



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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Cool Stuff

Supply side economics in sports and how it works has been demonstrated long before the baseball movie *Field of Dreams* produced its often-quoted aphorism, "If you build it, they will come." Although, in the real world, simply constructing a playground might not be good enough, as the owner of Glacier Ridge Snow Tubing in upstate New York found out. If you don't have ample snow for the season and can't make sufficient amounts, you might be forced to unbuild and shut the facility down.

Fortunately, at least, the tubes in question did not go to waste. All those blue and red rubber donuts with their fancy advertising logos for places and services from afar are now in Cornwall. Here they are put to great use on a newly remolded stretch of real estate at the bottom of Mohawk Mountain. The ski area, where good old Walt Schoenknecht put the win into Cornwall's winters when he cleared the first trails and became a pioneer in artificial snow making, is sliding high.

The new attraction has already made people come to Great Hollow. They are not necessarily interested in skiing or snowboarding, but in the fun experience of an uncontrollable spin down the hill at exhilarating speeds (while safely kept in snow-made lanes shaped like troughs to stay on the straight and narrow).

The tubes are enhanced by two additional elements that make the spectacle a little more spectacular. There is a slow-moving conveyor belt on the side that gets tubers up to the top of the hill again, so they don't need to walk and schlepp their equipment. And there are quite a few staff members ready to explain (and watch over) proper etiquette, which includes a specific, nonnegotiable requirement. You need to be at least 42 inches tall to hitch yourself to a ride. Detailed information: mohawkmntn.com/lessons/lift-lesson-and-rental-packages/snow-tubing/tubing/.

By the way, there is also one strict prerequisite to one other Cornwall winter sports attraction. If you like to participate in the skating hour every Saturday at 7 P.M. at the indoor hockey arena at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville you need to bring your own skates, plus a cap to protect your head, just in case you hit the surface, which occasionally happens. On the other hand, you do not need to bring money. Somebody must have thought: If they bill it, you won't come. The secret: the town budget has been covering the cost of using the Hotchkiss rink, Zamboni-groomed and all. Which therefore is in much better shape than what mother nature provides on Cream Hill Lake when the temperature drops below freezing.

The participation rate varies, but is

fairly low compared to the crowds of other indoor skating options in our area. Check it out before the season is over.

— Juergen Kalwa

E-Bikes Are Here to Stay

I must admit upfront that, as a purist cyclist, I observed the arrival of e-bikes with considerable distrust. However, my jaundiced view was unfounded, since I had never ridden one. A few days before Christmas I ventured into Bob and Meg Ensign's Covered Bridge Electric Bike Shop and took out a Yamaha Wabash e-bike, which I rode around the hills of Cornwall for a good hour.

What can I say? I fully recant and confess that I was totally wrong. I have met the future of transportation and it is electric. The Wabash is a beautiful bicycle, clean lines and a delightful "latte" color.

There was one place I really wanted to try it out, and that was nearby Dibble Hill, which is my annual reality check hill. Bob explained the simple controls and off I went. I switched

(continued on page 2)

FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: ♦ Mondays: Mat Squad, 6:30 pm UCC ♦ Tuesdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Zumba, 5:30–6:30 pm Library ♦ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 5–7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064; Tai Chi, 5–5:30 pm and Qigong, 6–6:30 pm UCC; Stitch 'n Spin, 7:15–8:30 pm UCC ♦ Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Meditation, 4–5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Zumba, 5:30–6:30 pm Library; Mah Jongg, 7–9 pm Library call 672-6874 ♦ Fridays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Toddler Play Group, 10:30–11:30 am Library ♦ Saturdays: Ice Skating, 7–8 pm Hotchkiss ♦ Sundays: Yoga, 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation, 1 pm call Debra 672-0229; ASW Method Mat Class, 1–3 pm Library						1 ♦ Cornwall Association Monthly Meeting 9 am The Union ♦ Ground Hog Day Barn Dance 6:45–9:30 pm Town Hall
2	3 ♦ What's the Word? Group 11 am Library ♦ Region One Board of Education 6:30 pm HVRHS Library	4 ♦ Inland Wetlands/ Water Courses 7 pm Town Office Bldg. ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	5	6 ♦ Woman's Society Speaker: Cynthia Kirk 10 am Library	7	8 ♦ Film Series Woody Allen <i>Bananas</i> 4 pm Library
9	10 ♦ Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon–1 pm UCC Day Room ♦ Park & Recreation 7:30 pm Town Office Building	11 ♦ Seniors' Valentine Luncheon Noon UCC Parish House ♦ West Cornwall Waste Water Committee 5 pm Town Hall ♦ Planning & Zoning Commission 7 pm Library ♦ Housatonic River Commission 7:30 pm CCS	12	13 ♦ Cornwall Conservation Commission 10:30 am Library	14	15 ♦ Deadline: 4thQ March Chronicle Copy ♦ Breakfast for a Cause First Seating 8:30 am Second Seating 9:30 am Third Seating 10:30 am UCC Parish House
16	17 PRESIDENTS' DAY	18 ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	19 ♦ Board of Education 4:15 pm CCS Library	20 ♦ Board of Finance 7 pm Town Hall	21 ♦ Senior Trip to CT Flower Show 9 am–3:30 pm	22 ♦ Film Series <i>Wag the Dog</i> 4 pm Library
23	24 ♦ Voting Rights Series Civil Rights 5:30 pm Library ♦ ZBA* 7 pm Library	25 ♦ Coffee, Confections, etc. 9 am UCC Parish House ♦ SVNA Wellness Clinic 10 am UCC Parish House ♦ Economic Development Commission 7:30 pm The Union	26	27	28	29

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

the power on at the first assist level, which made up for the weight difference between the Wabash and my light road bike.

As Dibble steepened, I increased the assist, the motor smoothly transferring between the levels. At the top of Dibble, I switched the motor off. Descending was a delight, as the bike tracked beautifully, the disc brakes gave me great confidence, and the wider tires gripped the road well. I turned left onto Route 125, went up Route 128, and then left onto Town Street. From here until Scoville Road I played with all four assist levels, and the bike motor never missed a beat. This was serious fun.

I switched the power off and rode just like my road bike down past CCS and into West Cornwall again. My ride took just under the hour, and I had covered 10.2 miles, climbing 1,271 feet (Cornwall ain't flat), and had not even broken a sweat.

I am a convert, completely won over. E-bikes are going to open up a whole new world to people who would not normally ride bicycles. The health benefits are enormous. For those who have a condition that limits their level of activity, an e-bike gives exercise without risk of strain. One could, with little effort, go from Cornwall to Sharon to shop, and carry one's purchases without feeling the extra weight. The bike battery has a range of up to 75 miles (depending on terrain and rider), certainly enough to cover any ride around the Northwest Corner.

For me the ride was a revelation. It felt like being a kid again, but with the ability to whiz up hills when I wanted without any effort. I think that the e-bike is definitely a very welcome addition to the world of bicycling, and I am sure that it is going to change the shape of transportation as we know it.

—Terry Burke

Our Caring Cornwall Community

On the first Sunday in January our dog Buster, friend and best buddy, died unexpectedly. Though heartbroken and in shock, we knew we wanted to bury him on our property. We also knew we couldn't dig a hole in the frozen ground ourselves, so we posted "need a 3'x 3'x 3' hole dug in our yard in next few days" on the Cornwall Community Network. We didn't say what the hole was for, nor why the timeframe. All we wanted was help digging the hole. We didn't want to talk about why.

Within hours a message came offering help. When we spoke with them, we told them the purpose. They shared that they buried their dog on their property a year ago. As we talked more, we learned they lived one road away and knew our house as they were friends with the former owners. By the end of the conversation, we were comforted

knowing caring neighbors would help us.

