

CORNWALL CHRONICLE



VOLUME 24 : NUMBER 6 JULY 2014

A Meal But No Wheels

All right readers, we're talkin' dinner. Not just any dinner but a sumptuous meal in the confines of our historic Covered Bridge. Save the date, Sunday afternoon, September 14. Save your vouchers, too; the cost is \$250 a person (covering food, drink, tax, tip, and transportation), with half the proceeds—an estimated \$7,000—to be donated to the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department.

The benefit is the idea of the Community Table restaurant, the handsome white structure with the big "CT" sign out front located on Route 202 a few miles east of downtown New Preston.

Why Cornwall? Executive Chef Joel Viehland gave a number of reasons. "We love Cornwall," he said, "and many of our customers live there. The Covered Bridge is a celebrated landmark. Our pastry chef Tom Juliano lives on Rattlesnake Road," and, perhaps the best reason, "We get a lot of our produce from Cornwall farms." He mentioned Longmeadow (Tom Levine), Cream Hill (Will Kennedy), and Stonewall (Chris Hopkins), among others.

We asked about a menu but were told it's in the planning stages. We did learn that guests will wet their whistles on a very good champagne and that there will be 80 placemats, 20 reserved for members of the media specializing in such important areas

of our culture as food, wine, and the good life. Viehland said a shuttle bus would be bringing a bunch of the diners and some of the media specialists from New York in time to check out the West Cornwall environs before sitting down for their meal of meals.

The CVFD endorsed the plan at its May meeting, but several other important endorsements will be needed: Cornwall's Planning & Zoning, the Board of Selectmen and, most important, the state highway department for permission to close the Covered Bridge to traffic for approximately four hours while guests are munching and sipping, plus set-up and clean-up time.

One more thing to note: if you are thinking of attending and are on diuretics, Community Table said it planned to rent a high end port-o-potty. —John Miller

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a bittersweet combination of being America's most solemn day, but also one sprinkled with bits of upcoming summer fun, parades, and parties. Begun at the Civil War's end and originally called Decoration Day, it was an occasion when the grateful would decorate the graves of the fallen who had given their all in our country's defense.

With 2014 being the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, that great conflict would be a recurring theme throughout the day's events, which began at the North Cornwall Cemetery. Charlie Gold continued a 46-year family tradition of recognizing veterans buried there. This year the 12 Civil War troops were honored by Charlie's narrative and by the flowers placed on their graves.

The focus then moved to the Seamen's Memorial Service at the Covered Bridge, where respect was paid to those warriors who had lost their lives at sea. VFW Post 9856 arranged the observance, which included an invocation by the Rev. Scott Cady.

Cornwall Village's Memorial Day parade stepped off at 11 A.M., led by Parade Marshal Ralph "Dusty" Sandmeyer and followed by our Cornwall veterans. The CCS band, Park & Rec baseball teams, Pack 35 Cub Scouts, and the Little Guild float received much applause. Ending the procession was the always-looking-sharp Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department and its junior contingent.

Master of Ceremonies Dave Cadwell introduced Jeff Jacobson of the Cornwall Historical Society, who spoke of the Civil War's more than 750,000 fatalities. A total of 181 men and boys from Cornwall served in

