



CORNWALL CHRONICLE



VOLUME 26 : NUMBER 7 AUGUST 2016

Septic Solutions Percolate

At its monthly meeting on July 14, the West Cornwall Water/Septic Study Group voted to recommend that the Board of Selectmen accept the proposal of WMC Consulting Engineers of Newington to perform a wastewater management study of the West Cornwall area. The next stop after the selectmen is the Board of Finance, followed by a town meeting for approval set for the 12th at 7:30 P.M. at the town hall.

The proposed study area encompasses an estimated 60 homes and businesses near the center of West Cornwall and along the river, and would include: collecting and evaluating whatever data already exists in health district, town, or DEEP files; sampling water quality, both ground-water and surface, including a representative number of drinking water wells; and investigating existing on-site septic systems. Depending on what issues are found, the engineers will consider whether off-site wastewater treatment and disposal is needed or if on-site solutions are possible in whole or in part, and will suggest alternative approaches.

The government award of \$45,000 reported in the *Chronicle* last month, would offset much of the \$50,570 cost of the study. Ian Ingersoll, a study group member, is hopeful that even the small balance of the cost could be raised privately. Stephen Mc-

Donnell, of WMC, estimates that the results could be in about this time next year, although winter weather is a factor.

All this is undoubtedly welcome news to those who have long complained that the limitations of the existing systems have hampered economic development, made it more difficult to attract new businesses to vacant stores (or even to expand existing residences), and so, have dampened property values. The conduct of a professional engineering study to examine the extent of the problems (a critical first step) and then to propose solutions will be the first concrete evidence of forward progress on this issue in anyone's memory.

The Board of Selectmen appointed the study group last December as an advisory body. Chaired by Todd Piker, it has met each month since then. In order to qualify for government grants for the hiring of engineers, it has had to adhere to specific professional guidelines. It started by advertising for firms to submit their qualifications: the group winnowed down the first submissions to firms it judged qualified to do the work, asked for more detailed submissions and interviews, then ranked the firms—the whole process accomplished in a pretty short time period.

Attend the town meeting to seek answers to any lingering questions. —Tom Barrett

The Club That Cornwall Built

A Calhoun. A few Scovilles. A Gold. A Hedden. Land on Cream Hill Lake. A boat-house. A float. A locker. More lockers.

Such prompted the auspicious 1914 beginnings of the Cream Hill Lake Association (aka CHLA or "the Club"), which was really just a community of neighbors who agreed to collectively oversee the land, the boathouse, the float, and the lockers.

No minor item on the newly anointed CHLA to-do list was the creation of a viable system to organize, maintain, and register those lockers: men's lockers, canoe lockers, all sorts of lockers—a discussion carried on for decades. Where to store the donated china tea set and "very handsome punch bowl"? How would the executive committee safeguard such important community items as six Victrola record albums, one yard of rubber flooring, five gallons of kerosene, 12 mirrors, and two clothes wringers? As recorded (no pun intended) in the club minutes of 1924, five Victrola records went missing after a particularly rambunctious weekend: the revelers didn't jot down their names in the usage book so no fingers could be pointed. The house committee felt great remorse and asked for continued discussion of the loss.

(continued on page 2)

