



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 2: NUMBER 5 JUNE 1992



Green Light for a Budget with Warts

Why does everything have to cost so much in such hard times?

There being no simple answer to this universal question, one very natural reaction, in the vote on a town budget, is to throw the offensive thing out. That is what happened in Cornwall last year. In 1992, in the face of an even more substantial tax increase, it did not happen. At a town meeting held at the Cornwall Consolidated School on May 8, voters chose, 142 to 104, to approve a \$3,500,000 budget that will raise everyone's taxes at the rate of \$300 for each \$100,000 of assessed property.

The cobbling together of the budget by the Board of Finance was a painful, intricate task. But it was a job of which Board Chairman Ralph Gold — at the meeting's outset — said he was proud. As for the town, in accepting the financial blueprint, warts and all, a significant majority seemed to be affirming a difficult but manageable status quo. "There has been no regression," said Chairman Gold, characterizing the budget as a "holding pattern." Given a \$200,000 reduction in state aid to Cornwall, this is indeed no small achievement — both for the \$1,852,563

authorized for general government expenditures and the \$1,670,637 allotted to local public education.

Thus, for at least one more year, the Cornwall Consolidated School can strive to maintain its status as the state's best. To Education Board Chairman Lynn Cheney, this should be seen not only as a source of local pride; she also saw it as an essential ingredient in insuring the town's destiny as a viable community. Only an excellent education, she said, can equip our young people for a competitive economic future of their own — as residents of Cornwall.

— Charles Osborne

work is completed in time, they will be heard at the June meeting.

Todd Piker requested information about parking requirements for business uses in West Cornwall. He would like to expand retail use to the upstairs of his store, and he questioned the P&Z requirement for parking. The town plan cautions against business intensification and resulting traffic congestion. The part of the village situated between the hill and the river is in a virtual "tight spot."

— Ginny Potter

Library or Town Hall?

In mid-April the trustees of the Cornwall Library Association approached the selectmen with the request that the north room of the library building, the so-called Town Hall, be turned over to the Association for library use. They suggested that large public meetings could be held in the Firehouse or the school building while smaller meetings could still be held around a table in the library. The selectmen's initial reaction was that this might not be feasible because the Firehouse was already pretty fully utilized and the school costs \$10 an hour after 9:00 p.m. Kay Fenn, president of the Association, then proposed that the Rumsey Gym be brought up to code for larger meetings

(continued on page 2)

Building Picks Up

Spring has brought increased business to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Receiving approval at the regular meeting were a dozen applications, including a barn for Lawrence Stevens Jr.; a large storage building for Dusty Sandmeyer; two tennis courts, an in-ground pool and pool cabana for Ivan Lendl; change of use from residence to the Molly Bloom shop; and several sheds and additions.

Also on the agenda were applications for a sawmill and accessory buildings by John Nuese and Gary Hall. If the paper

