



# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 2: NUMBER 11 DECEMBER 1992



## How We Voted

As Cornwall prepared for the '92 elections, there were 960 registered voters in the town as follows: 304 Democrats, 301 Republicans, 6 A Connecticut Party, 4 Libertarians, and 345 unaffiliated. And although the difference was insignificant, it is interesting to note that for the first time, at least in this century, Dems outnumbered GOPs. And so we went to the town hall on 11/3 and voted, 901 of the 960. That's 93.9%, a record, we think, better than the 93.3% who voted in 1972.

Here's how the major races broke down:

**PRESIDENTIAL:** Clinton took Cornwall with 473 votes to 255 for Bush and 151 for Perot. Marrou had 10 votes on the Libertarian line, which means that 12 people who voted didn't vote for President. Statewide, Clinton got 42%, Bush 36%, Perot 22%. In Cornwall, Clinton had 54%, Bush 29%, Perot 17%.

**U.S. SENATE:** An easy win for incumbent Chris Dodd, who got 504 votes to 314 for Brook Johnson. Although A Connecticut Party only has a handful of registered voters in Cornwall, 154 of Dodd's votes came from the ACP line. What does it mean? A boost for the Weicker party? Maybe, but

more likely a case of Dodd voters finding his name first on the ACP and pushing the lever.

**U.S. HOUSE:** A runaway for Nancy Johnson in the state and in Cornwall. She was the only GOPer to carry the town and she had the biggest margin, 541 to 232 for unknown, under-financed, inexperienced, hard-to-hear Gene Slason.

**CONN. SENATE:** A hell of a race by newcomer Dem Dan Dwyer against the incumbent Dell Eads, who is the GOP minority leader. Dwyer won Cornwall 445 to Eads's 376 but lost the race by 591 votes out of 41,785 cast in the district's 15 towns. One-third of Dwyer's votes came on the ACP line. Dwyer was the only Cornwall winner who lost over-all.

**CONN. ASSEMBLY:** The 64th district consists of a piece of Torrington plus the towns of Cornwall, Goshen, Salisbury, and Sharon. Two attractive newcomers battled it out: Dem Mary Ann O'Sullivan and GOP Andrew Roraback. O'Sullivan took Cornwall 443 to 371 and had a big margin in Torrington, which offset Roraback's margins in the other three towns. Totals: O'Sullivan, 6,007 (1,709 ACP) and Roraback, 5,417.

**FINAL THOUGHTS:** Best thing about

Cornwall elections is lunch at the Parish House. This year's menu had 5-bean soup, bean soup (1-bean?), lentil soup, and turkey soup. Margaret Bevans tried both bean soups and liked the 5er better "because it had the ham hock." After lunch she purchased two containers of soup and two loaves of bread. I loved the apple crisp a lot and I also purchased three jars of jam, including one marmalade. Got home and found the marmalade wasn't orange or grapefruit but made out of rhubarb. I plan to give it to Anne Chamberlain, who will eat anything made out of rhubarb.

— John Miller

## About Those Towers

Current rumor has it that Litchfield County Cellular will give a 260-foot-tall steel finger to the Town of Cornwall. Mine Mountain may be the site of this public accommodation to car-phone users, and the Connecticut Siting Council will weigh the case in public hearings open to all: public convenience and private profit versus offended parties. Truth to tell, local P&Z's have no authority over public towers; when Father Connecticut speaks, that's the law of the local living room.

Presently, no applications have been filed in our area, but they will be. Kent

(continued on page 2)

# DECEMBER 1992

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FQ 2 FM 9 LQ 16 NM 24		<b>1</b> Park & Rec 7:30pm Town Off. Inland Wetlands 7:30pm Town Hall Agricultural Adv. Comm. 7:30pm CCS	<b>2</b> West Cornwall Merchants Ass'n 10am Cadwell's Corner Info. Mtg. about reassessments 7:30pm Town Hall (p.4)	<b>3</b> Municipal Building Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Christmas Fairs: St. Bridget's 10-3 UCC† 10-2 (p.4)
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7pm Town Hall Skating every Monday 7-8pm Salisbury School \$1 donation	<b>8</b> Hous. Riv. Comm. 7:30pm CCS Lib.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Cornwall Housing Corp. 7:30pm UCC† Board of Ed. 7:30pm CCS Lib.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Poetry Reading 8pm Cadwell's Corner
<b>13</b> Candlelight Carol Service 7:30pm N. Cornwall Church (p.4)	<b>14</b> 8am Cadwell's Corner (p.4) P&Z 7:30pm Town Hall Wallace Harding Show Cornwall Library	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Bd. of Finance 7:30pm Town Hall	<b>18</b> Park & Rec carol sing 7:30pm Town Hall	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> HANUKKAH  Christmas Pageant 7:30pm UCC† (p.4)	<b>21</b> 7pm Town Hall	<b>22</b> Christmas Assembly 1:30pm CCS (p.4)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> CHRISTMAS 	<b>26</b> Roger the Jester 7pm Cornubia Hall (p.4)
<b>27</b> Roger the Jester 3pm Cornubia Hall (p.4)	<b>28</b> Z.B. of Appeals 7:30pm Town Hall* Conserv. Comm. 7:30pm Town Off.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	At Lucy & Lily's Bookstop in Cornwall Bridge: Dec. 12, Charles Osborne signing Jubal, his biography of a Confederate gen- eral. Dec. 19, Carolyn Nuzzi signing her children's book.	

