

CORNWALL CHRONICLE



VOLUME 23 : NUMBER 7 AUGUST 2013

Fourth Time Unlucky! Budget Fails

For the second year in a row, Region One has had budget problems. To provide money for school year 2013-14, voters in the six towns in the district have to approve the regional school budget. Before this vote, they had shot down proposed budgets three times in a row by majorities that averaged 60 percent. Then, in a fourth vote on Tuesday, July 23, the budget failed by 451 votes in favor to 749 against. Cornwall was the only town which passed the plan by a tally of 110 yes to 101 no.

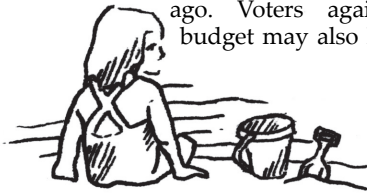
Why is it so difficult to pass the budget? Was there something about this version different than in the three earlier rejected versions? Or was something else at issue?

It's not easy to find answers. Of course, a reporter can ask "informed sources" like Region One school board members Phil Hart of Cornwall and Gale Toensing of Falls Village, both of whom I did question. Or I could ask local officials. But I don't know any way to ask the 500 or so voters who cast "no" votes at the first three referenda. Nor can I think of how to ask the much larger group of roughly 15,000 eligible voters in Region One. But why ask? Ninety percent of the region's voters never come out to cast ballots on the school budget anyway. So here are my best

guesses, based on the "usually reliable sources."

There were two main *budget-related* reasons why people have voted "no." First, they were upset over the proposed layoff of high school teachers in response to falling enrollments. Second, many voters were angry over the modest (2 percent) raises proposed for top Region One staff, especially the superintendent. Some things did change with respect to these concerns: for example, several administrators joined the union so their raises are no longer subject to voter approval. And perhaps most significantly, the state-authorized ABC Committee, made up of the heads of all seven regional school boards, firmly rejected the proposal to eliminate the superintendent's salary increase.

But many—perhaps most—of the votes cast against the budget were probably *never about the budget*. Opposition came from people concerned that the superintendent and her deputy were improperly involved in a high school controversy several years ago. Voters against the budget may also have felt



that the Board of Education didn't act on the 2011 Pingpank Report. That document concluded that "...there is a climate [in Region One] that unless changed will result in continued controversy, schisms and divisions..." Board defenders responded that—whatever the case in 2011—the situation has changed and this is no longer a valid description of the climate at either the high school or Region One headquarters.

Probably, there are even more reasons for past votes against the budget. One cited by a careful observer is that many people feel that the board simply doesn't hear their voices when they protest its actions. Whether that is so or not, the board decided on July 10 to put the same budget before the voters once again. The controversy over the Region One budget has not been settled by the fourth vote. Has the struggle brought budget advocates and opponents closer together or further apart? Only time will tell.

—David A. Grossman

Following the Deer

Are there really fewer deer around here? It might not seem that way, but according to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP)