The next evening they arrived with their backhoe. We guided them to the spot we chose and when the hole was dug, and without us saying a word, they quietly stepped back a few paces. We cried as we put Buster into his final resting place and said our last goodbye. After refilling the hole, they gave us a big hug. Nothing much was spoken. Their hug said everything.

Before leaving we tried, nearly insisted, on giving them some money, as if whatever we could give them could match the gift these neighbors gave us. Politely and gently they refused the money, saying this was a community thing.

In five years here we have been touched by many Cornwallians, but what these neighbors did for us was the sweetest and kindest thing anyone could do for us. Thank you to our neighbors, who asked to remain anonymous. Your generosity and kindness touched us deeply. And though you wouldn't take the money we are donating it, in your honor, to a Cornwall charity.

—Gary Steinkohl and Casey Cook



Restaurant Plan Advances

The plan to repurpose the red barn behind the Pink House in West Cornwall advanced when the Planning & Zoning Commission approved an application for a special permit to operate the building as a restaurant.

At a public hearing on January 14, partners Jeff Morgan and John Van Doren made the presentation on behalf of their company, West Cornwall Development Group, LLC, the property owner. They envision a phased redevelopment, starting with the barn, which presents in their view the opportunity for a rapid and economically efficient way to jumpstart revitalization of the area. The second phase would involve the Pink House. The partners are considering many possible uses, given its notable history and unique architectural features, and they welcome creative ideas, but have no firm plans yet for that part of the property.

The restaurant is projected as a casual pub-type local restaurant featuring wood-fired thin-crust pizza, salads, and side dishes, craft local brews, wine, and all with moderate pricing. It would be open on weekends—think coffee shop mornings, and afternoons and evenings as "your favorite pub hang-out"—and during the week in the evenings on some days. The partners intend to retain an experienced and well-capitalized manager, and indicated that the list has narrowed.

The site plan shows the entrance on Lower River Road, and an area for outdoor seating. Inside, seats for 50 are possible, along with 15 at a bar/tv area.

The property's size allows for a self-contained septic system, along with onsite parking sufficient to comply with zoning regulations. A one-way entrance would be at Lower River Road, and the exit around back onto Sharon Goshen Turnpike.

Welcome

Avery Hayden Shaw
to Courtney R. Shaw

Henry Camp Russ III
to Alicia B. and Charles T. Russ

Good-bye to A Friend

Amanda Chase

Congratulations

Joanna Bariuan and Joel Rose

Land Transfers

Realty Source, LLC to Christopher H. Sampson,
19.03 acres of land with dwelling and
improvements thereon at 8 Town Street,
for \$450,000.

Margaret Jene Maag to Shreyas S. Kanade and
Jeffrey T. Edwards, 3 parcels of land with
buildings and improvements thereon at 85
Warren Hill Road, for \$500,000.

Marie H. Cole to Cornwall Historical Society,
Inc., 4.323 acres of land on Town Street South.

Donna T. Bielefield to Thomas Eucalitto,
buildings and improvements only at
42 Jewell Street, for \$161,500.

Coltsfoot Farm, LLC to Jonathan W. Old III
and Constance Old, 20.662 acres
on Valley Road for \$475,000.

Robert T.E. Lansing to Jonathan W. Old III and
Constance Old, 19.931 acres on Valley Road
for \$150,000.

Those at the well-attended hearing were supportive of the plan, and seemed to appreciate the care taken to bring neighbors into the process and to address their possible concerns.

More approvals are necessary before renovation starts, but the owners are aiming to open by summer.

For more details check the Planning & Zoning page on the town website, where minutes of the hearing are to be posted.

—Tom Barrett

More Than Class at CCS

With 13 tuition-paying students this year, the enrollment at CCS is at 87. That is a little higher than in the previous two years. Days are filled with reading, writing, and arithmetic, and the 87 students have several activities to keep them occupied outside of the classroom as well.

Facing the tough issue of not having enough players to support their own teams, both boy and girl soccer players combined with Sharon and Falls Village to field teams. They play other Region One schools, along with teams from IMS, Steiner School, and Sherman.