\*Check time and place at Town Office. † United Church of Christ

(continued from page 1)

already has a group — Kent Neighbors Opposed to the Tower — and applications are in for areas south of Kent. This is an important local issue which will — and should — attract the attention of local organizations and individuals.

— Philip W. Hart

### Rumsey in the Five-Year Plan

The annual town meeting on Halloween eve, attended by some 40 citizens, looked to be humdrum: a reading of the town report, a review of the five-year capital plan, and other routine financial matters. But things got lively when it was noted that the capital plan, totaling \$1,460,000 in projects for 1993-1997, included almost nothing but road and bridge projects. Several voices questioned the absence from the plan of provision for additional town office space on the Rumsey Hall site.

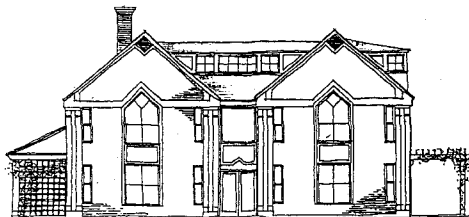
Defending the omission, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said the focus of the capital plan reflected the town government's concern with what it regards as a state of emergency affecting Cornwall's infrastructure. Finance Board Chairman Ralph Gold said the plan was not a budget and that Rumsey's future (and its attendant expenditures) would be known and acted on before the plan kicks in beginning in 1993.

Despite such official opposition, the meeting proceeded to approve a motion to include Rumsey Hall and the Wise gymnasium in the capital plan, with a minimum allocation of \$10,000 for 1993-94.

— Charles Osborne

### New Plans and New Pressures

As the November days dwindled down, the Municipal Building Committee struggled against increasing pressure to resolve the fate of the Rumsey Hall site as possible future town offices. The problem, already complex, evolved further with the consideration of two new plans: a refinement of the already-agreed-on basic scheme for renovating Rumsey, and a plan for a brand new building on the site.



Front of new building

Though the committee had agreed to limit its discussion to these two alternatives, the need to reach a fully informed consensus was intensified by an initiative by the Board of Selectmen. Using figures obtained directly from architect Kenneth MacLean, the selectmen opened independent budget discussions on the Rumsey site proposals with the Board of Finance (see following story). First Selectman

Ridgway, attending the Building Committee's Nov. 19 meeting, cited his desire, shared by the Board of Finance, to have plans for new town offices folded into budget considerations. "If we had to borrow \$1.5 million," Ridgway asked, "how much would we need in the first fiscal year and how much would it cost?"

Ridgway and the committee agreed on the desirability of presenting the building plans to an informational town meeting, but not all agreed on the timing of such a meeting or of a subsequent vote by the town. Urgency, Ridgway said, is required not only by budget considerations but by the expiration of MacLean's contract at the end of January. But some members, led by Tim Prentice, wanted to know, "What is the rush?" The contract can be extended, he argued, noting that the Rumsey project wasn't even in the five-year capital plan until the Oct. 30 annual town meeting.

Most members wanted adequate time to ensure finishing the committee's work with thoroughness and care; Chairman Rita Quinn and other members were to travel to Boston before Thanksgiving to meet with MacLean there about the new building plans. The committee ended by calling for an informational town meeting in January with a vote to follow as soon as possible thereafter.

— Charles Osborne

### Board Queries Town Office Needs

The Board of Finance at its Nov. 19 meeting heard First Selectman Gordon Ridgway report on efforts by the town to find a reasonable use for Rumsey Hall and its gym.

Hendon Chubb asked how necessary expanded town office space was, given the current level of use by staff and the public. Ridgway responded that the present offices could be rearranged and expanded to meet needs for the next five to ten years. Spending on a new office space like Rumsey Hall "would be an overreaction on the town's part," Ridgway said. Board Clerk Lisa Lansing, who works in the town office five days a week, supported Ridgway's view.

