



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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Over 200 Hear Candidates

Noise pollution, road surfacing, and the state of Hammond Beach were just a few of the issues covered October 9 in a two-hour forum featuring first selectman candidates Becky Hurlburt and Gordon Ridgway. Over 200 residents attended the event at Cornwall Consolidated School, sponsored by the Cornwall Association. Moderator Scott Cady posed questions e-mailed earlier by residents and in the second hour opened the floor to questions.

Ridgway drew heavily on his experience, contacts, and accomplishments during his 14-year tenure as first selectman, including the school addition, library, soccer field, and Hammond Beach. Throughout the afternoon, he spoke highly of the team of volunteers and professionals serving the town. Hurlburt stressed the need for a new perspective, open and inclusive communication, and more analyses of issues before action. In several answers she noted that she had spent the last year learning more about the governing of the town, attending committee meetings and forums, and meeting with officials. She said that her experience in business had made her familiar with budgets and project management.

Both candidates view escalating real estate prices and the pressure of development

as the primary challenge facing Cornwall in the next five years. Hurlburt said that Cornwall must strike a balance between development and preservation, with affordable housing the key issue to address. Ridgway said that Cornwall was not alone and could learn from what other towns are doing. He spoke of some of the steps Cornwall organizations have already taken in establishing affordable housing and putting land into trust, and stressed the importance of the next 10-year plan for the town.

The audience questioned why local problems have lingered without resolution, including the traffic triangle in Cornwall Bridge, speeding, the overlapping septic and well systems in West Cornwall, and Rumsey Hall. Ridgway fielded the questions by explaining why action was or was not taken, often citing the advice of experts or the experience of other towns. Hurlburt called for more information and study on some issues, and in response to a question about the grand list suggested that a survey of landowners could identify a problem in accuracy.

Each candidate had a similar opinion on the role of the first selectman as a team leader and facilitator. The discussion ended with both candidates reiterating their messages—experience versus the need for change. Now the decision is up to the voters. —Louise Dunn

CCS Project Winding Down

With the newly renovated Cornwall Consolidated School nestled comfortably on the hill, and with students and townspeople alike enjoying the use of the new gym and improved facility, it appears that the Building Committee's job is done. It's not quite over, but with only a few loose ends to tidy and final bills to pay, a project overview and summary is in order.

In May 2002, when the Building Committee, comprised of Alec Frost, Suki Hatcher, Bill Hurlburt, John LaPorta, Thalia Scoville, and Jim Terrall, began working on the expansion and renovation of CCS, the Board of Education presented the committee with a "needs analysis." This document outlined program concerns and facilities improvements that the board identified as priorities to be addressed in the building project. In essence, it defined the committee's primary task. Some of these priorities included highly visible items such as the new gym, larger music and art rooms, a dedicated science classroom, an upgraded kitchen, and new parking lots. It also outlined other items such as additional and flexible teaching spaces, an improved internal communication system, and a new septic system. As the work draws to a close, the Building Committee is pleased

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NOVEMBER 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Inland Wetlands* 7:30 P.M. Town Offices	3 Bend & Stretch 9:30–10:30 A.M. UCC Parish House	4 Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Library	5 Art Opening 5–7 P.M. Outsiders Gallery †
6	7 Park & Rec. 7 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	8 ELECTION DAY VOTE 6 A.M.–8 P.M. Town Hall † Election Day Lunch 11:30 A.M.– 2 P.M. UCC Parish House † Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	9	10 Bend & Stretch 9:30–10:30 A.M. UCC Parish House	11 VETERAN'S DAY CCS Closed Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Library	12 Library Art Opening 3–6 P.M. † Ag Commission Potluck Supper 5:30 P.M. UCC Parish House †
13 Cornwall Conservation Trust Annual Meeting 2–4 P.M. Town Hall †	14 Blood Pressure Screening 3–4 P.M. UCC Parish House	15 Deadline: December Chronicle Copy P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Talk by Dr. Fitz 7:30 P.M. Library †	16 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M.	17 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M. 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	18 Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Library	19 Hoedown for the Hurricane 7–10 P.M. CCS Gym †
20	21 Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library †	22 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	23 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M. Thanksgiving Recess Begins Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	24 THANKSGIVING  Transfer Station Closed	25 Annual Talent Show 7:30 P.M. UCC Meeting House (see insert)	26
27	28 ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	29	30 Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	Every Week This Month: Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 P.M. UCC Meeting House Tuesdays: Teen/Adult Volleyball, 7–9 P.M. CCS Gym Wednesdays: Play Group, 10 A.M. Playscape/UCC; Stretch Class, 5 P.M. Town Hall; Tai Chi for Beginners, 7:30 P.M. CCS Gym Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room		

