



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 14 : NUMBER 7 AUGUST 2004



On The Housatonic

To put it simply, Northeast Generation Services Company will no longer be holding back the Housatonic River at Falls Village and then dumping it downriver to generate power at peak demand periods. This flow regime, known as "pond-and-release," has been the mode of operation for over 80 years. Following a five-year license application process during which the voices of fishing, boating, environmental organizations, businesses, citizens, EPA, DEP, legislative and congressional representatives, and other stakeholders have been heard, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has granted a 40-year license to operate the power plant, but only on a run-of-the-river (ROR) basis. Gone are the hearings, comment periods, and attempts to influence the decision. Gone also will be the fluctuations of river water during the dry months, when the river would flow to a trickle as it was ponded, followed by a boatable surge in the afternoon.

Touted as a victory in the battle between those who boat and those who fish, the decision was the result of studying issues that went far beyond that narrow perspective. The ROR decision was environmentally driven by the Connecticut DEP's requirement that its own water quality certification standard be included in the FERC decision, an undeniable

right in proceedings before this federal commission. The state standard for water quality could only be met with ROR. Basically, holding back water and then releasing it is hostile to riverine habitat and unhealthy for water quality, due to cumulative high temperatures at low flow and turbidity from sediment stir. DEP even rejected FERC's own staff report, which recommended ROR April to June and pond-and-release July through March. The decision was supported by EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and many other organizations, including the local Housatonic River Commission. Most boating interests opposed the decision.

In short, issuing a license for the next 40 years with the existing flow regime made little environmental sense. As it now stands, the river will become a free-flow waterway, and you will boat when it is boatable, fish when it is fishable, and hike, picnic and drive next to a river that is more than a mud flat during dry months, when the water would have been held back. The power company will generate on continuous flow. The new license includes dozens of other provisions on behalf of the public, which in fact owns the river and water. View these provisions in a copy of the license at the selectman's office. For public opinion, visit the Cornwall website (www.cornwallct.org). —Philip W. Hart

New School/Old School

CCS will open late this month (Wednesday, September 1) and construction czar Jim Terrall expects work on the old building to be finished, with the new gymnasium not far behind—"before the end of September."

I had a personal tour about mid-July, and there were at least 25 workmen hustling like Lance Armstrong bearing down on a finish line. It was exciting! Students and faculty may not recognize the old place. Just about every room has been changed. The applicable words here are alter, renovate, and enlarge.

The old gym area is now five rooms: a kindergarten, a new kitchen, a multi-purpose area, and offices for the school psychologist and the speech therapist. The school offices have been redone and the west corridor has new rooms for music, art, and special education and reading. There are special entrances and stairwells better situated for moving bigger kids around the lower grades quickly and efficiently. Downstairs, there is a large new science room and a new faculty lounge and bathrooms.

The new building is very impressive. The gym has a nice feel to it, with bleachers situated on the south wall and a very decent stage behind a folding backboard at the west end of the court. There are new bathrooms,

(continued on page 2)

AUGUST 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	3 Inland Wetlands* 8 P.M. Town Hall	4 Chinese Storyteller 6:30 P.M. Cornwall Library†	5	6 Asian Stories & Crafts 11 A.M. Cornwall Library† Rose Algrant Show 5-8 P.M. Mohawk Ski Lodge†	7 Rose Algrant Show 10 A.M.-4 P.M. Mohawk Ski Lodge† Cornwall Assoc. Annual Meeting 4 P.M. Cornwall Lib.† Indian Casinos and Gambling Talk 5:30 P.M. Town Hall†
8 Rose Algrant Show 10 A.M.-4 P.M. Mohawk Ski Lodge† Annual Community Interfaith Service 10 A.M. Town Green†	9 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House	10 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	11 Asian Potluck† Registration for After School Program and for Fall Soccer 6:30-8:30 P.M. Town Hall†	12	13 Asian Stories and Crafts 11 A.M. Library† Water Sports Day Noon, Hammond Beach†	14 Registration for After School Program and for Fall Soccer 9-11 A.M. Town Hall†
15 Deadline: September Chronicle Copy	16 Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library†	17	18	19 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall	20	21 St. Bridget's Tag Sale 9 A.M.-2 P.M.† Art Show Reception 5-7 P.M. Wish House†
22	23	24 Lake Compounce Tript	25 Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	26 Cornwall Child Center Registration 9 A.M.-Noon†	27	28
29	30	31	SEPTEMBER 1 CCS Opens First Day Celebration 10 A.M. CCS†	Every Week This Month: Tuesdays: Blue Mountain Satsang, 6:30 P.M. UCC Day Room; Jam Session, 7:30 P.M. Town Hall or Library Wednesdays: Stretch Class, 5:30 P.M. Town Hall Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room Saturdays: Chess Club, 9:30 A.M. Library		

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued from page 1)

an office for the gym department, storage areas, and a very handsome lobby which will soon be the new school entrance.

