

# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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## Second Budget Sails Through

"191 yes, 46 no - and one abstention."

A silent sigh of relief, then a wave of applause, spread across a crowded CCS gym as the result of a second budget vote was announced at a town meeting on June 7. The new mill rate will be fixed at 28.25, an increase of 2.75 mills over the present 25.50. Probably more meaningful for most voters was a property tax increase of 11%, down significantly from the 24% hike rejected by the townspeople on May 10.

Most reductions in the overall budget involved road work. The line item for road repair was cut by \$60,000, and \$80,000 will be taken from a capital account for road improvement. In addition, another \$25,000 of income was found by refiguring interest on school bonding funds. Board of Finance Chairman Thalia Scoville outlined other reductions made by the selectmen ranging from \$160 to \$3500.

The education budget stayed the same, although Chairman Lynn Cheney stated that the Board of Education had agreed to absorb a \$16,000 high school levy that was unforseen at the time of the first budget vote. In effect, the total budget for the local school is up 2.5%, and the town's share of the high school budget is up 25%, the

latter rise due mainly to a concomitant increase in the number of students Cornwall sends to HVRHS.

First Selectman Richard Dakin pointed out that this year's tax increase is not a one-shot effort to solve all problems and return to a comfortable old norm. Mandated and necessary expenses, he explained, will continue to swell the budget: more high school pupils, solid waste transfer, and road repair. But the town is now preparing a five-year plan of capital expenditures so that projects can be prioritized and costs distributed over the years.

Particulars of the road improvement plan came from road supervisor Gene Ingvertsen. The town has over 60 miles of road, he said, of which 10 are dirt and 38 badly in need of reconstruction. Money in the current budget is earmarked for two bridges, one in front of the former Bate Meat Market and the other on Popple Swamp Road. Also, a portion of Dibble Hill Road will be "reclaimed" and Town Street will be crowned and chipsealed from Route 128 to the North Cornwall Church. The most expensive project is an estimated \$150,000 for rebuilding 4700 feet of Great Hill Road, from its base at Great Hollow to College Street.

- Bob Potter

## News Highlights

The ordinance declaring Cornwall a nuclear free zone was approved by an overwhelming show of hands at the town meeting on June 7. The measure prohibits nuclear weapons and associated products, the storage of radioactive wastes, the production of nuclear energy, and the transportation of nuclear materials through the town without proper warning. Scott Cady, who presented the resolution and fielded questions for the Northwest Connecticut Nuclear Free Zone Committee, stated that the action was a statement.

The gala CCS open house on May 23 occurred just a little too late in the month for coverage in the June Chronicle. From 6:30 until 9:00 p.m., hundreds of people explored new and remodeled classrooms, a state-of-the-art computer center, a tastefully appointed library, and other marvels wrought by the Building Committee in its five years of work on the \$3 million project. "It's been an incredible journey," Principal William Oros told a large crowd in the gym. "But the town now has the most efficient educational plant in the area, one that will serve Cornwall well for the next 25 years." Oros later turned to what

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## JULY 1991

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> <i>Swimming lessons start, Town Beach (see p. 4)</i>  Park & Rec. 7:30pm Town Off.	<b>2</b> <i>Yutzler art show Historical Soc. (see p. 4)</i>  Marc Simont show opens at Library	<b>3</b>  Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	<b>4</b> INDEPENDENCE DAY  <i>Community Picnic Village Green 9:30am - 8:30pm (see p. 4)</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <i>Rep. bake sale 8am Corn. Bridge 9am W. Cornwall (see p. 4)</i>  Cornwall Library book sale 9am - 1pm
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>Plan. &amp; Zoning 8pm Town Hall</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>Cornwall Library book sale 9am - 1pm</i>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall</i>  <i>Start delivery of rummage (see p. 4)</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>Library book sale 9am - 1pm</i> <i>Canvass deadline (see p. 4)</i>  <i>Poetry reading 8pm Cadwell's Corner</i>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Dem. caucus 8pm Town Hall</i>  <i>Z.B. of Appeals 8pm Town Hall (if necessary)</i>	<b>23</b> <i>Rep. caucus 8pm Town Hall</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Cornwall Library annual meeting 4pm Town Hall</i>  <i>Deadline for rummage donations</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <i>Library book sale 9am - 1pm</i>  <i>Rummage Sale 10am First Church Parish House</i>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	 <b>LQ</b> <b>NM</b> <b>FQ</b> <b>FM</b> <b>4</b> <b>11</b> <b>18</b> <b>26</b>		

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he called "the sad part of the program," a short ceremony honoring retiring teachers Elizabeth Rainville and Lee Collins. The two received a prolonged standing ovation for their dedicated service - nearly 50 years, between them - to the youth of Cornwall.