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AUGUST 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30-10 am Library; Yoga, 5:45-7 pm CCS ♦ Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym ♦ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 6-9 pm Town Hall; Karate, 6:30-7:30 pm CCS; Women's Basketball, 7:30 pm CCS gym ♦ Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30-9:30 am Library; Toddler Play Group, 10:30-11:30 am Library; Yoga, 5:30-6:30 pm Library ♦ Fridays: Yoga, 8:30-10 am Library Saturdays: West Cornwall Walks, 12:30 pm Wish House ♦ Sundays: Yoga 9-10:30 am Library; Meditation, 1-2 pm, call Debra for location, 672-0229; West Cornwall Walks, 12:30 pm Wish House				1	2	3 ♦ Paint Disposal 9 am-1 pm Torrington Recycling Center ♦ Community Country Dance 7 pm Town Hall
4	5 ♦ Grumbling Gryphons Art Camp through Aug. 10 Town Hall ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Park & Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall	6 ♦ Inland Wetlands 7:30 pm Town Hall	7 NEW ♦ Grumbling Gryphons Workshop 5-6:30 pm ♦ Grumbling Gryphons <i>The Myth of Persephone</i> 7 pm Library	8 ♦ "How to Download Books" 3-6 pm Library	9 ♦ Rose Algrant Show Opening 5-8 pm CCS	10 ♦ Rose Algrant Art Show 10 am-5 pm CCS ♦ OSLSS Yes We CAN Can 10:30 am-1:30 pm ♦ Roxana Robinson 4 pm Lib. ♦ Big Little Kids Dance 4-5 pm Town Hall ♦ Grumbling Gryphons Festival 6:30-8:30 pm
11 ♦ Rose Algrant Art Show 10 am-noon CCS ♦ CCT Trail Walk 11 am Welles Preserve ♦ The More You Know 4 pm Gathering Room CCS	12 ♦ Farm Camp Eureka Motherhouse	13 ♦ Farm Camp Eureka Motherhouse ♦ Seniors' Luncheon 11:30 am-1 pm Wandering Moose ♦ P & Z 7 pm Library	14 ♦ Farm Camp Eureka Motherhouse	15 1st Q ♦ Deadline: August Chronicle Copy ♦ Farm Camp Eureka Motherhouse ♦ Cornwall Conservation Commission 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Board of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library	16 ♦ Farm Camp Eureka Motherhouse ♦ Family Movie <i>Chicken Run</i> 7 pm Library	17 ♦ Farm Camp Eureka Motherhouse
18 ♦ A Woman in the House 2 pm Town Hall	19	20 FULL ♦ Cornwall Day 11 am-8 pm Lake Compounce ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	21	22 ♦ Seniors' Field Trip 9:30 am Thimble Island	23	24
25	26 ♦ ZBA* 7:30 pm Library	27 ♦ Cornwall Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library	28 4th Q	29	30	31 ♦ Artist Reception Mark Wilson 3-6 pm Souterrain Gallery

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

Andrew LaBonte, local sportsmen are concerned by what they see as a "decrease in number of deer and fawns," so DEEP has started "intensive studies" to find out.

At 6:35 on a cold and rainy June morning I become the van driver for Justin Church, wildlife researcher, as he tracks the 24 doe that DEEP is following during the May-July fawning period (13 of them in Cornwall). Each has been collared and implanted with a vaginal implant transmitter (VIT), which is temperature sensitive and pops out when the doe gives birth. "Ninety-nine point nine percent of does get pregnant," says Justin, "and about half of the fawns survive."

At our first stop on Town Street, he punches a collar number into his radio receiver/transmitter, holds the H-antenna out the window, angles it this way and that, and waits. I hear the slow beep-beep-beep of the transmitter, which can track within one mile for doe and half a mile for fawns. "This doe is down the street to the left," he tells me, plotting the compass location on his record sheet. Farther up the road we stop again. "One doe here had a miscarriage. And a bobcat got one of twin fawns. We can identify the predator by scat, hair, and paw prints. Bobcats and bears bury any remnants for later use; coyotes never do. But listen! There's the doe with her other fawn." He punches in the number of another deer. "I can hear the VIT, so this doe still hasn't given birth. Someone will be checking on all of our deer again in the next four hours. We track 24/7."

Over on Cherry Hill, Phil Hart is walking his old dog Pippin in the rain. I learn that a bobcat got a fawn here too; on Yelping Hill, neither doe has given birth yet.

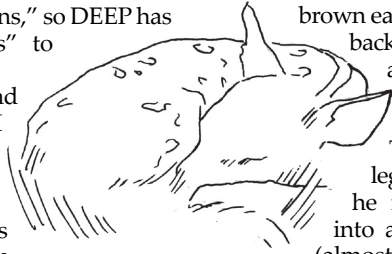
And now we leave Cornwall. After a brief stop in Canaan, we head northeast for Monterey, Mass., home territory for a doe tagged in Connecticut 20 miles away. At the dead end of a back road we hear rapid beeps from the transmitter. Justin's excited. "A fawn! Half an hour old! We have to give the mother time to bond with her kid and clean it up." So we cruise over to Tyringham (no fawn yet) and return to Monterey an hour later.

