

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 17 : NUMBER 8 SEPTEMBER 2007



Democratic Primary Set for September 11

What appeared would be a routine municipal election after the July caucuses now looks like it will offer some excitement to Cornwall voters.

In early August, Richard Griggs announced on the Cornwall Community Network that he would like to run for selectman and quickly gathered the required number of signatures to compel a Democratic primary against incumbent Richard Bramley.

Present and former town clerks could not recall any previous primary for a local office. Town Clerk Vera Dinneen and Democratic Registrar Jayne Ridgway estimate the cost of the primary at about \$1,500, which will come out of the election line items in the registrars' and town clerk's budgets.

Democratic Chair Harriette Dorsen said, "The Democratic Town Committee and caucus nominated Richard Bramley without dissent. I'm disappointed that Richard Griggs did not follow the usual process by not coming to the Town Committee or public caucus and chose to force a primary instead."

When asked why he was not at the caucus, Griggs responded, "It was not well publicized, and I was busy getting the farm market going. This was the only way I could get on the ballot without changing my party status, which would have been difficult."

Griggs told the *Chronicle* that he was running "partly because my family has been an integral part of Cornwall since the 1700s, and I want to carry on the tradition. I think I can contribute in areas that are overlooked, such as helping business and improving the Town Beach."

When asked for comment, Richard Bramley said he wants to run on the good things the selectmen have accomplished in the last two years: "We work together well, and I'm pleased that we've been able to facilitate the responsible development of large properties such as the Lorch Farm and the Merz land and give priority to affordable housing."

In a further development, Jean Bouteiller will run as a petitioning Republican candidate for tax collector, opposing Democrat Lynn Cheney. Since the Republicans had not nominated a candidate for this office, no primary was needed.

Also on the Republican line, Virginia Potter withdrew as candidate for Zoning Board of Appeals, because it would preclude her working at the polls as registrar of voters. She is not being replaced on the ticket.

And in a final bit of excitement, the new Optical Scan electronic voting machines will make their major debut at the primary election. Voters will fill out a paper ballot in a pri-

vate area and simply feed it into a slot on a scanning and counting machine. Poll hours are 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. on Tuesday, September 11.

—Ed Ferman and Cheryl Evans

CCS on August 18

Two weeks before the first day of school on September 4, I walked through the front door of CCS. The clean halls and walls sparkled with new paint. On one wall was a huge mural depicting prehistoric animals painted by last year's sixth grade. Several teachers nodded as I made my way to interview Dr. Fitzgibbons, our CCS principal. We settled down in her small office, and she began by describing her new staff members.

Alison Bryant is the new kindergarten teacher. She is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University with an M.A. in reading. This will be her ninth year teaching primary school children. She and her husband live at Camp Sloane YMCA in Lakeville with their two border collies. She plans to send home a weekly newsletter called *The Lilypad* so that both parents and children will stay informed about what is happening in her class.

Diane Dupuis, a graduate of the National Academy of Design, is an accomplished portrait and landscape painter who lives in New Preston. As artist-in-residence, she will be teaching at the school three days a week.

(continued on page 2)

SEPTEMBER 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 P.M. Vill. Mtng. Hse.; Men's Adult Basketball , 6:30 P.M. CCS Gym Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7 P.M. CCS Gym Wednesdays: Bend & Stretch Class, 9:30 A.M. UCC; Stretch Class , 5 P.M. Town Hall; Women's Adult Basketball , 6:30 P.M. CCS; Tai Chi , 7 P.M. CCS Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. St. Peter's, call Debra Tyler 672-0229 to confirm Saturdays: West Cornwall Farmers' Market, 9 A.M.-1 P.M., Opposite P.O. Sundays: Meditation Group, 1-2 P.M. Debra Tyler 672-0229 for location						1 Keeping a Family Cow 10 A.M.-1 P.M. Local Farm †
2	3 LABOR DAY	4 CCS Opens Park & Rec. 7 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Hall				8 Cornwall Ag Fair 11 A.M.-4 P.M. Village Green (See Insert.) Macbeth Auditions 4:30-6:30 P.M. Town Hall
9 Macbeth Auditions 4:30-6:30 P.M. Town Hall	10 Blood Pressure Screening Noon-1 P.M. UCC Parish House † Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS	11 Dem. Primary 6 A.M.-8 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library P&Z Cochran Hearing 7:30 P.M. CCS (p.3)			13 ROSH HASHANAH	15 Deadline: October Chronicle Copy Bd. of Assessment Appeals 9:30-11 A.M. Town Office †
16 Hollaender Chamber Ensemble 4 P.M. UCC †	17 Democratic Town Committee 7:30 P.M. Library	18 Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30-6:15 P.M. UCC Parish House † Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall			21	22 YOM KIPPUR Catherine Noren Photos Reception 4-6 P.M. Library †
23 AUTUMN BEGINS	24	25 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	26 Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	27 Enjoying Poetry TLC Class 10 A.M.-noon Library † Family Book Discussion 4-5 P.M. Library †	28 Story Hour 1:15 Library † Family Round Sing 7:30 P.M. Local Farm †	29 Gunn Brook Autumnfest Horse Show 9 A.M. †
30						

