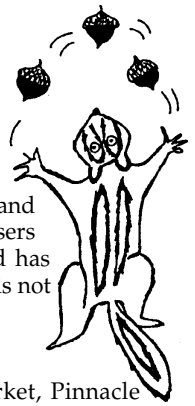




CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 13 : NUMBER 10 NOVEMBER 2003



Pinnacle Farm

Pinnacle Farm, the largest and most luxurious multiple-unit housing in Cornwall, is for sale.

The asking price is \$25 million for the 50-unit property—but this housing is for horses.

Pinnacle Farm is the new name for C&D Farms, which was created by Carlos and Diane Dominguez on the old Harriet Clark Farm in East Cornwall. The enormous barn lies on 140 acres of fenced meadows, wooded hillsides, small ponds and streams and is surrounded on three sides by Mohawk State Forest.

Its present residents are about 50 Friesian horses brought up to Cornwall from Florida after Diane Dominguez had concluded they would thrive better in the cooler New England climate. Friesians just look different. They are all black with long, long manes, forelocks and tails. They also have long hair (feathers) around their ankles like many present-day draft horses. Friesians give an impression of great strength with their broad chests and high-set, elegantly muscled necks. Their ancestors were war-horses but today they are used mainly for dressage, cross-country events and driving.

Carlos Dominguez died in April of this year, leaving Diane as the sole owner of this state-of-the-art horse facility. According to

the broker's listing, "The barn is 65,000 square foot post and beam construction with a slate roof. It has a two-story grand entrance hall with hardwood floor, stone fireplace and fountains which leads into a large rotunda/exposition hall...." Our Cornwall architect and sculptor, Tim Prentice, described the barn as "Folk Gothic—beautifully designed and sited and with great stone walls."

One wing of the barn contains 16- by 16-foot stalls for the mares, each with its own Dutch door to individual run-outs (small areas where a horse can get a change of scene, a breath of fresh air and visit with her neighbors). The stallions live in another wing and their stalls have slightly larger run-outs, but they don't get to visit with each other. The stalls were imported from England.

The building also contains a two-bedroom residence for the farm manager, a laboratory and office for the vet, other offices, a huge storage area for feed, facilities for the staff and, in fact, everything necessary for a comfortable home for horses and their caregivers.

Pinnacle Farm barn is the largest building in Cornwall. The assessed value of the property as of October 1, 2002, was \$3,087,000—and at that time it was only half complete. This makes Pinnacle Farm already the fourth highest taxpayer in town, preceded by Ivan

Lendl, CL&P and the Castle, and probably one of the lowest users of town services—Clark Road has been closed so snow plowing is not an issue, and horses don't go to Cornwall Consolidated School.

Although it is on the market, Pinnacle Farm has not changed for the horses or the numerous workmen engaged in completing the buildings, paving and landscaping.

Should a discreet and discerning buyer come to Cornwall, he might be able to buy the property; or Diane Dominguez might change her mind and keep Pinnacle Farm for her gorgeous Friesian horses. Either way, this Windsor Castle of equine facilities is here in Cornwall, and the town will benefit from both its reputation and its taxes. —Celia Senzer

More Bus Service for Cornwall

There's more public transportation available to Cornwall residents since the Northwestern Connecticut Transit District has expanded its service.

The NWCTD now offers service on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from Cornwall to neighboring towns. On Tuesday there is service to Great Barrington for shopping; on Thursday to the Nutrition Site at the Senior Center in Torrington; and on Friday to Torrington for shopping.