AUGUST 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 ♦ Camp Eureka Food & Field Week begins ♦ Agricultural Advisory Committee 7:30 pm Town Office	2 NEW ♦ Inland Wetlands 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	3 ♦ Summer Reading Ice Cream Party 4 pm Library	4	5 ♦ Rose Algrant Art Show 5-8 pm Trinity Conference Center	6 ♦ Rose Algrant Art Show 10 am-5 pm Trinity Conference Center ♦ Pamela Bramble Artist's Reception 5 pm Library ♦ Community Contra Dance 7 pm Town Hall
7 ♦ Rose Algrant Art Show 10 am-Noon Trinity Conference Center	8 ♦ Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon-1 pm UCC Day Room ♦ Park and Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall	9 ♦ Senior Luncheon 11:30 am-1 pm Wandering Moose ♦ Planning & Zoning 7 pm Library	10 ☾ 1st Q	11 ♦ WC-Water-Septic Committee 5 pm Ingersoll's Shop	12 ♦ Septic Study Town Meeting 7:30 pm Town Hall	13 ♦ Cornwall Conversation "...Free Trade?" 5 pm Library
14	15 ♦ Deadline: September <i>Chronicle</i> Copy	16 ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	17 ♦ Board of Finance 7:30 pm Town Hall	18 ☉ FULL ♦ Cornwall Conservation Comm. 7 pm Library	19	20 ♦ Artist's Reception Ken Krug 4-6 pm Souterrain
21 ♦ Sculptor Peter Busby Talk 2 pm Town Hall	22 ♦ Summer Camp for Kids 9 am-5 pm Library ♦ ZBA* 7 pm Library	23 ♦ Summer Camp for Kids 9 am-5 pm Library	24 ☾ 4th Q ♦ Summer Camp for Kids 9 am-5 pm Library	25 ♦ Summer Camp for Kids 9 am-5 pm Library	26 ♦ Summer Camp for Kids 9 am-5 pm Library	27 ♦ Cornwall Conserv. Trust Thank-You Party 2 pm Trinity Center
28	29	30	31	Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30-10 am Library Karate, 6:30-7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Tuesdays: Zumba, 5:30-6:30 pm Library ♦ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 5-7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064 Stitch 'n Spin, 7:15-8:30 pm UCC ♦ Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30-9:30 am Library Toddler Play Group, 10:30-11:30 am Library Meditation, 4-5 pm call Debra 672-0229 Mah Jongg, 7-9 pm Library call 672-6874 Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym ♦ Fridays: Yoga 8:30-10 am Library ♦ Saturdays: Farmers' Market, 9 am-12:30 pm Wish House ♦ Sundays: Yoga 9-10:30 am Library Meditation, 1 pm call Debra 672-0229		

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

As with any community organization, bylaws and seasonal house rules were established, tweaked with the times, and evolved over the years. But at one point, such commandments as "There shall be no dancing or use of the Victrola on Sunday" were adhered to—or else. In 1946, the kitchen was left "in a sloppy condition" and the remedy was to lock the door and put "wire over the hallway to prevent climbing up."

Other CHLA fun facts culled from those days-of-yore minutes include: 1923—first Water Sports Day; 1927—first lifeguard, Ed Gray; 1928—first "imported" beach sand for castle construction; 1930—first electric lights; 1930—a "deplorable lack of males in connection with the men's events" at Water Sports Day; 1933—first indoor plumbing and telephone; 1937—first tennis courts (originally proposed in 1927) at a cost of \$1,700; 1938—active membership increased to 75; 1940—Charles Gold's 29 years of service as president ends; 1949—a "bump in the road" put in to slow cars.

Just as in the early 1900s, all is still mostly fun and games on the waterfront. The fire department uses CHLA to practice water rescues and to pump water for its tanker, and the EMTs use it for their annual mandatory education, which includes water rescues. Cornwall nonprofits, such as the United Church of Christ, Cornwall Child Center, Cornwall Consolidated School, and Park & Rec are invited to use the facility free for fundraisers and picnics. The Cornwall swim and tennis teams call CHLA their home and encourage all residents—club members and nonmembers alike—to participate in these youth programming opportunities.

CHLA welcomes all Cornwallians to join its community. The only caveat: a Cornwall residence. For information on membership dues, fees, and policies, go to chlaware.org.

If you haven't visited CHLA, please do. As soon as you take the turn off Town Street and journey down the dirt road, past the Scoville Farm cows wading in the water, past the lulling sea grasses and honeysuckle, past the omni courts, the players in either tennis whites or bathing suits, you'll feel the simple pleasures that the early CHLA settlers helped cultivate and protect. It's still "the Club" that time—though there is now an Internet password available—thankfully forgot. —Elizabeth England

Trinity Embraces Cornwall

A breath of exceedingly fresh and wonderful air comes to Cornwall in the form of Joe and Heidi Rose, the new directors for the Trinity Retreat Center (formerly known as the Trinity Conference Center) in West Cornwall. The Roses hail from Portland,

Oregon, and have two daughters, Eleanor and Una. In Portland, Joe and Heidi were both involved in the ministry of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. As executive chef, Heidi also created and oversaw the food program for the church.

The Roses were called by the church to "build community and open a retreat center in Cornwall." Joe, who once considered becoming an Episcopal priest, yearned for a life of service and to build something with Heidi. "We are here to serve Cornwall every bit as much as Trinity and the world at large," said Joe. "Our intent is to offer this community a retreat, a place for people to take shelter, watch fireflies, get their hands dirty in the garden, and find peace."

