



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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Open Hearing on Open Space

So far, Cornwall has lots of open space, and most folks feel that its "rural character" is one of the town's most valued aspects. Because much of Connecticut has been seeing intense development, state statutes have been approved to allow towns to regulate open space as they regulate subdivisions. Often this can impose arbitrary restrictions on landowners and create pockets of open space that fail either to serve the owner or to enhance the town as a whole.

The Planning and Zoning Commission, while updating the Plan of Conservation and Development, has been working on a subdivision open space regulation that would both conform to state statute and suit Cornwall's unique landscape.

At the March 11 meeting, Planning Consultant Tom McGowan outlined a proposed regulation that would affect subdivisions: "Where three or more lots are planned, the Commission shall require either the reservation of up to 15 percent of the land for open space or accept a fee in lieu of open space." Applicants would be strongly urged to submit a Preliminary Subdivision Plan, at which time the Commission would provide guidance on selection of open space areas. For example, protected land could provide for hiking trails and water access, protect scenic

ridgelines, and preserve wildlife habitat.

Applications of fewer than three lots may also be subject to the requirements. Not subject are divisions that already have easements or are made to family members. Various methods of protecting the designated space include conveyance to the town, the Conservation Trust, or a homeowners' association. Fees collected in lieu of land would be placed in a town fund for open space preservation use only.

Because few citizens attended the hearing, Chairman Anne Kosciusko asked that it be continued until April 8. At that time the public can ask questions and make comment. In this way all of us are responsible for our hometown space and character. —Ginny Potter

Historical Birds Migrate

How do you move a 125-year-old stuffed bird display sealed in a mahogany and glass case which is both very fragile and quite heavy? Very, very carefully is the answer. Faced with this difficult question, Ginny Potter, the Cornwall Historical Society president, called Arnoff Moving & Storage in Lakeville.

After evaluating the situation, Arnoff dispatched a giant moving truck, two experienced moving men, a mobile lift, and lots of wrapping quilts to stabilize the case during its journey. All of this was needed for the

move of just a block up the street to its temporary home in the Selectmen's Office in the Town Hall.

In a way it was a homecoming of sorts for the diorama, which was constructed by the Honorable George Chandler Harrison in 1883. On his death in 1907, the display was given to the Library and placed in what was then the newly constructed Town Hall/Library building. Until the 1960s, when it was moved to the Historical Society, it stood in this very room. "I had been very worried about the cost of moving this unique display," said Potter, "but Arnoff offered to do it for free as a contribution to CHS and the Town of Cornwall."

What to do with the birds was but one of the many questions facing both the Historical Society's board and the volunteers drafted to help vacate the historic carriage house on Pine Street. In order to begin the long-planned renovations and expansion over the next 15 months, the strong backs of Jerry Blakey, John Calhoun, Nev Dunn, and other volunteers were pressed into service to move the Society's collection to various temporary storage spaces donated by generous citizens around town. CHS has established an off-site office (672-0505) for the duration of construction in space provided by Dinny and Ed Greene.

(continued on page 2)

APRIL 2008

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, 7 P.M. CCS Gym Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7:30 P.M. CCS Gym ...continued at end of calendar...		1 Park & Rec. 7 P.M. CCS Library Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Office	2 CCS Kindergarten Registration † Solar Panel Workshop 9:30-11 A.M. Town Hall	3 CCS Kindergarten Registration †	4	5  Family Contra Dance 7-9:30 P.M. Town Hall †
6 Local Foods & Hearth-Cooking Demo 1:30 P.M. Nicholson's Studio † Memoir Writing 3-5 P.M. Library †	7 CCS Spring Break Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS  Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Office	8 CCS Spring Break P&Z Hearing (p.1) 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	9 CCS Spring Break	10 CCS Spring Break	11 CCS Spring Break	12  Motherhouse Old Style Skills Goat Workshop 10:30 A.M. †
13	14 Blood Pressure Screening Noon-1 P.M. UCC Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library	15 Deadline: May Chronicle Copy	16	17 Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	18 Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Library † Iraq Moratorium Open Community Meeting 6 P.M. Town Hall †	19 Art at the Dump 10 A.M.-4 P.M.
20 PASSOVER  Art at the Dump 10 A.M.-4 P.M.	21	22  Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	23 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M.	24 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M.	25 Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Library † Town Budget Public Hearing 7:30 P.M. CCS †	26
27	28  ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall †	29	30 Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	Wednesdays: Stretch Class, 5 P.M. Town Hall; Women's Adult Basketball, 7:30 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 Sundays: Meditation Group, 1-2 P.M. Debra Tyler 672-0229 for location		

