

VOLUME 16 : NUMBER 4

Sex and the Budget

Given the experience and records of Cornwall's Board of Finance chairman, first selectman, and Board of Education chair, you would not expect any wild spending or surprises in the 2006-2007 budget-and you would be right.

Board of Finance leader Ralph Gold reported no special problems in this year's budget; "Both boards did their job very well." Going into the last meeting on April 20, the total budget was \$5,879,758, an increase of 6 percent.

The education part of the total amounted to \$3,581,554, a 5.2 percent increase. As expected, there were major jumps in oil and electricity costs. Board of Education chair Barbara Gold said, "It's good to have some money this year going to programs, such as a \$15,000 enrichment program to challenge students, mostly in academic disciplines, but also in areas like writing and acting. We're also spending \$10,000 for new textbooks, including new math books for the primary grades.

The selectmen's budget is \$2,298,204, a 6 percent increase. It includes an across-theboard 3.5 percent wage increase. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway also noted big increases in heating and electricity costs as well as in the maintenance budget of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department. The select-

men decided to add support for two town organizations: \$2,000 for the Housing Corporation and \$1,000 for the Cornwall Conserva-

The capital budget includes \$115,000 for a new highway truck, part of an ongoing program to replace such equipment.

There will be a town meeting on May 19 at 7:30 P.M. at the CCS gym to approve the budget, after which the new mill rate will be set.

Oh, the headline.... Would you have read a budget story to the end without it?

—Ed Ferman

Progress Continues on the Lorch Farm Option

Cornwall plowed ahead with plans to exercise by June 4 an option to buy 100 acres of the Lorch Farm on the east side of Route 7 in Cornwall Bridge. The property is across from the Lorch farmhouse and barns and 20 acres on the west side of Route 7, which slope toward the Housatonic River. Northbound tourists see this scenic acreage as the southern gateway to Cornwall. About 90 enthusiastic ayes in favor of such purchase resounded in the CCS gym at the April 2 town meeting, and moderator Scott Cady declared the motion passed.

A thin crop of nays reflected some concern for the advisability of local government being

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a landlord. Jim Whiteside averred that grooming local agriculture is laudable, but ownership might best be in the hands of another entity, such as the Cornwall Conservation Trust (CCT). Someone wondered what the future of the town ownership would be if the farm operation on the west parcel withered. Another asked why the town was buying land already protected by the state through a development rights purchase program from the Lorchs. There was also concern

about raising the balance of the funding.

In fact, according to Hector Prud'homme, speaking at the meeting, the CCT had been approached about ownership, did fund the appraisal, and took part in preliminary discussions; but leasing farmland goes beyond its conservator function. The Cornwall Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, and now the town have approved a plan to fund the purchase through donations. Funding the purchase will place no fences around the Cornwall taxpavers. Donations from individuals are already in a Lorch Farm Fund. If the fund reaches \$540,000, the town will exercise its option to purchase the property.

As presently envisioned by First Selectman Gordon Ridgway and Agricultural Commission Chairman Bill Dinneen, there will be active agriculture on the acreage,