Currently, the Roses are in the process of reimagining and revamping the retreat center and are hiring all local people to do the much-needed work. Already, they have been meeting with town leadership and listening to what locals are saying and hoping for from the retreat center. They expect to open officially next spring/summer. Heidi, overseeing both savory and pastry, will be focusing on creating healthy, healing foods for guests. "I plan to create a large garden for our guests that will provide opportunities to collaborate with the community as well," she said. "We are in a new era of the church and really looking to expand who we are serving."

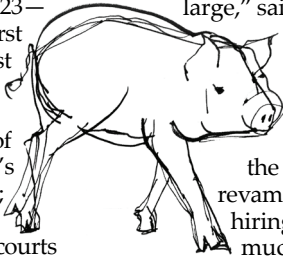
They will be hosting the Rose Algrant Art Show the first weekend in August and retreats in the near future. Heidi and Joe feel that the Trinity Retreat Center is a calling: to build the center, be part of our community, and to "do it together with Cornwall. We want to help Cornwall thrive," stated Joe; and Heidi added, "It feels like the world really needs a place like this right now, a refuge for retreat, rest, healing, and reflection."

Both Joe and Heidi grew up in small towns (OK, not this small!) and that was part of what called to them. The Rose family will be moving into the director's house on the Trinity property. They mentioned how gracious the Cornwall people have been and how they have been made to feel very welcome here. They hope to return the feeling by providing "gracious hospitality" to any and all visitors, whether local or not.

As the Economic Development chair, a local business person, and a Cornwallian, I am delighted to welcome Heidi and Joe and their family to our community. This is an amazing opportunity for a symbiotic relationship that helps make the world a more peaceful place. Don't we need just a bit more peace these days?

Want to keep up on the latest developments? Follow Trinity Retreat Center at [instagram.com/trinityretreatc](https://www.instagram.com/trinityretreatc).

—Janet Carlson Sanders



Congratulations

Anne Marie Christensen and Jeffrey Engel

Goodbye to Friends

Asa Goddard
Regina J. Harmon
Joan Frances Piker

Land Transfers

Pamela Towill, Trustee, to Michael Feder and Povilas Utovka, land with all buildings thereon at 57 Dark Entry Road, for \$455,000.

Alec C. and Nancy H. Frost to Anne A. Hubbard, land with all buildings thereon at One School Street, for \$390,000.

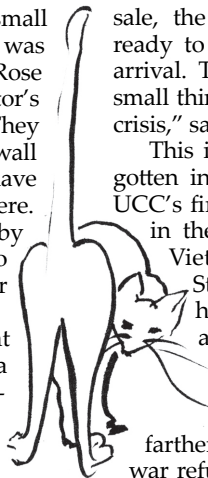
Oceans Together: Our Broader Community

As the tide of refugees continues to roll through Europe, one family has caught a wave that will carry it into our broader community. Cornwall's United Church of Christ, together with the UCC in Goshen and several other congregations in Litchfield County, has sponsored a refugee family's resettlement in Torrington. Although the family's identity won't be known until a few weeks prior to its scheduled arrival, preparations to welcome the newcomers are well under way, according to Peg Keskinen of the Cornwall UCC.

IRIS, a refugee and immigrant service agency based in New Haven, has identified one Syrian or Iraqi family that will be moving into an apartment in Torrington in early August, thanks to the UCC's generosity and involvement. Along with other churches in the area, the UCC in Cornwall raised funds and is continuing to take donations to help supply housing and offer support to the family. Using a combination of donated and purchased goods, including items from Cornwall's very own rummage sale, the UCC will have the apartment ready to move into prior to the family's arrival. The church wanted "to do some small thing to help the worldwide refugee crisis," said Keskinen.

This is not the first time the UCC has gotten involved in helping refugees. The UCC's first venture aiding refugees came in the 1970s, when it helped bring a Vietnamese family to the United States. Since then, the church has helped support families from Cuba and Iraq start new, successful, and more secure lives here in Connecticut. Of course, Cornwall's role as a safe haven goes even farther back. In 1939, a wave of European war refugees found a home in Cornwall, including my grandfather George Labalme, as well as Rose and Roly Algrant and John Zabriskie, among others.

