



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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Power to the People

You will notice that the CL&P crews have gone from Route 4; they have migrated back to Massachusetts until the snow has been cleared from the roads. There is no snow as of this writing but CL&P can't be faulted for anticipating it. They will be back in the spring to continue their work to provide more reliable service for customers in Cornwall.

What they are doing is rebuilding the facilities along Route 4 (putting up new poles and replacing the lines) and, most importantly, they are creating a way for Cornwall (and Goshen and Kent) to have automatic backup power in the event of an outage. Our electricity now comes from Harwinton, by way of Goshen, so any untoward circumstances affecting the power lines between there and here can cause us to lose power until they're fixed. The improved system will provide Cornwall with backup power from the direction of Kent.

Construction will take another 14 months or so. During that time we'll have the relatively minor inconvenience of

CL&P work vehicles on the roads. But it will certainly be worth it when our roads are clear and our electricity unflinching!

— Celia Senzer



News From the Dump



Of course the big news, though it's not exactly news, is that it's no longer a dump. But trying to get Cornwallians to call it the transfer station is like trying to get New Yorkers to call Sixth Avenue the Avenue of the Americas. Nevertheless, a transfer station it is, and more and more garbage is recycled all the time, thanks to the dedication and ingenuity of Art Breaun and his helpers, and to the cooperation of the people of Cornwall.

"Ninety-nine point nine percent of the people recycle their garbage conscientiously," says Art, "and I know who that other tenth of a percent are. If someone throws a bag into the dumpster with a can or bottle in it, I hear it."

The state wants towns to recycle 25 percent of their garbage. "There's no penalty

for failure to comply," says Art, "and some towns don't recycle. But we're going great. We're recycling about 30 percent."



"Money is a factor in how much you can recycle," says Recycling Coordinator Lib Terrall, "and Art is very creative in finding ways to save the town money." Case in point: it used to cost the town \$18 a ton to get rid of glossy magazines and office waste. Now it's a moneymaker. Art bales it and sells it for \$25 a ton to the Marcal Paper Company, so we're ahead \$43 a ton — that's a savings of over \$2,000 a year.

"Plus," Lib adds, "if you buy any Marcal products — such as their toilet paper, for example — you can have the pleasure of knowing it may have once been that Victoria's Secret catalog that you tossed into the bin a few months back."

Art also uses the baler to crush the large plastic bottles after they've been strung together. This makes a more compact bundle for Marty Mallory of New Marlboro, Massachusetts, who picks up all our plastic. Mallory, a.k.a. Marty the Master Garbologist, enlists the aid of students at the nearby Colburn School to sort plastic

(continued on page 2)

JANUARY 1995

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 Skating 7 - 8 p.m. this Monday only (p.4)	3 Inland Wetlands* 7:30 p.m. Town Office Board of Selectmen 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	4 CCS reopens W. Cornwall Merchants Association 10 a.m. Cadwell's	5	6	7
8 Poetry Reading 8 p.m. Cadwell's (p. 4)	9 Cynthia Kirk, paintings Cornwall Lib. Budget Meeting 7:30 p.m. CCS Library (p.3) P&Z 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Park & Rec 7:30 p.m. Town Office	10 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 p.m. CSS Library Rep. Town Comm. 7:30 p.m. Mohawk Ski Lodge Dem. Town Comm. 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	11 CCS PTA 7 p.m. CCS Library	12	13 Travelog (Jerusalem) Scott Cady 7 p.m. CCS Library	14
15	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY HVRHS Board of Ed. 7:00 p.m. Salisbury Central School*	17 Cornwall Association 4 p.m. Tim Prentice's house Board of Selectmen 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	18	19 Board of Education 6:30 p.m. CCS Library Board of Finance 7:30 p.m. CCS Library	20 Town Meeting 8:00 p.m. CCS Gym (p. 4)	21
22 Cornwall According to Terrall 4 p.m. Cornwall Library (p. 4)	23 ZBA 7:30 p.m. Town Hall*	24	25	26	27 Judy Gafney presents program for preschoolers 10 a.m. Cornwall Library (p. 4)	28
29	30	31 Last day to pay Cornwall Taxes	<i>The Chronicle is not responsible for changes in meeting times and dates after it has gone to press.</i>			 1 8 16 23

*Check time and place at Town Office

(continued from page 1)

by number, after which it is made into pellets, then into new products.