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued from page 1)

CHS is in the homestretch of its fundraising campaign to cover construction costs plus a planned addition to the endowment. A recent anonymous challenge grant will result in an additional dollar for each two dollars raised by CHS in the final push. "We committed up front to spend only what people were willing to pay for," notes Potter. "It has been wonderful that so many people have given so generously to this project so far. To date we've got most of the basics covered, but we need a bit more money to do some of the things we'd hoped to do."

Interior demolition has commenced at the Pine Street building, and construction in connection with the renovation and expansion is expected to begin by late spring/early summer. This doesn't mean that the Society will be dormant during the renovation. Although there can be no major displays during this period, the Society plans an active season, including walking tours of each of Cornwall's three villages this summer and a program on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. Additional events will be announced as plans are finalized. —John Green

Travel Bucks

The fundraising power of The Wandering Moose Café and the generosity of its owners, Russ and Sharon Sawicki, for two recent events over a three-week period brought in a whopping \$10,000.

The Housatonic Travel Club, which will send 23 student-members to Italy and Greece for 10 days this summer, raised \$4,500 at two suppers in late February. Then, in mid-March, two more suppers to help fund Cornwall's eighth-grade trip to New York raised \$5,500. About 500 diners took part in the two events that cost \$15 for adults and big kids and \$8 for under-12s. —The April Editors

Is That the Doorbell?

Another school night all but accomplished. Nina, 9, and I were lying down and reading a story together, as Laura and Sasha, 8, and Queenie, the dog, did the same a room away.

Just as Nina and I approached the end of an "A-Z Mystery"—a tale of no real fascination to me involving a "mystery" that wasn't, we both heard one ring on the doorbell downstairs, leading to a mystery that was.

Quietly, hoping not to rouse Queenie, who would have leapt up into defensive (or at the very least loud) action instantly, I went downstairs, insisting an eager Nina stay at the top, waiting.

Something wasn't right. There was no car out front, nothing but quiet moonlight and the question: just who would barely ring a doorbell on a school night at 8:30 P.M.?

Expecting perhaps another in the erratic parade of variously impaired Dudleytown ghost hunters, I opened the door two inches and met...a bear. Large, black, and very quick to take its leave once discovered, it

moved with striking fluidity and speed across the lawn, over the fence, and back into the forest that surrounds us.

Morning exploration revealed evidence of a compost dalliance, a stop for elimination (impressive), and a victorious wrestling match with the eye-level birdfeeder that hangs on the shed directly opposite our front door. It seems that the bear had used the relative comfort of our doormats to enjoy a feast of feeder-fresh sunflower seed and, once done, had simply planned to ask for more.

Returning to the foot of the stairs, I met the curious Nina with a finger over my lips, hushing her questions while signaling her to come with me to Sasha's room. Sitting down on the bed together, I watched small eyes widen as I described our giant visitor.

Nina wished the bear could live inside with us. Sasha was not so sure but hoped he wasn't too hungry. We wondered if his premature wake-up had something to do with the cold comforts of local caves having been altered by global warming. A bear had greeted us when we first moved to Cornwall, scratching its ear with a hind leg while sitting on what would become our lawn as we looked up at the old house that is our home.

Bears were here first, of course, and while they don't always respect our seed supplies or our doorbells, we can hardly expect them to leave now that we've moved in. For peaceful co-existence we'll keep respectful distance, and if they ring the bell, we'll wish them well, but won't invite them in.