The board agreed that it is unfortunate that the fate of Rumsey has become so tangled up with the town-office-space issue. The board voted to ask the treasurer's office to research the cost of various financing options for whichever Rumsey alternative is eventually chosen by the town.

— Lisa Lansing



### Sawmill Plan Approved

P&Z's regular monthly meeting was concerned with only a few issues. First, after



concluding the continued hearing on Gary Hall's application for a sawmill, members voted to prohibit residential use of the sawmill building, to impose limits on waste materials and truck traffic, and to require cooperation with neighbors on hours of use. With these conditions, the plan was approved.

In other business, a decision was postponed on an addition to the Cornwall Water Company property until the Zoning Board of Appeals makes a ruling. An application for an off-premises sign for an antique shop will have a public hearing in December. A report on work at the gravel bank showed that it remains in compliance with its permit — but is subject to continued inspection.

Working with answers from the town engineer to road construction questions raised in October, members drafted an amendment to the private-street regulations. The new language will be the subject of a hearing in January.

— Ginny Potter



### Welcome

Samuel Dunbar Van Doren  
to Sally and John Van Doren

Luke James Gellatly  
to Kimberly and Michael Gellatly



### Congratulations

Philip Arthur Snowden Bishop  
to Donna Lee D'Aquila

### Goodbye to Friends

Fred Becker  
Laurie E. Colwin

### Land Transfer

Richard J. Adams to Marilyn J. Arthushenia  
and Matthew J. Anderson, house on  
Mohawk Mountain Road.

### Town Report Highlights

To save money, the Town Report was not mailed out this year. It was on hand for the annual town meeting on Oct. 30, and is available at the town office. *Please* come and get yours. Some Town Report highlights:

- The Board of Selectmen met 80 times in its strenuous first ten months in office — an average of twice a week.

- The Cornwall Consolidated School addition is completed — \$640,000 under budget after six years of planning and building.

- The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department answered 172 calls, including 101 medical emergencies, ten auto accidents, ten car alarms, nine brush fires, six

appeals for help from other towns' firefighters, three structure fires, three chimney fires, and 19 miscellaneous calls.

• Despite space problems, the Cornwall Library Association expanded book circulation to 8,326 volumes and loaned 1,082 books on tape — up from 724 last year.  
— Charles Osborne

### A Boost for the Ambulance Fund

At the October meeting of the West Cornwall Merchants Association (WCMA), Peter Miller, owner of the Harris Gallery, presented Assistant Fire Chief Rick Stone with a check for \$1,067 to go toward the ambulance fund. The proceeds are from the "paint-the-town" event that took place during Covered Bridge Days last May 24, sponsored by the WCMA. On that day 34 local artists arrived at dawn to "paint the town," and that evening their paintings were auctioned off, with 30 percent of the receipts going to the fund. Then came a dance in the covered bridge that was a success despite the cold, rainy weather. The WCMA hopes to repeat the event next year. Let's hope the weather cooperates.

— Dave Cadwell

### Cornwall Library Show

Winifred Van Duyl was born in Java of Dutch parents, a fertile mixed heritage which clearly enriches her art. Add to Dutch sturdiness and Indonesian animation a generous measure each of prehistoric cave art, 20th century European expressionism, and Klee-ish whimsy, plus professional training in music, and you get not one new look but as many as you fancy. Undeniably Ms. Van Duyl's strength lies in her diversity. Multiple painters work under her name. The subject matters of most of these small-scale pastels, charcoals, and oils are as variously elusive as their origins until, as with those of Paul Klee, you read the titles — "Piano Forte," "Space Sculpture," etc. Until December 12. — Brigitte Hanf

### Green Light for Teachers

A well-attended town meeting on Nov. 20 lent its approval to the recently negotiated teacher's contract. Under the contract, teachers' salaries will rise 3.14 percent, a total increase of \$13,859. But, according to a comment by Hendon Chubb, the tax impact of the increase as reflected in the Cornwall school budget will be less than one percent, equivalent to one-half mill. "It is a good salary," commented Education Board member Patricia Blakey, "and our teachers work hard to earn it."

— Philla Osborne



## Letters to the Chronicle



### TANKS? NO TANKS

Judging from a recent Wall Street Journal article, one of the peace dividends from the end of the Cold War may be an abundance of privately owned tanks. According to the Journal, an Indiana judge owns five; author Tom Clancy's wife gave him one for his birthday. As one armor owner put it to a Journal reporter, "Tanks are fun. You've got to drive one before you die, that's all there is to it."

