



# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 27 : NUMBER 3 APRIL 2017



## Budget Alarm

The February issue of the *Chronicle* contained a piece titled, "Budget Woes." Now, this month I have been asked to write another article about the budget. Since I know the editors are ever mindful of making the most of space, their seeking a second article indicates there will be significant choices and pressures for expenditures as well as state-required items.

For example this year the Connecticut state budget, by some unique formula, has reduced Cornwall's Education Cost Sharing grant from \$85,159 to \$1,292. At the same time, the state is requesting most municipalities pay one-third of teachers' retirement pay, or for us \$193,000. Since the inception of this pension plan over 70 years ago, the state has covered this expenditure. Now with Connecticut's budget gap climbing to \$1.5 billion, costs are being shifted to the towns.

Another issue is the "Bridge Projects." A survey has been made of all 23 Cornwall bridges, their condition and needs. There will be a town meeting on April 7, 7:30 P.M., at Cornwall Consolidated School to vote on a \$1.5 million loan to accomplish identified repairs. With interest rates currently rising, this might be the time to take care of our numerous and varied bridge inventory.

Because all these figures are at this time

draft numbers, it is important that taxpayers attend the hearings, ask questions, be informed, and if our taxes go up, we will know why. Meanwhile the finance board is trying to minimize the state damage to Cornwall.

At its March 15 meeting, the Board of Finance met with the school board for a first look at its budget. The first draft of the budget included a 3 percent reduction in the CCS budget from the previous year. After much discussion, the Board of Finance directed the school board to reduce the CCS portion of its budget another 3.5 percent, or just over \$92,000.

The town budget hearing will be Friday, April 21, at 7:30 P.M. at CCS. The town meeting vote on the budget will be May 19. The budget will be up on the Cornwall website and hard copies will be available a week before.  
—Ginny Potter

## I Have an Idea!

Nearly everyone has had what they believe is a terrific concept for a new product, but that's usually where it stops...just an idea, nothing more.

However, at the CCS Invention Convention on March 22, 15 CCS sixth- and seventh-grade science students under the direction of Kathy West showed how it's done and what it takes.

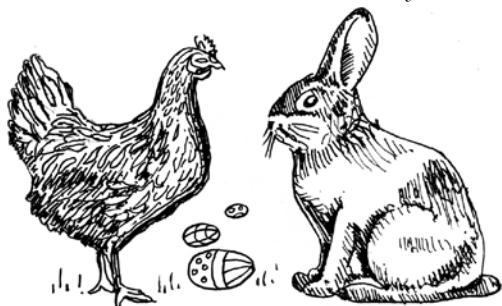
Each of these inventors and entrepreneurs presented the results of two months' work, creativity, and research as they moved through a formal, logical development process. Presentations were made to the judging panel of Cay Tyson, Joe Brien, and John Hare who used a detailed, three-page scoring sheet covering issues from originality and relevance to oral presentation.

In presenting the awards during a school assembly, West said that due to the uniformly high quality of all 15 of the presentations, the judges' task was particularly difficult this year. Nevertheless, decisions had to be made.

Honorable Mention: Reilly Hedden for her "Bio Bag," a biodegradable grocery bag that dissolves in water.

Third Place: Peter Gorat for his "Flip-board," a computer keyboard that is built

(continued on page 2)