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued from page 1)

A new school counselor, Anne Dealy, will join the staff part-time.

As she has in the past, Dr. Fitz will send a newsletter home once a week.

Parents will be invited to a meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 27, where she will discuss a theme close to her heart: the value of honesty, good manners, and self-discipline.

All of us, young and old, have much to look forward to as we hear more about the good happenings at CCS in 2007 and 2008.

—Carla Bigelow

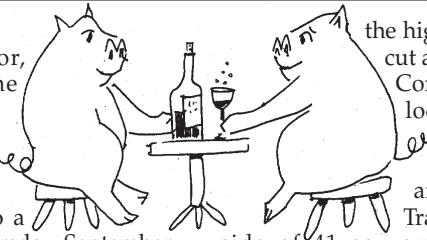
Local Hikes, Part Two

A portion of the beautiful Mohawk Trail connects Cornwall Bridge and Cornwall Village. Each end of this 5.6-mile (three hours) section rises steeply before continuing over Coltsfoot Mountain. The trail is marked with blue blazes. One can park either at the southwest corner of Hubbard Field in Cornwall Village or at the hikers' parking lot off Route 4 just east of Baird's (the site of the 1833-1897 Cornwall Bridge Iron Company furnace). From this starting point, walk toward Baird's, then up Dark Entry Road until you reach the trailhead. Dropping off some of the party at this point (there is no parking here) can save them seven-tenths of a mile and 350 feet of elevation climb.

The trail soon crosses Bonney Brook and follows it up through a ravine with large hemlocks and white pines up past many pools and small waterfalls. The biggest fall is just below an old millpond dam. Soon after crossing Bonney Brook a second time, the trail crosses an old logging road. You have now gained another three-quarters of a mile and 300 feet. The next three miles take one gently up over Coltsfoot Mountain through mixed forest with at least one fine viewpoint toward Mohawk. Then descend steeply toward Cornwall Village. The trail can be somewhat overgrown in the section between the village and Coltsfoot.

In nearby Falls Village there's a short, steep, and gratifying section of the Mohawk Trail to the top of Lookout Mountain. Park your car at the Mountainside Restaurant or along Johnson Road where it intersects with Route 7. Look for the trail marked by a blue blaze off Johnson Road and follow those blue blazes up along the hillside. This trail has some very steep sections as well as a rocky scramble, so take care; it's not recommended for the weak-kneed. After about 20 minutes you will come to the first hilltop, which widens out into a relatively flat forest. Stay on the blue trail for a few more minutes as it dips down and then up again and out onto a big, south-facing rock. The views are spectacular and include a wonderful vista of the Housatonic River Valley heading south. Round-trip timing at an easy pace is 40 minutes.

All enthusiastic hikers should reach the summit of Bear Mountain, as it represents



the highest point in Connecticut and is a close drive from Cornwall. The trailhead is located on Route 41, 3.2

miles north of Salisbury. The parking

area for Undermountain Trail is located on the left

side of 41 as you drive north toward Sheffield. Take a good look at the map (on a prominent kiosk) to orient yourself, and be prepared for a long hike (water and snacks recommended). To reach the top takes about an hour and a half at a steady pace. The Appalachian Trail winds along the ridgeline, so you will be walking on the AT for a good section of the high trail. One nice aspect of this hike is experiencing the changing habitats and vegetation as you rise in elevation. The summit of Bear Mountain is 2,350 feet, and you can see for miles and miles in every direction.