Trekking up the trail we see a deer explode towards the woods from the tangled clearing of downed timber. We tread cautiously, and suddenly, there at our feet, are two fawns nestling together in the wet leaves. One struggles to its knees; I can see an inch of umbilical cord on its belly. "You keep an eye on that one," Justin tells me, so I follow it under the bushes and scoop it up in my arms, folding the long thin legs, cradling it against my body. I smell its silky wet hair. It cries out, a sharp, piercing, one-note cry, almost human. I

imagine the anxious mother watching from the woods.

Justin meanwhile is talking softly to his fawn while he measures its moth-wing brown ear (3 inches), tail (4.3 inches), back leg, hoof-to-knee (5 inches) and delicate pointed lavender-yellow-tortoiseshell hoof. It's a boy. Then he gently gathers the legs together ("It's all right," he murmurs) and puts him into a blue sack to weigh him (almost seven pounds), takes him out again and puts on a soft expandable radio collar. Then it is my fawn's turn—it's a boy too, a bit bigger.

The fawns, together again in their wet birth-bed, lick one another. Once they are strong enough, in a few hours, they will follow their mother's scent trail and find her nearby, Justin assures me. We wish the babes in the wood good luck. They'll need it. And then we get the heck out of there. *P.S. Ten days later, both fawns were eaten by a bear.* —Ella Clark



Chronicle Editors of Tomorrow?

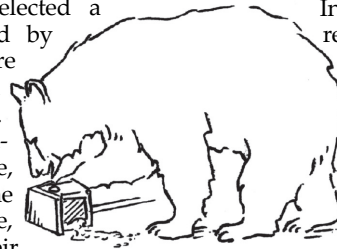
Children are curious by nature. Directing that curiosity in 8 and 9 year olds in an attempt to write a newspaper seems a daunting task. But, after reading a copy of the *Third Grade Informer*, it seems CCS teacher Anne Grant knew just what to do. And also, it seems, the five third-graders were up for the task.

After learning about a newspaper and how it is set up and laid out, the class got started. Each student selected a topic that was approved by Mrs. Grant to ensure appropriateness. Then they began writing. Interviews were conducted, research was done, and notes were taken. The students then wrote, rewrote, and typed up their articles.

Gavin Budny updated readers on the progress of the new statue portraying the CCS mascot, a coyote. Haley Considine interviewed Principal Croft and learned that not only does he like to garden, but his favorite vacation spot is in New Hampshire. Reilly Hedden reported that the Little Guild of St Francis, a stone's throw from CCS, is THE place to adopt a great pet. Sylvie Labalme relayed that in Austria, not only is the skiing fantastic, but so is the chocolate. And Keaton Terrall recounted the history of John Sutter, who in the mid-1800s found his fortune in gold only to lose it all to debts.

After the newspaper went to print, the class took a field trip to the *Lakeville Journal* to see how a real newspaper goes together.

According to one third-grader, this project was "a great way to end a great year." I'd have to agree. —Erin Hedden



Goodbye to Friends

Asmund Boyum
Bethia Currie
Terry J. Mazurkewicz
Marc Simont

Land Transfers

Lans Christensen to Erik John Tietz and Helen Kathleen Bamber Tietz, land with improvements thereon at 126 Great Hill Road, for \$350,000.

Kent Road Associates, LLC to Panta Properties, LLC, premises known as Baird's General Store, with all improvements thereon at 25 Kent Road, for \$410,000.

Kochman Holdings Group, LLC to JJC9, LLC, land with all buildings and improvements thereon at 9 Railroad Street, for \$120,000.
Samuel L. Samelson & Susan Samelson to Molly Rohn Morgan, land with all buildings and improvements thereon at 247 Dibble Hill Road, for \$1,580,000.

Summer Swimmers

The Cornwall Swim Team was started in 1971 by the Cornwall Civic Club and was sizeable from the get-go, never falling below 30 swimmers. Annie Kosciusko remembers the team coached by Joe Algrant in the '70s. "Our team consisted of lots of Horans, Labalmes, Duttons, Doolittles, Wilsons, Senzers, Wests, Williams, Golds, Pauls, Robbins. We were all excellent swimmers, despite swimming only in a summer league. We had some exciting and intense competition those summers, with big meets coming down to the last relay."