"Unfortunately," says Lib, "unlike bottles or cans, most plastic can only be recycled once — the process changes its chemical structure. Plastic is a big environmental problem, so it's important to realize that many of the plastic containers you may have been throwing out are now recyclable. Look for the number on the bottom, inside the little recycling logo. We now recycle numbers one through seven except four.

"A fairly recent addition," Lib points out, "is the bin for used clothing, near Art's office. And not everyone is aware that we recycle crankcase oil. We already recycle car batteries, and soon hope to do flashlight and other small batteries. The only limit is what is cost effective. Paine's, the company that picks up most of our recyclables, has been very helpful in finding markets for our stuff."

Recycling makes people more aware of what they throw out. It is less likely that someone today would toss \$1,000 worth of travelers checks into the dumpster, as happened some years ago, or that Art would uncover a dental bridge while poking around in the trash, as he once did. And since picking has been discouraged, people no longer return home with more than they brought, and Tim Prentice has to buy his raw materials. But despite change, the essence of the dump survives. It is still a Sunday morning meeting place, a social institution.

"I just love going down there," says Lib. "Art makes the place. And the people who work there are great. It's really the cultural center of the town."

—George Kittle



Town Nest Egg Uncracked

Recent news from California's Orange County about the heavy losses of public funds through risky investing prompted government finance directors all over the country to examine their portfolios for problems.

Cornwall taxpayers need not worry, according to Treasurer Natalie Parks Hunter: "Town operating funds and also its municipal reserve are safe." Hunter said she and Deputy Treasurer Lisa Lansing meet regularly to discuss investments and the range of financial products being offered to municipal governments. Virtually every week, Lansing said, she gets a sales call from a brokerage house or a bank offering a new and wonderful way for the town to profit on the market.

"Even if we wanted to play the market," she said, "state law limits our investments to government T-bills and some Federal-agency bonds. It would be tough to be a punter within those limits."

Almost all the town's funds are invested with the state treasurer's Short Term Investment Fund or with MBIA's CLASS funds, which are held by almost every municipality in Connecticut. These produce a reliable if modest income stream and have responded nicely to recent interest-rate increases, Lansing said.

"Safety comes first," Treasurer Hunter said. "That's a no-brainer."

—Lisa Lansing

Q.E.D.

The Region 11 Quality and Diversity plan was approved by a vote of 28 to 11 at the town meeting held Monday, November 28, and was then unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

The report was the result of nearly a year's effort by volunteers representing all aspects of the community including local officials, Board of Education members, teachers, clergy, parents, students, and business and civic leaders. They were acting in response to Public Act 93-263, which required local communities throughout the state to participate in the process of addressing educational quality and diversity in their public schools.

Although the plan was approved in Cornwall, it was rejected by the majority of the 17 towns in Region 11, as were most regional plans throughout the state.

—Patricia Blakey

Offices, Offices

The three selectmen have been faithfully considering their age-old quest for town offices. With the able pen of architect Alec Frost, plans for expanding and renovating the present town offices are nearly complete. Town workers have suggested practical improvements. The selectmen are also awaiting clarification of the status of Marvelwood real estate. A likely option is a right of first refusal, which could enable the town to have a chance to consider using those buildings for municipal purposes. When all necessary plans are in hand, information sessions will be held on these town office alternatives.