## APRIL 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Every Week This Month:</b> <b>Mondays:</b> Yoga, 8:30-10 am Library; <b>Mat Squad</b> at 6:30 pm UCC; <b>Karate</b> , 6:30-7:30 pm Town Hall; Men's Senior Basketball 6:30-8:30 pm CCS ♦ <b>Tuesdays:</b> Zumba, 5:30-6:30 pm Library ♦ <b>Wednesdays:</b> Tai Chi, 5-7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064; <b>Stitch 'n Spin</b> , 7:15-8:30 pm UCC ♦ <b>Thursdays:</b> Pilates, 8:30-9:30 am Library; <b>Toddler Play Group</b> , 10:30-11:30 am Library; <b>Meditation</b> , 4-5 pm call Debra 672-0229 <b>Zumba</b> , 5:30-6:30 pm Library; <b>Mah Jongg</b> , 7-9 pm Library call 672-6874; <b>Adult Volleyball</b> , 7-9 pm CCS gym ♦ <b>Fridays:</b> Yoga 8:30-10 am Library ♦ <b>Sundays:</b> Yoga 9-10:30 am Library; <b>Meditation</b> , 1 pm call Debra 672-0229						1
2	3 ♦ Soap Making Workshop 10:30 am 1stQ UCC Parish House ♦ Region 1 Bd. of Ed. 6:30 pm HVRHS ♦ Cornwall Ag. Advisory Committee 7:30 pm Town Office	4 ♦ Inland Wetlands Agency 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	5	6 ♦ Walking the Camino Portuguese B. Underwood 10 am Library	7 ♦ Special Town Meeting 7:30 pm CCS	8 ♦ Cornwall Village Improvement Society 10 am Library
9	10 ♦ Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon-1 pm UCC ♦ Park & Rec. 7:30 pm Town Hall	11 ♦ Eco. Dev. Comm. 9 am Town Hall FULL ♦ West Cornwall Septic Committee 5 pm Ingersoll's Shop ♦ P&Z 7 pm Library ♦ Housatonic River Commission 7:30 pm WC Firehouse	12	13	14	15 ♦ <b>Deadline: May Chronicle Copy</b> ♦ Artist's Reception: Debby Jones 3-6 pm Souterrain ♦ Artist's Reception: Frank Bramble 5-7 pm Library
16	17	18 ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	19 ♦ Board of Education 4:15 pm CCS ♦ Bd. of Finance 7:30 pm Town Hall	20 ♦ Knitting Group/Hats/Cancer Patients 10 am Library ♦ Cornwall Conservation 7 pm Library	21 ♦ Budget Public Meeting 7:30 pm CCS	22 ♦ Art @ the Dump 10 am-4 pm ♦ Earth Day Walk Welles Preserve 11:30 am Town Street
23 ♦ Art @ the Dump 10 am-Noon ♦ Women in Politics Lecture 3 pm Town Hall	24 ♦ ZBA* 7 pm Library	25 ♦ EMS Class Begins West Cornwall Firehouse ♦ Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library	26 ♦ Cornwall Business Assoc. 9 am West Cornwall Library	27 ♦ Wounded Warrior Program 6 pm CCS	28	29
30 ♦ Documentary Film <i>Standing Rock</i> 11:45 am UCC Parish House						

\*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

into a desktop and can be flipped over for use or for more desk space.

Second Place: Thea West for her "Ski Secure," a ski rack that fits into a school bus seat, for transporting skis and poles so they don't fall down under the seat or into the aisle.

First Place in the CCS Invention Convention: Spencer Markow for his "The Dry Curtain," a shower curtain with a hole that can be opened so that a caregiver can help a child, elderly, or ill person to shower without the helper getting wet.

Other participants, all with excellently prepared and presented concepts, were: Adrienne Aakjar, Nathan Benjamin, Gavin Bundy, Quinn Hedden, Evan Jeans, Melody Matsudaira, Aramis Oyanadel, Ellie Sanders, Harry Sanders, Wolf Shepard, and Will Taaffe.

—Jeff Jacobson

## Garbridges

One of the banes of our modern existence is plastic trash. It persists. It's plentiful. It's grotesque when it's discarded heedlessly and clogs the gullets of sea turtles and sea birds, or blows across an open field in search of a place to rest forever.

These days an intriguing use has been found for those pernicious non-biodegradable thermoplastics found in milk jugs, water bottles, detergent bottles, and plastic bags. Recycling programs have been somewhat successful in reducing the amount of these plastics in our landfills, but the problem remains as to what to do with the items that have been excluded from the landfills. These plastics have already found new life as clothing, carpeting, furniture, and insulation.

So what's this new product and what's it have to do with Cornwall? What use do we have for piles of discarded plastic, a plentiful resource with the strength to never degrade?

We need bridges, that's what. Twenty-three of them. Built from thousands of transformed Tide containers and Dasani bottles. Strong enough to span 50 feet and bear the weight of a locomotive.