In a later season Josh Tyson remembered a memorable relay against the giant of the league that was Lakeville/Salisbury. "Those guys always beat us, and it must have just been the right day, but Ivan Miller, Dan Horan, and I came out and beat their best swimmers on their home turf."

When I swam for the swim team in what are now referred to as the noughts, we practiced at Hammond Beach and CHLA in two groups; for those under 11 and those over 11. The boys swam in Lycra Jammers (or Speedos if you had the nerve) and the girls in the iconic red and black racing suits against the neighboring towns of Canaan, Sharon, and Lakeville/Salisbury. We had meets most Tuesdays and Thursdays, competing in the races entrusted to us on the blue and red event cards. Apparently not a whole lot has changed.

Nowadays the team is stronger than ever, under the experienced coaching of Gordon Brown and Olivia Scott and a roster 40 strong. "The practices are a lot of hard work, but I have gotten better and made new friends," under-6 swimmer Eliza Tyson reflects. Whether it was forced upon you by busy parents or something you

couldn't wait to participate in, the Cornwall Swim Team has long been a cornerstone of summers here.
—Cameron Scott



NENT Keeps Boats Afloat

I have lived in Cornwall my entire life, attended countless numbers of games and events at Foote Field, yet I never knew of the lumber operation hidden in the woods behind the fields on Route 4. New England Naval Timbers (NENT), run by Duke Bezzozi and his assistant Jeff Woodward, has had a major impact on the world of naval lumber and also historic boat repair. The business is thriving. Duke's two special sawmills can produce huge timbers up to 60 feet long in the unusual sizes required to fix old boats. It is the only company east of the Mississippi able to do so.

NENT recently traveled to Canaan to cut down a uniquely large white oak tree that was used to restore perhaps the most famous boat in the world, the Mayflower. The oak lumber, in 30- to 60-foot planks, was steam bent to create the rounded sides needed to repair the boat's bow. The Charles W. Morgan bow spread also now has local wood in it. The Morgan is the only remaining wooden whaling ship and America's oldest intact commercial ship. NENT has also helped repair the NY50 Spartan backbone, the only remaining all-wood yacht of the America's Cup race series.

With all their accomplishments, Duke

Turkey-Buzzards

Silently, every hour, a pair would rise
And float, without an effort, clear of the trees:
Float in a perfect curve, then tilt and drop;
Or tilt again and spiral toward the sun.
They might have been a dream the timber dreamed;
But could have been a conscious thought, that cut
The warm blue world in segments. For the sky,
Unmeasured, was too much that afternoon.
It lay too heavy on us. Happy trees,
If they could so divide it, wing and wing!

—Mark Van Doren

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Letters to the Chronicle

SECOND AMENDMENT

I think for anyone to link in any way the ability of law-abiding citizens exercising their Second Amendment right of self defense or for any other legal purpose with the Newtown tragedy makes a leap that is both unfair and unreasonable.

Does the fact that our neighbors have 3,000-pound projectiles (cars) in their possession capable of speeds in excess of 100 mph generate such disconcerting feelings? I am much more fearful and much more likely to encounter an irresponsible driver "under the influence" than I am with anything having to do with my neighbors owning a gun. A free society can never guarantee total immunity from the aberrant actions of a few.

Considering the rise in home invasions, not only in Connecticut but throughout the country, I am comforted that my family, friends, and

neighbors who choose to do so have the ability to defend themselves and their loved ones.

—Joseph Marchetti

WE ARE FLOATING ON AIR

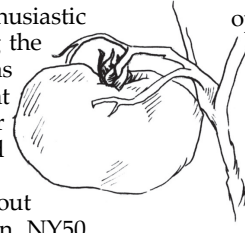
We wish to add our thanks to Roger Kane and his crew for the superb rebuilding of the upper portion of Great Hill Road. Our thanks also to those among us who assisted the town in receiving TARP funds for this job. Truly, it is wonderful to feel as if we are floating on air once we hit the new pavement, which begins at the intersection with College Street and continues to the Goshen sign. Plus, the pavement made it through the winter without frost heaves. Roger did a superb planning job, including on-site watching, to make certain all our driveway "aprons" were properly installed. What a joy.

