



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 13 : NUMBER 3 APRIL 2003



Of Blizzards and Bucks

The "winter of ought-three" may still have a few unpleasant surprises in store for Cornwall, but at this writing we're already well over the year's \$35,000 snow budget. By comparison, the tab for all of the 2001-2002 season was \$22,000. A further \$20,000 has now been set aside in contingency funds.

One small gleam of light shines at the end of this frigid financial tunnel. In response to a request from Governor Rowland, President Bush has declared all Connecticut municipalities eligible to receive FEMA aid for the Presidents' Day blizzard. The government will cough up 75 percent of the town's expenses on overtime, materials, contractors and equipment incurred during the covered 48-hour period.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway has words of praise for the slick work performed by members of the Town Crew who manned the plows and sand spreaders on wintry weekends, hail-peppered holidays, and in the wee hours of minus-degree mornings. On one occasion, in order to get our school busses through, the town trucks had to fill in for state vehicles that couldn't respond in time to clear state roads. The first selectman also credits Cornwall's success in dealing with this winter's unrelenting blasts to recent updates in equipment.

And of course, such a winter does have its

bright and sparkling side. Carol Lugar, president of Mohawk Mountain Ski Area, loves snow, "whether I'm shoveling it or skiing on it. This has been a really fun winter. The cold weather keeps some people away, but it attracts avid skiers that might otherwise go north. But the minute the first golf course on the shoreline opens or the first boat is in the water, we're done." —Matt Collins

Cornwall Rep Takes Root

Last month Cornwall gained a resident theater group when Lesley Gyorsok and Christopher Petersen rented office and work space above the West Cornwall Post Office for their Village Repertory Company.

Cornwallians who had a chance to see the troupe's October production of *Our Town* will remember Lesley and Chip as the high-school sweethearts who got married at the end of Act II. Life will imitate art in May when the two young actors plan to tie the knot.

How such involvements develop in small towns and close-knit families is one of the main themes of the company's April production, *Little Women*, which will be performed in neighboring Milton Hall while the stage in our own Town Hall undergoes renovation. Lesley, who teaches at the Warner Theater in Torrington, decided on the stage adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic, she says, not

only because it's one of her favorites (and her father is the model for paintings that illustrate one recent edition of the book) but "because it centers around timeless themes, as *Our Town* did."

Cast members include local thespians Nina LaPorta, Charlotte Buck, Alison Magistrale, Larry Stevens, Molly Hinchman, Grisan Litke, Dave Cadwell, Fred Thaler, Paul De Angelis, and Hannah Colbert.

In October, Cornwall's restored Town Hall Theater will host the company's production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*.

—Paul De Angelis

Ah, Scholarships!

Spring, and a young person's fancy turns to scraping together the funds for college. The following partial list of scholarship funds available exclusively to Cornwall students may help. It was compiled with the assistance of Housatonic Valley High School Guidance Counselors Judy Moore and Ron Dower, from whom further information and application forms may be obtained.

1. Cornwall Post VFW 9856: Open to Cornwall students who are dependents of a veteran of the U.S. military, active or reserve.

2. Jane and Philip Bishop Memorial Scholarship Fund: Open to any senior from Cornwall who is hoping to attend a Connecticut state college or university.

(continued on page 2)