Collection for the project has already started at the transfer station. Steve O'Neil is policing the plastic recycling bins, and sorting items by color. Once he has a large pile of a particular color, he uses the trash compactor to create three-foot square cubes of compressed plastic. These then go into storage in the woods behind the salt barn. Periodically, trucks arrive to remove the plastic cubes and bring them to a storage warehouse in Waterbury. Fortunately, Steve was able to hitch a ride for the cubes in the Sweet Peat trucks as they travel back and forth from Watertown.

Eventually the cubes make their way to New Jersey, to be molded into colorful structures for bridge creation. The pre-sorting of the colors makes it easier for the manufacturer to mix the colors to the town's exact specifications. Gordon Ridgway said he is forming a committee to fine tune the color choices for the bridges. For maximum hue range, though, "Steve says we need more yellow."

Gordon reported that the town is looking to offset the cost of the bridges. Since they will be molded in plastic, private individuals and corporations are being offered the opportunity to have a bridge embossed with their name. "For a reasonable donation, of course" he said.

—Annie Kosciusko

## Tales from alt-Uber

The nightmare: you drive to Kennedy Airport. Long-term parking is up ahead, but you can't find the entrance (obscured by construction). You drive around looking for a human to help. You almost miss your plane and your equilibrium is shot.

Or, you could call the Cornwall alt-Uber, which consists of a group of wonderful people like Dave Cadwell and Fred Balling, to drive you instead. The unique twist is that they drive you and then pick you up in your car, which lives in your driveway or garage in the meantime.

Dave once picked up an award-winning author he drives frequently, who usually sits in the front with him. On this occasion he sat in the back because he had a book to read—his own, about which he was going to be interviewed on the radio, and which he couldn't remember. Just before they reached their destination, he looked up and opined, "It's not bad." Dave was reading that very book with his book group, and so he had, as he said, "every reader's fantasy experience, of speaking one-on-one with the author about something you're reading." They didn't agree about Vietnam.

Fred's favorite client was an elderly woman he drove for years in search of the "perfec" handbag, as she called it. He described driving up Madison Avenue, "practically bumping the curb," while she looked in the shop windows. If she saw a likely prospect she went into the store, while he "drove around the block five times." She had a very large collection of bags, but "she never found the 'perfec' one."

Dave thought that Fred was the grandfather of alt-Uber, but Fred thought that probably Earl Brecher was the grandfather; and then Richard Griggs and Hunt Williams go back a long way too. Dave mentions that what he's selling is dependability; when you get off the plane, he's there to drive you home.

The day before the huge snowstorm of March 14, when people were scrambling to get where they were going fast, Dave Cadwell was driving Fred Balling to the airport. Fred mentioned that Dave would "hit the daily double"; he would leave Fred, and then a few hours later pick up someone else in the same trip. As Fred said, "a perfect day for a Cornwall driver." —Jill Cutler

## Goodbye to Friends

Ginger Council  
George Kittle  
Tom Hubbard  
Allison Foss  
Raymond Hart

## Land Transfers

SGS Cornwall, LLC, 50 percent interest to Stewart Osborne and Sarah Jefferys and 50 percent interest to WNB, LLC, property at 24 Town Street South for \$470,000.

Eileen Pond Levine, Trustee of the Mildred Jean Pond Living Trust to Warren A. Stevens and Rebecca Draper-Stevens, 16.572 acres on Sharon Goshen Turnpike, for \$120,000.

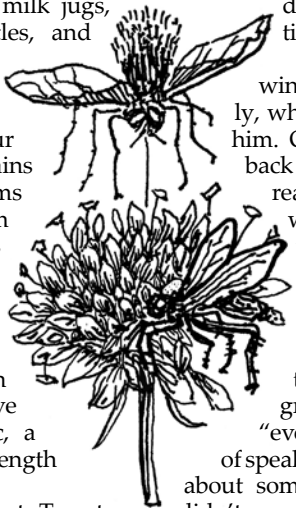
## 75 Years on the River

It may not be "mighty" like the Mississippi or the Colorado, but it is a treasure that helps define our town. I speak, of course, of the Housatonic River that is Cornwall's western boundary. And the guardian of our river is the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), currently celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Its mission: "to protect the natural character and environmental health of the entire Housatonic watershed (almost 2,000 square miles) for this and future generations." That watershed begins in northern Massachusetts, runs through Connecticut, and takes a bite of New York before flowing over the clam and oyster beds of Long Island Sound.