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Park & Rec. 7 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Selectmen T 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	Region One Budget Referendum noon-8 p.m. Town Hall † Inland Wetlands* 8 p.m. Town Hall	3 WCAAA Medicare Part D Information 9 A.M. Library	4	5	6 Bird Walk 7:15–9:30 a.m. River Road, Sharon † Gardening Events 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Library † Housing Forum 4 p.m. Town Hall †
7	8 Blood Pressure Screening 3–4 p.m. UCC Parish House	Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 p.m. CCS Library P&Z 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	10 Blood Drive 1:30–6:15 p.m. UCC Parish House †	11	12	13 Cornwall Association 9 A.M. Library Organic Farming 10:30 A.M.— 1:30 P.M. Local Farm † Contra Dance 7–10 P.M. Town Hall †
14 MOTHER'S DAY	15 Deadline: June Chronicle Copy Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS	16 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	17	H8 Bd. of Ed. 5 p.m. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 p.m. CCS Lib. VFW Post 9856 8 p.m. W. C. Firehouse	Motherhouse Round Sing 7 p.m. Local Farm Barn † Town Budget Meeting 7:30 p.m. CCS Gym † Bd. of Finance Post Budget Meeting	20 ARMED FORCES DAY Empire State Building John Tauranac 4 P.M. Library † Art Opening 5–7 P.M. Outsiders Gallery †
21	ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	23 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	24	25	26	Outsiders gailery 7 7 Book Sale 10 A.M A P.M. Library † Rare Book Auction 5-7 P.M. Town Hall † Pottery Exhibit Opening 3-5 P.M. Cornwall Bridge Pottery Store † Art Opening 4 P.M. Wish House †
28 Book Sale 11 A.M4 P.M. Library †	29 Memorial Day (Observed) Memorial Day Observances 9–11 a.m. Various Locations † Carnival noon UCC † Map Display noon—3 p.m. Town Hall +	CartoonFest Begins	31 Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7- Wednesdays: Play Group, 10 / Thursdays: Toddler Time, 10:30	A.M. Playscape/UCC; Stretch Cla) A.M. Library; Meditation for Mot nners , 7:30 p.M. CCS Gathering	it Basketball, 8 p.m. CCS Gym ss, 5 p.m. Town Hall thers. 1:15 p.m. UCC Day Room;

Fridays: Story Hour, 1:15 P.M. Library

Sundays: Meditation Group, 1-2 P.M. Debra Tyler 672-0229 for location

Book Sale 'til 3 p.m. Library †

^{*} Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

which is split between farmable land and woodland. Chris Hopkins will, upon town ownership of the east parcel, purchase the west parcel for diversified farming, including milk production, and then lease some of the town-owned land, land necessary for a viable farm operation. Town ownership can also support other uses made possible by public access such as community gardens, recreation, and educational programs. This public potential and the farm lease might not have been possible had the acreage gone to private sale, even though the state holds the development rights. Hopkins stated, "I'm proud to live in a town willing to support community agriculture." -Phil Hart

Crossing Town Lines

The late Rose Algrant, in her Frenchflavored Turkish accent, used to needle me on occasion by asking, "How are things in Varren?" Of course I live in Cornwall Bridge, six-tenths of a mile from the Warren line. I knew nothing about "things in Varren." Rose would smile.

I write the above as a sort of prologue to a story about Cornwall people who really do live on the other side of the town line (in this case, in Sharon), people like Denny and Charlotte Frost, veteran Cornwallians who crossed the Housatonic a couple of years ago to Charlotte's old family homestead, the Gay Farm on River Road. Because of the move, Denny had to give up his seat on Planning and Zoning. Charlotte's sister, Susan Fox, one of Cornwall's "hall of fame" potters, already lived nearby.

Four miles up Route 7 there are a raft of families emotionally tied to Cornwall but who physically live—and pay taxes—in Sharon. They use the West Cornwall Post Office, have "672" telephones, get their newspapers at the market, go to our churches, and do most of their socializing on the east side of the Covered Bridge. There's Mr. Cornwall himself, Fred Bate, Jr., of 296 West Cornwall Road, the man who chatted up a storm as he trimmed our steaks and cut up our chickens at his late, great butcher shop. That meat market was started decades ago by Fred's father and Jack Preston's father. It eventually became the West Cornwall video store. Jack is the long-time lieutenant in the West Cornwall Firehouse who lives with his wife, Pat, not far from Fred. Jack said just about everything in Sharon is at least seven miles away—the transfer station, post office, the school, town hall, Mudge Pond, and Trotta's market. The Prestons own an old family cottage on Cream Hill Lake, which gives them entrée to various Cornwall facilities. Others, like Bill Winters and Corky and Carol Tyler, are given passes to the Cornwall Town Beach and our own transfer station because they are mainstays of our fire department. Corky, in fact, is our current assistant chief.

Some years ago a bunch of these faux

Sharonites went to the two towns to see if they could get Cornwall to take over their enclave from Sharon. Jack Preston said it was a no-go. Cornwall, he said, was willing, but Sharon said absolutely not. It could have been like the breakup of the former Yugoslavia, but without the bloodshed. Too bad.