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

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to report that despite the tight budget, all of the needs and improvements in the needs analysis have been incorporated into the completed building project.

Equally important to both the Building Committee and to taxpayers is that the project concludes at or under budget. In addition to funds set aside to complete the cleanup and punch-list items, a balance of \$15,256 remains in the committee's contingency fund to cover any final change orders and last-minute expenses. Furthermore, a total of \$30,498 in bond interest has accrued over the three-and-a-half-year life of the project. This interest income is not allocated to the building project as part of its \$3.55 million budget and is therefore available to the town's general fund.

The full scope of this project in its entirety extends back well before 2002. When all is said and finally done, Cornwall can be truly proud of both its school and of all of its concerned and dedicated townspeople who had a part in the expansion and renovation of CCS.

—John LaPorta



Open for Business

Need a ride to the airport? A vet for your cat? A catered luncheon? A capable handyman? Raw milk, fresh eggs, or organic maple syrup? Or just some manure? You can get any or all of them from your fellow Cornwall residents. Just go to the Cornwall MarketPlace page on the Cornwall website (www.cornwallct.org).

The MarketPlace lists goods and services produced in Cornwall and directed to the needs of Cornwall residents. For example, Debra Tyler, the Hurlburts, and the Ridgways list locally grown farm products. Six other Cornwallians list their readiness to build, paint, or repair your house or barn. Hunt Williams will drive your car to the airport. Israel Fitch will do blacksmithing. And these are but some of the more than 40 commonplace and exotic services and products offered on the MarketPlace. You and your significant other can even get a civil union service in French!

Any resident of Cornwall who is a producer of goods or services—including anyone who lives nearby on the West Bank of Sharon and has a Cornwall zip code or phone exchange—can have a free listing. If you want one, include your name, a brief description of the goods or services you offer, phone number, and (if you'd like) e-mail address or website. No prices, please! It's up to the viewers and providers to negotiate any terms. To list, e-mail David Grossman

(david144@optonline.net) or Hendon Chubb (garlic@aya.yale.edu). Or mail your listing to MarketPlace, 221 Flat Rocks Road, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754.

And if you want to buy, come look at the MarketPlace page and see the many wonderful things our town bazaar offers.

—David A. Grossman

Civil Unions in Cornwall

How does Cornwall feel about civil unions? The first indications are positive, as might be expected from Cornwall's usual open and welcoming attitude on such matters.

By way of background, on October 1 Connecticut joined Vermont as the only other state to legalize civil unions between same-sex partners. A civil union grants couples the same legal rights and protections in the state as married couples have regarding real estate matters, financial disclosures, marital status-based discrimination, and other issues.

Cornwall Town Clerk Cheryl Evans was able to contact 19 of our 23 justices of the peace to see how they feel about performing civil unions. Seventeen said they would gladly perform the ceremonies; only two demurred.

One civil union ceremony has already been performed. On October 1, J.P. Lisa Lansing Simont united William Berry and Robert McDonough in a life partnership at their home on College Street. Lisa says "it was a time of great joy," and the celebratory bottle of Veuve Clicquot was splendid.

We wish William and Robert well.

—Stephen Senzer

Winter Fuel Assistance

The *Farmers' Almanac* is predicting a harsh, cold winter, and this—combined with the escalating price of fuel oil—may create hardship for some low-income families in Cornwall.