Since moving up from Kent in 1986, HVA has been headquartered in Cornwall Bridge on Route 7 at the bottom of Warren Hill. It has 10 full-time employees, including our own Patience Lindholm, Brenda Singer, and Dick Sears. Early pioneers of HVA's formative years include late members of our community Jim Newman, Monty Hare, Bill Vitalis, Einar Lindholm, and Larry Gates, the latter instrumental in organizing an HVA endowment. Its executive director for over two decades has been Lynn Werner.

Today it has approximately 3,000 members. Its annual budget of \$1.5 million is used to protect water quality of the river and the dozens of streams that empty into it, as well as the health of the trout and bass that inhabit the river. The natural scenic beauty of the protected land runs unabated mile upon mile on both sides of the river, including a significant stretch of the Appalachian Trail, following the Housatonic from Cornwall Bridge into Kent.



HVA also helped the Cornwall Land Trust purchase the Trinity Wall Street property of over 300 acres on the eastern side of the river between West Cornwall and Cornwall Bridge, assuring it would remain wild and scenic, disturbed only by the occasional freight that rumbles through the area.

Water quality is a constant and critical issue, according to Werner, because of run-off carrying farm fertilizers and a variety of chemicals used by state and town crews to kill roadside summer vegetation and melt ice in the winter months. And the problem of water quality also benefits from HVA's mission. That mission also includes programs for students from local schools who are learning the value of protecting the quality of the Housatonic and its many tributaries. Working with partners like the Northwest Hills Council of Governments, the Housatonic Fly Fisherman's Association and others, HVA supported the Housatonic River Commission in getting the state of Connecticut to designate the Housatonic as "wild and scenic" from North Canaan to New Milford. It is, we are told, within reach.

—John Miller

## Tidbits from CHLA History

The minutes of Cream Hill Lake Association are a record of a part of Cornwall's leisure life a century ago. Let's take a peek at the 1920s.

They got stuff done. From June 1921, on the building of a road into the lake, for \$2,300: "Mr. Hubbard reported that he had an opportunity to have this road built owing to the fact that a gang of Italian laborers had some vacant time and that he therefore contracted with them personally as there was no time to have the matter passed upon formally by the Association. Two other estimates for the building of the road were in the sum of \$4500 and \$6700, and the money to pay for the road had been raised by himself, Mr. John Calhoun and Mr. Charles L. Gold."

The House Committee certainly had its hands full, having to establish rules in an attempt to keep members in line. I don't know which is more amusing; the efforts of the committee to maintain control, what Samuel Scoville, Jr. chose to put in the minutes, or that some things never change. The pesky Victrola, from June 1923: "Mrs. Samuel Scoville presented a report in behalf of the House Committee and called attention to the condition of the Victrola. This was referred to the House Committee and the Treasurer with power to take such steps for the remedying of the internal maladies of said Victrola as might be necessary." More

problems with the Victrola a year later, as five records were broken in one evening: "There is no safe place for the records, except with the best china in the cupboard, and we feel that their use is too restricted if they are kept under lock and key."

In June 1924, the first set of house rules was established: "Servants and employees of members or guests are not allowed in the Club House except nurses in charge of young children. No servants are allowed bathing privileges from the Club House. No cars or horses shall be parked or hitched along the lake front.

Members are not allowed on the second floor in bathing suits. There shall be no dancing or use of the Victrola on Sunday, the Victrola is not to be used by anyone under the age of fourteen years, and the records must not be left strewn around."

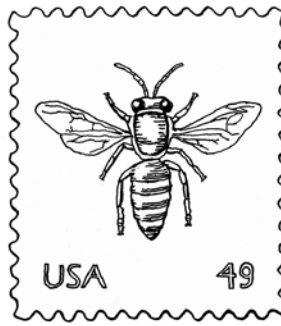
And here are some gems from Secretary Scoville. From June, 1925: "President MacCracken suggested the appointment of Mrs. Kunkel on the House Committee since the Committee would thus obtain the services of two women as, in his opinion as an expert on women, Mrs. Kunkel was equivalent to from two to two and a half ordinary women."