This summer, the Cornwall community has a great opportunity to make a difference to families suffering from the global refugee crisis by making a donation. Checks can be



made payable to the Refugee Fund, c/o United Church of Christ, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall, CT 06753. Those interested in donating physical goods (i.e. furniture, appliances, etc.) should first contact Peg Keskinen at 672-6414 or send an email to kpkkeskinen@optonline.net. —Pia Labalme

Prayer of the Sheep

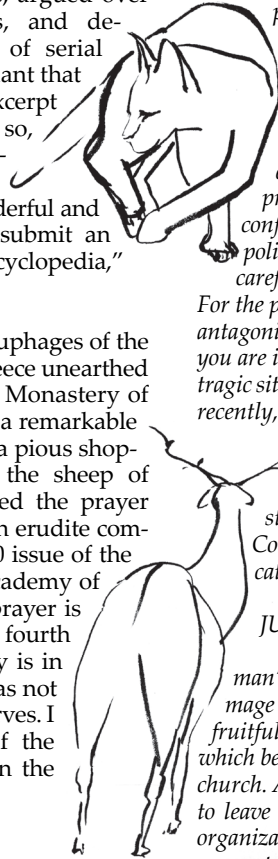
[Editors' Note: For the past several years, our August editorial team was led by Hendon Chubb. Working with Hendon was always educational, sometimes intimidating, and never boring. Each July we batted about story ideas, argued over grammatical idiosyncrasies, and deliberated about placement of serial commas. Hendon was adamant that we include a poem or book excerpt by a Cornwall writer. And so, taking Mr. Pertschuk's suggestion (see *Letters* section), and, in memory of our wonderful and much-missed co-editor, we submit an entry from Hendon's "encyclopedia," *The Curious Magpie*.]

In 2008 Professor Aristotle Euphages of the University of Salonika in Greece unearthed in the library of the ancient Monastery of St. Alexis in the Sinai desert a remarkable manuscript containing both a pious shopping list and a prayer of the sheep of NOAH'S ARK. He published the prayer and the shopping list with an erudite commentary in the summer 2010 issue of the Proceedings of the Greek Academy of Science. Unfortunately the prayer is in the demotic Greek of the fourth century and his commentary is in modern Greek, so his find has not received the attention it deserves. I have made a translation of the prayer, the first to appear in the English language:

The Prayer of the Sheep

O Noah,
Our pastor and ruler and guide,
Lead us always in the ways of wisdom.
Teach us to worship him who provides us
with good hay
And all the other things a sheep can need.
Teach us to be docile.
Teach us to be understanding.
Teach us to accept with grace our final
slaughter for your table
Or the tables [word partly illegible—translation uncertain] of the meat-eaters of the ark.
Teach us to die with grace
Ere we pass into eternal rest into the
stomachs of tigers or lions
Or, if we are truly blessed,
into your families' stomachs or even yours.
Praised be the name of Noah.
Amen.

—Hendon Chubb



Letters to the Chronicle

A LARGER COMMUNITY

We live in Cornwall, a small community that seems far from the recent tragedies. We do not have a police department, and members of our community rarely encounter police officers. Nevertheless, we are all part of a larger community, and I think we, as Cornwallians, have an obligation to try to rectify the problems that have caused these tragedies.

In light of current events, it is clear that the interactions between the police and the community, especially communities with African Americans and other minorities, need to be rethought. The focus must be on both groups, not primarily one over the other. I would suggest a campaign to teach both police officers and members of the community how best to behave when a person is stopped by a police officer. A list of "Dos" and "Do Nots" for each side would certainly help to prevent situations from escalating into conflicts between innocent persons and police officers. (For the police officer: "Think carefully; pause before you act violently." For the person stopped: "Speak respectfully, not antagonistically, even though you know that you are in the right.") It seems to me that many tragic situations, like the ones that have occurred recently, could be avoided by some simple training. Educating the community and giving more thoughtful training to police officers are crucial steps toward a peaceful society. We in Cornwall should advocate for better education on both sides. —Patricia Vanicky

JUST A RUMOR

Congratulations to the Cornwall Woman's Society for another successful rummage sale! We at the UCC have a long and fruitful relationship with this organization, which began last century as a group within our church. About ten years ago, the society decided to leave the umbrella of the church and be an organization unto itself as its membership had grown to be from more than just one church. We have maintained a wonderful working relationship, the society has continued to use our space. There is a rumor around town that the church no longer wanted to have the rummage sale on our property. This is just an incorrect rumor! The society wanted to try something new. We are open to its return for the rummage sale or other events as members choose. We all know that a successful sale benefits many young people and charitable organizations in the area, and we are grateful for its work.

—Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Pastor, UCC

WHAT'S IN A NICKNAME?

Having recently bidden farewell to two beloved Cornwallians, Bee Simont and Denny Frost, I got to thinking about the names we live with and the more formal names that identify us at our times of passage. These "nicknames" are generally devised by those closest to us out of affection or in the interest of simplification and

tend to become the familiar way we are known in our lives.

Last year I asked Bee how her nickname came about, and she explained in her gentle southern voice with that twinkle in her eye that it happened when she was a new baby lying in her crib in the garden. Her slightly older brother happened to step on a bee nearby which lay helplessly on the ground waving its legs in the air. His parents told him it was called a bee and to be careful of it as it might sting. He looked at that bee, and looked at his baby sister in her crib lying on her back waving her arms and legs in the air, thought a while, pointed to his sister and said to his parents, "Bee?"

I myself have lived a nickname life. My birth certificate identifies me as Louise Armstrong Dodd, named thus after my maternal grandmother Louise Armstrong Scoville, but I have always been called Lisa—partly I think because there were already too many Louises in the family. It is now "Louise Nicholson" who owns my property and receives the tax bills, but it is "Lisa Nicholson" who maintains the property and pays those bills. The Simonts also happen to be known by their nicknames. Doc is "Doc" because his initials are M.D., and Lisa's full name is Elizabeth.

I think now with grateful thanks of the many contributions Sarah Dalton Simont and John Alden Frost have made to the well being of the Cornwall community during the long years they lived in our midst, each in their own unique way. But I think it is really Bee Simont and Denny Frost who live on in our hearts. God bless them both. —Lisa Nicholson

ARTIST OF MANY COLORS

Hendon Chubb was my freshman college roommate and friend in 1950. Thirty years later, I rediscovered Hendon when we joined Yelping Hill, where we have spent our summers ever since. What I soon learned was that Hendon had become a remarkable Cornwall personage, a Cornwall artist of many colors: painter, chef, epicure, and linguist. Yes, he was loved, whimsical, maddening. Some of us were enchanted by him; others didn't know what to make of him. Nothing was more entertaining than dinner with him, except dinner without him, where we could exchange priceless Hendon stories. When, in his last years, he announced that he was preparing his own encyclopedia, we thought he was quixotic. But how grateful we are now that his legacy is enshrined in *The Curious Magpie*. Open any page at random and you will appreciate the rainbow of Hendon's learning and insights. We will all miss him.

—Mike Pertschuk

An Apology

The Chronicle regrets that Rachel Matsudaira's byline was omitted from the July issue. Hers was the story about Hammond Beach and the delights of swimming.

Cornwall Briefs

•**Bridge Grief:** What you need to understand is that there are approximately 20 goofy little bridges that run over culverts on Cornwall roads. Frequently you don't even notice them but they do exist and are sometimes in need of repair. But even though they are little and goofy, they are also very expensive to fix or replace. Such is the case with the bridge near the northern end of Valley Road. Word from the town hall is that work on another bridge on Flat Rocks will be put off until 2017 so that the Valley Road—dare I call it a span?—can be fixed. We're told that based on early bids it looked like each of these jobs could cost in the neighborhood of half a million dollars. Roger Kane, who knows about these things, says Valley Road is so bad it could be shut down and traffic diverted. Fortunately, based on more recent bids, the Valley Road bridge work can be done closer to \$150,000, within the capital budget amounts, and so the first selectman is expecting work there to start this month.

•**Resurfacing & Repaving:** Scheduled for the former in August are most of the roads in the village: Bolton Hill, School, Pine, Jewell, and Twixt. Repaving will involve Baldwin Hill, Pritchard off Flat Rocks, and Town Street from Yelping Hill Road north to the state forest.

•**You Won't Believe This**—or maybe you will. Construction of the Verizon cell tower we've been writing and fussing about for years is finished and it is sitting in its spot off Bell Road unused. According to the first selectman, Verizon doesn't even own it any more: it's been sold twice since completion. And there's no word about putting it on line.