—Carol Goodfriend

and Jeff are both modest and enthusiastic about their work. After describing the process they assured me that it "was easier than it looks." They did point out, however, that naval lumber dimensions had to be perfect and precise.

So the next time you hear about the Mayflower, Charles W. Morgan, NY50 Spartan or need some woodwork done on your yacht, remember the small but important boat business behind Foote Field.

—Ian Ridgway



operate. "The old apparatus outlived its life expectancy by five years so after careful budgeting, the town purchased a Wastequip Model 6030HD Vertical Baler for \$15,000. It's super efficient, pushing approximately 2,200 PSIs (pounds per square inch), but it, too, has

a few design flaws, including the need for constant operator presence."

Asked if Cornwall was waste management-forward in these purchases, Steve said, "Not really. Most transfer stations in Litchfield County have comparable equipment. Stay tuned for more upgrades coming soon."

—Elizabeth England

Dump Dish

Working at the dump is not for sissies. Steve O'Neil and Ted Larson make the job look effortless, patiently giving one-word answers or nods to the same old questions asked by the same old (and young) people: "Do Number 2s go here?" or "Where do paper bags go again?" Ask Steve about the stylish new chocolate brown garbage chomper, however, and the answer requires a dictionary and a savvy knowledge of state and local regulations to fully understand. "The new Wastequip Model 255HD compactor with a maximum force rating of 45100 is for the disposal and compaction of Cornwall's MSW (municipal solid waste)," explained Steve. "Purchased and replaced by our hauler, Paine's Inc., with a nominal installation fee footed by the town, this state-of-the-art compactor is four feet longer than the old one, with a larger capacity. Mind you, there are minor design flaws, including a smaller opening for disposal of trash and a door that opens in the wrong direction."

Tucked in the back of the dump shed, another addition to the family, a huntergreen compactor/cardboard baler stands proud, but seems to need a toddler's hand holding to

Cornwall Briefs

•**Food & Fuel:** One of the best of the caring institutions in our town is our Food & Fuel Bank. Last year, it paid out nearly \$26,000 for fuel, groceries, rent, utilities, and medical expenses to those in need, including neighbors who are out of work. Right now funds are low. Contributions should be mailed to the Cornwall Food & Fuel Fund, Box 97, Cornwall, CT. 06753. The fund should not be confused with the Cornwall Food Pantry, which collects food for the needy at the United Church of Christ (open for pick-ups Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 A.M. to noon and for drop-offs Fridays from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.).

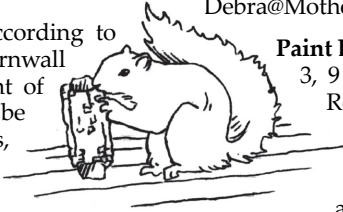
•**Town Beach:** Also known as Hammond Beach because the waterfront land was given to the town by Roxana Hammond. Since season's opening, visitors are greeted by a beautiful new stone wall, the work of master mason John LaPorta and friends. Also, there's new landscaping thanks to Josh Tyson, and the beach has been replenished with several truckloads of white sand, a gift from former Cornwall

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resident Jim Haywood who has "good memories of summers on Cream Hill Lake." With all this in mind, the town is looking for volunteers to form a "Friends of Hammond Beach" with people who have ideas on how to improve the venue. For information, call the first selectman's office, 672-4959.

•**Sidewalks Are Coming:** According to the first selectman's office, Cornwall will soon receive a state grant of over \$200,000. The funds will be used for several projects, beginning with a sidewalk connecting the new senior housing building, the Bonney Brook, with the Cornwall Bridge General Store currently being renovated. The store is expected to reopen in mid-August and the housing complex in October. The store is putting in a new septic system and already has a new well that failed on first drill. But wait!—a second try reportedly brought in a whopping 30 gallons per minute. West Cornwall will also get a stretch of sidewalk connecting the restaurant with the pottery store. Power lines on our side of the Covered Bridge will be buried adjacent to the replenished river park. Town Hall expects the work to be done next summer. By then you'll be able to buy a pot, take the sidewalk to the Moose where Russ can fill it with your choice of entrée, then walk over to the park bench and eat! —John Miller



Big Little Kids Dance, for youngsters and their adults. Saturday, August 10, 4 to 5 p.m. at the Town Hall. Finger-food potluck. Suggested \$10/family donation. For info call Rachel at 860-824-8404.