JUNE 1992

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 ☼☼☼ Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall* W. Cornwall Lighting District 6:30pm Hughes Library <i>Nuclear-free Zone Comm. St. Peter's 7:30pm</i>	2 Park & Rec. 7:30pm Town Off. Inland Wetlands 8pm Town Hall*	3 <i>West Cornwall Merchants' Assoc. 3pm Freshfields</i>	4	5 Town Meeting 8pm Town Hall (p. 4)	6 <i>First Aid Course 9am-1pm Firehouse (p. 4)</i>
7 Agri. Adv. Comm. 7:30pm Firehouse (p. 4) <i>First Aid Course 9am-1pm Firehouse (p. 4)</i>	8 Plan. & Zoning 8pm Town Hall ☼☼☼ Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall*	9 Dem. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall Hous. Riv. Comm. CCS Lib. 7:30pm	10 Rep. Town Comm. 8pm Town Hall*	11 Board of Ed. 7:30pm CCS Library Cornwall Housing Corp. 7:30pm UCC†	12 <i>Health Screening 10-3 Firehouse (p. 4)</i>	13 <i>Poetry reading 8pm Cadwell's Corner</i>
14 FLAG DAY Church Picnic 11:15 UCC† CCS Retirement Tea 2-4pm (p. 4)	15 ☼☼☼ Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall* Z.B. of Appeals 8pm Town Hall HVRHS Bd. of Ed. 7:30pm HS Library <i>Nuclear-free Zone Comm. St. Peter's 7:30pm Charles Hodgman photos Cornwall Library</i>	16	17	18 Bd. of Finance 7:30pm Town Hall	19 <i>CCS Graduation 7:30 pm (p. 4)</i>	20 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER <i>Hammond Beach opens (p. 4) Deadline for Soccer Camp applications (p. 4)</i>
21 FATHER'S DAY <i>Big Band Concert 4-6pm Cornwall Green (p. 4)</i>	22 ☼☼☼ Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall*	23	24 <i>HVRHS Graduation 6pm (p. 2)</i>	25 PTO 7pm CCS	26	27
28	29 ☼☼☼ Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall* <i>Nuclear-free Zone Comm. St. Peter's 7:30pm Food Preservation 7-9:30pm, Parish House, UCC† (p. 4)</i>	30 Mun. Bldg. Comm. could not schedule its meeting by press time.*				



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

(continued from page 1)

and reportedly raised the possibility of petitioning for a town meeting to authorize the expenditure. At their May 11 meeting the selectmen turned to the question of practicality. They read a letter from Town Clerk Barbara Dakin pointing out the convenience of holding elections right next to the office where the voter materials are stored. At their May 18 meeting they approved and signed a letter rejecting the Association's request, referring not only to the problem of voting records but also the fact that the room is officially designated as the disaster headquarters under the town's civil defense plan and as the emergency housing shelter.

Also at their May 18 meeting, the selectmen voted to hold a town meeting on Friday, June 5. (See p. 4). At the same meeting it was clarified that owners of an acre or less of land would be exempted from brush disposal fees since it would be a hardship for them simply to leave the brush to rot on such a small property. — *Hendon Chubb*



Dems Endorse Peace Tax Fund

At its meeting on May 13, the Democratic Town Committee agreed unanimously to send a statement to the Connecticut Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund endorsing the Peace Tax Fund Bill (HR #1870) which will have a hearing before a House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures. The Peace Tax Fund Bill would permit people who qualify as conscientious objectors not only to refuse military service, but also to contribute the military portion of their taxes to the Peace Tax Fund, a proposed alternative fund in the U.S. Treasury. — *Anne Chamberlain*



High School, Farewell!

This June nine students from Cornwall will be graduating from the Housatonic Valley Regional High School, and one from the Oliver Wolcott Technical School in Torrington.

Terrance Bell will graduate from OWT and will pursue a career as a machinist/toolmaker.

HVRHS graduate Brian Kesl will attend Salve Regina with a major in nursing; Heather Kochman will be off for Idaho State University to major in art education; and Elisabeth LaPina will attend College Misericordia with an eye on an occupational therapist degree. Also, Kirsten Michels will be at the University of Vermont to major in human development and family studies; Shana Parker will attend the Torrington Beauty Academy; and

Heather Pelletier will be at Teikyo Post College with a major in equine studies. Donald Polk will be working, and Philippe Rummens will attend the University of Connecticut with a major in fine arts. Mirko Wurth, Cornwall's foreign student, will be returning to Croatia.

Oliver Wolcott's graduation will be on June 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Warner Theater. The HVRHS ceremony will be June 24 at 6:00 p.m. Returning principal Jack Mahoney will be the speaker.

Congratulations to all our 1992 Cornwall graduates! — *Dianne Heiny*

Grand Memories: Grandmothers

Summers in Cornwall when I was small were passed in the company of grandmothers. My own, Martha Hubbard, lived in the Village on School Street among a swarm of other grandmothers.