—Gordon Ridgway



Stop the Junk

If you're suffering from post-holiday junk-mail fatigue, here are two remedies:

- To eliminate catalogs, duplicate mailings, and having your name sold to other mailing lists, fill out and return the relevant part of the order form in the catalog (it's in small type so you might not have noticed it).

- To get taken off all mailing lists, write to Direct Marketing Assn., 6 E. 43rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10017. Tell them you want to be off their mailing lists.

Recycling's great; even better is cutting it off at the source.

—Eliz. Tobin Terrall



CCC Moving Date

The Cornwall Child Center hopes to move to its new home during the weekend of January 14. This will be the culmination of years of planning and fund raising and months of actual construction. The last hurdles are official inspections to assure that all state and code requirements have been met. Following approval, the required state license will be issued and the dream realized. Check your February *Chronicle* for the date of the Open House celebration.

—Ginny Potter

Welcome

Nicholas Van Fossen Thibault to Mark Thibault and Amy Van Fossen

Leonora Sofia Smithies to Patrick Smithies and Norma Carrillo

Good-bye to a Friend

Eileen Marie Ducey

Land Transfers

Leslie Whitney to Kenneth R. Whitney et al., 5 Tarradiddle Lane, house and 3.93 acres for \$120,000.

John L. Chau to Darrell R. Lund, 5 acre lot on Whitcomb Hill Road, no money paid.

Estate of Alice L. Lane to Ellen Rennie Keeney, house and land on Dudleytown Road for \$155,000.

U.S. Department of HUD to H&S Trust, building and lot on Masonville Road for under \$20,000.

Any Way to Run a Railroad?

The Housatonic River Commission (HRC) at its December 13 meeting discussed the questionable safety record of the

Housatonic Railroad Company, specifically the numerous derailings, two of them quite recent, the upending of boxcars very close to the river, the past fires, and the apparent hauling of hazardous materials, all of which have raised the anxiety level of the public and the HRC. Just imagine a tank car carrying petroleum or hydrochloric acid plunging into the Housatonic River, or a 20- to 30-mile black slick grunging its way under our covered bridge, and you know the concern of the HRC.

Talks with the railroad company have failed to reveal an emergency protection plan should a face-off occur between a careening train car and the river. Apparently they don't think one is needed, as at one point we were told that there are virtually no places where an accident could result in train cars going into the river.

Railroad people and state officials sometimes write off local concerns as anti-railroad bias. The HRC does not consider this a bias issue. We have nothing against railroads. However, we are committed to the preservation of the river and its corridor, and believe the railroad as currently operated constitutes a threat to this. We plan to ask the state for manifests showing the contents of railroad cars, and to conduct an environmental impact study to assess what would actually happen were a car carrying a toxic substance to fall into the river.

—Philip Hart



PTA News

The CCS PTA had a very productive 1994. Parents, teachers, administrators, and the community joined in efforts to raise more than \$5,000. At our December meeting over \$3,000 was allocated for enrichment programs, books, and reference materials.

Among the topics discussed at our meetings were: activities offered during indoor recess; nutrition; budgets; Quality Education and Diversity; the need for better communication between school, parents, Board of Education, and community; parent involvement; curriculum (where are our students headed?); and civility. We are steadily realizing our goal of more parent/teacher involvement, and that is exciting.

Our membership is constantly growing; we currently number 46 families. (Membership is open to any parent for \$3 a year. Send checks made out to CCS PTA to: Vera Dinneen, CCS PTA Membership Coordinator, Popple Swamp Road, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754). CCS PTA member-

TUNING IN ON THE CVFD

Everyone reads the Chronicle. It is a great forum for our town and the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department wants to join in. We hope to inform you from time to time about who your volunteer firefighters and ambulance crews are and what we do; to help your family with tips for lowering risks and improving safety; and to address issues and questions you have for us. Please feel free to participate.