The map of Cornwall and Regional Trails prepared by Dave Colbert is now available at the Town Hall and the Library.

—Emilie Pryor and Dave Colbert

Preserving Memories

I knew and admired Ted Gold and Frank and Polly Calhoun. I wish that someone had talked to them about their stories and written them down, but it's too late now. Cornwall has many other seniors who have meant a lot to the town, and Brenda Underwood and the other members of the Cornwall Website Committee are determined that this kind of loss won't happen again.

Brenda's first interview, in 2005, was with Bill Beecher; since then she has posted 12 life stories on the People of Cornwall page of the Cornwall website, www.cornwallct.org/people.html.

Bill Beecher was a self-taught artist. He specialized in *trompe-l'œil*, which is a kind of painting so realistic that the viewer can imagine that he's looking not at a painting but at the object itself. "I didn't invent it," Bill told Brenda. "I'm just the best at it."

From Brenda's piece on Ann Peterson: "As soon as I graduated and came home from college my father said, 'Your lease will be up here in September.'" And Ann replied, "My lease will be up here tomorrow, when I move to Washington, D.C."

From Marc Simont: "When you contemplate that God created the earth, the mountains, the oceans, the stars, and the heavens in the first six days, it is not so strange that He was looking forward to Sunday to rest. This was a misstep on His part, but nobody is perfect. Why did He wait until the last day to create his masterpiece—man? He should have done that first. He even forgot about woman. He ran out of material and had to get a rib from Adam."

Brenda came to the United States from her native Australia in 1966 and arrived in Cornwall with her husband Graham five years ago. One of the interesting stories in Brenda's own life was driving around the

world with Graham in a Volkswagen camper in 1974-1975. "Did you have adventures?" I asked her. "Oh, minor things. We were held up a couple of times."

Check the website for all 13 full profiles. They are great reading. (The Website Committee plans to print them all and have them available at the Library for people who are not computer or Internet comfortable.)

—Hendon Chubb

Welcome

Cameron Michael Hilario
to Catherine Silvestri and Bradley Hilario
Marisin Fath to Jenny and Colin McLain
Jack Phillip to Jennifer and John Nestler
Louisiana Rose to Jennifer and Jonathan Ellis
James Minh Quan to Thomas Levine
Joshua DeForest Benjamin
to Isabelle and DeForest Benjamin, Jr.

Good-Bye to a Friend

Stephen G. Clarke

Congratulations

Jennifer Bower Brebbia and Adam Harry Rankin
Julia Ann Schillinger and Denis Nash
Natasha D. Weiner and Julian David Castaneda
Karin Heaney and Chris Olsen, Jr.
Ben Waller and Elizabeth Ruksznis

Land Transfers

Robert M. Higgins to Giuseppe C. Basili and Dean A. Ketchum, land and buildings thereon at 77 Hollenbeck Road for \$275,000.
Bernice H. Merz to Cornwall Housing Corp., 10.153 acres on Kent Road and Dark Entry Road for \$250,000.
Roger Jackson to Richard T. Crouch and Rebekah M. Knox, 1.407 acres on Kent Road for \$80,000.
Irving F. Robbins and Cynthia P. Robbins to Christian D. Zenk, land and buildings thereon at 43 Town Street for \$458,500.

To Africa with Love

The mighty members of the CCS third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade Jane Goodall Roots & Shoots service organization devoted many after-school hours during the past year making, baking, and selling their handiwork at the Christmas Fair and the school concerts. The sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders, under the guidance of CCS world language teacher Jane Hanley, also pitched in, hosting a benefit concert last spring with the gospel group Salt and Pepper.

In June, two days after school let out for the year, Jane and I boarded a plane, our baggage brimming with Braille books, folding walking sticks, and games and puzzles purchased with the money our CCS kids had raised. With backpacks crammed with big metal Brailers, medicines, vitamins, and boom boxes, we scarcely had room for a change of clothes.

Our destination was the Mekele Blind School, a forgotten compound that houses 85 students ages 8 to 15, on the outskirts of that dry and dusty Ethiopian city, site of the worst of

NO
VACANCY



the famine of the mid-1980s. We were part of a team of eight volunteers from the United States and Ireland.