The Doolittles, Jerry and Gretchen, moved across the river in '72 about a football field's distance from the Covered Bridge. The five Doolittle boys, instead of walking up the hill to Cornwall Consolidated, had to be bussed to Sharon Central. The Cornwall Transfer Station—it was "the dump" back then—was suddenly off limits. "I went to a meeting of the Sharon Democratic Town Committee and didn't know anybody," said Jerry. Gretchen

was once president of the Cream Hill Lake
Association, and Jerry is the current
president of the board of Hughes Memorial Library down River
Road from the Moose.

I'll leave the final

thoughts and words to Sue Fox. "I'm often grateful that I don't have to vote on some of the hotly discussed issues in Cornwall," she said. "Polly Calhoun used to take me to task quite fiercely for not buying a ticket to the Election Day soup luncheon at the church until I reminded her that I voted in Sharon. I do feel torn when asked to contribute to the Library or the Cornwall Association and such. But at the same time I'm glad to participate. Ginny Potter once told me that my late neighbor, Grover Strattman, believed he lived in Cornwall. Ginny said, 'If you believe it is your library, it is your library.' I'll go

–John Miller

Goshen Roulette

Place your bets, ladies and gentlemen. Round and round she goes.

along with that."

Who's supposed to stop, nobody knows. Starting around the Goshen rotary a few days ago, my attention was drawn to an 18-wheel lumber truck barreling down from Litchfield. In the second and a half left to me before my life might end, I hastily reviewed the Rules of the Road. I was in the circle, so I had the right-of-way, but he was on my right. Did that trump me? Glimpsing a splattered dragonfly on his grille, I figured I was about to join it and slammed on my brakes. Good thing, too. The logger flashed into the circle like an express train, leaving the yield signs and my little pickup quivering in his backwash.

Built in 1931 to replace a sleepy, dirt-road crossing, the rotary was a depression-era splurge, setting the state back a hefty \$125. It was designed to be equipped with a two-foothigh light in its center, ominously dubbed a "four-way death ball," but this seems to have been omitted.

Goshen residents are inordinately fond of their unique intersection. Town Clerk Barbara Breor remembers a traditional Halloween prank from her high-school days:

setting up an outhouse in its center. More constructively, the circle also served for years as home to an unofficial town billboard, announcing births, returns of servicemen, etc., until the Department of Transportation put a stop to the practice. Barbara told me that the rotary sees an occasional fender-bender, especially during the Goshen Fair, but has been remarkably free from major accidents, although at rush hour, locals are wary of drivers speeding to and from "a certain unnamed town to the west."

In negotiating the crossing, motorists should remember the guiding principle that drivers in the circle have precedence over those entering. But also bear in mind the old epitaph of the man who died defending his right of way. "His will was strong, but he's just as dead as if he were wrong." —Matt Collins

Welcome

Bennett Paul to John and Roberta Williams

Good-bye to Friends

Joseph C. Lush Dorothy Watts

Land Transfers

Lawrence C. Sturges to Ralph B. Niles, 10.3 acres on Railroad Street for \$50,000.

Ralph B. Niles to Stephen Hart, one-half acre and 10.3 acres on Railroad Street for \$100,000.

Getting to First Base

The new ballfield on Route 4 has begun to green-up nicely, and weekend fungo games have sprouted up with the new grass. The situation improved further on April 11 when the bleachers, disassembled but real, were delivered to the field. Plans for the pavilion, however, were sidelined when the selectmen learned that only one bid—and that too high for the budget—had been received. What to do?

The board discussed the bid and other ballfield issues at its April 3 meeting and, in the week following, a plan emerged to tap the remaining \$50,000 of the original \$350,000 STEAP grant to meet the cost overruns. This last pool of money had been set aside to monitor possible future water table contamination seeping from the Neoweld site on Route 7. These costs have been picked up by Torrington Area Health for the most part, so the \$50,000 is available for other uses.

State agreement will be sought for this change in the STEAP grant, and the whole issue will come before the town at the town budget meeting on May 19.