•**Sedgwick Flagpole:** First, a little history. The pole was the creation of Alan Hurlburt, Sr., grandfather of all the Hurlburt men and a former first selectman of Cornwall. He crafted the original pole out of a white pine some time in the early 1950s. Over the years carpenter ants weakened it, and a recent storm blew it over. Ahh, but drive by and you'll see it's been replaced! And we found out who did it: Mike Redmond and one of those grandsons, Bill Hurlburt. They cut another white pine, shaved the bark, gave it three coats of oil-based stain, and stuck it in the ground. Thanks, guys! —John Miller

State of Undress

Heat getting you down? Try a little divestment...and while you're at it, why not let the *Chronicle* put some of that pocket change to good use?

Events and Announcements

At the Cornwall Library

An ice cream party will be held for all children who met the Cornwall Library's summer reading challenge, on Wednesday, August 3, at 4 P.M.

Cornwall Conversation: "Is There Such a Thing as Free Trade?" will be a topic of discussion with Ed Greene, global capital markets, regulatory, and financial reform lawyer, and Frederic Jenny, economist, internationally known for competition policy and enforcement expertise. Saturday, August 13, at 5 P.M. Free, donations welcome.

Zumba at the library has been extended indefinitely on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 P.M. and possibly to Thursday evenings as well. Check with the library.

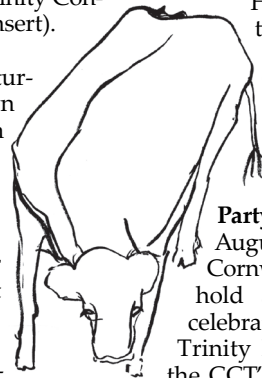
The Rose Algrant Art Show: Friday, August 5, from 5 to 8 P.M., Saturday, August 6, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., and Sunday, August 7, from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M. at the Trinity Conference Center, Butler Hall (see insert).

Community Contra Dance: Saturday, August 6, at 7 P.M. at the town hall. Calling by Bob Livingston and traditional music by Still, the Homegrown Band. All dances taught, all ages welcome and no partner necessary! Donation requested to pay the caller. For more information contact Jane at 672-6101 or motherhouse.us.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic: Monday, August 8, noon to 1 P.M. at the UCC Day Room. For information contact VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000 or vnanw.org.

Senior Luncheon: Newcomers always welcome for great food and fine company at the Wandering Moose. Tuesday, August 9, 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. No reservations necessary. Questions? Call Bob Potter at 672-6191.

Cornwall's Hidden Treasures: A Hide & Seek Contest in CCT's Forest Preserves. Join the Cornwall Conservation Trust's geocache contest for a fun outdoor adventure and maybe win a prize! Use a GPS-enabled device (such as your smartphone) to navigate to the secret stashes on four preserves and enjoy our beautiful trails. For more details go online to cornwallconservationtrust.org.



Park & Rec Fall Soccer: To sign up for boys and girls soccer, call Jen at 672-4071 or email prcornwall@gmail.com. Teams are for children from first to sixth grade. Cost is \$20.

Art in Cornwall

At the Cornwall Library, an artist reception for Pamela Bramble's recently opened exhibit "Calandra/Lunga Pausa" will be held Saturday, August 6, from 5 to 6:30 P.M.

The Toll House Gallery in West Cornwall will continue showcasing works by Curtis Hanson and a newly added collection by Don Bracken. Open Monday through Saturday.

On Saturday, August 20, from 4 to 6 P.M. the Souterrain Gallery will host an artist reception for Ken Krug's "Art/Illustration" featuring works from his recent book for little kids, *No, Silly!* The artist will be signing copies of the book.

The Cornwall Historical Society will host "He's Got His Wires Crossed," a talk by Cornwall sculptor Peter Busby, Sunday, August 21, at 2 P.M. at the town hall. Admission and refreshments free; donations welcome.

Community Wide Thank-You Party. At Trinity Center, Saturday, August 27, at 2 P.M., Butler Hall. The Cornwall Conservation Trust will hold a "thanks for your support" celebration of the recent additions of Trinity Forest and Cooley Preserve to the CCT's preserves. Refreshments provided. Please RSVP by August 15 at cornwallconservationtrust@gmail.com.

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