Student dropoffs and pickups will be in the new parking area, while buses will take on and discharge passengers on the school side of Cream Hill Road.

The work has changed CCS dramatically, and the cost for all this change is expected to come in on budget. —John Miller

July Fest

The town green was a busy place on July 3 for Park and Recreation's annual July Fest. It was a perfect summer day—warm in the sun, cool in the shade, not a cloud in the sky. Dominating the green were three huge inflated playscapes: a bouncy house; a 25-foot mountain to climb, complete with ropes and saddles; and an obstacle course to slither, slide, and bounce through. There were jugglers with boxes of juggling equipment—balls, sticks, and bowling pins—so everyone could give it a try. If you didn't want to bounce or juggle, you could eat; hamburgers, hot dogs, lemonade, and iced tea were provided at no charge.

The annual children's footraces were run, and a good effort was made by all. The winners of the 5-and-under race were: Jack Brandfield, first; Eleanor Zuckerman, second; and Lily Horan, third. In the 6- to 8-year-old race, the winners were: Anna Geyselaers, first; Frankie Ott, second; and Zack Busby, third. In the mile run, the winner was Nick Dzenutis with a time of 7:24; Jack Ott came in second, and R. J. Thompson was third. Gabriella Dzenutis was the first girl to cross the line, with a time of 9:32, immediately followed by Olivia Scott. Finn Alexander finished with a time of 13:24. At age 4, he is the current record-holder as the youngest competitor. —Anne Kosciusko

What's Your House Worth?

A lady is coming to take a picture of your house to help her get an idea of what it's worth. No, she's not a real estate broker. She's Barbara Bigos, the newly appointed Assessor for Cornwall. She wants the picture to help familiarize herself with every property in town. She plans to add a digitalized picture of your house to the individual records she'll keep of every one of Cornwall's 800-odd houses.

Barbara is already the assessor for Salisbury, and her working history includes assignments as assessor in Harwinton and Morris, where she is currently completing a full revaluation of all properties.

"I love being an assessor," she told me. "It's a job where I'm never bored, and where I get a chance to meet people of all types." She clearly delights in the variety offered by her work, which ranges from valuing motor

vehicles ("Most are worth less as they age, but Harley-Davidsons gain value.") to houses ("Antique ones gain value as they age, but most contemporaries don't; neighborhood quality can influence house values a lot, even within the same town.").

Ms. Bigos is well trained for her new job. She has a bachelor's degree in math and history from Central Connecticut State University and a master's in education from the same school. The State of Connecticut certified her as a Municipal Tax Assessor in 1991. She began work as an assessor in Harwinton in 1988, added Morris in 1994 and took on Salisbury in 2002. She plans to continue working for Salisbury as well as Cornwall.

Barbara grew up in rural Maine (so don't try to fool her on the market value of pasture land). She has lived in Harwinton with her husband, John, for some time. She has two adult children.

While Barbara learns more about Cornwall, she already knows something about us: that we're a mix of wealthy and poor folks, that our property values are rising, though perhaps not as fast as in Salisbury, and that we have a lot of artists here ("I can assign personal property values to easels and brushes, but not to paint or canvas, because they are considered supplies.").

Tell your house to smile for the assessor's camera, but not to look too good.

—David A. Grossman

Win/Win: Beavers vs. Lawrence

Lawrence Van Valkenburgh has solved the beaver problem in the most ingenious, simple, and satisfactory way.

The venue is the large flooded meadow at the intersection of Cream Hill and Rattlesnake Roads. The beavers have dammed up the culvert under the road and created a beautiful pond for their benefit as well as for much avian and other animal life.

In order to keep the level of water in the pond constant—deep enough for the beavers but not flooding the roads—Lawrence has devised a plan. He has built a small pad close to the dam and the road which will hold the weight of his earth-moving machine, and, from time to time, when the dam threatens to raise the level of the water too high, he removes part of the dam and deposits it along the edge of the pond. From there the beavers can easily retrieve the necessary building materials for their project and do not need to go and cut down more of Lawrence's trees. The beavers construct and Lawrence deconstructs. The water level remains constant and everyone is happy.

