



# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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## CCS Grows; So Does the Budget

The Board of Education presented its 1997-98 budget at its meeting on March 13. After several years of modest increases, the 1997-98 budget projects a rise of 16 percent, to \$2,242,810, up \$309,651 from this year and amounting to more than half the town's total budget. Why the increase? The answer is simple: each year more students appear. Over the last four years, student enrollment has increased by 40, and 194 students are expected in 1997-98. In four or five years, the enrollment will approach 225. For the coming year principal Bill Oros indicated the need to increase the teaching staff from 13.8 to 15.9. Class sizes of 30 students are not conducive to the quality of education that characterizes CCS, he declared—an opinion with which all at the meeting seemed to agree. Teacher salaries would go up 2.9 percent a year for the next three years.

Board of Finance members at the meeting were not surprised by the increase. Chairman Ralph Gold smiled when he said, "We want a 20 percent decrease." Then, to his question, "If it doesn't fly, then what?" Katie Gannett, chairperson of the school board, indicated that even a 1 percent cut would curtail sports, field trips, and supplies. However, small classes and quality teaching

would continue to have priority in education at CCS.

Generally, those present indicated their support for the school and its achievements. Whether the town as a whole shares this opinion and accepts the budget will be clearer after the public budget hearing scheduled for April 25.

—Ken Keskinen

## Getting Down to the Nitty-Gritty

The Study Committee for Library/Town Office Expansion Alternatives held its organizational meeting at the Town Hall on March 6. With Scoville Soulé as chair, members are John Calhoun, Audrey Ferman, Jane Giddings-Jones, John Miller, Sarah Paul, and Gordon Ridgway. At its second meeting, on March 20, the committee clarified its goal: its job is to present options, not solutions, as objectively and positively as possible, based on functions, costs, and long-term needs of both groups.

First Selectman Ridgway briefly reviewed Town Hall expansions in 1940, the 1950s, and 1975 and, with Giddings-Jones, presented plans and estimates for revamping the present shared building for exclusive town use—for an estimated \$110,000—and, alternatively, for renovating Monroe-Bodkin

as a town hall. This estimate came to \$478,000—including the necessarily speculative figure of \$300,000 to buy the building. Maintenance costs for the two buildings would be roughly equal, Ridgway said.

The next two meetings are scheduled for alternate Thursdays at 4 P.M. at the Town Hall. On April 3, Board of Finance Chair Ralph Gold will be present to talk about where the money will come from, and on April 17 the library trustees will present their plans and estimates for both alternatives.

Meetings are open and public input is encouraged, but dates and times may be changed without notice to accommodate those invited to come before the committee.

—Anne Baren

## Bear Facts

There were quite a few bear sightings reported in these pages last year but no helpful hints on what to do if one actually meets a black bear face to face. Now, however, we have all the answers, thanks to Ben Kilham of Lyme, New Hampshire, who gave an authoritative talk on the subject at the annual meeting of the Cornwall Conservation Trust this past winter.