This winter, the girls basketball team will combine with Falls Village as a unit, while the CCS boys will field their own team. In addition to basketball, the Friday ski program will be held as a gym class for grades

two through eight at Mohawk Mountain Ski Area. Kindergarten and first grade will stay at CCS with their teachers, with first-graders occasionally skiing.

Also happening this winter is the school musical. Grades five through eight have had tryouts, roles are set, and scripts have been handed out to be memorized. The students will now immerse themselves in all things theater in preparation for the March 6 and 7 performances. These two performances are open to the public and are sure to be a fun way to shake off the winter blues.

—Erin Hedden

Pickle On!

January has come and gone, and with it your well-intentioned resolution to become more physically active. Lose not hope, as our intrepid Park & Rec department is doing its darnedest to get you to put down that left-over holiday cake, get off the couch, and come play pickleball.

For about two winters and springs now, a small but glowing [sic] group of adult Cornwallians has been meeting at the CCS gym on Monday nights for an hour or two to play this great game. In case you are scratching your head in confusion every time you read or hear the word “pickleball,” why not Google it, YouTube it, or whatever, to find out why this new sport is sweeping the country? OK, maybe that’s a little hyperbolic—just parts of the country and not all age groups.

If you don’t do internet, just know that it’s a game played on a court, with paddles somewhat bigger than ping pong paddles. The balls are whiffle-type balls, so they don’t go 100 miles plus an hour like Venus Williams’s serve, and wouldn’t hurt much if you got conked with one. It’s mostly doubles play, either mixed or not, and the court is about one-fourth the size of a tennis court, so although there is good movement and exercise involved, along with skill development, the effort is manageable without having to ingest large quantities of controlled substances beforehand.

The advantages of pickleball, and why agile Boomers, Gen Xers, and even a younger set, have taken to it, are that there is less running around, the ball moves slower so you can hit it easily, there are usually four people playing so it’s more sociable, AND it’s not as BORING as stretching, twisting, lunging, bending like pretzels, swinging dumbbells, weightlifting, treadmilling/stairmastering/ellipticalling while watching TV news (Ugh!), and other forms of exercise that caused you to ditch your resolutions in the first place.

The CCS gym has room for three pickleball courts, potentially 12 players at one time. All equipment and instruction are provided; just bring appropriate footwear for the gym floor.

This year it looks like Wednesdays at 7 P.M. work the best for most people, so pickleball



THANKS JOYCE

It is no secret that Joyce Hart has kept the Board of Selectmen organized for 22 years. She has made the office in town hall a welcoming and colorful space. She has clerked hundreds of meetings recording Cornwall events, major and routine, that often get reported in the Chronicle.

There is also important work at town hall that regularly happens, necessarily off camera, including helping townspeople in assorted crises. This work requires compassion, judgment, and confidentiality. The town has been very fortunate to have Joyce at the desk, no appointment necessary, to help solve many residents’ problems.

New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia was famous for riding firetrucks to emergencies. Joyce has him beat by actually driving the ambulance 24/7 and running dozens of ambulance calls annually, not to mention serving as EMT captain. Again, no media splash, just steady and

will start on February 5 and continue weekly thereafter, except for holidays. If you are not already on the Park & Rec email list, please email Jen at prcornwall@gmail.com to get notices of any changes or cancellations. Pickle on!

—Tom Barrett

Cornwall Briefs

• **Cornwall’s magnetism** is evident from some recent “homecomings.” Jonathan Berry, son of Bill and Nancy, and brother of Will, has succeeded Joyce Hart as the selectmen’s administrative assistant. Jonathan spent summers here from the family’s former home base in North Carolina. He attended school in New York (undergraduate) and in Michigan (law), lived for a time in California, and practiced in North Carolina before relocating here. Ted Cheney, son of Hugh and the late Lynn Cheney, is moving back from Alaska with his wife, Kathryn, and two CCS-age children (a third is too young yet). Ted will be joining the highway department and looking for housing here. Meanwhile, his younger brother Tyler and his expectant wife, Brittany, have already relocated to Cornwall from New York City. Tyler works in the solar energy industry.