—Nicholas Givotovsky

Olde Dudleytown

The Dark Entry Forest Association off Warren Hill has made a formal request to the Planning and Zoning Commission to remove all references to that part of its considerable property known as Dudleytown on current and any future town maps. This because Dudleytown, though it did exist in the 19th century, is technically no more: no residents, no farms, only occasional hikers in search of ghosts who sometimes light dangerous little fires and leave beer cans and other garbage behind. (The hikers, not the ghosts.)

On top of this, the *Chronicle* has learned that the town of Kent—in an effort to boost its tourism—is considering an offer from a Bridgeport company to construct a sort of Sturbridge-like village they would call "Olde Dudleytown" as a theme park on about 75 acres of parkland owned by the town. This is the same Bridgeport firm that was once (and still may be) backing a proposed casino for the Schaghticoke tribe of Kent. There are reportedly several architectural firms, including one in the Northwest Corner, competing for the theme park job, which would incorporate several country lanes with a half-dozen houses and two farms, one for dairy cows

and the other with fruit orchards. At least one of the houses would be "haunted."

Preliminary plans call for the theme park to be open between April and October, and several Kent restaurants are considering relocating or at least placing a satellite facility in or near the venture.

One may speculate that the owners of the original Dudleytown lands may be of two minds on the Kent proposal. On the one hand, it might lure most of the troublesome hikers away from their area. That's good. But on the other hand, the Town of Kent stands to make several million dollars just from providing its land for the theme park, plus a cut of the ticket and refreshment sales—money that could have been theirs, had they shown an interest in the initial offer to construct the park near the original Dudleytown location. Instead, they seem content to let a piece of Cornwall's history be wiped from Cornwall's maps, as P&Z has agreed to go along with their request. —John Miller

Good-Bye to a Friend

William Washburn

Congratulations

Catherine Pfeiffenberger and Matthew Clements

Land Transfers

John K. and Susan A. Goodrich to Town of Cornwall, 45 acres on Ballyhack Road.

Jerry S. and Lorraine Richter to Thomas C. Bechtle and Donald G. Bachman, property and buildings thereon at 33 Lower River Road for \$197,500.

Estate of Erich R. Richter to Thomas C. Bechtle and Donald G. Bachman, property and buildings thereon at 33 Lower River Road for \$197,500.



Churches in Cornwall

Over its 268 years, Cornwall has been home to a diversity of religious groups—Congregational, Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Jewish, and Quaker. At the time of the town's founding, however, only one denomination was recognized. The Congregational Church was the official, established religion of Connecticut in 1740.

All residents of the colony, regardless of their religious affiliation, were taxed to support the Congregational Church. Only in 1868 were the provisions of the Bill of Rights including the First Amendment extended to the states. By then Connecticut had already passed an 1821 law that put all denominations on the same footing.

In 1780 some Congregationalists in town seceded from their church and formed the Second Church in North Cornwall. The dispute was partly over doctrine and partly over the personality of the minister, Hezekiah Gold. It left Cornwall's Congregationalists with two groups worshipping simultaneously in different parts of town. After many attempts to heal the breach, the two

congregations reunited in 1988 as the United Church of Christ, Congregational. UCC now owns and uses two buildings, using the North Church in the summer. Its minister today is the 31st settled pastor in Cornwall since the church was founded in 1740.

Today, Cornwall's churches are:

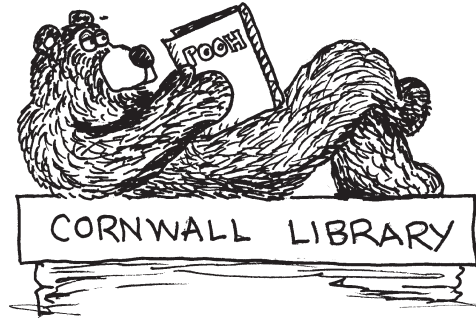
St. Bridget's Roman Catholic Church, established in 1854 in West Cornwall, in the white house next door to the Wandering Moose. It was a mission church served by itinerant priests traveling the area by horseback until 1883, when a new parish church was built and consecrated on River Road in Cornwall Bridge. At present it is a mission church administered by St. Bernard's in Sharon and part of a parish that covers over 200 square miles. Membership in St. Bridget's is 148 families, including 70 from Cornwall. The congregation maintains a food drive, contributes to the Christmas Giving Tree, and helps support Trinity Glen, a rehabilitation center on Sharon Mountain. Its pastor is Father Francis Fador (364-5244).