According to Kilham, one should keep firmly in mind that black bears hardly ever

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# APRIL 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> Kindergarten Registration CCS (p.4) Agric. Advis. Comm. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Park & Rec. 7:30 P.M. Town Office Inland Wet. 8 P.M. Town Hall	<b>2</b> April Corn. Br. Nat'l Iron Bank Art Show, Cynthia Matthews, photos Kindergarten Reg. CCS (p.4) Cub Scout Parent Meeting 7 P.M. UCC Day Room All Wednesdays: Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Lutheran Church Stretch Exercise Class 5:30-6:30 P.M. Town Hall	<b>3</b> Kindergarten Registration CCS (p.4) Library/Town Offices Study Committee 4 P.M. Town Hall (p.1)	<b>4</b> Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library	<b>5</b> Regional Meeting on Telecommunications Towers 9-11:30 A.M. Goshen Town Hall (see Letters)
<b>6</b> DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	<b>7</b> CCS Open House Week begins (p.4) Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	<b>8</b> CCS Open House (p.4) David Gonzalez: Jazz Orpheus 7:30 P.M. CCS (p.4) Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library Rep. Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Dem. Town Committee 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	<b>9</b> CCS Open House (p.4) CCS PTA 7 P.M. CCS Library (p.4)	<b>10</b> CCS Open House (p.4) CHC 4:30 P.M. Kugerman Village Bd. of Education 5 P.M. CCS Library The Phantom Tollbooth 7 P.M. CCS Gym (p.4)	<b>11</b> CCS Open House (p.4) Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library The Phantom Tollbooth 7 P.M. CCS Gym (p.4)	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Discussion: Conflict Mediation 11:30 A.M. UCC (p.3)	<b>14</b> Art Show, Don Bracken 4/14-5/10 Library P&Z Meeting and Public Hearing 7:30 P.M. Town Hall (p.2)	<b>15</b> Deadline for May Chronicle copy Free Glaucoma Screening 1-3 P.M. Falls Village Congregational Church (p.3)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Library/Town Offices Study Committee 4 P.M. Town Hall (p.1) Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	<b>18</b> Coffee House for High Schoolers 7:30-10 P.M. UCC Parish House	<b>19</b> FISHING SEASON OPENS Food Sale 8:30-11:30 A.M. Baird's Store (p.4) Cornwall Association 4 P.M. Town Hall
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Library	<b>22</b> PASSOVER Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall Elderly Health Screening CCS (p.4)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Public Hearing on the FY 1998 Budget 8 P.M. CCS Gym (p.1)	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Child Center Auction 1:30 P.M. Silent 3 P.M. Live Mohawk Ski Lodge (p.4)	<b>28</b> ZBA 8 P.M. Town Office	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Cornwall Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	John Scott on Iraq 5 P.M. Saturday, May 3 Cornwall Library (p.4)		



(continued from page 1)

attack people. What may look like danger signs to us—snorting, swatting the air with a paw—are actually defensive behavior and indicate that this essentially timid animal doesn't want to fight. Relax, and stand your ground. Don't turn your back or run away or crouch down on the ground—all signs of weakness. Don't shout or scream, though you may say a few quiet words from time to time just to show the bear exactly where you are. Eventually, we are assured, he/she will just amble off. Of course, if you're out walking in the woods you can whistle or sing to warn bears off. And if you want to keep them away from a particular place around your home, electric fencing is very effective. Don't ever leave food where bears can get it, or provide any incentive for them to mix with humans. And, finally, don't try to be a friend to bears; leave that to experts like Ben Kilham.

—Jean Ferriss Leich



### A Celebration of Color

Nancy Bevans is livening up the Cornwall Library with a colorful exhibition of paintings, floor cloths, and gourds, now through April 12.

The collection includes two striking floor cloths, *Fruit* and *Fish*. One of her humorous painted gourds gave me a scare as I came around the corner of the card catalog—I thought there was a bald gnome sitting on the librarian's desk.

Bevans is exhibiting a variety of well-done paintings of landscapes, botanicals, faces, and animals. Her best paintings are stylistic departures, such as *Rabbit*, *Garden with Gourds*, and *Frog*, which is my favorite of the show.

—Alfred Bredenberg

### CCS into the Future

Last spring the Cornwall Consolidated School began to re-evaluate itself, to prepare, as it were, for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. After many meetings a committee was formed of parents, teachers, a school board member, and a student. This committee met throughout the winter and came up with five points in a statement of purpose:

To create a school community that:

- 1) promotes consistent standards,
  - 2) promotes community service, and
  - 3) promotes effective communications.
- Also, to create a school environment that:
- 4) fosters understanding of the world outside our community and
  - 5) develops compassion, respect, and responsibility in our students.

The committee's report also presents ways of implementing these goals, such as making students accountable for citizenship on report cards, bringing community volunteers into the classroom to explain what they do and why, increasing the circulation of the *Bridge* (the school newspaper) so that everyone in town gets it, making classroom e-mail pen pals of children from other nations and cultures, and encouraging upper/lower grade exchanges to rebuild a family feeling at the school.

For a full understanding of the scope of the project, the committee recommends that parents and friends of the school look at the full report, which is on file at the Cornwall Library and at the school.

—Richard McCarty

### Planning, Planning, Planning

On December 5, 1996, more than 60 Cornwall residents and town officials participated in the Planning and Zoning Commission's open forum to express their views on the future of the town. Working in small discussion groups, residents identified and ranked issues and assets that the commission should consider in developing the Town Plan. Participants also prepared statements of their own visions of the "Cornwall of the future."