This solution is, however, a little labor intensive and is not, therefore, recommended for use by the Cornwall Town Crew. —Celia Senzer

Good-Bye to Friends

Emily Hepprich
Jacques A. Victorien

Congratulations

Graham Jacobson to Margie Salisbury
Frederic Thaler to Kathleen Mooney
Dana Gingras to Kelly Futerer
Leverett Hubbard IV to Denise Tompetrini
Jason Beeman to Carrie-Ann Dance
Leonard Ciccarella, Jr. to Jill Sperrazza

Land Transfers

Mr. Madwom to Joseph C. Fuller, Lot 2 off Kent Road, for \$67,000.
Cynthia Parkinson to John and Jeanne Dubray, Lot 1 off Warren Hill Road, for \$70,000.

Our New ZEO Settles In

"A thoroughly enjoyable process," is the way Zoning Enforcement Officer Karl Nilsen describes his first months in Cornwall.

In a recent interview, Karl said he was pleasantly surprised by the degree of sophistication in our zoning regulations. He says their clarity makes them easier to enforce. His also commented on the excellent relationships between our Board of Selectmen and the land-use boards, something not always the case in other communities.

When he arrived, Karl said, there were many problems needing attention. A major one was the erosion at Furnace Brook Farm, off Route 4, which is approaching solution. Other problems included signage violations—a common problem in many other communities. Karl said, "We'll soon tackle a complete revision of the sign regulations to reflect the culture of the town."

Karl's goal is to work with residents and to handle enforcement problems in a way to make sure that perceived violations are, in fact, really violations and not differences of opinion or interpretations. That approach, he says, avoids lawsuits.

Welcome to Cornwall, Karl!

—Stephen Senzer

Innkeepers at Home

The popular Cornwall Inn has been taken over by new owners, the husband and wife team of Mark Hampson and Stacey Marcin.

Formerly operators of a B&B in



Philadelphia's center city, the Hampsons spent two years looking at 30 properties from New England to Maryland before deciding that Cornwall and the Inn were ideal for them and their children, Ella, age 4, and Trevor, age 2.

Mark and Stacey have a novel approach to running the Inn and raising their children: they alternate roles each week between innkeeper and child raiser.

The Inn and its 13 guest rooms have been spruced up, and a new more extensive menu described as "classic country with gourmet flair" has been installed under the aegis of Chef Stefan Kappes, a graduate of the famed Culinary Institute of America and a former restaurant proprietor himself. The Inn is available for private parties and for meetings.

Currently the Inn's hours are from 5 to 10 P.M., Thursday through Sunday.

—Stephen Senzer

A Fresh Face at UCC

At a congregational meeting on June 27, members of the United Church of Christ picked as their new minister the Reverend Madelon Nunn-Miller. "Micki," as she is affectionately known, will fill the vacancy left by Peter Hammond two years ago.

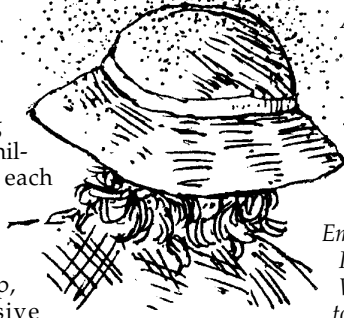
Reverend Micki comes here after 18 years' tenure at the Congregational Church in Cresskill, New Jersey. She received her Master's in Divinity at Duke and completed further graduate work there as well as at Drew University and Union Theological Seminary. She has been a leader in ecumenical and community groups in the central Atlantic area.

A divorced mother of two grown sons, Micki sings in the choir, plays the guitar, likes to hike, and is an avid reader of mysteries. She will be moving into the parsonage in the village when she takes up her duties at the end of October, and is looking forward to becoming acquainted with the larger community. On several visits here from her suburban New York home, Micki expressed wonder at the beauty of Cornwall and delight at how much was going on in our small, rural community.

—Paul De Angelis

Events & Announcements

First Day Celebration: Do you have fond memories of CCS that you would like to share? Would you like to check out the new school renovations? Come join students and staff of CCS on Wednesday, September 1, as we begin the school year with a First Day Celebration. All parents and community members are invited to come at 10 A.M. for special activities and refreshments. For more information call Carla Whiteside at 248-3017 or Jane Hanley at 927-3117.



ART AND THE HOUSATONIC

At the recent juried art shows of the Housatonic River in Sheffield and Lenox, Lennart Swede Ahrstrom of Cornwall was awarded a second prize.

Three other Cornwall artists have honorable mention awards; Emily Buchanan, Erica Child Prud'homme, and Catherine Wallace Harding. Congratulations to them all! Their paintings and

more will be on exhibit at the Norman Rockwell Museum starting on Saturday, August 14, their festival day. Erica and Emily also have paintings in a new book put together by the Sheffield Art League (SAL), *Art and the River—Views and Visions of the Housatonic*.