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, at 7 Bolton Hill Road in the village of Cornwall, was established in 1953 by a group of area Lutherans. After worshiping in local homes for two years, they purchased the chapel, built in 1873, from the First Church and refurbished and enlarged it. The congregation had part-time pastors until 1984, when the Rev. Scott Cady became its pastor. The present congregation has 80 active members and includes 21 adults and children from Cornwall. The church's missions consistently reflect a commitment to hunger issues: they support the Heifer Project, the Torrington Soup Kitchen, the Hunger Project, and the La Casa Project in Mexico. Its leader is Pastor Steven Broers (672-6897).

The Chapel of All Saints Episcopal worships year round at the North Cornwall Congregational Meeting House at the corner of Town Street and Cogswell Road. All Saints is a chapel of Christ Church Canaan and uses the Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church of the United States. It was established by a group of worshipers in 1991, first using the Trinity Conference Center in West Cornwall before moving to its current home. Intimate services are held for a congregation that numbers about 20 Cornwall residents. The chapel's focus is on missions, including charitable projects in the Cornwall community. Its vicar is the Rev. Rosalie Richards (824-7410).

The United Church of Christ, Congregational worships at the Village Meeting House, 8 Bolton Hill Road, all year except July and August, when services are held at the North Cornwall Meeting House. UCC is open and affirming to all and ecumenical in its outlook, and supports many helping agencies, including La Casa. It sits on its third site since 1740, and its buildings are often used by community groups. About 80 adults and children from a membership of 189 worship regularly. The pastor is the Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller (672-6840).

Quaker Worship Group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 5



CORNWALL RUNS ON WIND

The Town of Cornwall has entered into an agreement with Community Energy, Inc., a Delaware corporation, to purchase 25 percent of the town's average energy usage (the Town Hall, offices, CCS, firehouses, highway garage, and transfer station) from Community Energy at an extra cost of \$875 per year beyond the electric bills. A certificate sent to the Selectmen's Office reads:

"The Town of Cornwall runs on wind! The Town of Cornwall has purchased wind energy to offset its electric usage. 125,000 kilowatt-hours of wind-generated electricity will enter the regional grid on behalf of the Town of Cornwall annually. This purchase makes a difference for the environment and promotes our nation's energy independence. The estimated environmental benefit is equivalent to planting about 69.61 acres of trees or not driving 194,087 miles. Wind energy is clean, safe, and pollution-free and is supplied by leading wind energy marketer & developer, Community Energy, Inc."

Kate Freygang (672-6010; cell 860-488-

P.M. in St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cornwall Village. For information call Peg and Ken Keskinen at 672-6486.

—Ann Schillinger

March Mastery Madness

The kids at CCS have spent half of the month of March in testing mode. The Connecticut Mastery Tests were given to students in grades three through eight. Buffy Clarke, a special education teacher at CCS, is in charge of administering the tests and was happy to provide information on the process.

Students are tested on their language and mathematics skills. They must read short informational passages and then answer questions relating to the passage—some multiple-choice, some fill-in-the-blank, and some open-ended questions they have to answer in paragraph form. Another section tests their spelling, editing, and revising skills, using paragraphs containing spelling and grammar mistakes.

The mathematics section is pretty straightforward, although one interesting twist is that at times students are required to write paragraphs explaining the thought processes they use to come up with their answers. All grades have to write essays using a prompt, and the eighth-graders are tested on their science knowledge.