The blind children greeted us with eager smiles and handshakes. We were all struck with the happiness that abounded in a community so lacking in material comforts. The boys were especially forthcoming with questions—What is your name? What are your hobbies?—while the girls seemed shy and could always be found in groups quietly chatting.

Our days were spent haggling with street vendors to replace worn materials from cooking pots to mattresses and putting the finishing touches on the new clinic/library building that our group had funded. Some of the partially sighted students were able to help.

Even though the Mekele blind students will never see this wonderful turquoise concrete structure, their pride and excitement was evident. Our Cornwall community should be gratified that our children have been able to reach out and extend a helpful hand of friendship to these less fortunate Ethiopian children. —Tricia Collins

Rezoning Hearing Continued

The owners of the Berkshire Country Store have petitioned the Planning and Zoning Commission to rezone their five-acre-plus lot at the intersection of Routes 4 and 128 to a "general business zone." The business currently operates in a residential zone with a special permit issued by P&Z in 1969. It will take such a change to enable Richard and Beth Cochran to expand their business.

The public hearing on August 14 was very well attended, indicating the interest and importance of possible zoning changes to Cornwallians. The hearing will be reconvened on Tuesday, September 11, at 7:30 P.M. at CCS to allow an opportunity for more public input. —Celia Senzer

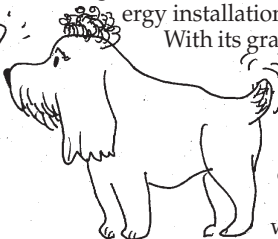
The Twenty-Percent Solution

On February 5, 2007, the Town of Cornwall passed a resolution committing the town to the "20 Percent by 2010" campaign. (By the year 2010, the town's municipal facilities will obtain 20 percent of their energy needs from clean, renewable sources.)

Under this resolution, an Energy Task Force was created to oversee the progress of the town's commitment. The task force's first project is to sign up 87 households (10 percent of all households). As of mid-August, 60 households had committed to receiving energy from renewable sources. When we reach our goal, the town will be eligible for grants. We are looking into options: clean energy installations and/or education.

With its grant money, Norfolk set up a school program to engage children in projects having to do with renewable energy and energy conservation.

Another reward when we reach our goal is a solar



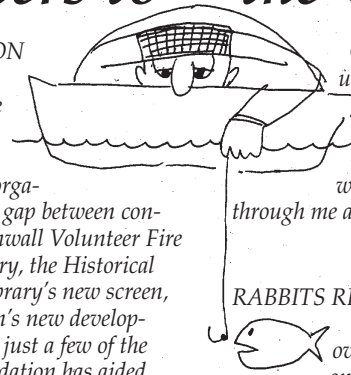
Letters to the Chronicle

CORNWALL FOUNDATION REACHES GOAL

For the last few years, the Cornwall Foundation has been providing small grants to Cornwall's not-for-profit organizations, helping bridge the gap between concept and execution. The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department's 75th anniversary, the Historical Society's renovations, the Library's new screen, and the Housing Corporation's new development at Cornwall Bridge are just a few of the recent projects that the Foundation has aided.

This summer, the Cornwall community came together to help the Cornwall Foundation with a project of its own: meeting a Matching Grant from the Community Fund of Northwest CT. Thanks to the efforts of donors in town, the Cornwall Foundation raised enough money to capture \$20,000 in additional funds.

We're still the new kid in town, but everyone likes a kid who lends a hand when it's needed. The matching grant money will allow us to be all that more helpful.



Cornwall-based not-for-profits are urged to apply. Information about the Cornwall Foundation's mission and grant applications can be found at www.cornwallfoundation.org or through me at 672-6637.

—Paul Baren, President

RABBITS REDUX

Our lawn and garden have been overrun this year with rabbits. Our one have-a-heart trap cannot keep up with this ever-expanding brood. I purchased a ridiculously expensive and horribly smelly product called Liquid Fence. I promptly spilled it on my hands and could not get the smell off. I've been called a skunk a few times in my life, but this was literally true. I then sprayed some flowers. I'm not sure if it worked on the rabbits, but when the wind shifted, the smell drove us from our porch. To paraphrase the NY Yankees broadcaster: "The rabbits win! The rabbits win!"