APRIL 2003

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 ☀️ Kindergarten Registration (p.4) Blue Mt. Satsang Every Tuesday 6:30-8 P.M. UCC Day Room Inland Wetlands 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	2 ☀️ Kindergarten Registration (p.4) Play Group Every Wednesday 10-11:30 A.M. UCC Parish House	3 Meditation for Mothers Every Thursday 1:15-2:15 P.M. UCC Day Room	4 Pre-School-K Story Hour 10-11 A.M. Cornwall Library	5 Peace Vigil Every Saturday 2-3 P.M. Cornwall Bridge Green Cornwall Association 9:30 A.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R. <i>In Pursuit of the Wild Ginkgo</i> 4 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4)
6 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	7 Park and Rec. 7 P.M. CCS Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	8 HVRHS Budget Hearing 7 P.M. HVRHS Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	9 🌙	10 Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Library	11 Pre-School-K Story Hour 10-11 A.M. Cornwall Library	12 Egg Hunt 10 A.M.-Noon CCS Gym (p.4) Community Potluck & Concert 6-8 P.M. Town Hall (p.4)
13 Corndance Film Workshop 4 P.M. Cornwall Library	14 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	15 📅 Deadline: May Chronicle Copy	16 📅 PASSOVER BEGINS AT SUNDOWN	17 Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	18 GOOD FRIDAY	19
20 EASTER	21 Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS	22 Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	23 🌑	24 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall	25 Pre-School-K Story Hour 10-11 A.M. Cornwall Library	26 Art at the Dump 10 A.M.-4 P.M. (See Insert)
27 Cornwall Child Center Auction 1:30 P.M. Mohawk Ski Lodge (See Letters)	28 Cornwall Library Bd. of Trustees 4:30 P.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R. ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall*	29	30 Cornwall Fire Dept. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse			

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

3. Cablevision of Litchfield: Information on several scholarships may be obtained at www.powertolearn.com, the company's website.

4. Housatonic Valley Institute: Open to seniors who have been accepted at an institute of higher learning. The Housatonic Valley Institute also operates a Loan Fund.

5. Marie K. Baum Scholarship Fund: Open to Cornwall resident students who have attended Cornwall Consolidated School for a minimum of four years, and who have shown an enthusiasm for, and achievement in, music.

6. Woman's Society of the United Church of Christ, Cornwall.

7. Apolonia Stanulis Scholarship.

8. Bradford Scholarship to UCONN.

The Town of Cornwall also has scholarship Funds available. Decisions are made at the sole discretion of the Board of Selectmen. Additionally, there are numerous funds open to the entire student body of our high school, including two scholarships in memory of graduates killed on 9-11. Anyone interested may visit the Guidance Department at HVRHS.

—Matt Collins

Gadget Gathering

Even Cornwall's brightest young minds had to bow to the whims of winter. Postponed by a snow day, the CCS biennial competition for future inventors in grades five through eight finally kicked off on March 10. Twelve judges (three of whom, Tim Prentice, James Woodruff and Zeke Hermann, are inventors in their own right) had the challenging task of handing out awards for each of the four grades. The top three award winners from all four grades will represent CCS at the state-wide Invention Convention at UCONN on April 5.

Eighth-grader Charlotte Buck's invention was the judges' cup of tea. She came away with the Grand Prize for a three-function tea bag called "T3" which combines tea, milk and sugar on a stirrer stick. Her trial-and-error experimentation left her kitchen in shambles but produced an item which many, including her science teacher, Lynn Meehan, thought eminently marketable. Mrs. Meehan, also one of the convention's coordinators, pronounced the tea "delicious."

The young Cornwall inventors set to work on their projects in January by searching for a problem which could be solved with a new, original invention. Next came construction and testing of a prototype. Revisions were often necessary. Liz Kavanagh, seventh-grade third-place winner, designed "EZ Eat," a large wooden box designed to protect her cat's food from the dog. She thought she had succeeded but her dog proved her wrong, so it was back to the drawing board. A small wooden baffle inside the box kept doggy out for good.

Many of the inventions were influenced

by the wintry season. Sixth-grader Ethan Naylor packed off first place in his class for his "Sand-A-Pack," a backpack sander for icy walkways. Classmate Paris Costello obviously had Cornwall's many skiers and snowboarders in mind. She dreamed up a neckwarmer with a pocket for money and ski pass which won third place in her grade. Functional fashion was also evident in first-place "Erasers Anywhere," an eraser on a necklace. Sarah Freedman, the seventh-grade designer, handcrafted soft-sculpted erasers and attached them to black cords with holders fashioned from paper clips.