The commission has reviewed all this information, along with other suggestions received from local boards, groups, and interested citizens. From this, P&Z has created the following "vision statement" as a guide to the updating of the Town Plan:

"The goals of the Town Plan of Cornwall are 1) to preserve Cornwall's natural environment and rural landscape; 2) to improve the town's fiscal viability and expand its local employment opportunities; 3) to maintain its economic and social diversity; and 4) to strengthen its sense of community and its volunteer involvement."

The commission's open planning meetings and its special Saturday sessions have brought forth many helpful suggestions. To further its planning, the commission has also formed four subcommittees to gather more information and specific suggestions. Each of the subcommittees will deal with one of the four "vision statement" goals.

The subcommittee dealing with the first goal includes commission members Denny Frost and Annie Kosciusko, along with George Brown, Dave Colbert, Priscilla Mauro, Rita Quinn, Ann Schillinger, and Karen Stevens.

Considering goal number two are commission members Ken Keskinen and Doc Simont, along with Ralph Gold, Bill Hurlburt, Carol Lugar, Pat Mulberry, Dusty Sandmeyer, and Pat Spaulding.



Goal number three will be discussed by commission members Philla Osborne and Jim Whiteside, along with Scott Cady, David Grossman, Steve Hedden, and Lisa Wojan.

Commission members Vera Dinneen and Lynn Scoville will chair meetings dealing with goal number four. Other members of this subcommittee are Earl Brecher, Martha Bruehl, Brian O'Neil, Gordon Ridgway, Sarah Paul, and Sue Williamson.

Townspeople are urged to continue to share their ideas concerning specific goals with members of these subcommittees. They are also asked to read and respond to the survey insert in this issue of the *Chronicle*.

—Tom McGowan

### Welcome

Bryce Owen Laigle to  
Hilary and Ronald Laigle, Jr.

### Good-bye to Friends

Ten Eyck Lansing  
John Dusa

### Congratulations

Karen Anastasia Schreck to  
Seth Kimberly Dutton

### Gravel Mining: Almost But Not Quite

Perhaps wary of etching such a contentious issue in stone, the Planning and Zoning Commission came within inches of a March 10 decision on the latest FSB Associates gravel-mining application; then it backed away.

A motion to approve the application, augmented by numerous conditions restricting the mining operation, was made and seconded. But during discussion of the motion, members suggested it would be wise to consult the absent commission attorney Tom Byrne one more time; the motion was withdrawn, with a promise to reach a decision at the commission's April 14 meeting.

The conditions on the application were largely a response to the vociferous concerns of citizens attending earlier hearings. Among the provisos: To prevent gravel trucks from encountering school buses, FSB must check with bus operators to coordinate schedules. Vehicles must be refueled on a special pad

away from the mining area, or off the property. All excavation must cease two years from date of approval, and the site must be restored within a year thereafter.

In a significant recognition of some Cornwall Bridge residents' concern about industrial damage to their neighborhood, P&Z will hold a public hearing April 14, in conjunction with its regular meeting, on a nine-month moratorium on industrial or commercial applications within the local industrial/residential zone. The delay will give P&Z members time to consider industrial land use in Cornwall Bridge—and elsewhere—in the context of the Town Plan now being revised.

—Charles Osborne

## Events & Announcements

**Conflict Mediation:** Nat Corwin and a small group of students and teachers from the Marvelwood School will lead a discussion on the methods and uses of conflict mediation at the United Church of Christ on Sunday, April 13, at 11:30 A.M. Their presentation, which will include a brief explanation, role-plays, and a question period, will be based on their experience in mediating student conflicts at Marvelwood. All are welcome; come early for refreshments in the Day Room beforehand.

# Letters to the Chronicle

## TO CORNWALL FRIENDS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many of you who have been instrumental in my continuing recovery. The cards, letters, thoughts, phone calls, visits, wonderful meals, prayers, financial support, and rides to doctors' appointments were such a help to me and so much appreciated. A simple "thank you" seems so insignificant compared to the thankfulness and gratitude I feel.