They were stout, most of them. They wore cotton or silk dresses (for Sundays) and sensible shoes. They wore complicated underwear, like corsets, and they smelled like cold cream and the sachets in their bureau drawers. They could be stern, but they were not as apt as a mother was to catch a child up for being in the wrong. It was easy to con a grandmother in those days and, perhaps for that reason, I didn't, very much anyway.

My grandmother was free with cookies and she loved to read to me — books like the *Rollo Boys* and the *Five Children*. She took me visiting with her among the other grandmothers in Cornwall, to houses filled with the light of summer afternoons. While they fanned themselves and talked, I sat on large chairs and swung my legs back and forth, mosquito-bitten and sunburned, waiting to be fed.

How they could laugh! Something would set them off and they were unstoppable. I rarely understood what was so funny, but I remember how I loved watching them, bent double, their voices sailing up and down the scale as they roared and shrieked with laughter.

"Mercy," they'd say, trying to stop, and then they'd start up all over again, overcome with mirth. They looked like the sea lions I'd seen in the *National Geographic*, large animals, chins up, baying at the sky.

My grandmother and her dearest friend, Ruby Woolsey, were terrific laughers. Almost every day, Ruby came over after lunch and the two of them took a nap on my grandmother's bed so that they could have a nice chat. I sat on the stairs, hoping to be taken to the lake, scratching my bites and listening to the two grand-



mothers, in helpless giggles, exchanging the day's news.

Grandmothers in those days didn't go to the office or have much of an identity outside family and church. Much has changed since then. The precious thing these women had to give a child was time and a sense of place in one's family. And, mercy yes, laughter. — *Lisa Lansing*



Housing Lottery Set for August

The Cornwall Housing Corporation has set Saturday, August 15, as the date for its housing-parcel lottery. At present, seven parcels are available, one (including a finished house) on Route 7, five on Pierce Lane, and one on Valley Road, 1/4 mile south of Everett Hill Road.

More specific requirements and procedures will be available by June 15. Those qualified Cornwall individuals and families who have already indicated their interest in the program will receive materials in the mail. Others who wish to be considered should get in touch with Ken Keskinen, at 672-6486.

After months of deliberation, and after hearing from interested citizens at its May 14 meeting, the CHC Board voted to submit an application to the P & Z Commission at its June 8 meeting for permission to develop the Town Street parcel, a gift of Ella Clark. The P & Z Commission hearing on the application will be held on July 13. Those neighbors on Town Street who oppose the use of the Town Street site have been offered the opportunity to continue their search for an appropriate parcel to offer in lieu of the Clark parcel. Such an extension of time would terminate with the vote of the P & Z Commission after the hearing.

The board is now expecting that bids for the construction of Kugeman Village will be solicited within 30 days, with ground-breaking to occur later this summer. CHC President Keskinen was heard muttering, "I'll believe it when I see it." — *Ken Keskinen*

Welcome

Mason Van Daalhuizen
to Robert and Mary Daalhuizen

Goodbye to Friends

Dianne L. Carpenter
John Hinchman

Congratulations

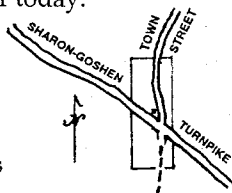
Barry L. Stoner to Lori Ann Bessel

Land Transfer

Michael R. Holloway to Frank H. and Catherine L. Murphy, house on Warren Hill Road.

Cornwall's Greens

Cornwall has had two town greens, each initially laid out in conjunction with a new meeting house: one at Cornwall Center, the other in Cornwall Plain, both involving mysteries that linger today.



