counselling, was for 10 years a counsellor at Phoenix House in New York, and most recently worked in a crisis-prevention facility in San Diego.

 "A Visit to the Cornwall Bridge Pottery," a video by Bela Selendy, was awarded a bronze medal at this year's New York Film Festival. It was chosen from among 3000 finalists in 150 categories. Selendy, a recent University of California graduate, had worked at the pottery during summers.

Child Center Needs a Home

The Cornwall Child Center is searching for a permanent home. Started in 1974, the day care/nursery school has been located in the Parish House of the United Church of Christ where it pays a token rent. The Church and the Center share the space and have managed to resolve scheduling conflicts over the years; however, the rummage sale and other church events require the Center to move equipment and to close entirely for July and August. State regulations do not permit the Center to operate at a temporary location.

The Center wants to respond to the needs of the families it serves by staying open all year. This is impossible at the Parish House. If the Center were not in the Parish House the church would doubtless be able to make more use of the room.

The Center has proved that it is a necessity in the town. Currently 31 families are using the Center and enrollment trends are up. Affordable child care makes it possible for many of our younger families to remain in the community by providing the high standard of care required for our youngest citizens. The town's annual appropriation and the generosity of the church have helped us give most of the town's children their start. But we must provide the care the parents want and the children need in a permanent, year-round home.

The Municipal Building Committee is considering the Center's need for a home in its deliberations to solve the town's need for more space.
- *Teddy Bury*

Sugar Makers Herald Cornwall's Sweet Spring

All of Cornwall is a sugar bush at this time of year; the town boils with the sweet smell of syrup. From the Hurlburts on Hautboy Hill to Brian and Art Lorch in Cornwall Bridge, at least 12 Cornwall families and friends tend the fires of hope in pursuit of great maple syrup.

For a glorious time in February and March the weather is right, as rising sap presages spring. The sugar maker, the traditional name for syrup farmer, steals a bit of the bounty from the trees, fires up the evaporator and, with head in the clouds and an eye on the syrup thermometer, pulls off perfect syrup.

The recipe for good maple syrup is the same throughout the range of hard and sugar maples: Warm days and cold nights, hot fires, hours of labor, hope and sap. The finest syrup requires that all sap run clear and cold and be kept that way. Equipment must be scrubbed clean. Relentless washing mitigates the bacterial cultures which can modify flavor and color, bacteria which are the bane of sugar makers who tend evaporators and bottle syrup late into the night.

Gordon Ridgway is a late-night sugar maker. His 500 taps make him Cornwall's biggest producer this year. Gordon and his father Bruce share the labor of their operation, and their sugar house in North Cornwall is a moist and busy place.

Fred and Lynn Scoville used to boil outdoors until a fire burned their pan and they moved into a sugar room in the Scoville farm garage. Now they have a fancy flue-pan evaporator and make some of Cornwall's finest.

Many sugar makers once boiled outdoors and a few still do. My father, C.W. Hart, had a large outdoor evaporator which produced a strong, sometimes smokey-flavored syrup, a flavor some folks still ask for. My wife Joyce and I tap on Cherry Hill, where sugar making has been going on since ox and sled collection days. Our 225 taps are on roadsides and fencelines and in an east slope sugar bush. We use a double flat pan boiling system and have comfortable quarters and electricity.

Bob, Dean and Ginny Potter tap on Town Street. Bob Stetson has buckets out in North Cornwall. Priscilla Mauro uses a gravity tube line on Hart Hill Road. She recounts that traditionally she tapped on March 1 but warm winters and early springs have made it necessary to start earlier to get the first sap runs.

Larry and Karen Stevens usually tap on Cream Hill but skipped this year. Larry's father ran the biggest and most modern syrup business in Cornwall for many years. His records show that sugar making in this area can occur any time between February 15 and April 15.

Other sugar makers include Chris

Hopkins of Cornwall Bridge, Don Whitford on College Street, Becky and Hunt Williams and Phil West of Cream Hill, and Heidi Hedden.

Eventually strong sun and warm days spring the buds on the maple trees, the sap turns cloudy and the syrup flavor becomes "buddy." The season is over.

- *Philip W. Hart*



Town Hall Progress

On Feb. 28, the Municipal Building Committee compiled a list of ideas for a new town hall. The building should not just be an office building but should compliment the town, stand with dignity as a seat of Yankee democracy and frugality. It should be 6000 sq. ft., energy efficient and attractive. On March 14, members shared photos and drawings of possible designs. These ideas will be taken to an architect by the subcommittee and preliminary sketches should be available soon.