—Jim Fishman

panel for the school. Please sign up by calling Katie Freygang at 672-6010.

—Anne and John Zinsser

Chronicle to Publish Special Issue

The biggest business in town may be nonprofits, and the *Chronicle* will look at the subject in detail in a special issue to be published in mid-September.

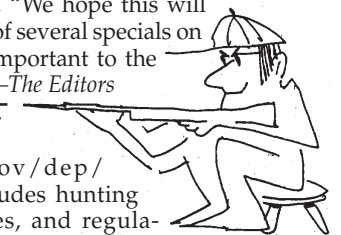
Hunting and Trapping Schedule, Fall 2007

- Small Game
Species and dates vary. September 1–September 30 and October 21–December 30.
- Turkey, Archery
September 15–November 13, state and private lands. December 19–31, landowner.
- Turkey, Firearms
October 6–October 31.
- Deer, Archery
September 15–November 13, and December 19–31, state lands. September 15–December 31, state bow hunting areas only. September 15–November 13, and December 5–December 31, private lands Cornwall zone.
- Deer, Firearms
November 14–December 4, zones and dates vary. Shotguns, state and private lands; rifles, private lands only. November 1–December 31, shotguns and rifles, landowner only. Muzzleloader, December 5–December 18.
- Trapping
Twelve species may be trapped from November 4 to December 31. Dates and limits vary by species.

Sundays: No hunting.
Information: Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Guide is available online at

The issue, dated Fall 2007, will examine Cornwall nonprofits, volunteerism in town government, and thoughtful ways to give. Included will be a comprehensive listing of Cornwall nonprofits.

"It's tough to get into any subject in depth in our regular format," said the *Chronicle's* Ed Ferman. "We hope this will be the first of several specials on questions important to the town." —The Editors



www.ct.gov/dep/ site. It includes hunting hours, rules, and regulations. Or call the DEP Wild-life Division at (860) 424-3011 for a guide.

Safety: Wear orange. If you will be out alone, let somebody know where you will be. Hikers, if you see someone hunting, call out to identify your location. Bikers, attach a bell to your bike to warn of your approach. Check yourself for ticks!

Sightings: The DEP Wildlife Division keeps track of sightings of bobcat, black bear, fisher, and moose. If you see one of these species please contact the DEP at (860) 675-8130. You will be asked the date, time, and exact location of your sighting.

Hunters for the Hungry: This program allows hunters to donate their game to charitable food organizations. For information call Connecticut Food Bank at (203) 469-5000.

Rabies: Rabies is a disease caused by a virus affecting the central nervous system. Left untreated, rabies is almost always fatal. Please download a hunting guide to read more. The guide offers information on how to reduce exposure to rabies and what to do if you or your pets are exposed. —Jim Levy

Events & Announcements

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet on Saturday, September 15, at the Town Offices from 9:30 to 11 A.M. to hear appeals on automobile tax assessments from the Grand List of 2007. No appointment is necessary.

Cornwall Captured Competition: Now that the beautiful autumn season is approaching, remember to take photos of your favorite places in Cornwall. There will be an exhibit at the Library in November showcasing these pictures. Young and old, professional or amateur are encouraged to participate. Photos may be black and white or color in an 8" x 10" unframed format. You may submit up to five entries. Each picture must have a separate entry form that will be available at the Library. For information contact Gail Jacobson at gailjacobson@mindspring.com, or 672-6639.

Motherhouse Activities: Keeping a Family Cow workshop on Saturday, September 1, from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. at Local Farm. Fee: \$35 per person or \$50 per family of up to four. Pre-registration necessary; call Debra Tyler at 672-0229.

Family Round Sing on Friday, September 28, at 7:30 P.M. at Local Farm. For more information call Debra at 672-0229.

Fifty-two Illegal Dogs live in Cornwall. At least that's the number of home pets whose owners haven't obtained an up-to-date license. Some of them have been unlicensed for years; the \$1/month late fee can really add up, so owners of unlicensed dogs take notice. The good news is that there are 274 licensed dogs.



Cool Nights

The days draw in and the nights promise frost, but that shouldn't stop you from lifting your pen and writing a nice comfy check to the *Chronicle*. It will warm your heart and our bank account. Thank you!