According to Gold's history, the first of these greens straddled Town Street and, before being reduced "by the cupidity of adjoining proprietors," had measured 265 by 660 feet. One end was at the top of the hill north of today's intersection with the Sharon-Goshen Turnpike, the other on today's lawns south of that crossing. The original meeting house was at the green's northwestern corner; Emmons Tavern was on the east side; the parsonage faced the south end. Located elsewhere around the green were homes, the stocks, the pound for stray farm animals, and somewhat later the town's first post office. After the church schism of the 1780s, the Second Church erected its own meeting house facing the original structure retained by the First Church. But this confrontation and bustle of activity came to an end in following decades. The First Church removed to Cornwall Plain in 1790; the Second Church built the present meeting house in North Cornwall in 1826, with the same green space it has today.

(To be concluded.) — Michael Gannett

Animals in the Library

There is a profound sense of solitude, of essential privacy in Scott Zuckerman's painting of nature. Here one becomes both witness and participant, at once the curious naturalist and the object of his curiosity: He is the elusive rabbit, the frustrated fox, the soaring hawk. What sets these studies apart from conventional animal scenery is the vitality with which the situation reflects the character or mood of the subject, often implying the frozen moment just before the action. A cat menaces birds in an icy landscape. Elsewhere cows embody peace in a dappled meadow, a lone fox lopes across a snowy field. A few, the birds in particular, are straight nature studies, almost photographic, but the ambiance is deft, just enough detail to set the stage. Subject and setting imply more than they describe, and in that lie their spirit and their strength.

The show is open until June 13.

— Brigitte Hanf



Letters to the Chronicle



BUDGET BRAINSTORMING

The full house at the May 8 town meeting was a magnificent statement by taxpayers as to how much we care about our community. To the officials and volunteers who serve on all the boards involved in constructing the town budget — well done. You obviously wrestled mightily to come to a bottom line that was responsible, if painful.

Can we now go a step further and, as suggested by Janice Bracken and Monte Dunn, get creative about ways to keep the budget under control in the future? How about forming a volunteer committee to brainstorm, uninhibitedly, for new ways to produce income and reduce costs for the town. Each of these ideas could be parceled out to still other volunteers for research and development. Some ideas will die unmentioned deaths, but others may generate results from which we all might benefit. We do have an amazing pool of talent in Cornwall; let's share it. I will start by forwarding a copy of this letter to the selectmen for their consideration. Anyone else interested in helping? — Hunt Williams

SLOW DOWN, PLEASE

On March 30 my eight-year-old son was hit by a car on Route 128 in the village of West Cornwall. Fortunately he was unhurt, except for what is known normally as "road rash." I would like to ask all the motorists who ignore town and village speed limits to join me in giving thanks that it wasn't you my son cycled blindly in front of, and to remember that our towns and villages are full of children and other soft and sometimes silly creatures.

My thanks to Dave Cadwell, a good neighbor. — Frankie Reece

HEARTFELT THANKS

We are grateful to this column for giving the Osborne family a chance to thank the numerous people who rallied around us on April 24. That was the day Philla conked out and lost consciousness while walking near our house. (She is now fine; there was a blocked coronary artery that shut down, which resulted in cutting off blood flow to her brain. A simple procedure called a balloon angioplasty has unblocked the artery and she is now better than ever.)

At the time we didn't have any idea what the problem was. Under these scary circumstances, the local rescue squad (911 works!), with Dave Cadwell in charge, provided the best possible emergency service: rapid, effective and kind.

We also thank Dave Williamson (who found Philla lying by the roadside) and others — some, like Dave, members of the Fire Department. As I remember, these included Chan Tenney, Fred Bate III and one of the Baird boys, along with neighbors like Tom Bechtle and Lonnie Carter. They kept traffic moving along Rt. 128, helped make Philla

comfortable and gave badly needed moral support.