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JULY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Karate, 6:30–7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 6–9 pm Town Hall; ♦ 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; Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym		1 ♦ Inland Wetlands 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	2 ♦ Polymer Power 6 pm Library	3	4 ♦ July Fest 10 am–2 pm Village Green	5 ☾ ♦ <i>How to Speak Baseball</i> Book Signing 11 am–1 pm Wish House ♦ Community Contra Dance 7 pm Town Hall
6	7	8 ♦ Seniors' Luncheon 11:30 am–1 pm Wandering Moose ♦ P&Z 7 pm Library ♦ Housatonic River Commission 7:30 pm CCS	9 ♦ Pet Parade 6 pm Library	10	11	12 ☉ ♦ Kids' Fun Run 9:30 am Village Green ♦ 5K Run 10 am Village Green ♦ Artist's Reception: Martha Loutfi 4–6 pm Library
13 ♦ CCT Guided Trail Walk 11–11:45 am Ballyhack Preserve ♦ Cornwall & the Civil War 2 pm Town Hall	14 ♦ Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon–1 pm UCC	15 ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Deadline: August Chronicle Copy	16 ♦ ChemTech 6 pm Library	17 ♦ Cornwall Conservation Comm. 6:30 pm Town Hall	18 ☾ 4th Q	19 ♦ Woman's Society Rummage Sale 9 am–2 pm
20 ♦ Woman's Society Rummage Sale 11 am–2 pm	21 ♦ Woman's Society Rummage Sale 9 am–Noon	22	23 ♦ Film: <i>Frozen</i> 6 pm Library	24	25	26 ● ♦ The Civil War Experience 10 am–2 pm Village Green ♦ Covered Bridge Art Reception 3–6 pm Hughes Mem. Library
27	28	29 ♦ Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library	30 ♦ Children and the Civil War 6 pm Library	31	Every Week This Month: ♦ Fridays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library ♦ Saturdays: Farm Market, 9 am–1 pm West Cornwall ♦ Sundays: Yoga 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation, 1–2 pm call Debra 672-0229	

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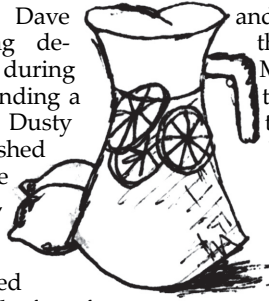
the war, and of these, 51 did not return: nearly 3 percent of the village's population.

Cornwall's Efraim Hermes, a senior at Housy, read from letters written home by Mark Nickerson, an 18-year-old West Cornwall boy who enlisted in 1861. Nickerson's comments about the battlefields and hospitals were most moving.

The VFW Citizen of the Year award was given to Dusty Sandmeyer. Dave Cadwell provided a sobering description of Dusty's experience during the Vietnam War while commanding a helicopter under heavy attack. Dusty was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, and 32 Air Medals.

True to the day's changing focus, the audience then moved easily from serious reflection to the fun of the carnival, lunch, and the cakewalk...all under a cloudless sky. A perfect day.

— Terry Burke



June 17 Graduation: CCS Class of 2014

Principal Mike Croft welcomed all and presented the capped and gowned class of graduates. These 15 individuals grew and thrived as a group. Dependence at the start of each life is followed by independence as each learns to be on his/her own, and finally interdependence thrives, as human beings are better together than apart.

Becky Hurlburt congratulated the class, then thanked the principal and staff, as well as Phil Hart for his 18 years of service on the Board of Education.

Student speakers were Olive Cowan and Eliana Calhoun. Olive likened the transformation of children to young adults to tiny dry seeds growing into beautiful flowers, both needing to be treated with care and nurtured in good ground. Then Eliana predicted that "your futures will clear up just enough to see the opportunities." Her class's challenge, now and always, is to retain and build on their knowledge.

Three special awards were given: the VFW Post 9856 Citizenship Award was presented to Roxy Hurlburt, the Dottie Hermann Award to Ella Hampson, and the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award to Olive.

It was deemed too difficult to honor one individual for generosity of time and talent to the school, so both Valorie Fisher-Cowan and Stacey Marcin-Hampson received flowers and appreciation.

Separate thoughtful and heartfelt tributes were made by staff members to students. Again, my favorite words of wisdom came from retiring teacher Elizabeth Clarke, this time quoting Christopher Robin to Winnie the Pooh:

"Promise me you'll always remember that you're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

Isabella Moschen graduated from CCS in 2003. This summa cum laude graduate of New York University spoke amusingly about...head lice?! That particular memory was shared because it was a reminder that at CCS she and her classmates went through *everything* together, supporting each other through the checks and "cures," and taken care of by teachers and the ever-patient school nurse, Martha Bruehl. Isabella went on to say that the qualities that led to her being hired at the *New York Times* were learned at CCS. Final bits of advice? Be smart: the burden of your generation is information instantly shared and long lived. Treat your peers with kindness and respect. Be extra nice to your parents over the next few years!