From June 1927: "The House Committee reported that a combined life-guardsman and swimming instructor had been employed who in his capacity of life-guardsman would save the lives of any member between the hours of 1:30 and 5:30 P.M. and as swimming instructor would give lessons in the crawl, the trudgeon, the swan dive, the jack knife dive, and the channel stroke, and other requisites of modern day swimming." Later that summer he writes: "One of the new duties of the House Committee is the exterminating of hornets infesting the club-house, which responsibility was thrust upon the single male member of the committee."

From August 1928: "The House Committee made their annual report on the dire condition of the men's dressing room and announced that hereafter all towels left lying around would be confiscated and would have to be ransomed. In spite of their diatribes against the inherent disorderliness of the male members of the club and the destructive propensities of the younger members a resolution of thanks to the House Committee was unanimously passed."

It makes me giggle to think how genteel they were trying to be in a barn on the edge of a pond. What would they think of the place today, where bathing suits are worn upstairs, the servants are members, music is only permitted through earbuds, and the extraordinary "Mrs. Kunkels" abound?

—Annie Kosciusko



## Cornwall Briefs

•**Special Town Meeting:** Friday, April 7, 7:30 P.M., at Cornwall Consolidated School. Voters will be asked to approve a resolution appropriating funds for the town's bridge improvement program and authorizing the purchase of \$1.5 million in bonds to pay for the work.

•**A Petition** with 44 signatures has been received by the Board of Selectmen urging the town to go ahead soon with a proposed project known as the "River Enhancement at the Bend" in West Cornwall. The Bend is a piece of riverfront south of the Hughes Library owned by Eversource, and the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) has a grant to install a parking lot, a boat ramp, and a public toilet on the property. HVA's grant would pay for maintaining the property, which the town could eventually purchase for a modest price.

•**Road Resurfacing** using oil and stone is scheduled to take place on 13 town roads in Cornwall Bridge this month.

•**March Storm:** Town Hall reported that the mid-March storm produced 18 to 20 inches of snow in the hills, with a bit less in lower elevations. Kudos to Jim Vanicky and the town crew for their great work clearing the roads with great speed.

•**Covered Bridge Closing Plan:** Word comes from the town office that month-long repair work on the Covered Bridge has been rescheduled for August 2018. Reason given: consideration for the river's fish population (which has yet to respond).

—John Miller

## Events & Announcements

**Soap Making Workshop:** Monday, April 3, at 10:30 A.M. in the UCC Parish House. The cost is \$15 and space is limited. Contact Jen Markow at prcornwall@gmail.com or 672-4071.

**Woman's Society program:** On April 6 at 10 A.M. in the library, Brenda Underwood will be talking about her walk on the Camino de Santiago in Portugal.

**Town meetings:** April 7 at 7:30 P.M. Special town meeting with vote to approve the bridge construction loan; public hearing on the budget on April 21 at 7:30 P.M. at CCS.

**Art in Cornwall:** A reception will be held from 3–6 P.M. on April 15 at the Souterrain Gallery for the opening of "Debby Jones, A Retrospective: Paintings, Weavings, and Tumbleweeds." The exhibit runs through May 21.

Then an artist's reception from 5–7 P.M. at the library for Frank Bramble's "In Fading Light: Landscape in the Land of the Housatonic," which features oil paintings of places along the river and in nearby Litchfield County. The exhibit goes from April 6 through May 21.

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**Earth Day Walk** on Saturday, April 22. Join the Cornwall Conservation Trust for a walk and picnic lunch at the Welles Preserve Trail on Town Street, 4/10 mile from Route 128. Meet at 11:30 A.M. Bring your own lunch; beverages provided. The trail is easy going and passes a marsh and old stone dam, then up the smooth contours of Bloody Mountain past large boulders at the top, to be rewarded by stunning vistas of Mohawk Mountain and the Coltsfoot Valley. Information about building trails, geology, and wildflowers will be shared. For more information and updates please visit [cornwallconservationtrust.org](http://cornwallconservationtrust.org).



**Art at the Dump** will be held at the transfer station on Saturday, April 22, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and Sunday, April 23, 10 A.M. to noon. Artwork from recycled materials can be dropped off Saturday 8 to 10 A.M. More information and forms can be found at [artatthedump.homestead.com](http://artatthedump.homestead.com)

**Gospel Fest:** On Sunday, April 23 (time TBA), Park and Rec will provide transportation to Hotchkiss School for seniors interested in going to the performance. No cost, but space will be limited. Contact Jen Markow at [prcornwall@gmail.com](mailto:prcornwall@gmail.com) or 672-4071.