It may sound pat and sententious, but the whole episode renews our deep affection for this town and the people who live here. When things seem to be going so badly wrong in the world, with the news full of fear, hostility and hurt, it is very reassuring to realize you live in a place where at a basic level, good will and fellow feeling seem still to have the upper hand. Thanks again, folks. — The Osbornes

POP GOES THE

First it was black bears. (I even collected some bear scat and horrified a dinner party at my house by showing it around between salad and dessert.) Then came the infestation of mountain lion sightings (not to mention the carefully crafted letter from one of the sighted). Now comes a just-as-rare weasel, found by me on the morning of Tuesday, May 5, on the floor of my bathroom, between tub and toilet. Dead. I picked up the small brown and white creature — undoubtedly dispatched by the fastest of my three cats, Freddie, admired its mouthful of needle-sharp teeth, and put it in a plastic bag. Now at this point, I wasn't certain what I had ... so ... I jumped in my car and headed downhill to show the creature to veterinarian Dr. Lisa Wojan. Lisa, clearly excited by the find, confirmed it was a weasel. Later, after consulting our mammal literature, we decided it was a young, male long-tailed weasel (as against a full-grown least weasel) because of the length of tail and because a full-grown male is about 20 inches or more in length. Wow! What next? — John Miller

ALL-STAR BALLPLAYER

The only big-league ballplayers I ever knew were Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Billy Jurgens, and Roy Campanella. They struck me as remarkable not only for their super talents on the diamond but also for their natural air of warm friendliness.

West Cornwall boasts a superstar not only equally friendly but far more talented than they. Never known to swear or even to have hit a ball, this character is nonetheless an unerring and indispensable catcher. In addition, the instant a batter hits, this fabulous catcher dashes either to the infield or outfield to retrieve the ball. In other words, this all-star player, except for the pitcher, is the entire team.

The pitcher, by the way, who doubles as team manger and co-owner, with his wife Paula, of both the team and the catcher, is Paul Wiske. The batter, and the entire opposing team, is his seven-year-old son John.

Our fabulous catcher, infielder, an outfielder is unusual because, instead of only two, it has four legs and a glossy black plumed tail. Jamee is ready every day to greet you warmly at Yutzler's Store, welcoming a pat on the head. — Larry Pool

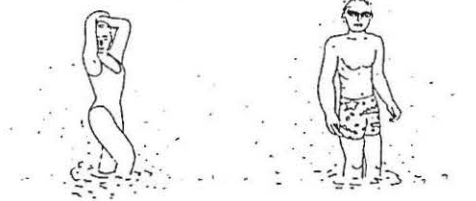
Events & Announcements

Town Meeting: Scheduled for 8 p.m. on Friday, June 5, at the Town Hall, the meeting has the following agenda: 1. Budget transfers. 2. Approval of a new 911 Ordinance. (Only a very few numbers will have to be changed. The main problem is failure to post numbers properly or remove old box numbers. Also, some authority will have to be named to assign new-construction numbers and enforce the regulations.) 3. Authorization to proceed with a long-term lease of Gannett Park land to the Cornwall Child Center for a new building, playground, parking area, etc. 4. Action on a resolution prepared by Marie Prentice and others calling for a phased decrease in the military budget.

Historical Exhibit: The Cornwall Historical Society will exhibit through June billing and letterheads used by Cornwall merchants and associations from the 1890s to the present. Open Tuesdays 10-noon and Sunday 1-4 p.m. Also open Memorial Day 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The society welcomes gifts of additional such items for its collections, both old and new.

First Aid Course: A Red Cross Standard course (adult CPR and first aid) will be given at the West Cornwall Firehouse Saturday, June 6, and Sunday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register please call Martha Bruehl at 672-6373.

Agricultural Fair: On August 29 the Cornwall Agricultural Committee will host a Farm Fair on the Village Green. The fair will be similar to the grange fairs held earlier in this century. Exhibits of vegetables, flowers, animals, machinery, and skills will be featured. A community picnic and square dance will follow. Anyone interested in helping out is encouraged to come to the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting June 7, 7:30 p.m. at the West Cornwall Firehouse, or call 672-4959 Mon.-Thurs. daytime.



Please Send Money!

If you have been getting the *Chronicle* for a year, it's time to send us some mailing money. Any additional contribution will be appreciated.