NOVEMBER 2003

(continued on page 2)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Chess Club Every Saturday 9:30-11 A.M. Library M. R. CVFD Masquerade Ball 8 P.M.-Midnight Mohawk Ski Lodge
2	3 Park & Rec. 7 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	4 ELECTION DAY VOTE 6 A.M.-8 P.M. Town Hall Blue Mt. Satsang Every Tuesday 6:30-8 P.M. UCC Day Room Jam Session Every Tuesday 7:30 P.M. (p.4)	5 Bend & Stretch Every Wed. 9:30-10:30 A.M. UCC Parish House Play Group Every Wed. 10- 11:30 A.M. Playscape/UCC Stretch Class Every Wed. 5:30-6:30 P.M. Town Hall Inland Wetlands* 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	6 Meditation for Mothers Every Thursday 1:15-2:15 P.M. UCC Day Room	7 Pre-School Story Hour 10-11 A.M. Cornwall Library Karl Saliter Reception 6-8 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4)	8 American Girls Club 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.3) Wreath-Making Workshop 1 P.M. Local Farm Barn (p.4)
9	 10 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House	11 VETERANS' DAY	12 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M. P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	13 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M.	14 Pre-School Story Hour 10-11 A.M. Cornwall Library CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M.	15 Deadline: December Chronicle Copy Cornwall Association 9 A.M. UCC Day Room
16	 17 Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library M. R.	 18 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library <i>Understanding Adolescent Behaviors</i> 7 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4)	19	20 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	21 Pre-School Story Hour 10-11 A.M. Cornwall Library	22 Thomas the Tank 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.3) Community Sing for Africa 1 P.M. UCC (p.4)
23 Tellabration! 3 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4)	24 ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	25	26 CCS Thanksgiving Recess Begins 1 P.M. Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	27 THANKSGIVING	28 Annual Talent Show 7:30-9 P.M. UCC (p.4)	29
30						

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

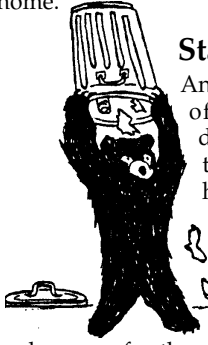
(continued from page 1)

Cornwall makes a modest contribution of \$549 annually to help support this service. Last year 201 trips were taken by Cornwall residents, and that number may increase with the increase in service.

A prior-day reservation by phone to 489-2535 is required and a donation or fare of \$1 is requested. Pick-ups at riders' homes and returns are at agreed-upon times.

Geer Adult Day Center also provides weekday transportation to non-emergency medical appointments for town residents age 60-plus or with disabilities. The service operates between 10 A.M. and 2 P.M., and requires a \$1 fee or donation and 24-hour notice. Call 824-7067 for a pick-up at your home.

—Stephen Senzer



State of the School

Anyone in the proximity of Cornwall Consolidated School has certainly noticed big things happening. Trees have been cut down on both sides of Cream Hill Road, and the dirt removed from the hillside (to make space for the new gym) has created a huge mountain of dirt on the new parking lot. Most of the dirt is being used to bring the new parking lot up to the level of Cream Hill Road; the remainder is to be stored off-site and then screened to make good topsoil and brought back for use during landscaping.

Two new wells have been drilled, and they produce 60 GPM of quality water. Plans call for the installation of a septic tank under the new parking lot. And this is just the beginning.

The top priority right now is to finish the parking lot that occupies a large area across Cream Hill Road from the school. Staff and parents have been parking on Cream Hill Road or at the Firehouse, neither option being particularly safe or convenient. The new parking area should be ready by mid-November or early December and will accommodate most parking needs. Part of the old parking area next to the school entrance will have four or five handicapped slots and an area for buses to deposit and pick up students.

Another priority is pouring the footings and concrete slab for the new building before colder weather sets in. As the new masonry walls become visible, we will be able to appreciate the size of the new building, which comprises a new entrance, gymnasium, bathrooms and storage.

The main entrance to the school is closed. The temporary entrance is through the gate near the playground into the double doors on the lower level. Everyone will be using this entrance until the new building is complete.

According to Bill Wadsworth, Vice President and Project Manager for Casle Corporation, "The school expansion is proceeding well. The schedule is tight but so far work is on schedule." Work will continue through the winter months and completion of the

new building is scheduled for the end of June 2004. The whole project should be completed by the beginning of school in August 2004.