I am happy to report that at this writing I am cancer-free and am slowly gaining my strength back. The pain that has plagued me since last December is finally abating and I am taking a more active role in life. I hope to have the chance to see many of you in the days and weeks to come.

—Bobbi Clark

## THOSE TOWERS AGAIN

The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires that area towns once again face the prospect of seeing, on their roadsides and hills, the towers and antennas of the latest line-of-sight telecommunications systems. That means 600 more towers for the state, but how many for Cornwall is yet unknown.

Do we have a choice? Well, basically no. The Telecommunications Act says that towns cannot "zone out" these towers. Towns can say, "We'd like the towers here or maybe there," but we can't say, "Not in our back yard." The antennas are coming—"conical horn antennas" up to 14 feet in diameter and parabolic antennas up to 22 feet, mounted on towers that could be up to 750 feet high. We may have monopole antennas mounted on top of existing utility poles.

To get ready for such changes, towns are preparing moratoria to delay all "tower projects" while towns study ways to deal with the coming demands—ways that must, by law, be compromises, not refusals. The Cornwall P&Z is preparing an amendment for consideration at a May public hearing.

Are these systems necessary? desirable? practicable? Are they another high-tech leap forward that will allow us to communicate everywhere through wireless links? And will such systems soon become obsolete?

What are our concerns? Esthetics, for one. Will more towers on the hills (with their conical and dish antennas and blinking warning lights)

be eyesores, or will they, in time, become natural parts of the landscape like the tower on Mohawk? Will we find monopole antennas on top of utility poles un-  
sightily?

What are the dangers? How sturdy are such towers? Recently a tower under construction collapsed, killing one worker. Who will maintain the towers? Will towers have to be fenced in, providing a protective zone? What about radiation? Is it a threat to health? If so, how close can creatures live to towers or monopoles? Will radiation interfere with your computer, your television, your pacemaker? Who will monitor radiation?

Obviously, we need more information—hard facts and data—from disinterested and knowledgeable experts, not only from those hired by the telecommunications firms.

An area meeting to discuss the issues is scheduled for Saturday, April 5, from 9 to 11:30 A.M., at the Goshen Town Hall. Present will be Larry Woods, from SPRINT PCS; Kenneth Baldwin, attorney, discussing the implications of the Telecommunications Act; Tom McGowan, consultant to area towns on planning and zoning issues; and Joel Rinebold of the Connecticut Siting Council. A question-and-answer period is planned. All area residents are encouraged to attend.

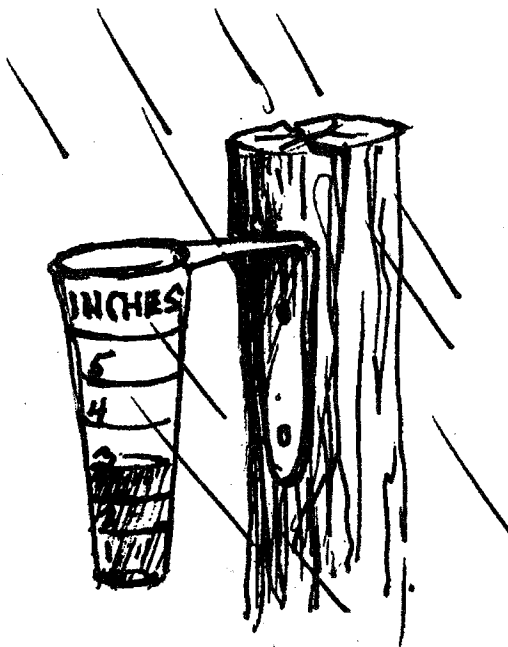
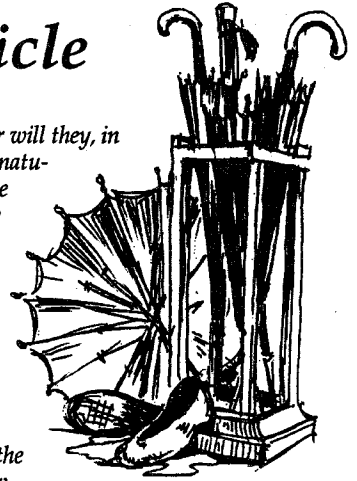
—Ken Keskinen

## RIGHT ON, LUCAS ROOT AND CCS

I appreciated so much the letter in the February Chronicle from Lucas Root regarding the school schedule and time allotted for lunch and recess. I am impressed with a student's attitude that he has a voice in the organization of a school day; that he has positive suggestions for possible changes in that schedule; and I am impressed with a school that fosters concern for and attention to students' ideas.