Cornwall Social Services Director Jill Gibbons will be taking applications for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program, which is administered by the Community Action Commission of Danbury (CACD). Federal and state funds pay for heating fuel for low-income households that meet the assistance criteria.

There are about 35 households in Cornwall that receive assistance. The maximum benefit is about \$1,000, which will buy 385 gallons of heating oil at today's price of \$2.60 per gallon. (Last year it would have bought 518 gallons at the average October 2004 cost of \$1.93.) If the price of oil continues to go up, the benefit will buy even less oil, possibly not enough to keep a family warm for the entire winter season.

There is a shortage of approved local vendors as well, which creates difficulty. The state contracted to pay the vendors for oil supplied to program participants at a rate based on the lowest spot price delivered at New Haven harbor, plus 25 cents. For smaller local vendors in the Northwest Corner this price cap was not high enough to cover their costs for delivered oil. And to add insult to injury, CACD was under-

staffed and sometimes took months to pay the invoices. So some vendors would not take on new customers; others backed out of the program altogether.

For the coming heating season, the state has now agreed to establish the price cap at the average harbor price plus 28 cents, and CACD has pledged to pay all invoices within 14 days of receipt. Social services directors are hoping these changes will help bring vendors back to the program.

For people who need help but do not qualify for state and/or federal aid, a last resort is the Northwest Corner Fuel Bank, organized by social services directors in our area. Their funds come from tax-deductible donations and go entirely to help people in need—no administrative costs. If you would like to help your neighbors by supporting the Fuel Bank, contact Jill Gibbons (672-2603) or send a check to the Northwest Corner Fuel Bank, P.O. Box 123, Sharon, CT 06069.

—Celia Senzer

Welcome

Woody Arthur to Charlie and Michelle West

Congratulations

William Berry and Robert McDonough

Brian Mollica and Megan Dolan

Thomas Hecter and Denise Covert

Darren Marshall and Mary Garrett

Land Transfers

Patrick Testa to Paul Biondino, property at 4 Frederick Drive for \$185,000.

Estate of Delphine F. Fenn to Catherine Pfeiffenberger, property at 63 Cemetery Hill Road for \$420,000.

Elizabeth B. Unger and Sarah B. Jenny to Lawrence Van Valkenburgh, 3 acres on Scoville Road for \$50,000.

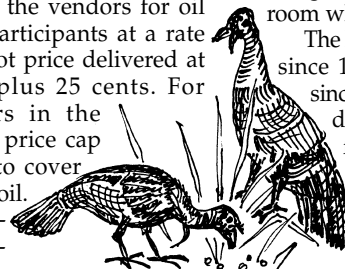
A House Divided

At 10 A.M. on Wednesday, October 12, Cornwall residents were enduring their 15th day of rain when a very loud crash occurred at 356 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike. A huge, hundred-year-old maple behind the Matland house fell on the roof, essentially cutting the house in half and causing considerable damage to the large sycamore tree on the front lawn. This extraordinary event caused someone who was driving by at that moment to stop his car and call 911 on his cell phone. Within 15 minutes, almost the entire Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department arrived, along with the fire marshal and building inspector, and immediately took matters in hand.

They had been greeted by a very grateful Mrs. Matland, who had miraculously escaped injury because the maple tree fell through the roof and demolished the dining room while she was in her office.

The Matland house has been in the family since 1946, and Millicent has lived there since 1977. Although there is much to be done to repair the damage, it is comforting to know that come spring, the house will return to its old self, and her beautiful gardens will once again be on display for us to admire as we pass by.

—Carla Bigelow



Cornwall 05753

Now and then the Cornwall, CT 06753 Town Office receives an envelope addressed to the Tax Collector in Cornwall, VT 05753. We have always rerouted the mail. They were like messages in a bottle pleading for a closer look.

Turns out our Town Office counterpart—she does all our jobs—Susan Johnson in Cornwall, VT, has been returning our mail over the years. When I saw her on a hot August Friday, we agreed it was pretty weird about the zip codes. And there's more.