While lots of changes are going on outside, there is consistency and learning going on inside. Dr. Kathleen Fitzgibbons, our principal, says, "Things are a bit confusing but everyone is making it work." She is extremely proud of the flexibility of her staff and adds, "We all have the attitude that it will be well worth it."

—Emilie Pryor

Bigger Little Guild

"Watch Your Fingers," says the sign on the front of Sammy's cage. Sammy is a handsome black cat with an intense gaze, who is about the size of a small German Shepherd. I'm momentarily tempted to bring him home to launch a pre-emptive strike against the divisions of mice and chipmunks massing at the foundations of my house, but the thought is interrupted by the arrival of Jim Lussier, director of the Little Guild of St. Francis, the Cornwall-based animal shelter that has been rescuing and placing cats and dogs since 1958.

The Guild recently completed a \$500,000 renovation and expansion that has doubled its size. Jim gave me a tour of the new wing, which includes a medical room (the shelter provides all vaccinations and tests), kitchen (which prepares 120 meals a day), free-range cat rooms, and a "real life room," where I was greeted by a family of affectionate beagles (two still available for adoption). This space will be furnished like a living room, and will give potential adopters a place to spend some play time with the animal they are thinking of taking home.

The building project was financed completely by private donations. "We spent down our endowment," said Jim, "and now we must build it back up to pay for our operating expenses. We spend \$250 on every animal that passes through, and ask for a \$50 donation for a cat adoption and \$75 for a dog, so we lose money on every animal."

The Little Guild can house 35 cats and 15 dogs and places an amazing 400 animals a year. No animal is ever euthanized, unless it is vicious or terminal, "which means that difficult pets can be with us for as long as a year," Jim told us.

Our last stop was at the concrete-block dog kennels at the rear. "The renovation project started here, when we realized that all the power washing we do had penetrated the walls and rotted the two-by-fours." In one cage was Genevieve, a pit bull mix and recent mom with six new puppies. "She has a sweet temperament," said Jim, and she really was a pussycat, though she'd no doubt be insulted by the description.

So if you are thinking of acquiring a loving new companion or simply looking for an alternative to D-Con, stop by the Guild and meet Sammy and the gang. Jim and his staff and volunteers keep the shelter open seven days a week, from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M.

—Ed Ferman

Welcome

Simon Roth Mason Cohen
to Elizabeth Mason and Paul Cohen
Ian Lukis Tyson
to Catherine Hosterman and Joshua Tyson
Karlee Nicole Fendley
to Courtney Shaw and David Fendley

Congratulations

Robin Beebee to Dean Potter

Land Transfers

Sandra Lois Goldshein and Nancy Jean Fedder to Benjamin W. and Allison Lesch, house and 2.4 acres at 33 Town Street for \$285,000.

Gunnar K. and Paula N. Holmes to David C. and Tina Martin, house and 1 acre at 12 Warren Hill Road for \$140,000.

Daniel A. Morrone to Gerald T. and Robert L. Wilson, 1.5 acres on Furnace Brook Road for \$10,000.

Katherine Foote Lingamfelter, Janet Foote Stones and Cynthia A. Foote to the Town of Cornwall, 19 acres off Furnace Brook Road, for \$125,000.

Town of Cornwall to CVA Valley LLC, 10.2 acres off Furnace Brook Road for \$20,000.

Jan B. Fairservis to Matthew J. and Karen E. McCartin, house and 6.55 acres at 147 Kent Road for \$152,000.

Welcome, Newcomers

According to a recent *New York Times* article, "In the wide world of friendship, Connecticut is tough to crack." But is it difficult to make contacts and friends in Cornwall? Not at all, according to many of the more than 20 newcomers who attended a special reception hosted by the Cornwall Association late last month.