Events Calendars for the numerous art events and festival days organized by SAL are available in the Cornwall Libraries. Please pick one up.

The artistic attention to the river is great along with all the attention given to the run of the river vs. pond-and-release. However, I am constantly disappointed by the lack of interest in the huge problem of the contamination of the river by PCBs. You may have read the alert by *American Rivers* that the Housatonic River is number seven on their list of the ten most endangered rivers. Why? Because of the complacency of those who think that the PCBs aren't

Letters to the Chronicle

that big a problem. After years of attending meetings in Pittsfield, Lenox, Lee, Kent, and New Milford, as well as hearing the Environmental Protection Agency's results of 15 years of testing and studying the health and environmental effects of these poisonous PCBs, I know we need to continue the clean-up process.

If you would like to attend any of these meetings, call me at 672-6738.

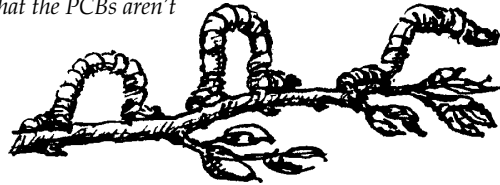
—Lynn Fowler
Housatonic River Commission

GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR ART

Thank you so much to Gail Jacobson for her generous donation to the CCS Art program and for organizing Art at the Dump. The kids love seeing the work and it provides seeds for their own projects.

This school year, the Art at the Dump Fund was used to support several visiting artists, with an emphasis on ceramics. Delores Coan worked with 7th grade students for several weeks. Students made garden creatures and spirit masks, and then enjoyed a day of primitive firing. The kids greatly benefit from the diversity of experience in the arts found here in our community. If there is an artist interested in a residency working with our students next year, please contact me; we'll keep the visiting artist program growing.

—Kathy Good
CCS Art Teacher



Who Wants To Be a J.P.? The State of Connecticut says Cornwall can have 57 Justices of the Peace for a new four year term starting January 2005—19 each for registered Republicans, Democrats, and unaffiliated or minor-party electors.

Democrats and Republicans endorsed candidates at meetings held in May. Now the Town Clerk is charged with appointing unaffiliated or minor-party candidates for J.P. upon applications made starting August 1.

So if you are an unaffiliated voter or member of a minor party: i.e., ACP, Green, Libertarian, and have a hankering to marry people, take depositions, or give oaths (J.P.s are no longer empowered to quell riots) contact the Town Clerk's office for an application to be returned no later than November 1. Names will be drawn in a public ceremony should more than 19 apply.

Friends of Rose Algrant: Cornwall's popular art show will be held again this year at Mohawk Ski Lodge. The show will be open from 5 to 8 P.M. on Friday, August 6, and from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday, August 7 and 8.

Don't Miss Your Chance to Vote: Applications for an absentee ballot for the presidential election are now available at the Town Clerk's office. Students returning to school, and other electors not able to vote in person on election day, November 2, should fill out an application and return it to the Town Clerk. This will ensure that when absentee ballots become available on October 1, one will be sent to you in time to return it by election day. Absentee ballots received after November 2 are not counted. No matter what your political persuasion, it is sure to be a year when every vote counts.

The Sixth Annual Interfaith Service will be held under a tent on the Town Green on Sunday, August 8, at 10 A.M. The theme is *Celebrating Community*. Sponsored by the various faith groups in Cornwall, the service will draw from Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism. The sermon will be given by the Reverend Ledlie Laughlin. All are welcome. Refreshments will follow the service. For more information, call the UCC office, 672-6840.

Casinos and Indian Sovereignty: On Saturday, August 7, at 5:30 P.M. at the Town Hall, writer Brett D. Fromson will talk about Native Americans and casino gambling in Connecticut and answer questions. Fromson is the author of *Hitting the Jackpot: The Inside Story of the Richest Indian Tribe in History*, which is about the development of the Foxwoods casino by the Mashantucket Pequots. He lives in Salisbury and has been following the application of Kent's Schaghticoke tribe for federal recognition. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library, the event is free but donations are gratefully accepted.

Soccer Registration: Park and Recreation will hold fall soccer registration at the Town Hall on Wednesday, August 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M., and Saturday, August 14, from 9 to 11 A.M. Programs will be offered for ages 6 to 13. Cost is \$15 per player. If you would like to register but cannot attend one of the registration sessions, please go to www.cornwallct.org (click on Park & Recreation on the left) and download the registration form. Send in the completed form with payment to Bethany Thompson, P.O. Box 243, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754. All registrations must be received by August 14. If you would like to coach a team please call Bethany at 248-3009.