This worries me. If fitted with rubber treads, tanks complete with cannon and machine guns could, it appears, be registered by the Department of Motor Vehicles and legally driven on local roads. This poses the danger of greatly increasing the town's already considerable road-maintenance costs. Tanks would undoubtedly tend to drive away local wildlife, including our own rare species of articulate catamounts.

This is no time for laissez-faire complacency. What Cornwall needs to do is declare this community a "tank-free zone." While noisy and bearing some resemblance to hay-balers, tanks are definitely not agricultural in character and have no claim to a place in this community. Recognizing that properly licensed tanks may bear arms, I nonetheless think that a tank is primarily a vehicle rather than a gun and is properly subject to local regulation. In my view there is no overriding issue of constitutional rights here.

If, however, an outright ban on tanks is viewed by others as extremist or simply overly broad, then I think we should consider at least levying a tax on tanks. Cornwall needs revenue sources and this would be a good one. But even a property tax would still leave the nuisance of tourist tanks. Here I think the circumstances cry out for re-establishment of a Cornwall tradition: the toll gate. Toll gates at the covered bridge, Cornwall Bridge, Bunker Hill, and the

north end of Cornwall Hollow would also become substantial revenue producers. Motorcycles as well as tanks could be subjected to the toll/tax.

This is a call for solidarity. Let the word go out — tanks are not welcome in Cornwall!  
— Brian Christaldi

### BOOKS V. OFFICES

More residents who are concerned for the future of Cornwall should be concerned for the future of the Cornwall Free Library. The number of books now taken out every year exceeds by four times the population of the town, and represents a 24% increase over last year.

This would be cause for rejoicing, were it not for the fact that available shelf space has not kept pace and is now wholly inadequate. There is not space presently for new books purchased or given, no reading room, and the negative space for fiction can be measured in hundreds of feet. This condition strikes me as deplorable in a town that presumes to be special.

Until the town resolves the question of the future of the town offices, the library must perforce yield space in the adjoining room to town affairs, a space which in fact is now inadequate for most such affairs, but which would well serve to meet the library's needs in the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile the so-called Rumsey gym, now unused but needing little if any repair, could serve the needs of the town in all dimensions except, of course, office space.

I suggest that anyone who feels as I do that town affairs should be removed to the Rumsey gym as soon as possible, permitting the library to expand to meet the demands upon it, should ask the selectmen to cut the Gordian knot.  
— Montgomery Hare

### Apple Thoughts

I never met an apple I didn't like, or found any too green to gnaw. The collywobbles was a threat ignored. If it wasn't Early Joes arriving ripe and wormy in mid-August in Cherry Hill Farm's West Orchard, or Northern Spys, those old-fashioned cooking apples which ripen late and tart and make all the senses sing, then it was all the rest in between — 25 or 30 varieties readily available in Cornwall.

I'm not talking about mealy experimental types, but tall-standing, feet-in-good-soil, robust types like Black Twig, Empire, Spitzenburg — apples that challenge the teeth. Lord, every life should have such untamed flavors, flavors so seasonal that harvest moon and frost exude from every bite.

Crimsons, Golden Delicious, Sweet Sixteens, Baldwins, those long-keeping, jawbreaking apples so tart the first bite makes a bell ring in your head. Apples

distinct in size like Wolf River, too big for a hungry cow to mouth. Apples distinct in shape like Pig Noses, or distinct in use like Gravensteins for September pies, or distinct in tanginess like Russets. Many of these old varieties grew in tall trees, trees like the one my grandfather fell from many years ago. He died of his injuries.

Other apples are sweet, like Summer or Winter Sweets, or mellow like Pippins, or both tart and mellow like Ida Reds. Keepsakes for keepers, Spigolds for pies, Cortlands for desserts (no browning), Ozark Golds for hand-to-mouth, and aromatic Macintoshes for everything: sauce, cider, cobbler — you can't have too many. Maiden Blush, Romes, Primas. Don't forget crab apples, and the parent stock to all, the wild apples, both so puckery you can speak only in short words after biting into one. Thank you all. Thank you.

— Philip Hart

### We Opened at Cadwell's!

The selectmen are taking their act on the road. Starting this month, in addition to their two regularly scheduled evening meetings on the first and third Mondays, there will be "breakfast" meetings at 8 a.m., the first to take place on Dec. 14 at Cadwell's Corner. Everyone's invited.

"The idea is to go out to the people, instead of having them come to us," said First Selectman Gordon Ridgway. "Besides, this way we'll get a good breakfast." Future meetings might take place at Baird's, maybe in the bread aisle, Hughes Library, Cornubia Hall, or even — in summer — the town beach.