Thank you all!

—Anne Chamberlain



**Cornwall Afghans:** If snuggling up under our Covered Bridge seems like a cold and wet proposition, think again. The Cornwall Child Center is selling custom afghans featuring Cornwall landmarks including the bridge, the Library Building, the North Cornwall Church, the Sedgwick Memorial, Cathedral Pines, and the former Cornwall Bridge train station. The 100 percent cotton throw also reflects Cornwall's agricultural and recreational history: Mohawk Ski Area, sap buckets on maple trees, the Appalachian Trail, a dairy barn and cows, and a fly fisherman on the Housatonic (complete with a swarm of gnats around his head).

The afghan was designed by Michael Gellatly, Cornwall artist and illustrator,

working closely with the North Carolina manufacturer, whose staff transferred Gellatly's design onto its computer-driven, state-of-the-art looms.

The afghans are a generous 48" x 65" in size, and are available in three colors—cranberry, hunter green, and navy—all on a natural background. A portion of the \$50 price benefits the Cornwall Child Center. The afghans can be purchased at the Center at 8 Cream Hill Road or by calling 672-6989. Evenings and weekends, call 672-6253. A sample is on display at Hedgerows Market in West Cornwall.

**A Free Glaucoma Screening** will be held in Minor Hall at the Falls Village Congregational Church on Beebe Hill Road on Tuesday, April 15, 1-3 P.M. Appointments are encouraged and can be made by calling the Falls Village Municipal Agent at 824-9855. The program is open to residents of Falls Village and surrounding communities.

**Clarification of CCS Enrollment:** Enrollment at Cornwall Consolidated School has increased by 30 students (from 159 to 189) since October 1994—not since September 1996, as reported in the March Chronicle.

**David Rafael Gonzalez**, storyteller and musician, will perform *Jazz Orpheus*, an update of the Greek myth of courage and adventure, in the CCS gymnasium on Tuesday evening, April 8, at 7:30. Gonzalez is the host of *NY Kids* on WNYC-FM and will have a two-week run with the Latin Legends Band on Broadway this spring. All are invited to experience his joyful brand of family theater. Baby-sitting for children six years and under is available by pre-registration; call 672-2975. This event is co-sponsored by Park & Rec. and CCS PTA. Admission is free.

**CCS Kindergarten Registration** for the 1997-98 school year will be held on April 1, 2, and 3. Any child turning five on or before December 31, 1997, is eligible. Parents should call the school office at 672-6617 to schedule a time for their child to visit the kindergarten room and meet Mrs. Wadhams, the kindergarten teacher. Parents need to bring their child's birth certificate and official immunization record with them.

**Open House at CCS:** The students, teachers, administration, and PTA invite the Cornwall community to visit the school during Open House Week, April 7 through 11. During this week you may sit in on a class and/or take a school tour between 9 A.M. and noon on Tuesday and Thursday, or between 12:45 and 2:30 P.M. on Wednesday. A student art show will be going on throughout the week. Tuesday evening at 6:30 the opening of CCS's Publishing Center will take place. Come and see the great works of the student authors.

Also on Tuesday evening, master storyteller David Gonzalez will give a family performance at 7:30. Wednesday evening at 7, at the regular monthly PTA meeting, State Trooper Debbie Roy will address parents' concerns, including drugs and child safety. All are invited. Thursday and Friday nights at 7, students in grades five through eight will perform *The Phantom Toll-booth*. Tickets are required.