Lisa Lansing Simont

Events & Announcements

Pitching Your Tent in Cornwall, a forum on housing, will take place on Saturday, May 6, from 4 to 5:30 P.M. at the Town Hall. (See the insert in this month's issue for details.) For more information call Marie Prentice at 672-6261.

The Eighth Annual Spring Bird Walk, sponsored by Park and Rec., will take place on Saturday, May 6, from 7:15 to about 9:30 A.M., led by naturalist/photographer Art Gingert. Beginning birders are welcome. Park at the south end of River Road (Sharon side of Cornwall Bridge) at Swifts Bridge and hike along the Housatonic on the Stanley Works property. Bring binoculars, wear waterproof boots, and take precautions for deer ticks. Please do not wear white. Rain date: Sunday, May 7. If you have any questions, call Art at 672-0077.

Take Note of Budget Votes: A referendum will be held on Tuesday, May 2, at the Town Hall, from noon to 8 P.M., for the purpose of voting on the Region One school budget. The annual town budget meeting will be held on Friday, May 19, at 7:30 P.M. at the CCS gym. Besides voting to approve the town budget for next year, the agenda will include town approval of the dissolution of the Cornwall Lighting District and further expenditures from STEAP grant monies for the ballfield on Route 4 (see article on p. 2).

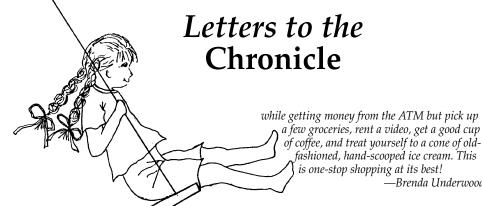
Gathering of Gardeners: Friends of the Cornwall Library is hosting a morning for gardeners on Saturday, May 6, at the Library. From 10 A.M. to noon, activities will include a plant swap (please label what you bring) and a sale of annuals to brighten up your own borders. At the same time, bring spring to the gardens at the Library by helping with a clean-up and planting annuals. As thanks for helping, make your own Friends of the Library tie-dye T-shirt. Then enjoy the fruits of your labor at a BYO picnic from noon to 2 P.M. and listen to live music. Rain date is May 13.

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the UCC Parish House on Wednesday, May 10, from 1:30 to 6:15 P.M. Drop in or call Pat Blakey at 672-6516 for an appointment. You must be over 16 years of age, weigh at least 110 lbs., be healthy, and be willing to give an hour of your time.

An Electronics Collection Day will be held Saturday, June 3, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Plant on Bogue Road (near Agway/Blue Seal). It is sponsored by the LHCEO/NWCCOG Recycling Advisory Committee and operated by the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority. There will also be a regular Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on June 17 in Falls Village. This collection will require a ticket obtainable at the Selectmen's Office. For more details about either day, call 672-4959.

Book Sale: May 27, 28, and 29 at the Cornwall Free Library (Saturday 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; Sunday 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.; Memorial Day, after ceremonies to 3 P.M.). Please continue to drop off your gently used books at the Library for the sale.

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LORCH FARM LANDLORD?

Can someone please explain to me why the Town of Cornwall is trying to become a landlord? Perhaps I am just dense, but when all the verbiage and lah-de-dah is cleared away, I am left with the "landlord" impression concerning the Lorch Farm deal. How come?

I happen to admire farmers and deeply respect them for their dedication and hard work, I have friends who are farmers, there are lots of farmers in my background, so don't try to label me as anti-farmer, for that's just not true and has nothing to do with my very real concern. Nor am I alone in this concern.

Maybe I don't understand or, just maybe, I do! —Jane Giddens-Jones

BUSY AMBULANCE UPDATE

Two new EMTs have been added to our roster since the April Chronicle: both Irene Hurlburt and Patience Lindholm have completed their certification as EMT-Basics—a real bonus for our squad. —Lt. Joyce Hart

WEST CORNWALL MALL

Living so far away from the nearest large supermarket almost by necessity makes having a market in West Cornwall a stipulation for living here. And, in case you haven't noticed, we have one.