Rick Wolkowitz presented a rough estimate developed by a general contractor and himself for renovating Rumsey Hall. The figures are much lower than those presented at the referendum! He also had an alternative floor plan incorporating ideas of the new committee.

We want to hear from you. Please come to our meetings or talk to the members: Rita Quinn - Chair, Kay Fenn, Ed Ferman, Denny Frost, Ben Gray, Gary Heaney, Gary Hepprich, Allyn Hurlburt, Jr., Ken Keskinen, Tim Prentice, Ginny Potter, Lori Welles, Leslie Whitney, and Richard Wolkowitz.
- *Rita G. Quinn*



Housing Information Session

With the final application for grants and no-interest loans submitted to the Department of Housing, the Housing Corporation looks forward to beginning the construction of Kugeman Village before the year is out.

In order to inform townspeople of the housing opportunities offered through the Corporation, an information session is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, at 10:30 a.m. in the Town Hall. Architect's drawings of Kugeman Village will be displayed, along with a model of the site and the town-house units to be built.

Members of the board as well as the architects will be on hand to answer questions. At that time too, the plan to lease parcels of land to those wishing to build their own homes will be considered. Lease-holding agreements and other procedures still need to be worked out, so interested citizens are urged to come and share their ideas as well as their questions.

- *Ken Keskinen*

Board of Selectmen

At the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen on March 18, the selectmen referred to the Town Counsel a revised version of the proposed ordinance declaring Cornwall a Nuclear Free Zone. As reported last month, they had questioned some of the details of the version submitted in February. Assuming counsel has no objections, they plan at their April meeting to submit it to a Town Meeting.

In other business, they voted to accept \$10,000 from the Cornwall Village Improvement Society. The money is surplus from what the Society raised to replant trees in Cornwall Village after the tornado. Subject to approval of a Town Meeting, funds will be made available to residents of other parts of Cornwall who lost trees in the storm. Steve Hedden offered a motion to regularize the town's bidding procedures. Gordon Ridgway seconded the motion but withdrew his second to give Dick Dakin more time to think about the matter and perhaps offer amendments. Steven enlivened the proceedings by voting "No" on a motion to rent a trailer for temporary additional space at the Town Offices. He said he just didn't like trailers, but the motion passed two to one. — Hendon Chubb



The Green Corner



It's time to start thinking about the care of those trees that were planted after the tornado.

Stakes & guy wires: If your tree was planted early — before bud swell last year — there has been enough root growth to hold it firm in the ground, and the stakes and wires can be removed. If it was planted later in the year, you may want to wait until after it has leafed out this year to remove the stakes. Don't pull up the stakes and leave a hole; cut the stakes off at ground level or fill the hole.

Remember that even padded wires can injure the tree and that a tree needs to sway a little in the wind to develop a strong trunk. For really huge trees and windthrow trees that have been propped up, consult the nursery or arborist who did the work. The Cornwall Village Improvement Society will remove the stakes from the trees they planted in the village.

Mulch: The mulch around a tree should be maintained at 3" - 4" deep and should not touch the tree trunk. Keep it 3" away from the trunk and keep it weed-free.

Hemlocks: An Asian pest called wooly adelgid is moving into our area and threatens our native hemlocks. Because it travels on the feathers of birds, do not place a bird feeder on or near hemlocks.

— Anne Bevans



Letters to the Chronicle



A COOL IDEA

In your second issue you reported that the Town had decided to rent a trailer to obtain additional office space. This may be the solution to the space problem. According to your story, the annual cost would be but \$1460 (\$4 per day x 365), an affordable amount even in these difficult times. I suggest that the trailer be unheated. This would shorten the length of meetings and perhaps counterbalance what seems to be an ever-expanding town government.

— Jim Fishman

CLOSING MOHAWK

Close our Mohawk Mountain State Forest? — not the Ski Area, but the big State Forest, that lovely wild area that lies high on the slopes of Mohawk Mountain.

"Yes," the State says. People may still walk and hike in the Forest, but, for economy's sake, there will no longer be trash barrels for their garbage, nor picnic tables. And, of course, no more friendly men to supervise the place, maintain its roads, and be there in emergencies.

Here is this magnificent 3300-acre tract on Mohawk Mountain, with views the best for miles around from its observation tower, that people for years have driven through, hiked over, and enjoyed. It is about to be savaged by the State.