Letters to the Chronicle

0204) is the chairperson of the Cornwall Energy Task Force. Call her if you want more information about Cornwall going green or an update on their efforts.
—Joyce Hart

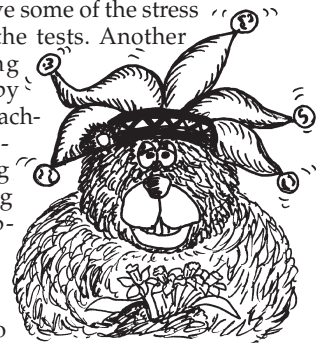
SALUTING A FLY FISHERMAN

As the waters of our beloved Housy begin to thaw, fly fishermen from all over the world will be readying themselves for another season on our beautiful river. Local anglers can now boast to these visitors that the youngest-ever member of the U.S. Youth Fly Fishing Team is a hometown boy. Danny Marino has been quietly fishing Northwest Corner waters since he was seven. His skills were noticed several summers ago by a western guide who was impressed and recommended him to the coach of the U.S. team. He was invited to try out two summers ago in Arkansas and earned his position on the team.

Last August Danny competed with the team at State College, PA, for the FIPS Mouche World Youth Fly Fishing Championship. The United States came in fourth in the international competition and will be competing again this summer in Portugal. When asked about the experience, Danny had this to say: "It was thrilling to be on the team, and competing with kids who love to fish as much as I do was great. I made some friends and learned new skills and tips from people from all over the world. I'm already looking forward to next year." So are we Danny, and good luck!
—Deirdre Fischer

The state requires that the tests be given to all students in the month of March. CCS chooses to do it during the first two weeks, and they spread the tests out over the two weeks so that only one test is given per day, although the state allows up to two per day. The total number of tests ranges from seven for third grade to ten for the eighth grade, and each test session lasts for 45 minutes to one hour.

The kids at CCS are treated to breakfast and time to socialize before each testing session. The idea for the breakfasts originated with school nurse Martha Bruehl, and she worked through the PTA, the wellness committee, and Dr. Fitz to provide them. Mrs. Clarke believes that this socializing time serves to relieve some of the stress "1" surrounding the tests. Another stress-busting strategy used by some of the teachers is providing chewing gum during the tests. Apparently gum chewing helps some of the kids to concentrate better!
—Annie Kosciusko



Events & Announcements

Kindergarten Registration for the 2008–2009 school year will be held at CCS on April 2 and 3. Any child turning five on or before December 31, 2008, 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. Bryant, the kindergarten teacher. Parents need to bring their child's official immunization record and birth certificate.

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Free Library, *Close to Home*, a show of Cornwall landscapes by Kathleen Love Mooney, begins April 1. In the case, Betty Busby will exhibit a humorous collection of sculptural pottery.

Northern Exposure Photographic Gallery will continue to exhibit its group show, *Visions*, through April.

Bradford Scholarship, a four-year stipend, is available to any Cornwall student planning to enter the University of Connecticut or any of its branches in the fall of 2008. Those interested should send a letter of application and two letters of recommendation to the Board of Education, Bradford Scholarship, 5 Cream Hill Road, West Cornwall, CT 06796, by May 15. Applicants will be judged on grades, extracurricular activities, community service, goals, and a personal interview. For more information call Barbara Gold at 672-6925.

The Cornwall Conservation Trust is offering scholarships for local students interested in pursuing education degrees or programs involving environmental studies and conservation. Recipients will be chosen from graduating high school students or those already enrolled in college. Applicants must be residents of Region One, and preference will be given to Cornwall students. This year there will be four grants with a maximum value of \$1,000 each. Those interested can visit the Trust's website at cornwallconservationtrust.org. For more information contact Emilie Pryor at 672-4226.

Check Your Footprint

Cornwall has been greeting the Age of Warming two ways: Passively by getting tons of ice, not snow, dumped on it this winter; and actively by joining the Energy Task Force effort to reduce our carbon footprint. Passively you love the *Chronicle* and actively you can send us a nice check using the form below. Thanks, and may a clean, warm, April sun shine on your back!