Many of you may know a firefighter or emergency medical technician (EMT). Even though we're volunteers, we get the same training as the pros: often we're right alongside them in classes, and passing tests to gain and maintain certification. In order to stay fresh, every week we hold meetings or departmental drills. So when you pass the West Cornwall Firehouse and see a bunch of vehicles parked there, chances are we're inside brushing up our skills or learning new techniques.

Last month we invited you to come and see us learn how to extricate people from vehicles at accident scenes, and some of you came out to see us working tools like the Jaws of Life. We'll continue to inform you of our training sessions which may be of interest to you. You can write us at CVFD, P.O. Box 131, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754, attn: Chronicle.

In November, there were 11 fire calls and 13 ambulance calls.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

—Your CVFD

ADIOS AMIGOS

The Cuban refugee family which arrived in June, sponsored by the United Church of Christ in Cornwall, moved December 17 to Elizabeth, New Jersey, to join relatives and friends there. Humberto Ane and his wife Sara have a choice of jobs to look forward to and a school two blocks away for their daughters. Thanks to the principal, teachers, and volunteers at Cornwall Consolidated School, Estrella and Alicia have learned English so well that their parents have requested they not be placed in the bilingual program in Elizabeth. Sara expressed the family's mixed emotions about moving and said they had left one family in Cuba and now are leaving another in Cornwall. They plan to return for visits and hope that Cornwall friends will visit them in Elizabeth. The many



Letters to the Chronicle

people who helped the Ane family to get a fresh start will miss them and the insights they gave us into an America seen through fresh eyes.

—Anne Baren

THINK BUDGET

A great deal of time, thought, and anguish is expended every year as town officials prepare a budget which creates a fair balance for Cornwall between what we want and what we can afford.

It is very helpful to have taxpayer input during this process. After all, the finished product is supposed to be the will of the people, representative of their needs and wishes. It is imperative that participation start early so that townspeople can contribute their ideas and understand the choices made.

The Chronicle calendar will list the upcoming Board of Finance meetings, of which two are in January (the first a joint meeting with the selectmen and the Board of Education). The board looks forward to seeing many of you at our meetings so that we may share facts, alternatives, and choices.

—Ralph C. Gold, Chairman BOF

BIRDBRAIN

MAGIC

(Inspired by an article about black-



capped chickadees in the New York Times for November 15, 1994: "To Remember Seed Caches, Bird Grows New Brain Cells".)

Intelli-gents and ladies, too,
Especially those with high I.Q.,
Bow humbly down upon your knees:
Your mind's outdone by chickadees.

These birds with nary twitch or strain
As soon as autumn stirs their brain
Grow brand new nerve cells in their head
To replace old ones that are dead.

They're cells that keep the memory keen
Inside a structure seldom seen
That's called the "seahorse" of the brain
(Or hippocampus, to be plain).

It's in the circuit for "recall"
Which chickadees build up in fall
Lest they forget where they have stored
Their winter's food, a scattered hoard.

No grown man, beast, or other fowl
That o'er this planet's earth doth prow
Can grow new nerve cells after birth —
'Tis a birdbrain feat of priceless worth.

—Larry Pooladee

ship gives members voting privileges at our meetings and is a way to become directly involved in education and our school. Our regularly scheduled meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month in the CCS library at 7 p.m. Babysitting is provided free of charge.

Here are some things we need: a glass art display case (to display student's artwork), a book/storage case on wheels, and — as always — books and reference materials for our library. Please contact the school office (672-6617) if you have any of them.

—Karen Stevens

Events & Announcements

Hats off to the New Librarian: Estelle Stetson will be the new librarian of the Hughes Memorial Library in West Cornwall, effective January 1, upon the retirement of Marguerite Becker. Becker has been the librarian since Dutch and Myrtle Yutzler retired some years ago. An open meeting will be held in the spring for the selection of a few new officers and trustees. The library is looking for active participation from residents of Cornwall. For the moment, the library hours will remain unchanged (Tuesday 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.).