One invention was an ominous sign of the times. Sixth-grader Will Russ saw a need for "Ani-Mask," a gas mask to protect his dog Monroe from biological warfare. Seventh-grader Annelise Collins invented a pitcher to dispense whole milk, skim, or a blend of the two, helping not only dieters but saving refrigerator space. Seventh-grader Steve Hedden's invention is already being put to use. The "X-Tend-A-Rack," a rack extension for his ATV, which made a brief stop for judging at CCS thanks to his mom, is already hauling bags of salt and sand, hay and tools at his grandpa's farm and Mohawk Ski Area.

"Considering the snow days and late openings, I am proud of how my class pulled it together," said Cathy Binkowski, fifth-grade science teacher and co-coordinator of the convention. Sabina Busby was the grade's top winner with the "Scorange," which was able to easily score and peel oranges.

The Guerra family was busting its buttons when the prize ribbons were awarded. Fifth-grader Michael won fourth place for "Magic E-Z Holder," a combination book holder and reading lamp. His eighth-grade sister, Katelyn, in keeping with the reading theme, designed third-place "Page Keeper," a bookmark that has a dial which can be set to display a page number.

As the din of the day died away, Emily Thaler strolled through the displays of inventions and had already begun imagining what she would invent two years from now when CCS competes again. Keeping the dogs away from cat food? Hmmm... Emily dreams of keeping her cats away from each other's food.

—Tricia Collins

April Showers

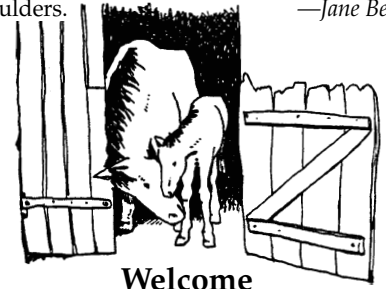
After a winter like the one we've just had, it's hard to believe spring is coming. But, our resident garden guru, Julia Scott, has some advice for those of us itching to get our hands dirty again.

April is the month to begin spring cleaning. After the ravages of winter, it's important to go around and identify any damage, prune dead branches, rake up twigs and other detritus. Now is a good time to put down compost and other fertilizers as top-dressing on flower beds and lawns. Now is the time for cleaning and sharpening garden tools, and laying in an adequate supply of

items like pea-sticks, twine, markers, and gloves. You can turn over your mulch piles now and use any compost that is ready. Now is also the time to study reference books for plants you want to grow this summer.

One last word of advice from Julia: Join a yoga class to take care of your back, knees, shoulders.

—Jane Bean



Welcome

Kayleen Carolyn Considine to
Ken and Terri Considine

Abigail Rose Larson to Ted and Donna Larson

Land Transfers

Kenneth C. and Lori A. Baird to Linda Ballard, house and land at 301 Kent Road for \$245,000.

Robert J. and Joan C. McGuire to Thomas M. and Linda M. Cangiano, house and 8.9 acres at 191 Great Hill Road for \$550,000.

P & R Star

Bethany Thompson, for the past year and a half director of Cornwall's Park & Rec., is a quiet dynamo. At the Cornwall Child Center she is not only a board member, but also assistant treasurer and parent representative. Bethany also is a Sunday-school teacher and on the Christian Education Committee of the UCC. She is leader of both her son R.J.'s Cub Scout troop and her daughter Brianna's Daisy Girl Scout troop. All of this is accomplished with an imperturbably calm demeanor and a Mona Lisa smile.

Daughter of Adriane and Bill Lyon, Bethany moved to Cornwall in 1986 and attended Housatonic Valley Regional High School. She received her Masters in Social Work from UCONN. After graduation, she worked in Hartford as an adoption-social worker for four years until she and her husband decided full-time day care wasn't for their three kids, and the social worker became a stay-at-home mom.