After the presentation of diplomas by Hurlburt and Croft, graduates, guests, and a gorilla partook of a super spread at the jungle-themed party created by the seventh-grade parents and students in the Gathering Room.

2014 Graduation Class: Caleb Galen Boucher, Eliana Calhoun, Brandon F. Church, Olive Ilaria Cowan, Annika Jane Elwell, Emily Erika Geyselaers, Ella Grace Hampson, Roxana Grace Hurlburt, Patrick James Kennedy, Pia Louise Labalme, Teagan Rose Lynch, Avery Joseph Nelson, D'Artagnan Maurice Oyanadel, Sky Trapella, and Ewa Agnieszka Urbanowicz.

— Susan Gingert

Emergency Preparedness

On July 10, 1989, a tornado ripped through Cornwall, tearing up thousands of trees and in minutes altering the landscape. Miraculously, no one was seriously injured, and the town came together to help everyone recover from the devastating effects of the storm. It is now 25 years since the tornado hit Cornwall, and hurricane season for Connecticut has opened, running from June 1 through November 30. It is a good time to reflect on how Cornwall is prepared to respond to any emergency.

Like every town in Connecticut, Cornwall has an Emergency Operations Plan to manage and coordinate an organized response to large-scale emergency operations. Nevton Dunn recently passed the baton of emergency management director to Terry Burke, who explained for the *Chronicle* the need for emergency preparedness in Cornwall.

An emergency may affect Cornwall at any time, and the town has on-duty resources that are able to handle individual incidents such as a fire, a tree down, or ice on the roads. However, it is when multiple, severely disruptive events occur that First Selectman

Goodbye to a Friend

Princess the Crow

Land Transfers

Paul J. Rogala and Joan M. Rogala to Lisa A. Hornberger and Robert B. Burke, land with buildings and improvements thereon, at 11 Johnson Road for \$195,000.

Craig Wilson to Jeffrey T. Macaluso and Andrea D. Macaluso, 16.6 acres of land with improvements thereon at 252 Furnace Brook Road, for \$389,500.

Stephen Montifiore and Victoria Montifiore to Dan Miller and Mary Ellen Miller, 7 acres of land with all buildings and improvements thereon at 63-65 Popple Swamp Road for \$755,000.

William G. Krizan and Pamela K. Krizan to Peter Bishop and Maria Feeley, land with buildings thereon at 36 Lower River Road, for \$185,000.

Gordon Ridgway could activate the Cornwall emergency plan, since centralized direction and control is the most effective way to manage large-scale disaster situations. At this point the Emergency Operations and Communications Center, which is the West Cornwall Firehouse, could be activated on a 24-hour basis if necessary, until such time as the emergency situation has passed or has been brought under control.

The principal threat to Cornwall comes from nature, from a summer or winter storm that could cause flooding, widespread power outages, and damage to homes. The likelihood of storms is very high, and there is nothing that can be done to prevent them. However, the negative impact of such storms can be greatly reduced if mitigation measures are taken. Cornwall has an active fire department, a trained Civilian Emergency Response Team (CERT), and we are a small and resilient community; all positive factors that will ensure that we are able to face disasters and survive.

Even with trained responders, each of us has an important part to play in responding to a crisis. Emergencies often occur at the worst possible time, and critical to lowering our vulnerability is the state of preparedness of each Cornwallian. Simple precautions are easy to take, such as having a basic contact plan for your family, having water and food for a few days in your home, and monitoring information on the current situation. Advice to help you be more prepared and updates on storm warnings and situations that could threaten Cornwall will be placed on the emergency management site, the link to which may be found below the cover photo on the cornwallct.org town website. And to play a bigger part, you would be more than welcome to join the fire department or CERT.