For what? To eliminate maybe three jobs! It's a cinch that the jobs being "eliminated" will simply be reassigned. Some savings! Economy can go to ridiculous lengths.

— Herb Whitman

NCCND BENEFIT CONCERT

Anne Chamberlain, pianist, and Diana Gannett, bassist, will give a benefit concert at Cornubia Hall on Route 43 in Cornwall Hollow on Saturday afternoon, April 6, at 5:00. They will play works by Franck, Schuman, Bach, Vaughn-Williams and Bottesini (with bassist Darius Wisniewski).

Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Northwestern Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament. Tickets are \$10 and may be reserved by sending a check to NCCND, Box 16, Salisbury, CT 06068.

— Marie Prentice

CONTRIBUTION SUGGESTED

My suggestion would be, if you are keeping the Chronicle coming, to charge everyone who is interested a fee of \$10 a year or thereabouts. We older ones who don't get out would find it a great help to know about our town.

— Fannie Pond

Editor's Note: Good idea! See page 4.

BLOOMING EXERCISES

Park and Rec. offers support to two opportunities to get the bloom back in your cheeks through stretch exercise, muscle toning and some low impact aerobics. The classes, open to men and women, are on Monday evenings, 6 to 7:15, at the Town Hall and on Friday morning, 9 to 10, at the Fire House. The Friday class is for people fifty and older. The fee is \$35 for 8 weeks. For more information, call me at 672-6316 or -0101.

— Alice Cadwell

QUAKER MEETING

The Cornwall Friends (Quaker) worship group meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in the parlor of the Lutheran Church in Cornwall. Visitors are welcome to come and join in the silent meeting and the sharing that may come out of silent meditation. For more information, please call 672-6133 or 672-6486.

— Ken Keskinen

NUKE-FREE CORNWALL

Last fall a group of people from this northwest corner met to discuss a common concern: weapons, waste and transport of nuclear materials. Nuclear arms and the massive quantity of nuclear waste generated by the nuclear industry threaten our health, our safety and our economic well-being.

We began to focus on the empowering possibility of making our towns nuclear-free. An ordinance was drafted and the Selectmen of Cornwall will put it to a vote.

Cornwall's proposed nuclear-free-zone ordinance says "no" to tying our economy to a technology that is dangerous both in terms of environmental pollution and public health and counterproductive in terms of cost and use of resources. The establishment of a nuclear-free zone not only creates a feeling of hope for the future but joins us with 17 million other Americans already living in nuclear-free zones. If our Selectmen choose to pass this ordinance it will then be up to the people of Cornwall to make this "empowering possibility" a reality.

— Pam Reagan

TORNADO DAMAGE REVISITED

We found the letter from Ezra P. Mager on the subject of tornado eyewalls particularly interesting. At that time we lost our house, our trees, our garage, our car (and one belonging to a friend) as well as many personal belongings. Most people in Cornwall understand that the cost of cleaning up an acre of land runs upward from \$2,000. For some people this is a lot of money. If Mr. Mager thinks we like living with the mess, he must be living in another world.

— Margie and Charlie Hodgman

P & Z Deliberations

At the March regular meeting, P & Z members did more thinking and advising than voting and approving. Marc DeVos requested input on how his undeveloped private street subdivision on Rt. 7 might be used in cooperation with the Cornwall Housing Corporation. The CHC affordable single lot subdivision proposal on Pierce Lane will go to public hearing at the April 8 meeting after its consideration by the Wetlands Commission.

Five Cornwall residents have filed at the Superior Court in Litchfield to appeal the decision of the P & Z Commission to adopt the amendment reducing the setback for a sawmill. This means the entire amendment concerning the regulation of sawmills will be ineffective unless the court decides in the Town's favor. Attorney Tom Byrne will represent the Commission in the matter.

The Town of Cornwall received approval to move a modular addition to the Town Office. It will be placed next to the office building and provide space for the Selectmen and the Selectmen's secretary. Their vacated offices will give some necessary space to the Treasurer's office and others who work for the Town.

- Ginny Potter

Curry Speaks To Dems

On Tuesday, March 5th, the Democratic Town Committee hosted State Comptroller Bill Curry to speak on a vision for Democrats in the years ahead. Among the issues he addressed were the wastefulness in state systems and the need for a "social contract." He said we could learn from the Western European democracies, that shelter, health care and education are not optional, or secondary, government responsibilities.