But Bethany could spare a few volts for the Eveready Bunny. Since taking the reins of Park & Rec., she has whipped it into shape by writing a manual for her department as well as a constitution listing its responsibilities and bylaws. She also publishes a newsletter on current and future activities. All this is in addition to her Park & Rec. handbook for new families moving to Cornwall.

Bethany hopes Park & Rec. will diversify, focusing less on athletics and more on the arts, nature and community service. The recent art workshop proved to be a popular after-school activity, and the current Cooking Club is not only preparing food but donating it to a local food kitchen and the elderly. She is eager to have activities for older residents as well as a viable after-school program, and dreams of a community center for young and old alike.

—Tricia Collins

Wings of Spring

The snow was falling in the middle of March and the lakes and ponds were still frozen. It's difficult to tell how the prolonged cold and snowy weather affects the spring migration, but the waterfowl cannot land on frozen water and the land birds have difficulty finding food.

When the ice does finally melt, the mallards, hooded mergansers, wood ducks, and Canada geese come to our lakes and ponds. Some of them are just stopping on their way north and others will stay to breed. Occasionally other species such as ring-necked ducks, black ducks, grebes and shorebirds stop by to feed and renew their energy before continuing on to their northern breeding grounds.

The robins are here and the red-winged blackbirds, as they usually arrive the last week of February and the first weeks of March. The kestrels will soon be searching for suitable nesting sites. We hope that they will select the attractive boxes installed last year by Art Gingert.

Look for killdeer in the open fields; their nest is a shallow indentation, often in a very unsuitable place like a gravelly driveway or the edge of the road, where it risks being driven over or stepped upon. Listen for phoebes calling their name, announcing their presence to all and sundry but particularly to other phoebes. At dusk, if you are lucky and in the right place, the woodcock can be heard calling "beent, beent" and seen doing amazing aerial acrobatics to attract a mate. Later on, the tree swallows arrive to compete with the bluebirds for tree cavities or nesting boxes. Some warblers will pass through in April but most wait until May. Just before the trees burst into leaf is the easiest time to see them.

These are but a few of the species of migrating birds that will arrive in Cornwall in the next couple of months, some to stay.

—Celia Senzer

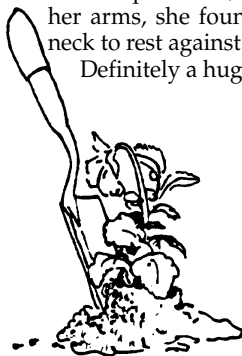
Checking the Chickens I

Chickens are beautiful feathered creatures. You don't need 10X binoculars to admire their warm russets, reds, and yellows, their gleaming blacks and iridescent blues, greens, and purples. No, you don't need to tromp through pastures and forests trying to catch a fluttering glimpse of a furtive flyer. Pick chickens up and look, up close and personal.

Having often read about the annual bird counts in the area, I decided that it was time to begin a quinquennial count of cluckers in Cornwall. After all, the raising of fowls has long been part of the farming history of the town, and needed to be acknowledged, recognized, and praised – if not eggsalted.

Chicken raisers in Cornwall can relax at nightfall – provided they have locked the hen-house door and blocked access to foxes, skunks, raccoons, weasels, and coyotes, who are willing to wriggle into a hen house or dig under a fence in order to sink their teeth into the neck of a squawking chicken. During the day chickens are on their own, with an eye out for hawks and other flying predators.

It has been said that chickens can be



Letters to the Chronicle

FARM STANDS

I read the article about small farms in the recent edition of the Chronicle. Is there a list of the farms that sell to the public in Cornwall—including information about what they sell and what hours they are open to the public? I often want to buy locally but am never sure which farms sell directly and what is available. Perhaps the Chronicle might run a list of local farms and their offerings to make sure that everyone knows who they are and what they offer. —Bill Berry

[Exactly such a brochure was published a couple of years ago by the Agricultural Advisory Commission. It is now in the process of revision and will soon be available in local stores and post offices.—Eds.]

GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE!