Unfortunately, bad things do happen. The best way to deal with them is to follow the Boy Scouts' motto: Be Prepared!

— Jeff Jacobson

Surprise! Bookstore in Town!

On a walk with my dog Rusty around Cornwall Bridge, I stumbled on The Depot—an independent bookstore recently opened by Kate Roberts and Dominic Miller. Arriving from Lincoln, Vermont, where they ran an online book business, they happened on Cornwall by chance through a search on Craigslist that led them to the historic Cornwall Bridge railroad station. They immediately fell in love with the repurposed building, which Dominic remembered as a child growing up in nearby Litchfield.

Inside the building are the signs of hard work: bookcases lining the walls and books strewn around, waiting to be shelved. The mission of the bookstore, apart from selling rare books and first editions, is to provide the public with a general bookstore and community gathering place that will host readings by local authors, art shows, writers' groups, and openings, as well as children's writing groups; and publishing.

The hours are Thursday through Sunday from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. Call 860-248-3180 for more information.

An added reason to visit is the \$5-per-bag used books that one can select outside.

—Raymonde Burke

Tune-up for Francophones

Old habits can die hard. When it comes to languages, our brains retain somewhere in deep storage a working memory of a language long ago forgotten. The challenge is how to reactivate that former fluency.

For one-time French speakers, the solution might be the French conversation group that meets on the last Friday of every month. The location rotates among the members. Organized 18 months ago by Raymonde Burke and Nora Horan, the group has a faithful 15 to 20 members who show up to retune their "e"s and trill their "r"s in easy-going chats about "just about everything," according to Nora. Now and then a guest presenter enlivens the meetings.

The group is made up of people from Cornwall and surrounding towns. Several are native French speakers. Two others are teaching the language at area schools.

Raymonde has a master's degree in French, having lived in France for seven years. Nora's business interests have included the marketing in the U.S. of various French wines; she has close friends who live in France, connections that keep her fluent.

Rule Number One is that no English at all is spoken, ever. It's perfectly OK to come and listen for a couple of months until that rusty lock on the brain's language storage bin is pried open and the words begin to flow.

For more information contact Raymonde at raymonde.burke@gmail.com or Nora at hhoran@gmail.com.

—Lisa L. Simont

Watch Your Step

Several years ago I slipped on an uncarpeted stairway and fell: only a few steps, but I felt something tear as I went down and knew I wasn't getting up. It turned out to be a ruptured quad tendon, a nasty injury, but after a few hours in a Charlotte Hungerford OR and a few months of rehab, I was back on the golf course and almost as good as new.

I later learned I was part of the one in three adults over 65 that end up in ERs because of falls, most famously the Clintons. Bill's injury was the same as mine, while Hillary sustained a severe concussion.

And so when my eye fell on something called a "fall prevention clinic" in the *Chronicle* calendar, I decided to check it out. The VNA Northwest ran the clinic, funded by a grant from the Connecticut Collaboration for Fall Prevention and the Yale University School of Medicine.

It began with a presentation by the VNA's occupational therapist Gail Atkinson and its physical therapist Joe Gwazdauskas. They opened with some sobering data. If you're over 70, your risk of falling is high, and many of you will have trouble getting up without help, will require home health care, or suffer a serious injury. Falls cause over 90 percent of what's been called "an epidemic of hip fractures," where seniors end up in nursing homes or worse.

Like any hypochondriac in his 70s, I follow health news and it's dismaying to read reports about how much of the stuff we thought would keep us healthy, such as almost all vitamins and supplements and many screenings, turns out to be pretty much worthless.

Falls, however, are almost entirely preventable, as long as we follow some advice and are willing to make a few changes in our lives.

Here is a sample of some good tips given at the clinic:

- Stand upright; take full steps. Don't shuffle; walk like John Wayne.
- Exercise! Attend Bend and Stretch or Tai Chi classes.
- Use appropriate shoes: no high heels or slippers.
- Remove trip hazards such as small rugs, electrical cords, even too many small pets!
- Use adequate lighting; use night lights.
- Be mindful of medications (some cause dizziness) and have yearly vision check-ups.
- Install grab bars in the bathroom.