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Free Library, Nancy Daubenspeck's exhibit, *Summer Lawns*, will continue through September 15. Beginning September 18, Catherine Noren will show *Things Change*, photographs of details from the landscape. An artist's reception will be held on Saturday, September 22, from 4 to 6 P.M.

The Insiders/Outsiders Gallery will continue to exhibit the group show *Texture & Testimonial* through September.

M. I. Cake's collages, entitled *Action and Repose*, will continue at the Wish House through September.

Also through September, the National Iron Bank will exhibit Puerto Rican graphic art from a private collection.

Bend & Stretch classes will begin on Wednesday, September 5, for six sessions, ending October 10. The classes are offered by Ruthellen Griffin and sponsored by the Visiting Nurse Association and will be held at UCC from 9:30 to 10:30 A.M. All are welcome.

At the Library: *Book Voyagers*, a family book discussion series, will start on Thursday, September 20, from 4 to 5 P.M. This is a free program produced by the Connecticut Humanities Council to encourage reading and talking about picture books with children ages five to ten and their parents or caregivers. Judy Sullivan, a children's literature professor from Western Connecticut State University, is the discussion leader. The series runs for four weeks and features theme-based, outstanding books that will be available for participants to read before each session. Visit the Library or call 672-6874 to sign up and check out the books.

Story Hour for ages three to five begins Friday, September 28, from 1:15 to 2:15 P.M. Kindergartners may take the bus from Cornwall Consolidated School. Stories, activities, and a snack.

Memoir-Writing Class with Betty Krasne starting Friday, September 7, from 9:30 to 11 A.M. for eight sessions, excluding September 21. The fee is \$80. Call the Library at 672-6874 to sign up for one of the four remaining spaces.

Enjoying Poetry with Chris Webber on Thursdays, September 20 through November 8, 10 A.M. to noon. This is a Taconic Learning Center class. TLC membership is \$60 and is tax deductible. Members may attend as many courses as they like. Call 435-2922 to join TLC and register for this class.

The Annual Cornwall Agricultural Fair will take place on Saturday, September 9, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M., on the Town Green. (See insert.)

The Park and Recreation Commission will meet on Tuesday, September 4, at 7 P.M. at the CCS library.

Gunn Brook Farm Autumnfest Horse Show will be held on Saturday, September 29, at 9 A.M. sharp. There will be classes for English and Western riders. Call Marianne Pirotta at 672-0203 for information. Spectators are welcome.

Hollaender Chamber Ensemble will perform at UCC on Sunday, September 16, at 4 P.M. This fifth annual concert features piano trios by Haydn, Beethoven, and Joachim Raff. Tickets are \$20, or \$15 for seniors. Free for children under 16 accompanied by an adult.

Red Cross Blood Drive will be held in the UCC Parish House on Tuesday, September 18, from 1:30 to 6:15 P.M. To register please call the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE LIFE or Pat Blakey at 672-6516. Walk-ins will be taken as quickly as the schedule permits.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Adam Van Doren, Illustrations
Celia and Stephen Senzer, Editors

OCTOBER ISSUE

Barbara Gold and Franny Taliaferro, Editors
CandBGold@cs.com

MANAGING EDITOR Tom Bechtle

CALENDAR EDITOR Anne Baren

CIRCULATION Nan and John Bevans,
Lucy and Jack Kling

DIRECTORS

John Miller PRESIDENT • Edward Ferman VICE PRESIDENT
Cheryl Evans SECRETARY • Audrey Ferman TREASURER
Anne Baren • Hendon Chubb • Anne Kosciusko • Sandy Neubauer
Ginny and Bob Potter • Lisa Lansing Simont • Franny Taliaferro
Tom Bevans (1912-2003) FOUNDER

THE CHRONICLE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

We hope you enjoy this on-line edition of the *Cornwall Chronicle*. Remember that all our revenues come from readers like you, and we need your help to continue producing this electronic edition along with the print edition. If your contribution is \$10 or more, we'd be glad to mail the print edition to any out-of-town address. Please mail your tax deductible gifts to: Cornwall Chronicle Inc. 143 Cream Hill Rd., West Cornwall, CT 06796. Comments, letters and news may be e-mailed to the publishers at: elfhill@a.ol.com