On Sunday, April 27, the Cornwall Child Center will hold its 12th annual auction at the Mohawk Mountain Ski Lodge. The event is the organization's major annual fundraiser and helps bridge the gap between tuition and expenses.

Once again the stellar lineup of auction items sparkles with everything from homes in

London, Cork and Montauk, to theater tickets and gourmet meals by local master chefs.

This year's auction boasts a series of twelve limited-edition signed etchings by Robert Andrew Parker, "Franz Kafka: Dreams, Diaries and Fragments." Another special art piece is a watercolor painting by Dr. Larry Pool, well-known neurosurgeon, author and artist. This lively painting captures the peaceful beauty of a lone fly fisherman on the Housatonic River. The auction is a true reflection of Cornwall, with donations from local artists and crafters, writers, farmers, full-time residents and weekenders.

The silent auction and previews begin at 1:30 P.M., with the live auction getting underway at 3:00 P.M. Complimentary refreshments, hors d'oeuvres and desserts are included in the \$7 admission. A catalog of items can be found on www.cornwallct.org.

For more information please call Jean Vitalis at 672-6880 or Mary Kay Elwell 672-4302.

—Karolene Carlson



Events & Announcements

Home Health Care Information is now available online at www.vnanw.org, the new website of Visiting Nurse and Home Care Northwest, Inc. The site lists the organization's services, local wellness programs, and contact information.

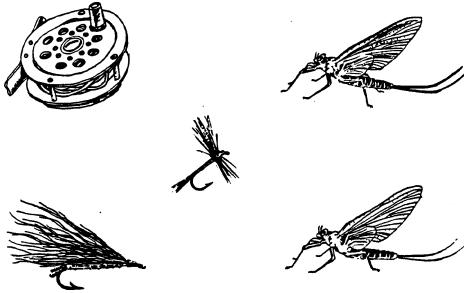
Substantial Tax Refunds are being forfeited by Cornwall residents, according to New Haven-based Connecticut Voices For Children. Both the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can be claimed even by those who owe no federal income tax. These benefits, which may exceed \$4000, are available to low-income parents and, in some cases, low-income working people without children. The organization estimates that 13 percent of the funds available to Cornwall residents went unclaimed in the 2000 tax year. Qualifying individuals may still claim back benefits for the past three years. To find out if you are eligible and learn how to apply for these credits, simply dial 211. This will connect you with Infoline, a free public information source.

Little Women on Stage: The Village Repertory Company, LLC, of West Cornwall will present a dramatic version of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel, adapted by Marian De Forest. The play will be performed at Milton Hall, just beyond the Cornwall line in downtown Milton, on the following dates and times: April 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, and 19 at 7:30 P.M. and April 5 and 13 at 3:30 P.M. Ticket prices are \$14 for adults, \$12 for children. To reserve tickets, please call 672-6743; VISA, MC, AMEX accepted.



—Ken Keskinen

Going Fishin': There is beautiful fishing right here in Mill Brook across from the West Cornwall Firehouse. Kids 16 and under, or a parent accompanied by a kid, may drop a line for the wily brook trout annually stocked in the stream by Steve Hedden and Scott Zuckerman. There's a limit of two/day with the honor system. Signs point the way to good locations, and a register is available to record your comments and catches. The season opens April 19.



Manhattan String Quartet: A benefit performance for the Cornwall Free Library will be held Saturday, May 24, at 7 P.M. at Music Mountain's Gordon Hall. Tickets at \$50 will go on sale later this month. For additional information, please contact Amy Cady at 672-0233.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2003-2004 school year will be held on April 1 and 2. Any child turning five on or before December 31, 2003, is eligible. Parents should call the school office at 672-6617 to schedule a time for their child to visit the Kindergarten room and teacher Mrs. Wadhams. Please bring official immunization record and birth certificate.