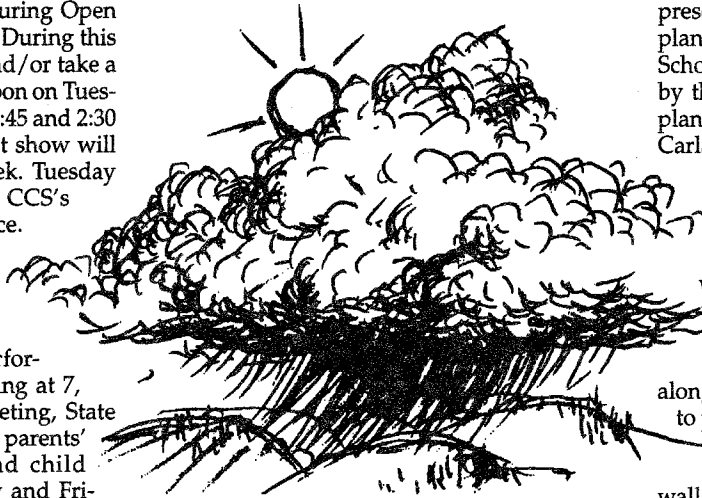
For more information, call the school office, 672-6617.

**That Pot of Gold**

When the snow melts you are bound to find a pot of gold somewhere on your property. Surely part of this treasure should find its way into the coffers of the *Chronicle*, though coffers is a rather big word for what's in there. Think of yourself in the hammock, reading the next issue of the *Chronicle*, remembering that *you helped*. Please be as generous as you can. (Cash and checks preferred, but we'll take gold too.)

The Cornwall Child Center will not hold a summer program in July and August as only three families showed interest in enrolling their children. A committee has been set up to study the feasibility of an innovative and diverse program for the summer of 1998. Please call committee chairman Brian Kavanagh at 672-6774 if you have ideas or thoughts on this.

**Medical Equipment:** The United Church of Christ has a variety of medical equipment (walkers, wheelchairs, hospital beds, etc.) which it regularly lends out to community members at no cost. Until recently, three hospital beds, when not out on loan, were stored in the Rumsey Gym. This space is no longer available, and the church is looking for storage possibilities. The unused half of a reasonably clean garage would do just fine. Ground-floor access is a must; a central location is preferred. Anyone wishing to contribute such storage space is asked to call the church office, 672-6840, or Bob Potter, 672-6191.



**Good Times for a Good Cause:** Use of houses in Ireland, Cape Cod, and Bar Harbor, Maine, will be among the more than 150 items sold by auctioneers Jerry Blakey, Dave Cadwell, and Rita Quinn at the Cornwall Child Center's sixth annual benefit auction on Sunday, April 27, at the Mohawk Mountain Ski Lodge. The silent auction begins at 1:30 P.M. and the live auction at 3.

Admission is \$5 and includes a feast of hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and soft drinks. A raffle will be held for a Shaker-style rocker from Ian Ingersoll's shop. Tickets (\$1) may be bought at the door, from board members, or by calling 672-6552. The Cornwall afghan will also be on sale.

Other items on the block will include artwork, concert tickets, a photographic portrait, gourmet meals prepared in your home, worm-rich manure delivered to your garden, organic foods, handicrafts, and jewelry.

For more information call 672-4815.

**A Food Sale** will be held on Saturday, April 19, 8:30-11:30 A.M. at Baird's Store in Cornwall Bridge. Homemade baked goods and preserves, Cornwall maple syrup, herbs and plants will be offered to benefit the Jubilee School trip to Cornwall in June, sponsored by the UCC. To donate culinary delights or plants for sale, or for more information, call Carla Whiteside, 672-6018.

**Iraq According to Scott:** John Scott, former deputy legal counsel to the United Nations, will report on his work—much of it in Iraq—as a member of the special UN commission charged with overseeing the elimination of all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, along with the elimination of Iraq's capacity to produce such weapons. At the Cornwall Library at 5 P.M. on Saturday, May 3. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library—everybody welcome.



**CORNWALL CHRONICLE**

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**Elderly Health Screening** will take place on Tuesday, April 22, at the Cornwall Consolidated School. This service is available to Cornwall residents age 60 and over. A wide range of tests and services is offered, including hearing, vision, urine, Pap/pelvic/breast exam, prostate exam, blood tests, blood pressure, electrocardiogram, glaucoma, and health education. The suggested donation is \$20, or \$25 with pap test. For an appointment, please call Municipal Agent for Elderly Jill Gibbons at 672-2603.

The purpose of EHS is early detection of diseases and promotion of good health habits. EHS can save you money; clients receive over \$400 worth of tests for a nominal donation.

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