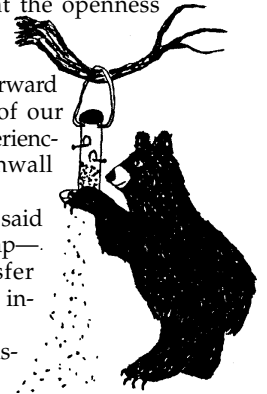
People who took up full or part-time residency in Cornwall during the past two years were invited to attend a newcomers' reception held at the Library. Besides meeting each other and members of the Cornwall Association, they heard brief presentations from our First Selectman and from representatives of the Fire Department, Website, and Library.

In a posting on the Cornwall Community Network, newcomers Patti Coyne and Steve Pakus wrote, "We found the meeting warm, friendly, informative, and fun.... We are continually amazed at the openness and helpfulness of the Cornwall community. We look forward to meeting more of our neighbors and experiencing our first 'Cornwall winter.'"

But one woman said she found the dump—pardon the transfer station—scary and intimidating.

The Cornwall Association hopes to repeat the reception periodically.

—Stephen Senzer



New Land Use Administrator

Cornwall's Planning and Zoning Commission recently hired Karl Nilsen as the town's new Land Use Administrator. Nilsen fills the

position vacated by Mike O'Neil, who recently resigned to accept a full-time job in another community.

Nilsen is highly qualified to take on the town's land use responsibilities. He has been involved in land use work since 1976 and is a certified Zoning Enforcement Officer and Wetlands Agent. He has been serving as the land use administrator for New Hartford and Barkhamsted for nearly a decade now.

Nilsen will be available to assist residents with zoning and inland-wetlands matters on Wednesday mornings from 8 A.M. to noon and on Fridays from 10 A.M. to noon. He will also be responsible for zoning enforcement and will provide technical and administrative assistance to the land use boards.

—Rick Lynn, Chairman, Cornwall P&Z



Town Hall Players Re-Group

Plans for a November production by Cornwall's newest theatrical group, the Town Hall Players, have had to be revamped. The Town Hall with the stage also houses the voting machines to be used in the November 4 election and must be sealed off for up to three weeks after the voting in case a recount is required.

Instead, the group will contribute a short skit to the Thanksgiving weekend Talent Show, and is making plans for a late-winter or early-spring production. In the meantime, work proceeds on the stage itself, which is expected to be ready by the new year.

Some members of the group, including co-chairs Molly Hinchman and Fred Thaler, were part of the October 2002 Village Repertory production of *Our Town* staged at the Congregational Church. Others, such as Jean and John Leich, bring with them extensive experience in community productions both here and elsewhere.

Fred Thaler emphasizes that a role will be found, onstage or off, for anyone in the community who wishes to participate in upcoming productions. To become involved, or just be put on the mailing list, call either Molly (672-6229) or Fred (672-0052). —Paul De Angelis

From the Selectmen's Office:

The Town of Cornwall owns approximately 60 miles of roadways. Most roads were laid out as "three rod roads," which means the right of way is generally 50 feet wide throughout town. In many places the right of way is marked by stone walls.

Many people choose to mow the right of way adjacent to their property, which is encouraged. Occasionally residents will plant bushes or build stone walls near the road edge, which can result in maintenance problems. Please consult with the Selectmen's Office before undertaking

Letters to the Chronicle

WHAT DOES THE PTA DO?

People often ask me that question. So here's the answer. The Cornwall PTA provides a forum for open discussions between parents, teachers and the community to ensure a healthy, safe and high quality education at Cornwall Consolidated School. The PTA sponsors special presentations for students that coordinate with the curriculum. The PTA budget this year for these events is \$3,000. We present speakers for parents on "hot" educational topics and collaborate with the Board of Education on issues that arise. Other activities include coordinating the school volunteers and offering fresh fruit to all students.

—Patricia S. Bramley, President

A SENIOR CENTER FOR CORNWALL?

Should Cornwall have a center where its many senior citizens can gather? Some Cornwallians seem to feel that such a center would be a great thing. Others argue few seniors would use it. Some cite well-used facilities in other towns. Others describe under-utilized senior centers elsewhere.