- Scott Cady



Chronicle Update

To all who have contributed articles, letters, money, or all three, our sincere thanks. To everyone else, if you like what we're doing, please join us. We need your help, both financial and as a source of material for *The Chronicle*, which is mailed free to all residents of Cornwall.

If you would like us to mail a monthly copy to an out-of-town address, we'd be happy to do so for a \$10 contribution, per address, per year.

Send contribution to:

THE CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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Park & Rec. Notes

The USA Soccer School of New Britain, CT, will be holding a Cornwall session this summer, the week of July 14 - 19. Junior classes are for ages 6 to 11 and seniors from 12 to 17. There will be five afternoon sessions each running three hours, and the total cost for the week is \$75. Park & Rec chairman Karen Stevens said a very limited amount of scholarship money is available.

Park & Rec also passed a proposed 1991-92 budget of \$7,997, subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance. The total includes \$1,000 for custodial fees for adult activities held in the evening at Cornwall Consolidated. The Board of Education now requires a custodian on duty at the school at \$10 per hour for such events.

"The Spencer Tracy Legacy: A Tribute by Katherine Hepburn," a 1986 PBS documentary that won two Emmy awards, will be shown at the new Cornwall Consolidated library in a special event for senior citizens at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24. John Miller, Cornwall Bridge resident, who wrote the documentary, will speak briefly before the showing and answer questions afterward. John said that if you are old enough to have seen Tracy movies when they came out you qualify as a "senior." The program is sponsored by Park & Rec.

-John Miller

Monument Restoration

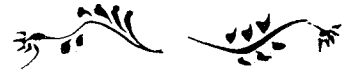
The Cornwall Historical Society plans to restore the monument erected in Cornwall Hollow in 1900 to the memory of Major General John Sedgwick. In recent years three bronze reliefs that decorated the granite base of the howitzer were stolen, and the large portrait medallion of Sedgwick was bent by the vandals. The monument also needs cleaning and missing (concrete) cannon balls will be replaced. The medallion has already been repaired and now awaits reinstallation.

Cornwall sculptor Neil Estern has kindly offered to make models from photographs of the missing reliefs. Bronze castings can then be made with a finish to match that of the medallion. We expect the cost of the castings to be met from a special fund contributed by the Society and interested citizens. More contributions are

welcome. Please send checks to the Sedgwick Monument Fund, P.O. Box 115, Cornwall, CT 06753.

The Society is applying to the town's Sydney M. Kay Fund for a grant to meet the remaining costs of the project. The Board of Selectmen at their mid-March meeting voted to support this request. We hope the entire project can be completed by the end of 1991.

- Michael Gannett



New Books

FICTION: Binchy, M., *Circle of Friends*; Coontz, S., *Under Siege*; Isaacs, S., *Magic Hour*; Johnson, C., *Middle Passage*; LeCarre, J., *Secret Pilgrim*; Levin, I., *Sliver*; Malfouz, N., *Palace Walk and Palace Of Desire*; Mallon, T., *Aurora 7*.

MYSTERY: Barnes, L., *Coyote*; Elkins, A., *Icy Clutches*; Grimes, M., *The Old Contemptibles*; Muller, M., *Trophies and Dead Things*; Palmer, W., *The Detective and Mr. Dickens*; Parker, R., *Perchance to Dream*; Peters, E., *The Potter's Field*.

NON-FICTION: Halberstam, D., *The Next Century*; Lynes, R., *Life in the Slow Lane*; Pool, J. Lawrence, *Fighting Ships of the Revolution*; Roth, P., *Patrimony*.

CHILDREN: (Easy) Anderson, J., *Harry's Helicopter*; Goode, D., *I Hear a Noise*; Hanford, M., *The Great Waldo Search*; Kovalski, M., *The Wheels on the Bus*; Ryder, J., *Step into the Night*.

NON-FICTION: Cole, J., *The Magic School Bus*; Gibbons, G., *How a House Is Built*; Hoban, T., *Exactly the Opposite*; Lewis, J.P., *A Hippopotamus and Other Animal Verses*; Provinsen, A., *The Buck Stops Here: The President of the U.S.*

VIDEOS: A new selection of fifty videos will be available for rent in April.

ART EXHIBIT: To April 27th -

Nancy Bevans - Paintings.

HOURS: Mon., Wed., Fri. 2 p.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. -Audrey Ferman

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 BY MARC SIMONT AND TOM BEVANS

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