Update on HVRHS grads: our June story on high school graduates inadvertently omitted the name of April Palmer. April's post-graduation plans involve matrimony, and her twin brother Shawn is not "undecided" but intends to join the U.S. Air Force. Sherman Palmer (no relation) will work for Palmer and Sons.

The highlight of the June Board of Education meeting was a report by enrichment teacher Lynn Meehan on the year's activities of Project Extend. All 142 CCS students were involved in Cornwall History Month, circus skills, and folk music and literature. More than 80 pupils took six-week mini-courses in a wide variety of subjects ranging from reptiles to kitchen chemistry to newscasting. A total of 35 students did independent research projects. Lynn also worked with upper-grade students on classroom enrichment units, as well as involving CCS in district- and state-wide activities. She shared the Board's regret that budgetary constraints will severely curtail Project Extend during the coming year.

At the June 7 meeting the Board also discussed the possibility of naming Becky Williams to fill the remaining year of Bob Potter's high school term when his CCS term is over in November.

Yes! - the New York City school system is at last coming to Cornwall for advice.

Rita Quinn, long-time media and communications specialist at CCS, was the featured speaker at a recent dinner at New York's City College to inaugurate Project Tell, an interschool database experiment sponsored jointly by the telephone company and certain New York schools. Before a group of about fifty New York teachers and principals, Rita outlined her own success as a participant in the Data-link Project, a similar telecommunications innovation conducted by Cornwall Consolidated School and other Connecticut schools in cooperation with SNET. On July 15th Rita will be off to Atlanta to take a five-day course in coordinating and trouble-shooting the school's new network system.

A meeting of the Cornwall Section of the American Red Cross was held on June 12 to review the results of this year's fund drive. The local directors expressed gratitude to the Cornwall community for giving \$2791 to date, close to a record amount in spite of the present economy. The funds

raised will help the local, national, and international operations of the Red Cross. Local activities include helping the water-safety program at the Town Beach and assisting with supplies and equipment for the Cornwall Rescue Wagon. The training manikins for cardio-pulmonary resuscitation instruction were a gift of the local section.

### Selectmen's Log Jam

At their regular meeting on June 17, the most controversial issue facing the selectmen concerned noise from a logging operation on Popple Swamp Road. Discussion focused on determining whether logging is an agricultural pursuit and therefore exempt from state regulations, or whether it constitutes a commercial/ industrial activity and is therefore subject to stricter regulations. To help clarify the issue and to design a uniform policy for the town, the selectmen voted to form an Agricultural Advisory Committee, as had been recommended in the town plan.

The selectmen are also soliciting ideas and information for the development of the five-year plan. Boards and commissions are urged to submit their long-range projections.

Other matters on the full agenda included road repairs, asbestos removal, disposal fees for stumps and logs, and the acceptance from the Blumenthal estate of \$80,000 designated to help meet housing needs. The volunteers who helped get the town beach ready were commended for their superb job.

- Ralph Gold

### Summer Dollardrums

With the battle of the 91-92 budget behind it, the Board of Finance held a less than eventful meeting on June 20.

The board voted to send out to bid the printing of the annual town report and approved budget transfers from contingency funds to cover overages in health insurance and firehouse maintenance.

Ralph Gold reported that the Capital Plan may be ready in November.

The meeting was observed from the side porch by a frog, who left during a report on the activities of the Municipal Building Committee.

-Ed Ferman



### Welcome

Paris Rosaline Costello, to  
Susan and Roland Costello, May 18

### Marriage

Alexa Venturini and William Calhoun

### Goodby-to Friends

Thelma Behn  
Bernard Chau  
Ellen Cooley  
Helen Tankersley  
Inge van Heemstra



### Fire Department Elections

The annual elections were held on May 29th, with 47 of the 55 members attending. Gary Hepprich was re-elected Chief for his 12th consecutive term in a close vote over Ron Laigle, Sr. Rick Stone was elected Asst. Chief.