• **Janell Mullen is replacing** retiring town planner Tom McGowan. Janell, a HVRHS and UConn alumna, grew up in Sharon, but close enough to Cornwall to spend more time with our playgroups. She spent time in southern California after obtaining her master’s degree there, before returning to Connecticut. She now works full time with the Northwest Hills Council of Governments, and will also be assisting Cornwall with its planning needs, and house hunting in Cornwall.

• **Sewer System News:** The grant application is in to the USDA, so we may know in a

Letters to the Chronicle

humble public service. We wish her a more restful schedule, if not complete retirement. And many more maple and gardening seasons to come.

—Gordon M. Ridgway, First Selectman



A QUIET HERO

Tom McGowan has been Cornwall’s planning consultant since around 1973 (47 years give or take). He’s overseen four town plans and helped the Planning and Zoning Commission steer its course through many statutory requirements to create workable town zoning regulations. For all these years he’s also contributed his ideas and visions for our future. We commissioners will miss working with Tom, and miss his humorous and responsive approach to figuring out how best to do what we needed. He has finally retired, and we wish him all the best. —Jill Cutler, Chair, Planning & Zoning

couple of months what percentage of the cost it will pay. Several prospective treatment facility sites had been offered in West Cornwall; anyone else who has a possible site there should call the selectmen’s office.

• **The Cornwall Historical Society** is planning an exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. It needs objects to display, so if you have mementos from the suffrage movement or of a female leader of the community, please contact curator intern Georgia Exner at exner@my.ccsu.edu, or curator Suzie Fateh at curator@cornwallhistoricalsociety.org or call 672-0505.

• **Social Services Director** Heather Dinneen thanks everyone who donated food, gifts, or money to the Food and Fuel Fund, bringing holiday cheer to many Cornwall families. Also, she wants all to know that financial assistance is still available for help with electric, oil, propane, and firewood expenses. Call 672-2603 or email cornwallsocialservices@gmail.com. Keep donations coming to P.O. Box 97, Cornwall 06753.

• **Thanks to a Cornwall Foundation grant**, smoke and CO detectors are available from Social Services or the CVFD for low-income families.

• **The “cavalry” is coming**, in the form of eight volunteer Cornwallians, including six from the fire department, who are currently taking the intensive EMT course that started in January and continues into May.

• **Money is Disappearing:** The town has about \$75,000 in STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) funds available for improvement projects, including both commercial and agricultural properties. We use it or lose it, so inquire about the details at the selectmen’s office.

• **Good to Know:** If you would like to be checked on in an emergency—extended

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

power outage, major snow storm, or such—contact the selectmen’s office to be put on the list. Medical and fire-related emergencies require a 911 call instead. —Tom Barrett

Events & Announcements

For updates, changes, and additions, check the online calendar at cornwallchronicle.org or cornwallct.org (it is the same calendar). And for reminders, see the Chronicle Facebook page.

The Groundhog Day Barn Dance is Saturday, February 1, at 6:45 P.M. at town hall. Enjoy and dance to the lively country music of Betsy’s Band and teaching caller Don Heinold will explain how the dance flows before calling instructions throughout the dance. Learn the rotary waltz, simple circle mixers, square dances, and contra dances. Wear casual clothes and soft-soled shoes. Suggested admission: \$5-8 for children, \$10-15 for adults. For info email Debra@Motherhouse.us or call 860-671-7945.



What’s the Word? Next meeting is Monday, February 3, at 11 A.M. at the library. The word for this month is PAREIOLIA. Contact Connie Steuerwalt at 672-2816 or csteuerwalt@gmail.com.