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Library Wess Dwyer's show of paintings will continue through August 14. Beginning August 17, Diane Schapira will be exhibiting sculptural ceramics and masks at the Library. In the glass case, Connecticut Commission on the Arts 2004 Visual Arts Fellowship Awards recipients Ellen Moon and David Colbert are exhibiting work made possible by their awards.

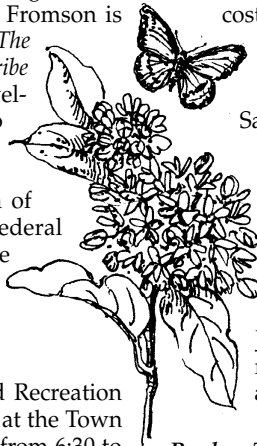
At the Cornwall Arts Collection, the show featuring works by Cynthia Kirk and Rudi Wolff will continue through August.

At the Wish House, there will be an opening on Saturday, August 21, from 5 to 7 P.M., of an exhibit of collages by M. I. Cake, who is celebrating 91 years of art.

At the new Outsiders' Gallery in Cornwall Bridge, the show of paintings and drawings by three artists—Lauren Zarembo, Jack Lardis, and Mickey Doolittle—and of political sculpture by Sean Marquis will continue through August.

At the National Iron Bank, Brad Smith will be exhibiting photographs during the month of August.

Discounted Trip to Lake Compounce: The PTA will sponsor a day trip on August 24 (rain date August 26) to Lake Compounce. All are welcome to join us for this trip. The cost for a day's admission is \$16.95. A 10 percent discount is also available on food and souvenirs. For information and registration call David Samson at 672-0616.



Cornwall Democratic Town Committee will meet on August 16, at 7:30 P.M., at the library. Robert Marconi, candidate in the 5th Congressional district for the seat currently held by Nancy Johnson, is scheduled to appear. All registered Democrats are invited to attend.

Book a Trip to Asia, the Library's Summer Reading Program, continues with two family events on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 P.M. On August 4, Li Min Mo, a Chinese storyteller from Boston, will tell folktales from China and talk about her life there. On the following Wednesday, August 11, the program will wind up with an Asian potluck supper. Recipes from different countries will be available to photocopy, or use one of your own. Stop by the children's room to see the exhibit of Asian artifacts loaned by Foreign Cargo in Kent.

Story hours for ages 4 to 8 will be held at 11 A.M. on Fridays, August 6 and 13. Hand in your reading logs so we can tally your raffle tickets by Thursday, August 12. The drawing for prizes will be held Friday afternoon and winners notified by phone. For more information call 672-6874.

Water Sports Day will be held at Hammond Beach on Saturday, August 13, at noon. This event is for everyone.

The Annual Tag Sale at St. Bridget's Church will be held this year on August 21 from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. on the church grounds at the junction of Routes 4 and 7 in Cornwall Bridge. Peg's kitchen will be open again, along with baked goods, clothing, and lots of attic treasures. To rent a space, please call Peg Kearns at 491-3100.

Cornwall Child Center Fall Registration will be on Thursday, August 26, from 9 A.M. until noon. If this date is not convenient, please contact the director, Pam Brehm, at (860) 626-1289.

After School Program: The Extended Day Learning Program, sponsored by Park & Recreation, will start this fall. It will be available to Cornwall families and is designed to meet their needs by offering a structured, supervised, after-school enrichment environment for students in third through eighth grades.

The program will be available Monday through Friday from 3 to 5:30 P.M. at the Cornwall Consolidated School. It will follow the CCS calendar and schedule; therefore, it will not meet on school vacation days, snow days, half days, or early dismissal days.

Each day the program will begin with a snack provided by Park & Recreation followed by a homework session during which teachers will be available for help. The last part of the day will involve an enrichment activity; workshops and guests will be scheduled throughout the year.

In order to best accommodate families, the program offers open registration—students can register at any time during the year—as well as a flexible attendance schedule. Students may attend once a week, five times a week, somewhere in between, or for a particular workshop. Students may also attend on an occasional basis but 24 hours notice is required.

Registration/information sessions will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, August 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M., and on Saturday, August 14, from 9 to 11 A.M., or contact Bethany Thompson at 248-3009 or thompsonfamily@optonline.net.

The Cornwall Association's annual meeting will feature the Third Annual State-of-Cornwall message from First Selectman Gordon Ridgway. There will also be updates on the Association's activities, including forums, newcomers' welcomes, the Website, and other activities. After election of officers and the board, refreshments will be served. Everyone welcome. Saturday, August 7, 4 to 6 P.M., at the Cornwall Library.



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