Others elected included the following: For West Cornwall, Ron Laigle, Jr., Captain; Pat Quinn, Lt.; and Jim Vanicky, Engineer. For Cornwall Bridge, Gary Heary, Lt. and Phil Starr, Engineer. Executive Officers are Dave Becker, Pres., Gordon Ridgway, VP, June Starr, Sec., and Joan Pelletier, Treasurer. The Board of Directors include Don Heiny and Rod MacNeil. The Standing Committee is Stuart Grant and Ingrid Laigle. The Finance Committee is Fred Bate, Jr., Jim Prentice, and Rudy Zabransky.

The Rescue team is made up of Captain Peter Russ, Lt. Dave Cadwell, and Secretary Earl Brecher.

- David Cadwell

### Convenience Store?

Planning and Zoning members continued their consideration of the application for a change of use of the Ingvertsen Automotive property. Atty. Peter Ebersol reviewed the site plan for the proposal and listed both existing and proposed uses in order to show that a convenience store in the building would be less non-conforming than the auto repair, autobody shop, and used car sales. The selling of gas and two apartments will be continued uses. The property is for sale, and the new or current owner wants the option to have a convenience store.

A change-of-use application is not in the category that requires a hearing, so the public present was invited to ask questions but not to state opinions. The chairman has asked the applicant to inform the neighbors within sight of the station; their reactions were reported but are not influential in a decision that must be determined on levels of non-conformity.

Discussion covered many issues including, square footage of uses, traffic, hours, appearance, signs, lights. The goal with a non-conforming change is to move toward a use that is less intensive or less obviously different from surrounding uses. Modifications suggested by the Commission such as increased apartment size were generally agreed to, and the revised site plan will be reviewed by Tom MacGowan, town planning consultant, and will be on



## Letters to the Chronicle



### NIMBY AND THE NFZ

It was gratifying that so many people stayed at the Town Meeting on June 7th to vote for the Nuclear Free Zone Ordinance. There were about 150 votes for the ordinance. Of the handful of opposing votes, one person voted against the ordinance because it did not state opposition to nuclear weapons, and another because it was a NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) issue.

The two issues are enormously important to the international NFZ movement, which is made up of concerned citizens "thinking globally and acting locally." The Cornwall NFZ ordinance is a beginning. It is important to strengthen an ordinance or create new ones at a pace that permits understanding and consensus in each community.

Nuclear material is dangerous in its generation, transportation, and storage. Economists tell us our arms-based economy is bad economy, and we are seeing that our society, which is heavily committed militarily, cannot house, feed, and educate a large part of our people.

There are over 3500 NFZ cities worldwide. As awareness increases, citizens can ask their communities to do more. We can avoid investing our money in ecologically dangerous enterprises. We can support planned conversion from a military economy.

There may be many ways to reach beyond our town. This ordinance, however,

is for our town - and the hope is for all towns to become Nuclear Free Zones so that ultimately the world will be one Nuclear Free Zone.  
-Anne Chamberlain

### TAPE-HACKING HERITAGE

In his otherwise sensitive architectural reading of the new town-office annex, Professor Haywitz, C.I.A., unaccountably failed to note that King Arthur, as "first selectman" of that other Cornwall, was able to cut through a thousand strands of red tape with one stroke of his mighty sword Excalibur - an inspiration to us all.

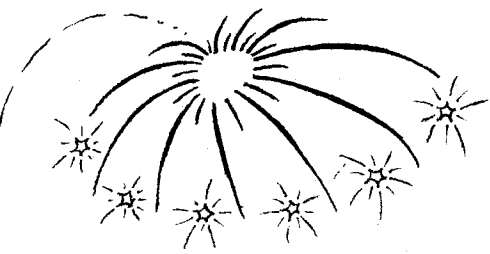
- Galahad Malory, B.S.

### TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

On June 20 the registrars of voters started their annual canvass of voters, as is required by the Secretary of State. The questionnaire is to verify your voting status. If you have not already done so, please complete the form, SIGN, and mail in the pre-stamped, pre-addressed response to the registrars by July 20, 1991. The more people who answer the canvass by mail, the less expense it will be for the registrars to do follow-ups. If you have questions or did not receive a canvass card, call:

-Judith Gates, 672-6568, Democratic Registrar or

-Maureen Prentice, 672-0135, Republican Registrar



next month's agenda. Legal questions will be referred to Atty. Tom Byrne who is experienced in non-conforming case law.

In other business the Commission approved requests for three new houses. Recent months have seen only accessory buildings or additions being planned.

- Ginny Potter

### Conservation Trust Activity

The Cornwall Conservation Trust recently elected the following officers for 1991: President, Ralph Gold; Vice President, Norman Dorsen; Treasurer, Robert Beers; and Secretary, Karen Stevens.

The Trust is a locally based organization directly responsible to Cornwall citizens. It helps to assure, in cooperation with the town's land-use commissions and other groups, the continued existence of qualities that make Cornwall unique: its rural and historic character, and its superb natural setting.

Incorporated in 1986, the Trust holds interim IRS tax exemption status which soon will become permanent. It has already received the gift of an easement along Town Street in North Cornwall, and in 1992 is to receive a scenic easement of Cornwall Valley south of Cornwall Village. With the Housatonic Valley Association, its co-sponsors talks, nature walks and seminars to broaden appreciation of the need for an active approach to maintaining Cornwall's natural heritage for the benefit of future generations.

- Ralph Gold

### Transit Services Available

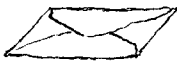
Did you know that public transit services are available to Cornwall residents of all ages? The Northwestern Connecticut Transit Director offers the following services:

**Mondays:** Dial-A-Ride service from Cornwall to Kent. A 24-hour reservation is required. Call 567-9438.

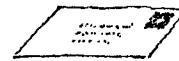
**Monday-Friday:** Dial-A-Ride service from Cornwall to the Canaan area for medical, shopping, etc. A 24-hour reservation is required. Call 824-7067.

**Thursdays:** Dial-A-Ride Service from Cornwall to Torrington. A 24-hour reservation is required. Call 489-2535.

**Fridays:** Scheduled bus service from Cornwall to Torrington. No reservation is required. The bus leaves the West Cornwall Post Office at 9:55 a.m., the Cornwall Bridge Post Office at 10:10, and the Cornwall Plains Post Office at 10:15. It arrives in Torrington at 10:55 a.m. and leaves at 12:55 p.m.



### More Letters, Please!



The scheduled return time to Cornwall Plains is 1:30 p.m., to Cornwall Bridge 1:35 p.m., and to West Cornwall 1:45 p.m.

In addition to these services the Rural Transit also offers a new Inter-Regional Bus Service. On Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday a bus can go from Torrington to the UConn Health Center in Farmington, and to hospitals in Hartford and Newington. Call 489-2211 for information.

Fares range from \$1.00 to \$2.00 depending on the service. Persons 60+ may ride free. Students and disabled persons may ride for half fare.  
-Jill Gibbons

### New Plans For Town Trash

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority has finally submitted a five-year contract to Cornwall, to formalize taking our garbage to the Torrington transfer station. While we have been doing this for many months now on a spot basis, the permission could be cancelled any time the Hartford incinerator, the ultimate destination, is up to its capacity by its original member towns. The rate of \$56 a ton is favorable compared to the probable

\$80 plus transportation should we remain a member of the Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority. This continuance is being discussed by the selectemen

Cornwall, along with Sharon and Salisbury, has already chosen not to be a part of HRRA's recycling program, because of likely high transportation costs. CRRRA is expected to build a recyclables transfer station in Torrington, to which Cornwall would deliver at a no-tip fee. Initially such a station would accept only newspapers and cardboard. However, Cornwall is already ahead of the game here; the Paine Company takes and markets our recyclables. Our 40% is well ahead of the state-mandated 25% of total rubbish to be separated for recycling.

Our land-fill managers urge us in the strongest possible terms to put our recyclables in the specified places. Glass containers go on the table, not thrown in rolloff bins. Crystal, ceramics, pyrex, window and auto glass, tile, and light bulbs cannot be mixed with glass containers. If just one such item is found, the whole load will be rejected by the buyer.  
-Jack Forster