Cornwall, VT, was settled in 1761 by families from Litchfield County, CT, including Cornwall—Golds, Hurlburts, and others who are buried beside the old Congregational (now UCC) Church in the center of town. What got them there is unclear, but it's interesting to consider that the French and Indian War (1756–1763) enlisted Cornwall men who fought in Vermont, and a rainless summer in 1761 might have caused the migration north.

The big town office building (1882) is across Vermont Route 30, big enough to house both the Cornwall Free Library and the Historical Society. Next door is an abandoned general store that the Historical Society hopes to restore.

The new land-use planning map in the town hall, near the info for Lyme disease, turned up a covered bridge in the southeast corner of town. Its maintenance is shared with next-door Salisbury, VT. There's a West Cornwall and, up Route 30, the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department.

The Cornwall Free Library gets \$1,500 from the town. The trustees recently asked for \$3,000 on the promise that—barring floods, fires, or general devastation—they wouldn't need any more. This news is from the Town Report for 2004, which was peppered with names like Calhoun, Foote, Frost, Robbins, and O'Dell.

The list of town officers includes a weigher of coal who presides over the municipal scale. There hasn't been such a scale in Cornwall or any other Vermont municipality for many years, but Lachlan Field is holding down the job in case something changes. The town has an energy coordinator who works on a town-wide energy plan and conducts energy audits. That seems like a good idea. Beats waiting for coal to come back.

Three fence viewers make sure the animals stay put. It was nice to see so many Holsteins again against the green, green fields. The cows and the 1,200 human residents of Cornwall can see both the Adirondacks and the Green Mountains on most days.

The place seems less complicated than our Cornwall, perhaps because the State of Vermont is not as demanding as Connecticut toward its towns. Driving down Route 30, it's pretty clear why the earliest settler families stopped there and founded another Cornwall. It might have been the end of the road in 1761, but it is very beautiful and like the hills of home.

—Lisa Lansing Simont

Letters to the Chronicle

COMMITMENT TO AGRICULTURE

The Ag Fair is a great demonstration of Cornwall's continuing commitment to agriculture; it is also a reminder of the generosity of its citizens.

The Chapel of All Saints (Episcopal) would like to thank all the folks who purchased some of the more than 300 jars of local produce we preserved and sold at the fair. All the proceeds, \$2,126, will be given to aid Gulf Coast victims.

We also appreciate the fact that Fred and Steve will be collecting 8-oz. and pint-size canning jars at the Transfer Station for us. They will be used for next year's jams, salsa, pickles, and relish.

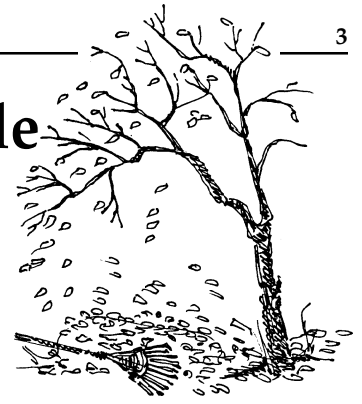
—Joanne P. Wojtusiak
Treasurer, Chapel of All Saints

PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

There is whining from time to time that the town does nothing for our senior citizens, elderly, whatever.

On the other hand, on September 23 our very capable Social Services Director, Jill Gibbons, planned an excellent "Medication Management Program," as mentioned in the September Chronicle, on posters in all our post offices, and in the Lakeville Journal. Ursula Dinneen and I were the only ones to attend. The Chronicle stated "there must be 20 attendees" for these programs (Western CT Agency on Aging).

It was a very interesting program. Bob Stack, R.Ph., is a compounding pharmacist; compounding prescriptions, apparently as the legendary Dr. Brad Walker did here in his office in Cornwall Plains, thereby avoiding unnecessary ingre-



dients, advertising, commercial exploitation, etc. Bob Stack, located in the new Kent Pharmacy, telephone and fax (860) 927-0015, e-mail bobsspg@hotmail.com, indicated he would welcome us all.