There are three issues involved. First, does Cornwall want a senior center? Only the people of the town can answer that. Second, if we want one, where should it be located? Sites mentioned include land behind the new library, or in the old Marvelwood Dining Hall, or even in poor old Rumsey Hall. The third question is how we would pay for it. Surprisingly, this is the easiest question to answer.

If Cornwall wants a senior center, it can obtain most of the money from the state's Small Cities Program (financed primarily by federal funds). Small Cities provides up to 90 percent of the cost of senior centers. The remaining 10 per-

cent, or "local match," can be in cash or in kind, such as the value of the land for the center or site improvements.

Before an application can be submitted, the Board of Selectmen would have to hold a public hearing. Then, the selectmen would decide whether to define a senior center as among the town's priority needs. Cornwall would then need to create or designate a community group willing to be responsible for writing the application and the design and building process.

Do you think Cornwall should have a senior center? I'd be interested in your views. Drop me a line or e-mail me at (david144@optonline.net). All names will be kept strictly confidential.

—David A. Grossman

THE BEST YET

Rumor has it that this year's Agricultural Fair was the best yet. If you were to ask the members of the Agricultural Committee they would enthusiastically agree.

The success of the fair is attributed to just the right amount of activity, the perfect number of oxen and young people showing them, exquisite pieces of farm machinery, thrilling children's games, stupendous food, captivating demonstrations, heroic bale toss contestants, willing cow chip raffle participants, and splendid post-hurricane sunshine.

It was the best ever. Thanks to all. Can't wait till next year!

—Chris Hopkins for the Agriculture Committee

Events & Announcements

The Board of Finance will meet in the Town Hall on Thursdays, November 20 and December 18 at 7:30 P.M., not at the CCS library.

Democratic Town Committee: A regular meeting will be held on Monday, November 17 at 7:30 P.M. in the meeting room at the Library.

American Girls Club will meet in the Cornwall Library on Saturday, November 8, from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., and then on the second Saturday of each month. Bring your favorite doll and come dressed to match. This event is for girls pre-K through 3rd grade and is co-sponsored by the Cornwall Library and Park & Rec.

Thomas the Tank will meet at the Cornwall Library on Saturday, November 22, from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., and then on the fourth Saturday of each month. This event is for children pre-K through 3rd grade and is co-sponsored by the Cornwall Library and Park & Rec.

major roadside changes. Of additional concern is the disappearance of road signs due to vandalism. During the last month, street name, speed limit and stop signs have been removed. These signs are expensive to replace and their absence has caused delays for emergency responders. Residents are also urged to make sure their 911 street numbers are clearly visible from the road.

Now is a good time to get ready for the approaching winter. It is prudent to check fire alarms and extinguishers and to have an emergency supply of food, water and heat. If you lose power call Northeast Utilities at (800) 286-2000 (not 911).

The Selectmen's Office maintains a call list of people who want to be checked on during severe storms. Please call 672-4959 if you wish to be added to the list.

—Gordon M. Ridgway, First Selectman



Election Results: Results of the municipal elections will be available on the Cornwall website (cornwallct.org) soon after the polls close at 8 P.M. on November 4.

Tellabration! is an annual worldwide storytelling event sponsored by the Connecticut Storytelling Center. It takes place on the weekend before Thanksgiving and the Cornwall Free Library has been selected as one of the sites. On Sunday, November 23, the Library will host three New England storytellers in a program for families starting at 3 P.M. and lasting approximately one hour. Come and enjoy the stories, and celebrate the importance of storytelling in our lives and as a fundamental art form. Free; donations gratefully accepted.



Community Sing for Africa: At 1 P.M. on Saturday, November 22 at United Church of Christ, all are welcome to join the Cornwall Consolidated School Chorus in the taping of their first music video, "We Are the World." For anyone wishing to purchase a copy, the video will be available before the holiday season. All proceeds from the sale of the video will go towards famine relief in Ethiopia. For more details or lyrics to the song please contact Josh Perlstein at 672-2647 or just stop by 20 Jewell Street.