.....
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Elderly Health Screening: Originally scheduled for May 14, the Health Screening has been postponed to Friday, June 12. There are still some appointments available. The suggested donation for the wide range of health tests is \$18 (or \$19 with Pap test). Contact Jill Gibbons, Municipal Agent for the Elderly, at the Town Office on Mondays at 672-2703 to make an appointment.

Park & Rec Summer Offering: A Theater Arts Camp for children six to fourteen will be offered at CCS July 6-10 from 10 a.m. to noon by Leslie Elias, director of the Grumbling Gryphons Children's Theater, Ellen Moon, mask-maker, and guest artists. The week will culminate in a public performance July 10 at 7:30 p.m. Fee \$50; \$40 each for two or more children in a family.

Enroll before June 20. Applications are available at the Town Hall and by calling Leslie Elias at 672-0286.

CCS Graduation: The eighth grade class of Cornwall Consolidated School will graduate June 19 at 7:30 p.m. Members of the class are Caroline Calhoun, Oona Carchrae, Nicole Chamberlain, Hope Cheney, Sarah Clark, Christopher Hurlburt, Christopher Parker, Jennifer Ripley, Heather Ruhsam, Christine Shaw, Mari Sullivan, Zachary Tyler, Matthew Wolf, and Wayne Wolfe. Half the class has been together at CCS since kindergarten. Of those who know their plans for next year, five will be at HVRHS, two at Marvelwood, one at Kent School, and one at Taft.

Everyone is invited to come to both the ceremony at CCS and the party afterward at the Mohawk Ski Area.

Retirement Tea: On June 14 at 2 p.m. at CCS there will be a tea to honor two well-known and loved teachers who are retiring this year, Doug Carlson and David Orrell. The tea is open to the community and all are invited to bring a written remembrance of Doug and/or David to be bound in a memory gift scrapbook. Please contact your former classmates who are no longer in Cornwall and inform them of the event.

PTO Big Band Concert: Celebrate Father's Day on the Cornwall Green, Sunday, June 21 from 4 to 6 p.m. The New Vintage Big Band,

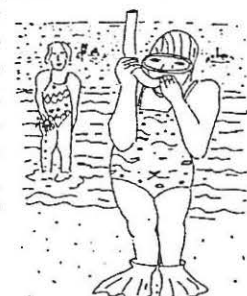
an 18-piece group, will play tunes from the big band era. So, bring a picnic and your dancing shoes and enjoy the afternoon. Soda and popcorn will be on sale. Admission is \$5 adult, with dads half-price and children under 12 free. All proceeds will go to the playground fund.

Hammond Town Beach: The beach on Lake Road will open for the season on June 20. Hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., weather permitting. A swim lesson schedule will be sent home with CCS students and also be available at the lake. Once again the beach director is Evelyn Gelerter, the lifeguard Hector Migliacci. Unlike last year, however, a fee will be charged for season passes: \$10 family, \$5 individual, available at the Town Office during regular hours — *not at the lake.*

Soccer Camp: Park and Rec reminds families that applications are due by June 20. The USA Soccer School of Excellence will be held at CCS July 13-17 from 9 a.m. till noon for children ages 5-17. Applications are available at CCS, the Town Office, or by calling Karen Stevens at 672-6065. Scholarships are available.

Food Preservation Classes: The Agricultural Advisory Committee is sponsoring two classes on canning methods on Monday, June 29, and Wednesday, July 1, 7-9:30 p.m. at the Parish House kitchen, United Church of Christ. The first class will teach pressure canning of vegetables; the second will cover the boiling water bath process for pickles, jelly and fruits. Fee is \$10 per session. Register by calling Cynthia Hasler at 672-6445 before June 12.

CCC Summer Program: The Cornwall Child Center is planning a six-week summer session at the Consolidated School, Tuesday-Friday 8:30-2:30, from July 7 to August 14. If you want to enroll your child call 672-6989.



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