The second of Jill's programs, "New Medicare Part D," on September 27, was very well attended, also very interesting.

Many thanks to Jill for all her work with the senior citizens in the Town of Cornwall.

—Ann Peterson

SUPPORT FOR THE DUNNS

In response to the September letter written by Earl Brecher on our behalf, we wish to thank all the people who wrote letters of support, as well as those who phoned and who met us in person in town.

The willingness to attest to the absence of workers and lack of work most days on the gas spill site will be a favorable factor in reducing the horrendous costs by the contractor. We hope.

Special thanks for the support and encouragement given by Earl Brecher and First Selectman Gordon Ridgway and for help given by Joyce Hart.

—Liane Dunn, Monte Dunn

Town Offices in E-Upgrade

The Cornwall Town Offices have finally entered the electronic age with the installation of modems, routers, and repeaters to give everyone access to the internet and e-mail. With high-speed broadband service provided by Cablevision, and with both hard-wire and wireless capability, each of the offices can now communicate with state offices and with the public at large.

Previous difficulties in transmitting and receiving large files to and from the state should now be a thing of the past. In addition, individuals can now communicate with the Town Offices by e-mail, but a cautionary note should be sounded: not all of the offices are comfortable with e-mail and may not monitor or respond. Further, documents that require a signature must still be filed in person.

Having said all of that, here are the Town of Cornwall e-mail addresses, all to be followed by "@optonline.net": cwlfinance, cwlassessor, cwltaxes, cwltownclerk, cwselectmen, cwllanduse, cwlprobate, cwlsoervices. It would be best to phone the recipients to advise them that you're sending them an e-mail message.

—Stephen Senzer

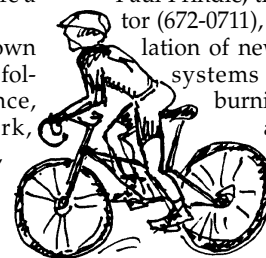
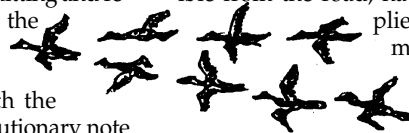
Cold-Weather Checklist

Cornwall's weather has begun its annual turn from hot/dry to cold/wet. The early-October, nine-inch deluge has brought some emergencies, including car accidents and falling trees.

Now is the time to check for winter preparedness. Simple steps that can make a difference include: changing batteries in smoke detectors; making sure 911 numbers are visible from the road; having emergency supplies of food, water, heat, medicines, and radios on hand; checking tires for good tread; and discussing emergency numbers and plans with family members.

Paul Prindle, the town's building inspector (672-0711), should inspect any installation of new supplementary heating systems such as wood- or coal-burning stoves. His office hours are 7:30 to 8:30 A.M. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The Selectmen's Office (672-4959) has
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information about assistance for paying for heating fuel, Red Cross household emergency planning guides, and a call list for those who wish to be checked on during storms.

—Gordon Ridgway

Events & Announcements

Cornwall Conservation Trust's annual meeting will take place on Sunday, November 13, from 2 to 4 P.M. at the Town Hall. The guest speaker is Peter Cooper, an attorney who has worked on land preservation issues throughout Connecticut for 40 years. The topic is "Conservation Easements: Their Benefits and Limitations." Refreshments will be served. All are welcome. For more information call Emilie Pryor at 672-4226.

Art in Cornwall: Beginning November 1, the Cornwall Free Library will show 268 landscape watercolors, the fruits of a year-long project by Ellen Moon. A reception will be held Saturday, November 12, from 3 to 6 P.M. Ray Fontaine's model of St. Bridget's Church will be displayed in the glass case.

The Outsiders Gallery has a show entitled *Assemblages* opening Saturday, November 5, with a reception from 5 to 7 P.M. On display will be hand-stitched quilts by Joanne Taylor, needlepoint assemblages by David Eugene Bell, and angel sculptures by Penny Campbell. The show runs through November.