The Annual Book Sale at the Cornwall Free Library raised \$2,610 for the operating expenses of the Library.

Thanksgiving

This is a good time for us to offer thanks to those of you who have sent donations this year and a good time for you to plan your year-end giving to the *Chronicle* and other organizations that count on your generosity. Happy Thanksgiving!

Jam Session: Calling all musicians on Tuesdays in November at 7:30 P.M. Bring your instrument of choice, sheet music or good ear and call a tune (singers also welcome). Town Hall or Library depending on space. Questions? Call Nan Frost, 672-6013, or Jane Prentice, 672-6101.

Talent Show: The Friends of the Cornwall Library will present the 6th Annual Talent Show on Friday, November 28 at the United Church of Christ, from 7:30 to 9:00 P.M. See some familiar faces and some new talent including fiddlers, jugglers, K9s, north-country bards, singers and actors. Tickets for the event are \$15.00 for adults and \$6.00 for kids 12 and under, and they may be ordered at the Library or by using the *Chronicle* insert form. Please enclose payment; VISA and Mastercard accepted. As always, the proceeds benefit the Annual Fund, which pays for the operating expenses of the Cornwall Library. For further information call 672-6874.

A Free Wreath-Making Workshop organized by Motherhouse is offered on Saturday, November 8, from 1 to 3 P.M. at the Local Farm barn on Popple Swamp Road. (Motherhouse, started by Debra Tyler, is a not-for-profit organization fostering mothers' self-respect and confidence.) All are welcome! Make braided baling-twine wreaths and bring ribbons and dried flowers for decoration. Please call Debra Tyler, 672-0229, if you're coming. Gardeners: If you have dried or dryable flowers to spare for the workshop, please call Nita Colgate, 672-6797.

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Library, Karl Saliter's show, "Floating Stones," sculptures of wood, stone and metal, will continue through November 8. There will be an artist's reception on November 7 from 6 to 8 P.M.

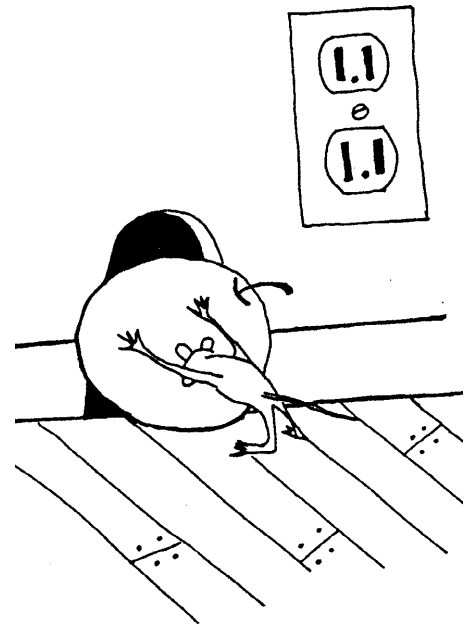
Beginning November 10 the Library will exhibit sketches and watercolors of local scenes and cartoons of local interest by Cindy Kirk. The pottery of Susan Fox will be shown in the glass case at the Library during the month of November.

At the Cornwall Arts Collection, the show featuring the paintings of Phyllis Nauts and Hendon will continue through November. At the National Iron Bank, Karin Smith will be showing photographs and monotypes during November.

PTA-Sponsored Presentation: Cynthia Bianchi, Director of the Housatonic Youth Services Bureau, will give a talk, "Understanding Adolescent Behaviors," on Tuesday, November 18, at 7 P.M. at the Cornwall Free Library. The program is open to all Cornwall residents.

The Cow Chip Raffle conducted by the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department at the Agricultural Fair realized \$1,250 for the ambulance fund. The winner was Joey Cherniske of Washington, CT.

The Cornwall House Tour: Over 300 people visited the six locations. The final figure is not in yet but the gross to date is \$10,435. Proceeds this year will benefit the Cornwall Foundation grants to non-profits.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

NOVEMBER ISSUE

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