**Historical Society lecture:** Roxana Robinson, author of nine books and a Cornwall resident, will give the Norman Dorsen lecture on Sunday, April 23, at 3 P.M. at town hall. Presented by the Cornwall Historical Society, the annual lecture honors Norman Dorsen, emeritus professor of law at New York University and a Cornwall part-timer. Robinson's talk is titled "What Are Women Doing in Politics?" Admission is free. Currently the president of the Authors Guild, Robinson's work has been recognized by such diverse sources as the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, which gave her the James Webb Award for Distinguished Fiction for her most recent book, *Sparta*. She teaches at Hunter College.



## Tax Time Blues

April 15 getting you down this year? Here's a prescription: supersize your contribution to the tax-exempt *Chronicle* and next year enjoy a supersize deduction!

**Emergency Medical Responder class** will be held at the West Cornwall Firehouse on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (and occasional Saturdays) from April 25 to July 11. Cost for the course is \$500. Minimum age of 15. If interested, email [Cornwallvfd@gmail.com](mailto:Cornwallvfd@gmail.com).

**Wounded Warrior presentation:** April 27 at 6 P.M. in the Cornwall Consolidated School gym. Cindy Parson from the Wounded Warrior Project will be the speaker. Her son served in the U.S. Army, and while he was deployed to Iraq, Shane was critically injured. Mrs. Parson helped in his recovery after his return. After the presentation there will be refreshments and a time for discussion. (*Editor's note: This presentation is part of CCS eighth-grader Abigail Larson's Explorations project, which is focused on the military and mental health awareness.*)

**UCC film presentation:** A rough cut of Fidel Moreno's film about the Standing Rock protests will be shown in the Parish House of the UCC on April 30 at 11:45 A.M. Discussion to follow the viewing. No charge, and all are welcome.

**Winter Heating Assistance:** All heating applications must be in by May 1 to be eligible for 2016-2017 heating season benefits. Eligibility is on a sliding scale, with a maximum gross household income of \$33,880.60 for a household of one or \$44,305.40 for a household of two. May 31 will be the last day approved households can submit bills for reimbursement for fuel deliveries made between November 9, 2016, and March 15, 2017. Call Cornwall Social Services at 672-2603 immediately for an appointment, as available slots are anticipated to fill before the deadlines.

**Marie Baum Scholarship:** The Marie Baum Scholarship is for a Cornwall student "who displays enthusiasm for achievement in music." Applicants must have graduated from Housatonic and attended CCS for four years. Applications are available and must be received in the high school guidance office or the selectmen's office by May 1. This is a \$500 scholarship.

**Kindergarten Registration** for the 2017-2018 school year will be held on Tuesday, May 2. Any child turning 5 on or before December 31, 2017, is eligible. Parents should call the school office at 672-6617 to

schedule a time for their child to visit the school. Parents need to bring their child's official immunization record, birth certificate, and proof of residency with them.

**Conservation Trust Grant:** The Cornwall Conservation Trust is pleased to offer a maximum grant of \$1,000 to graduating high school students or students who are enrolled in college and are residents of Region One. More information and an application can be found on its website, [cornwallconservationtrust.org](http://cornwallconservationtrust.org)

**Help for Immigrants:** Many of us are concerned about current threats to the safety of immigrants, with or without documents, in our towns. The governor and our legislators have taken strong stands to protect the rights of all of our residents, and for that we are grateful. But it might be useful to know two numbers of legal agencies for civil rights. ACLU has a dedicated immigrants' rights hotline: 800-798-0671. And Michelle Fica at Connecticut Legal Services can be reached at 203-721-8556.



## CORNWALL CHRONICLE [cornwallchronicle.org](http://cornwallchronicle.org)

Members of the *Chronicle* staff note the passing of one of our special colleagues, George Kittle. We remember George for the quality of his writing, which included a wonderful sense of humor and a much appreciated way with language.  
— The Editors

### THIS MONTH

Michael Heming, Illustrations  
Annie Kosciusko and John Miller, Editors

### NEXT MONTH

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