Check out fallprevention.org for lots more information and advice. It's all doable stuff, as long as you're willing to get out of some dangerous ruts and make some changes. If you own 14 cats, have a place furnished with small oriental rugs, and tend to walk around at night in stilettos while texting, you may have trouble getting with the program. But the rest of us should be able to avoid this serious health problem.

—Ed Ferman

Letter to the Chronicle

FINAL FOWL

Miss Marple, looking from her kitchen window, might have seen evidence of the latest crime: the corpse of the Welsummer chicken, bronze feathers fluttering, hanging on by her beak to the antenna of my grey Prius heading south on Town Street. I stop the car and fling the body into anonymous woods, far from the coop.

Back at what I had thought of as a little Alcatraz (a shed with Certificate of Occupancy, raised on cinder blocks, protected by wire fencing and flooring, fine mesh against hawks), the remaining three chickens and rooster George seem unperturbed; no tears fall from beady eyes. After trying unsuccessfully to discover the varmint's entry hole, I enlist the help of a friend who secures the vestibule, the coop and the run. A few days pass peacefully. When my neighbor Susan, who has often tended the flock, sends me an online condolence card with its "Wishing you everything you need to get through this difficult time," I laugh. Fool that I am.

A few early mornings later, I find two chickens dead—one just gutted, the other mostly eaten. The third, wounded, huddles in a corner; her labored breaths puff white in the cold air. She accepts neither food nor water. I drive her late companions' carcasses down to the slope by Reed Brook Bridge and sing "Down by the Riverside." The final chicken dies in the night. When I bring her body to the brookside next morning, five crows lift from the spot. A raven croaks overhead. Beyond the field, George lets out his cocksure cry. He's next. —Ella Clark



Cornwall Briefs

•**Dibblers Beware:** 900 tons of asphalt will be applied to sections of Dibble Hill Road during July and August.

•**Cell Tower Talk:** The tower proposed for the town gravel bank is on hold because the little wooden bridge at the site needs to be replaced (or strengthened) to handle a huge crane that would need access. And AT&T is apparently considering another cell tower for the top of Dark Entry Road, providing coverage along routes 4 and 45.

•**Social Service Hours:** The town's social service office, run by administrator Jill Gibbons, will have new summer days and hours: Mondays from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. and Wednesdays from 9 A.M. to noon. The office will be closed on Fridays.

•**Sydney Kaye Fund:** Is paying for a new town tent and for another one of those nice wooden benches at the little park for Housy viewing on the Cornwall side of the Covered Bridge.

•**Fiscal Blackness:** Town Hall reports that Cornwall ended the year in the black. The

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biggest unanticipated item was the cost of the Ivan Lendl lawsuit to have his property tax lowered. Lendl, who never won the Wimbledon singles title, did get some tax relief, which cost Cornwall \$20,000 from its contingency fund.

—John Miller

Events & Announcements

Art in Cornwall

At the Cornwall Library, Light, Reflections, an exhibition of photographs by Martha Loutfi, opens July 1; artist's reception Saturday, July 12, from 4 to 6 P.M. A show of CCS eighth-graders' photography is on view in the new teen center of the library. Drawing Color by Harvey Offenhartz continues at the Souterrain Gallery, below the Wish House, through July.

Book Signing: On Saturday, July 5, at the Farm Market. Meet Sally Cook, the author of *How to Speak Baseball*. Get your signed and personalized copy, 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.

The Cornwall Conservation Trust offers a series of guided trail walks. The walks will showcase trails maintained by CCT that are friendly to hikers of all ages. Walks begin at 11 A.M. and last approximately 45 minutes. Walks will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain or thunderstorms.

Sunday, July 13: Ballyhack Preserve. Hike among dramatic, old-growth pines. Parking area on Route 125, one-quarter mile from Route 4 across from preserve. Trail maps with parking locations can be found at cornwallconservationtrust.org. Contact Kristen Bedell with questions: 672-6014.