The Cornwall Woman’s Society will host a talk by Cynthia Kirk on Thursday, February 6, at 10 A.M. in the Cornwall Library. She served as the editorial cartoonist at the Litchfield County Times for 22 years, and will present her work covering life and events in Litchfield County. Humorous, informational, and often poignant, many of her cartoons were based upon conversations she overheard in her travels throughout the county. Refreshments will be served afterwards and everyone is welcome to attend.

Art in Cornwall

The National Iron Bank is currently hosting works from the late Cornwellian Charles Besozzi (1904-1997), who painted

Our February Wish

Roses are red
Violets are blue
Many support us
And we hope you will too.

Be Our Valentine at
P.O. Box 6, West Cornwall CT 06796.

colorful oil on board depictions of historic events and places in New England and New York.

In the Parish House, “The Silence of Peace and Beauty”—the work of Magaly Ohika—will continue until March 15 with viewings Monday to Friday from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and by appointment with the artist. Call 860-248-1806 or email ohika_mp@yahoo.com.

The Toll House Gallery in West Cornwall continues to showcase the paintings of Lennart Swede Ahrstrom, landscape photographs by Ian Ingersoll himself, and newly added work by Don Bracken. Open Monday through Friday, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Saturday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Catherine Noren’s show “Angels in the Architecture” continues through February at the library.

At the Cornwall Library

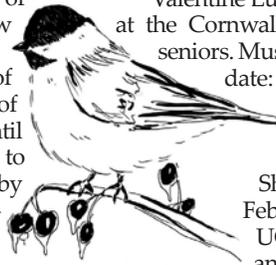
The Winter Film Series presents Bananas, the early Woody Allen classic, on Saturday, February 8, at 4 P.M. Woody plays Fielding Melish, who gets involved in a revolution in a fictional country called San Marco. Ricardo Montalban plays a dictator who orders the assassination of Melish. Also appearing are Louise Lasser, Howard Cosell, and Sylvester Stallone in an early cameo as a subway thug. \$5 suggested donation.

Wag the Dog, a 1997 black comedy starring Robert De Niro and Dustin Hoffman, will be shown on Saturday, February 22, at 4 P.M. This Barry Levinson creation concerns a spin doctor and a Hollywood producer who fabricate a war to distract voters from a presidential sex scandal. Released just before news broke of the White House affair involving President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky, the film demonstrates what happens when truth and fiction collide. Also starring Anne Heche, Willie Nelson, and Kirsten Dunst. \$5 suggested donation.

The series on Voting Rights in the United States continues on Monday, February 24, at 5:30 P.M. This month’s timely presentation, led by teacher and historian Pete Vermilyea, focuses on the Civil Rights Movement, including voter suppression, poll taxes, literacy tests, the grandfather clause, closed primaries, the Voting Rights Act, and the 23rd Amendment.

Cornwall Park and Recreation Events

Adult Pickleball, Wednesdays, 7 P.M. at the CCS Gym. Paddles, balls, and instruction are provided.



Valentine Luncheon, February 11 at noon at the Cornwall Parish House. Free to all seniors. Must RSVP by February 7. Snow date: Wednesday, February 12. prcornwall@gmail.com or call/text 860-480-0600.

Connecticut Flower Show Senior Trip, Friday, February 21. Leave from the UCC Parish House at 9 A.M. and return about 3:30 P.M. Bus seating is limited, please RSVP by February 14. prcornwall@gmail.com or call/text 860-480-0600.

Morning Coffee, Confections, & Conversations, Tuesday, February 25, 9 A.M. at the UCC Parish House. Free.

Breakfast for a Cause will be offered at \$12 a plate for adults, \$8 for children at the UCC Parish house to benefit the Torrington Soup Kitchen on Saturday, February 15, and for the HVRHS Community Service Club, on Saturday, March 14. RSVP via email at office@uccincornwall.org or 672-6840. Three seatings each day. (See insert.)

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hold hearings on real estate assessments dated October 2019. Applications to schedule a hearing are now available at the town clerk’s office, and must be received by the town clerk before February 20, 2020. Approved applicants will be contacted by the BAA to schedule hearings during March.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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