Also through November, the National Iron Bank will show works by Sharon resident Stefanie Lindahl.

Man's Sterling Silver Ring found at the Transfer Station on Tuesday, October 11, in the cardboard and newspaper container. Call Fred or Steve at 672-4079.

The 2005 Talent Show will take place on Friday, November 25, at 7:30 P.M. at UCC. (See insert in this issue.)



Vote November 8: The polls will be open from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. at the Town Hall, 24 Pine Street, in Cornwall Village. Be sure to bring identification. Electors voting by absentee ballot are reminded to return their ballots at once, if they have not already done so. Ballots received after Election Day will not be counted.

Eat Then Vote or Vote Then Eat: Election Day Soup and Bread Lunch at the UCC Parish House, 11:30 A.M. to 2 P.M. Donations to benefit Cornwall Food Pantry.

Hoedown for the Hurricane: Sponsored by the CCS eighth-grade class, on Saturday, November 19, from 7 to 10 P.M. at the CCS gym. Suggested donation: \$7 adults; \$3 kids. Proceeds will go to hurricane relief and the CCS eighth-grade class trip. Come for the company, traditional dances called by nationally renowned caller/teacher Paul Rosenberg, locally renowned musicians Homegrown Band, and refreshments. Featuring beginner lessons and family-friendly fun.

Children's Book Week (November 14-20): The Library will host a talk by Dr. Kathleen Fitzgibbons, principal of CCS, entitled "The Joy of Children's Literature: Making Connections" on Tuesday, November 15, at 7:30 P.M. In surveying children's books and discussing some of her favorite authors and illustrators, Dr. "Fitz" will introduce ways to help children find pleasure in becoming readers. Dr. Fitzgibbons' doctorate focused on children's literature, and she taught graduate-level courses at Connecticut College in this field.

Cornwall Writers Share Their Work: Now, on a table in the southwest corner of the Library near the window, is the Writers' Box, a place for Cornwall writers (ages 14 and up) to share their unpublished writings—poetry, stories, articles, and essays.

Writings should be typed (double-spaced) or printed and total no more than 30 pages. Contributors should place file folders with copies of their work in the alphabetized collection, with the author's name clearly printed on the tabs of the folders. Readers will be allowed to take folders out of the library overnight or for a weekend and may write helpful comments (praise, suggestions for improvement, etc.) on the inside of the folders, along with their names.

All folders in the Writers' Box are to be removed by their writers after six weeks to make way for other contributions.

Questions? Call Earl Brecher (672-6939) or Ken Keskinen (672-6486).

The 1854 Map of Cornwall, showing locations of houses, etchings of notable buildings, the 15 school districts, and topographic features, has been reproduced in color in a 16 x 20 inch format suitable for framing. This and the lithograph print of West Cornwall by Ruth Gannett are for sale for the benefit of the Cornwall Historical Society. The map is \$50, the print \$100. Call 672-6191 or 672-0135 to purchase and for information.



The Cornwall Democratic Town Committee will hold a meeting on Monday, November 21, at 7:30 P.M. at the Library. Featured guest will be State Senator Chris Murphy, the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination to run against Nancy Johnson in the 5th Congressional District in 2006. All registered Democrats are invited to attend.

A Christmas Fair will be held Saturday, December 3, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. at UCC. In the Parish House, there will be crafts by local artists, evergreen wreaths and decorations, and a room for children to shop for and wrap presents for the family. A soup-and-sandwich lunch and holiday foods will be available in the Day Room. To reserve wreaths, call Joan Edler by December 2 at 672-6789.

The Cornwall Ag Commission invites everyone to a potluck supper on Saturday, November 12, at 5:30 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. The commission will provide a ham, turkey, and drinks. Bring your favorite dish and your friends and enjoy. Donations will be accepted. Questions? Call Bill Dinneen at 672-6740.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

NOVEMBER ISSUE

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DECEMBER ISSUE

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