At the Cornwall Library

Polymer Power presented by the Children's Museum, Wednesday, July 2, at 6 P.M. Kids will learn about solids and liquids and mix up their own slime to bring home (sorry, parents). Appropriate for grades K to 6.

Self-Assessment

We here at the *Chronicle* like to gauge our performance by ticking off the following items: Best/only paper in Cornwall? Check. Great reporting? Check. Informative stories? Check. Twenty-plus years of service to the community? Check. What do we need? Check. Please send yours today!

Pet Parade, Wednesday, July 9, at 6 P.M. A fun time to show off your furry (or not) loved one! Prizes will be awarded. Fine Print: household pets only; all pets must be on leashes or otherwise contained.

ChemTech: One Drop at a Time, presented by the Children's Museum, Wednesday, July 16, at 6 P.M. Kids will try over 25 microchemistry experiments that fizz, change color, and turn into mysterious gel. Appropriate for grades 4 to 8.

Ready to cool off? How about the movie *Frozen* and ice cream? Wednesday, July 23, at 6 P.M.

Civil War talk, Wednesday, July 30, at 6 P.M. Hear Pete Vermilyea from our own HVRHS, and Connecticut History Teacher of the Year, talk about children and the Civil War.

All programs are free (donations are always welcome), but space is limited. Call ahead to register.

Annual July Fest: Hosted by Park & Rec and the Cornwall Association. Friday, July 4, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M., on the lawn between the town hall and St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Grinders, cookies, and lemonade served by the future CCS eighth-graders. Bicycle decorating and parade, kickball or Wiffle ball, tug-of-war, water balloons, and a one-mile road race for 12-and-unders.

Community Contra Dance:

Saturday, July 5, at 7 P.M. at the town hall. Live music by Still, the Homegrown Band, with Michael Kernan calling. All dances taught, all ages welcome. Donation requested to pay the caller. For more information call Jane Prentice at 672-6101.

Senior Luncheon: Tuesday, July 8, from 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Wandering Moose. Scintillating conversation, sumptuous food at a sizzling price! No reservations necessary. Questions? Call Jane at 672-6101.

5K Run Village Green. Saturday, July 12, 10 A.M. Proceeds benefit Pharmacares, a nonprofit that helps veterans and other Americans get affordable health care. Fee is \$20 in advance, \$25 race day, and \$5 for Fun Run at 9:30 A.M. First 75 registrants get T-shirt. Registration closes at 9:45 A.M., but may register in advance online at active.com or pharmacares.org/5k.

At the Cornwall Historical Society

"Cornwall and the Civil War," a talk by curator Rachel Guest on Sunday, July 13, at 2 P.M. at the town hall. Free refreshments will follow at the society's building at 7

Pine Street. Guest will provide insights into the society's latest exhibit.

Family Day: "The Civil War Experience," on the Village Green, Saturday, July 26, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Children of all ages are invited to learn about life in the Civil War era. Food will be available.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic: Monday, July 14, from 12 to 1 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. No appointment necessary. Information: VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000 or vnanw.org.

Woman's Society Rummage Sale, July 19 to 21. See insert in this issue for details.

Paint the Bridge Day will be held in West Cornwall on Saturday, July 26, to honor the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Covered Bridge. Artists paint or sculpt the bridge all day. Art viewing and reception from 3 to 6 P.M. at the Hughes Memorial Library on Lower River Road. The artwork will be for sale; proceeds to be shared by the artist, the Hughes Memorial Library, and the West Cornwall Village Improvement Association for maintenance of the riverfront. For more information contact Bianca Griggs at 672-2969.

Need Home Repairs But Can't Afford Them? The NWCT Regional Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program is taking applications from residents who need to make critical home repairs. The program provides no-interest loans to income-eligible property owners in participating towns (including Cornwall) for rehabilitation of existing homes. Details of the program and the application form can be found at salisburyct.us/affordablehousing.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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