Great idea! Maybe when the roads and bridges are all repaired they can hitch up that old trailer ...  
— George Kittle



### Concerns About Special Education

The Board of Education devoted its November meeting to weaknesses in the Special Education services provided to Cornwall children. At the start of the 1992-1993 school year, Cornwall was allotted half the staffing time of last year, with roughly twice as many students. Despite protests from the principal, only minor increments of staffing time were provided.

At the meeting, parents expressed discomfort with the effect on their children of these changes in the program. The board members expressed their thanks to parents who pressed these issues at the public forum. It was felt that the new director of pupil services, Dr. Dominick Vita, and Superintendent Marvin Maskovsky were made well aware of the board's concerns. The superintendent is also raising money from private donors to support the arts. The board, updating its business policies, also agreed to work with Central Offices to tighten schedules on curriculum revisions.

— Lynn Cheney



### There's Still Time ...

to give the *Chronicle* for Christmas. An unusual gift for out-of-town friends or relatives. They'll get 12 months of your town's news, all for \$10 (tax deductible). We'll enclose your card or note with the December issue if you get your note and check to us by Dec. 12.

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### Good News For CHC

The Cornwall Housing Corporation has negotiated a settlement with the plaintiffs in the Town Street lawsuit that satisfied all parties and allows the Ella Clark lot to be included in a lottery drawing for land parcels. The drawing is to be completed in early December, with parcels chosen by Jan. 1. Final revisions of the leasehold agreement are nearing completion and bank financing is being sought.

Last, but far from least, the Connecticut Department of Housing has approved a \$1,345,000 grant and a \$390,000 loan (30 years at one percent) for Kugeman Village. Contracts are in the signing stage, with construction to begin as soon as possible.

— Ken Keskinen

### Dedication at CCS

About 50 people gathered at CCS on Sunday, Nov. 8, to officially open the new playground and dedicate the Geoffrey T. Lake fitness course.

Thanks to the support, hard work and encouragement of the community, the project, started just nine months ago, is completed, ready to be enjoyed by one and all.

— Cheryl Evans

### Events & Announcements

**Holiday Fairs:** The United Church of Christ and St. Bridget's are having their annual Christmas fairs on Saturday Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (UCC) and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (St. Bridget's). Here's your chance to do your holiday shopping. UCC will offer wreaths (they go fast!), toys, kids' clothing, books, food, and gifts of all kinds. Lunch will be available. St. Bridget's will feature crafts, gifts, and baked goods, and chowder, chili, sandwiches, and desserts will be served.

**"An Old English Christmas":** Carols of the 12th to 14th centuries will be played and sung by the CCS band and chorus at the annual Christmas Assembly, Dec. 22 at 1:30 p.m. in the school gym.

**Your Taxes Going Up?** Ask questions or air gripes at the informational meeting on the property reassessments, Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m., at the Town Hall.

**Christmas Pageant:** The Nativity story, enacted by local talent. A Cornwall tradition. Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the United Church of Christ.

**Candlelight Service:** A service of lessons and carols in the candlelit North Cornwall Meeting House at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13. All welcome.



**Scout Trip Fund Drive:** Junior Girl Scout Troop #33 is mounting a returnable bottle-and-can fund drive to raise money for a trip to Hershey, Pa, in June. The first of three collection dates is Jan. 9 (see Jan. issue for details). Meanwhile, if your cans and bottles pile up, call Vera Dineen (672-6740). All donations much appreciated.

**Goodnight Story Hour:** Due to lack of attendance, the Saturday morning story hours at the Cornwall Library have been cancelled. Anyone interested in reviving them should call Celia Frost at 672-2667.

The Child Center will be offering six seasonal cards in packages of 12 with envelopes. They will be on sale at the Woman's Society Christmas Fair at the UCC and at the Child Center. Pictures on the cards are selected from illustrations done for the *Cornwall Chronicle* by the following artists: Tim Prentice, Erica Prud'homme, Tom Bevans, Bill Beecher, and Don Bracken.

**Roger the Jester:** Skilled in mime, juggling, music, and magic, Roger custom-tailors his show to the audience, appealing to adults as much as children. Don't miss it. Dec. 26, 7 p.m. and Dec. 27, 3 p.m. at Cornubia Hall. Suggested donation: \$8 adults and \$4 children.

Cornwall's Michael Gellatly, illustrator of this issue, will take part in "Artists' Jewels and Other Treasures", an exhibit at the Bachelier-Cardonsky Gallery, Main St., Kent. Sat. and Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment. (Call 927-3129 or 927-3357).

## CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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JANUARY EDITORS

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY Michael Gellatly

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P.O. BOX 246, WEST CORNWALL, CT 06796

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