Art in Cornwall: The Cornwall Library will host a retrospective exhibition of paintings by Jeanne Raseman Fiore, mother of Cornwall resident Bianca Fiore LaPorta. The show will open Sunday, April 6, with a reception from 3 to 5 P.M. and continue through the month. Jane Manley of Warren will be exhibiting her still life oil paintings all this month at the National Iron Bank.

Just Joking

Two of our favorite April Fool's hoaxes are the BBC's report that Big Ben was changing to a digital readout and Boston's Channel 7 bulletin that a 635-foot hill in nearby Milton had erupted and was raining lava and ash on local homes. Does anyone remember the one April Fool's story in the *Chronicle*? We do joke around in this space from time to time, but we're serious about the fact that we need your continued support; see coupon!

Park & Rec. News: Saturday, April 12: Annual Egg Hunt, open to Cornwall children pre-K through fourth grade, preceded by a professional puppet show. Children should bring a bag or basket. The event, which is free of charge, will be held from 10 A.M. to noon in the CCS gym.

Saturday, April 12, 6 to 8 P.M.: Community Potluck and Concert at the Town Hall. All are invited to share food and conversation. Beverages, paper goods, and utensils will be provided. Local folk-music singer/songwriter Bill Lauf will perform from 7 P.M. Event is free.

Saturday, May 17: Bus trip to the Bronx Zoo. The chartered coach bus will leave the CCS parking lot at 8 A.M. and will return about 7 P.M. The cost, which includes both bus and zoo tickets, is adults, \$22.50; children (2 to 12 years old), \$19.50; and seniors (65 and older), \$20.50. For more information or to reserve seats, please contact Bethany Thompson at 672-6058. Seats are limited, so call early!

Raffle Tickets on Sale: Three prizes - 100 gallons of fuel oil, half a cord of wood, and a \$150 garden center gift certificate - will be awarded at the drawing which is scheduled for 3:30 P.M. at the auction on April 27 to benefit the Cornwall Child Center. Tickets, at \$1 each, will be available at the Center and from parents and board members. Winners need not be present.

Emergency Preparedness: Housatonic Valley Regional High School has been chosen as the site where the 16,000 residents of the six Region One towns could go to receive smallpox vaccinations in the event of an outbreak of the disease in our area. Medical volunteers are needed as well those wishing to help with traffic control, food preparation, data entry, and logistics. Please contact the First Selectman's Office at 672-4959.

Representative Needed: The first selectman will be appointing a Cornwall resident to serve on the Cable Television Advisory Council. This will involve attending four meetings a year in Torrington to represent the interests of Cornwall Cable TV viewers. Anyone interested in this position should contact the First Selectman's Office at 672-4959.

In Pursuit of the Wild Ginkgo: Peter del Tredici of Boston's Arnold Arboretum will show slides and speak about his recent plant collecting journey in China. This presentation, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, will be held on Saturday, April 5, at 4 P.M. at the Cornwall Library. Adults \$5.

Cornwall Art on TV: A video documenting last year's Cornwall Art at the Dump is being shown Saturdays at 12:30 P.M. on cable Channel 5. Two Fairfield County photographers, recipients of a documentary-film grant, chose this show as their subject. The 20-minute video featuring the work of numerous Cornwall artists will be aired until April 19. A copy of the video is also available at the Cornwall Free Library.

Lifeguards and WSI Wanted for Hammond Beach beginning June 21. Fun job and good pay. Red Cross Lifeguard, CPR and First Aid certification required. Contact Jane Prentice, 672-6101.

Homeowners Tax Break: Cornwall homeowners who were 65 or older by December 31, 2002, or who are receiving Social Security disability payments, may be eligible for credit on their property tax if total income including Social Security is less than \$26,100 single and \$31,900 married. Applications may be filed in the Assessor's Office until May 15 and, if eligible, will apply to the July billing. Persons currently receiving a veteran's exemption may be eligible for an additional exemption if they meet the above requirements. Application forms are available from the Assessor's Office, which is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 A.M. to noon, and Wednesdays, 9 A.M. to noon and 1 to 4 P.M.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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