For me, it has been a lifesaver. There have been many occasions when I'm in the middle of cooking and realize I have run out of onions or some other ingredient. It is with great relief that I can jump into the car, drive down the hill, and be back in my kitchen, ingredients in hand, in under 15 minutes.

K. C. uses local suppliers whenever he can: meat supplied by the Litchfield Locker, milk from Hautboy Hill Farm, raw milk from Stonewall Dairy, maple syrup from the Ridgway Farm, and local honey from Pine Hill Farm.

You will soon see some changes at the WCM. Although K. C. will still make sandwiches, the focus will change from deli to more of an emphasis on produce, fresh meats, and keeping the shelves stocked. He plans to go to Hartford himself once a week to pick up fresh fruit and vegetables, which will allow him to offer them to us at a lower price.

And now, with the merger of the West Cornwall Market with West Cornwall Video, you'll not only be able to chat with your neighbors

OH, TINK

What do you get when you have a set full of hygienically challenged waifs, a dog for a babysitter, three kids itching for adventure, and a spirited airborne imp attended by a slightly naughty faerie? Answer: 40 kids singing and dancing their way through a hit performance of Peter Pan on the new stage at CCS over the weekend of April Fools'.

—Brenda Underwood

How our timbers shivered at the sound of the Croc's (Elizabeth Ridgway) tick-tock as we watched the struggle between good (Shelby Baird, as Peter) and evil (a dastardly performance by Trey Hatcher as Hook in tandem with the hapless Smee, Dylan Morehouse) on the spare, imaginative sets. Who didn't cry when Wendy (Becky Sawicki) said "Good night, Peter Pan" to the green boy and his faithful faerie (Kayla "I was so nervous" Robinson) perched upon the sill of adulthood?

It was a stellar night for Cornwall's theatrically inclined youngsters. Says the director, who worked 'em hard, "once the lights come up, it's ALL THEIRS." So it was. -Lib Tobin

AN INSIDER'S VIEW OF THE OUTSIDERS

As a resident of West Cornwall, I thought it behooved me to tell you about a visit my wife and I made to the Outsiders Art Gallery in March.

This gallery, owned and run by Kelly and Dana Gingras, is indeed most interesting. When you first enter, you might think that there is a veritable hodgepodge of paintings, artifacts, sculpture, jewelry, etc. But, you really have to look at the various items closely and to hear Kelly explain that the gallery caters to many artists, including some who are disadvantaged and autistic.

My wife, Vera, and I feel that Kelly and Dana are giving artists who might not have an outlet for displaying their work the opportunity they should have. —Donald R. Hart, Jr.



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Rare Book Auction: Sponsored by the Cornwall Free Library, Saturday, May 27, 5 to 7 P.M. at the Town Hall. (See insert in this month's issue.)

Motherhouse Events: Organic Gardening: Saturday, May 13, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at Local Farm. Join Debra Tyler in "breaking sod" in order to start a backyard garden. Discuss soil health, planting dates, and cold frames. Examine stages of compost. Visit well-established area gardens and their keepers. Cost: \$35 per family, advance registration required. Contact Debra at 672-0229 or mail to: lifeskills@motherhouse.us for additional information and reservations.

Contra Dance: Saturday, May 13, from 7 to 10 P.M. at the Town Hall. Paul Rosenberg calling; Homegrown Band playing.

Round Sing: Friday, May 19, at 7 P.M. at Local Farm barn. Call Debra (672-0229) or Nan (672-6013) for more information.

Library Talk: John Tauranac, the noted Cornwall author of *The Empire State* Building: The Making of a Landmark, and other works, will speak at the Library on Saturday, May 20, at 4 P.M. to mark the 75th anniversary of the Empire State Building. Call the Library at 672-6874 for more information.

Cornwall CartoonFest 2006, sponsored by the Cornwall Free Library, will take place on Saturday, June 3. (Exhibition begins May 30; see the insert in this month's issue for complete schedule.) Please note that you must sign up in advance to be one of only a dozen caricatures to be drawn by Marc Simont (cost is \$50, of which all proceeds go to the Library). For ticket & caricature reservations and more information: 672-6874 or www.biblio.org/cornwall.