Snow Bills: A Town Meeting will be held on Friday, April 25, at CCS at 7:30 P.M. to approve the transfer of \$50,000 from the town's prior year's surplus to the highway department snow removal line. The transfer is necessary to cover the cost of materials used during this winter's many weather events. Following the meeting, the proposed municipal budget for next year will be presented for review by citizens. Everyone is urged to attend this double feature.

At the Cornwall Free Library

Memoir Writing: Prof. Betty Krasne will speak of her experiences writing her memoir on Sunday, April 6, from 3 to 5 P.M. Betty taught a course at the Library on memoir writing last fall and plans to offer the same course this fall.

Story Hour: The popular Friday story hour for three- to five-year-olds resumes on April 18, running through June 6.

Donate your books: Please collect your no-longer-wanted DVDs, VHS tapes, and Books on Tape/CDs and donate them for the Library's book sale scheduled for Memorial Day weekend. (Please, no encyclopedias, textbooks, or journals.) And when you're done collecting those, have a look around the house again, this time for cookbooks in good condition and kitchen and dining items in pristine shape. Items will be offered for sale at the Library's *Food, Glorious Food* festival on June 14.

Young Volunteers: The Library's board of trustees has approved the funding of a new program for CCS students in grades



six to eight to apply to become Library pages. Like other Library volunteers, pages will learn the use of the circulation computers, assist in helping people find books, and prepare books to go on shelves. They will receive a small grant for their work. Call Amy Cady for more information at 672-6874.

E-Waste: Thanks to the research efforts of recycling coordinator Steve O'Neill, the Cornwall Transfer Station is now accepting electronics for disposal. CRT Recycling has been engaged to recycle computers, televisions, and related e-waste. A modest charge per item will help offset the costs of this service.

Iraq Moratorium: State Senator Andrew Roraback recently returned from a visit to the Middle East. He will speak about the Iraq refugee crisis at the Town Hall on Friday, April 18, at 6 P.M. Call 672-0183 for more information.

Art at the Dump: This year it's a two-day event running on Saturday and Sunday, April 19 and 20. See insert for details.

Motherhouse Activities

- Family Contra Dance on Saturday, April 5, from 7 to 9:30 P.M. at the Town Hall. Home-grown Band playing and Bill Fischer calling. Suggested donation: \$5/adult, \$3/child. Contacts: Rachel Gall (672-6328) and Jane Prentice (672-6101).

- Local Foods and Hearth-Cooking Demonstration on Sunday, April 6. Wyatt Whiteman will be cooking a variety of locally produced foods on the hearth of Lisa Nicholson's studio (across Fox Road from #35). All are welcome to assist in preparation, sample dishes, and discuss ideas for the upcoming season. A Motherhouse business meeting at 12:30 P.M. will be followed by greeting and eating from 1:30 to 3:30 P.M. Contact Debra Tyler at 672-0229.

- Old Style Life Skills Series Workshop, *Get Your Goat*, Saturday, April 12, from 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Visit Rachel Gall and her backyard goats. Bring a dish to share for pot-luck lunch. \$35/family. Pre-registration required with Debra@Motherhouse.us or 672-0229.

- Meditation for Mothers, Thursdays from 1:15 to 2:15 P.M. at St Peter's Lutheran Church; Sundays from 1 to 2 P.M. at the home of Debra Tyler. Call Debra to confirm time and location (672-0229).

Correction: In a letter by Eugene Cornelius that appeared in the March *Chronicle* on the subject of office plants, the phrase describing their benefits should have read "...they remove CO₂ and excrete O₂." The Editor apologizes for this error.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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Zejke Hermann, Illustrations
Anne Kosciusko, John Miller, and John Green, Editors

MAY ISSUE

Lisa Simont and Sharon Dietzel, Editors
lisalansing@optonline.net or sdietzel@optonline.net

MANAGING EDITOR Tom Bechtle

CALENDAR EDITOR Anne Baren

CIRCULATION Nan and John Bevans,
Lucy and Jack Kling

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