New Night for Poetry: Poetry readings at Cadwell's Corner have been moved to Sunday evenings because Cadwell's is now serving Saturday night dinners. This month's reading is on January 8, at 8 p.m.

Town Meeting: Because many people were not aware of the re-scheduled date for the November town meeting, another town meeting will be held on Friday, January 20, at 8 p.m. in the CCS gym, to continue discussion of the Q.E.D. proposal and to update the ordinance which determines where and when notices of town meetings are to be posted.

Winter Rules: Remember to park your cars at least six feet away from town roads, so the crew can plow. In effect through March.



Going on Five: With this issue, the Chronicle completes its fourth year of publication, rather a long run for a volunteer publication. Its durability is thanks to a steady bunch of editors, writers, and artists, and a large group of contributors who keep responding to the appeals in this space. We need you to keep those checks coming in 1995, and we wish all our readers a happy new year.

Yes, I want the Chronicle to continue.
Here is my tax-deductible contribution of:

\$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE/ZIP _____

\$10.00 will get the Chronicle mailed out of town.

Cornwall According to Terrall: At the Cornwall Library, on Sunday, January 22, at 4 p.m., novelist Bob Terrall will read a selection of the Saturday Night Live pieces he has been doing at Cadwell's Corner.

Subjects will include the town curmudgeon; the town drunk; people going crazy at the Mental Health Auction; and Dorothy, who, under the pretext of selling frozen yogurt in a residential zone, is actually keeping a bawdy house. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library. Admission free — everyone invited.



Park & Rec News: Skating continues every Monday night, 7:30 - 8:30, for Cornwall residents at the Salisbury School skating rink. The cost is \$1.00 per person; soft hats are required. Please come! If any adults are interested in pick-up basketball games, please call Mark Pastre at 672-0719.

Benefit for Jubilee School: Save the date, Sunday, February 12, at 3 p.m., for a festive benefit program featuring readings by Sam Waterston and songs by the Litchfield County Children's Choir, at the United Church of Christ. Proceeds will fund the second annual five-day June trip to Cornwall by 40 Jubilee School students and teachers from inner-city Philadelphia. For further information call the church office, 672-6840.

The Board of Tax Review will be holding sessions in February for those who need or want to meet with board members. An appointment is necessary and can be made by calling the Town Clerk's office (672-2709). The session dates and times are:

Saturday Feb. 4 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Monday Feb. 6 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Tuesday Feb. 7 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Thursday Feb. 9 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE, INC.
143 CREAM HILL ROAD, WEST CORNWALL, CT 06796

CORNWALL RESIDENT

CVFD 1995 Calendars, featuring a photograph of last May's Bridge Dance, are now on sale (\$5 - proceeds to CVFD) at Baird's, Berkshire Country Store, Cadwells, Hair West, and Yutzler's. They may also be purchased from any firefighter or member of the ambulance crew.

Hunting Dates for January: Pheasant, partridge, and ruffed grouse, 1-14; raccoon, 1-21; gray squirrel and red and gray fox, 1-28; snowshoe hare and coyote, all month, crows also all month; but only on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays (the crows probably know this).

BOE Appointment: The Board of Education has elected Katherine Gannett as chairperson to replace Dianne Heiny, who resigned from the board effective Oct. 24. At its meeting on Dec. 15, David Samson was appointed to the board to fill the vacancy created by Heiny's resignation. Samson will serve until November, 1995, when Heiny's term expires.



Preschooler Special: Eight sessions of stories, songs, and rhymes will be held at the Cornwall Library starting on Friday, Jan. 27, at 10 a.m. Judy Gafney, children's librarian at Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, will bring her popular program to Cornwall. The free sessions will continue each Friday until mid-March. All children between two and five are welcome.

Music on CD has come to the Cornwall Library. Now library borrowers can check out a CD for two weeks, just as they would a book. The CD's are part of a bulk loan made quarterly from the State Library in the same way that unabridged recorded books have been made available.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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