Farm Camp Eureka: A farm day camp for 8 to 11 year olds. Visit area farms and learn about producing food and shelter. August 12 to 17. For info call 672-0229 or Debra@Motherhouse.us.

Paint Disposal: Saturday, August 3, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M., Torrington Recycling Center, 252 Bogue Road. Any amount of latex or oil-based paint, stain, sealer, or finish accepted. Cans may not be empty or unlabeled. Preregistration not required.

At The Cornwall Library

The Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children's Theater will be held Wednesday, August 7, at 7 P.M., when *The Myth of Persephone: How the Seasons Came to Be* will be presented. All are welcome to participate; there are parts for ages 6 through adult. Pre-performance workshop from 5 to 6:30 P.M. (before the show). Call the library to register by August 6. Free pizza for all workshop participants.

Family Movie will be offered Friday, August 16, at 7 P.M. when *Chicken Run*, rated G, will be shown. "Laughs for all ages."

How to Download Books will be held Thursday, August 8, from 3 to 6 P.M. Gina Maolucci will lead the instruction. Bring your own device or use the library's Nook.

A book talk on Saturday, August 10, at 4 P.M. will feature Roxana Robinson on her new book, *Sparta*.

All events free; donations welcome.

The Rose Algrant Art Show: Friday, August 9, from 5 to 8 P.M., Saturday, August 10, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., and Sunday, August 11, from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M., at the Cornwall Consolidated School (see insert).

The Grumbling Gryphons Theater Arts Campers will perform on Saturday, August 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. on the town green. Food and festivities will follow, including music, dancing, Matica Circus, and the Giant Green Man Puppet (created by Tim Prentice and Ellen Moon). Email grumblinggryphons@yahoo.com or call 672-0286 for more information.

Guided Trail Walk: The Cornwall Conservation Trust will lead a walk through Welles Preserve on Sunday, August 11, at 11 A.M. All ages welcome. Call 672-6014 for information.

The More You Know: The Cornwall community is invited to a friendly conversation about Education in Region One, Sunday, August 11, 4 P.M. in the Gathering Room at CCS.

Senior Luncheon: Beat the heat, meet and greet at the Wandering Moose on Tuesday, August 13, 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. No reservations necessary.

State Representative Roberta Willis will discuss what it means to be "A Woman in the House" as part of the Cornwall Historical Society's exhibit on Women's Rights, on Sunday, August 18, 2 P.M., at the Town Hall. Refreshments will be served. Free; donations welcome.

Park & Rec Events

Cornwall Day at Lake Compounce, Tuesday, August 20, from 11 A.M. to 8 P.M. (rain date Wednesday). Cost: \$24; no charge for children under 3.

Cornwall Seniors' summer field trip to Thimble Island in Branford. on Thursday, August 22. Leaving Cornwall at 9:30 A.M.; includes lunch and a cruise around Thimble Island. Cost to be determined.

For information on both events, email prcornwall@gmail.com, or call 672-4071.

Art in Cornwall

At the library: Cornwall Afternoons, an exhibition of plein air oil paintings by Kathleen Love Mooney continues through the month of August.

The Souterrain Gallery features works by photographers Catherine Noren and Lazlo Gyorsok through August 25. Saturday, August 31, marks the opening of Cornwall Bridge Code, an exhibit of computer-generated works by Mark Wilson; reception from 3 to 6 P.M.

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CORNWALL CHRONICLE

THIS MONTH

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Events & Announcements

Motherhouse Events

Community Country Dance, Saturday, August 3, 7 P.M. at Town Hall. Anne Banks calling and music by Still, the Homegrown Band. Suggested donation: \$3-5/child, \$5-10/adult. For info call 672-6101.

Yes, We CAN Can: On Saturday, August 10, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Wyatt Whiteman will show methods of putting-food-by in glass jars. Potluck lunch. \$35/family. Must preregister with Debra@Motherhouse.us or 672-0229.

Visit our new website:
cornwallchronicle.org



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