May Day

Most of us know about May Day. That's when Flora, goddess of spring, planted the first maypole on the Cornwall Green and danced in madcap circles with other revelers, who then locked arms with Karl Marx and sang the Internationale loud enough to draw complaints from West Goshen. Well, if you didn't know that, you do now. That's the Chronicle's job: giving you the essential facts in an accurate and timely fashion. We depend entirely on your support. Obviously, we need help. Thanks.

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Free Library, Harvey Offenhartz's show of abstract oil pastels will continue through May 26. In the case, there is an exhibit of old photographic equipment. Beginning May 30, the Library will host the Cornwall CartoonFest 2006 (see insert).

The Outsiders Gallery is hosting an opening for a show entitled Interiors/Exteriors on Saturday, May 20, from 5 to 7 P.M. Featured artists are Douglass Truth, Leslie Giuliani, and Karl Funk. The show runs through June 26.

At the Cornwall Bridge Pottery Store, there will be an exhibition of pots made by Vincenzo Rondinone of Narrow Valley Pottery here in Cornwall during the 1930s, and

those made by his brother in Bethlehem, CT, from 1970 to 1988. The opening is on Saturday, May 27, from 3 to 5 P.M. Refreshments will be served. This is a fascinating look at the work of fourthgeneration potters from Italy whose separate life journeys brought them to northwest Connecticut.

Also on Saturday, May 27, the Wish House will host an opening from 4 to 6 P.M. for Danielle Mailer's cut-outs and collage paintings of Yoga poses. Wine and food will be served.

Cornwall Extras for Kids has been helping families for 13 years with children in grades K-12 who need financial help with the full cost of camps, lessons, and other sports, arts, and educational programs. Summer is coming and with it our greatest number of requests. Confidential application forms are available at CCS, the Cornwall Library, and the Town Hall.

Maps on Memorial Day: The Cornwall Historical Society and P&Z will display old and new maps at the Town Hall from noon to 3 P.M. on Memorial Day. The maps show Cornwall's development from the early years and provide information that will guide the work of updating the Town Plan.

Farther down Pine Street at the Historical Society, the ongoing exhibit of maps will continue on Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. until **June 17.**

The Summer Enrichment Program at the Cornwall Child Center is registering children between three and six years of age. The fun-filled camp program, running from 8:30 A.м. to 1 Р.м. Monday through Thursday, will start July 3 and go to July 27. Each week will explore an exciting new theme. Registration fee is \$50, and the weekly fee is based on a sliding fee scale. For more information call Pam Brehm at 672-6989.

Memorial Day: On Monday, May 29, at 9 A.M., Charles Gold will lead a service at the North Cornwall Cemetery. Bring flowers to decorate graves. At 10 A.M., the Seamen's Service will take place at the Covered Bridge. The parade and ceremony begin at the Town Green in Cornwall Village at 11 а.м.

After the parade and ceremony, join your friends on the United Church of Christ grounds for a carnival sponsored by UCC and the Cornwall Child Center. Enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs grilled on the spot, freshly made salads, and games for children of all ages. Proceeds support CCC scholarships and a variety of charities.

Grumbling Gryphons will offer two programs for children in August:

Theater Arts Camp at the Town Hall from August 8 to 12 and, depending on enrollment, August 14 to 18 from 10 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. for children ages six to sixteen. Family discounts and scholarships available.

Theater/Storytelling Workshops: This series of four workshops, entitled Magical Adventures for Wonderful Wee Ones, will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 9:50 A.M. for children ages two through five during the second two weeks of August, also at the Town Hall. Both programs are sponsored by Park & Rec. For more information contact Leslie Elias at 672-0286.

Church Records Available: The Cornwall Historical Society announces the publication of Baptism, Marriage, Death, and Membership Records of the Congregational churches for the years 1755–1902. Town Historian Michael Gannett, with the assistance of Jill Bryant, has labored for many months to decipher the old cursive handwriting in brown ink to compile this work, which will be especially helpful to genealogists. It can be purchased at the Society for \$10.

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