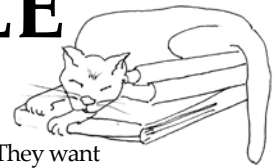


CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 27 : NUMBER 6 JULY 2017



Trinity Revitalized

Five years after it closed, the Trinity Conference Center on River Road in West Cornwall is gearing up to reopen this fall with a fully refurbished campus.

To celebrate the reopening, the center is hosting a picnic for the town on July 29. "We want to be part of Cornwall," said Joe Rose, who with his wife, Heidi, share the director's job. "We're planning ways to bring the community in," noting this is also the second year they have hosted the Rose Algrant show.

According to Rose, the reopened center will provide programs for religious and non-profit groups from out of town as well as act as host for groups with their own programming. Trinity's programming and that of groups using the space will be religiously based, Rose said, adding that there will be a focus on interfaith relations and dialogue. Potential programs include a forum on the spirituality of Bob Dylan's music, with speakers and live musicians (though my guess, not Bob.)

Originally purchased by an Episcopalian priest in the early 20th century as a summer retreat for city children, the property was bought by Trinity Church of Wall Street fame (and one-time church of Alexander

Hamilton) in the mid 1940s. The center closed a few years back, was put on the market, had some land sold to the Cornwall Conservation Trust, was taken off the market, and is now nearing completion of a substantial reconstruction of its buildings. Richard Griggs, assistant to the Roses, tells that a new oak floor is being installed in the large Dix building, along with a major kitchen renovation.

Most of the houses there have seen major work done. Anyone who attended the Rose Algrant show last year saw the work in progress.

A farm-to-table agricultural operation is also in the works to supply guests and the farmers' market with local food, per Griggs. Donkeys (protectors against foxes), chickens, and guinea hens (they eat ticks) are already in residence. The garden is growing.

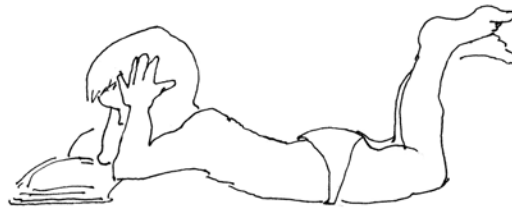
The picnic on July 29 is from noon until 4 P.M. with food and drink provided. The Roses and the Rev. Daniel Simons, the center's priest, will give tours and talk about

the center's future. They want feedback from the locals. "Trinity wants to be a good neighbor," Rose says and sees the picnic as an opportunity to satisfy curiosity by letting people see what they're doing.

In the future, Rose anticipates filling about 15 jobs, which could make it one of the largest, if not the largest, year-round employer in Cornwall. In all, "this could be a boon for the town," says Griggs.

It's not your father's Trinity Center.

—Jim Longwell



Like Us on Facebook

Last month, the *Chronicle* (with the able assistance of Caroline Kosciusko) made its social media debut by launching a Facebook page. Each Monday the *Chronicle* posts a weekly calendar of events along with stories from the current issue. The flexible platform of Facebook also allows for timelier, interim reporting between issues and for sharing information from other local Facebook pages. The *Chronicle* is now just a "like" and a "share" away for our out-of-town friends and kids at school. See you on Facebook!

JULY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Mat Squad at 6:30 pm UCC; Karate , 6:30–7:30 pm Town Hall; Men's Senior Basketball 6:30–8:30 pm CCS ♦ Tuesdays: Zumba, 5:30–6:30 pm Library ♦ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 5–7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064; Stitch 'n Spin , 7:15–8:30 pm UCC ♦ Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Toddler Play Group , 10:30–11:30 am Library; Meditation , 4–5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Zumba , 5:30–6:30 pm Library; Mah Jongg , 7–9 pm Library call 672-6874; Adult Volleyball , 7–9 pm CCS gym ♦ Fridays: Yoga 8:30–10 am Library ♦ Saturdays: West Cornwall Farm Market, 9 am–1 pm; Co-op Farm Market, 9 am–12:30 pm ♦ Sundays: Yoga 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation , 1 pm call Debra 672-0229						1 ♦ First Half of Grand List Taxes due ♦ Children's Program Live Animals 11 am–Noon Library ♦ July Fest 11 am–1 pm Town Green ♦ Community Contra Dance 7 pm Town Hall
2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 ♦ Inland Wetlands Agency 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	6	7	8 ♦ Deadline EDC Uncover Cornwall Instagram Contest ♦ Children's Program Bird Food Making 11 am Library ♦ Cornwall Artists Open Studio Noon–5 pm ♦ Full Rose Moon Drum Circle 7–9 pm Local Farm
9 ♦ Kids' Nature Scavenger Hunt 11 am Hart Farm Preserve	10 ♦ Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon–1 pm UCC ♦ Cornwall Ag. Advisory Committee 7:30 pm Town Office	11 ♦ Monthly Senior Luncheon (BYOL) Noon Library ♦ West Cornwall Septic Committee 5 pm Ingersoll's Shop ♦ P&Z 7 pm Library ♦ Housatonic River Commission 7:30 pm WC Firehouse	12	13	14	15 ♦ Deadline: August Chronicle Copy ♦ Rummage Sale 9 am–2 pm ♦ Children's Prog. Bird Bingo 10 am–Noon Lib. ♦ Opening Reception/ Pot Luck BBQ 3–6 pm Souterrain Gallery ♦ Bat Count & Pot Luck Picnic 6:30–9 pm Local Farm
16 ♦ Rummage Sale 11 am–2 pm	17 ♦ Rummage Sale 9 am–Noon	18 ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	19 ♦ Board of Finance 7:30 pm Town Hall	20 ♦ No Knitting Group ♦ Application Deadline Rose Algrant Art Show ♦ Cornwall Conservation 7 pm Library	21	22 ♦ Fam. Day Hist. Soc. 10 am–2 pm ♦ Children's Prog. Author Talk Noon Library ♦ Gallery Walk 5 pm Hist. Soc. ♦ Artists' Rec. Scott Zuckerman 5–7 pm Library ♦ Hammond Beach BYO Picnic 5 pm ♦ Women's Drum Circle 7–9 pm Local Farm
23 ♦ Democratic Caucus 4 pm Library	24 ♦ ZBA* 7 pm Library ♦ Republican Caucus 7 pm Library	25 ♦ Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library	26 ♦ Cornwall Business Assoc. 9 am W. Cornwall Library	27	28	29 ♦ Children's Program Arts and Crafts 11 am Library ♦ Picnic Trinity Retreat Center Noon–4 pm
30 ♦ Grumbling Gryphons Theater Arts Camp begins	31 ♦ Senior Trip 9 am Shoreline Trolley Museum					

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

"We Are Still Here"

Some two dozen members of the extended family of Henry Opukahaia and a handful of descendants of Cherokee Nation leader John Ridge dropped into town in mid-June to help celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of Cornwall's Foreign Mission School. The Hawaiians set the tone of the weekend at the Friday, June 16, opening of the Cornwall Historical Society's new exhibit, "Made in Cornwall," by distributing colorful leis to all comers and serving appetizers including taro, breadfruit, and coconut.

The anniversary festivities proper kicked off on Saturday morning with tours of the Steward's House of the FMS and a ceremony honoring its designation as a National Historical Landmark by the National Park Service (one of only 2,500 nationwide). Speakers included the owner of the house, Ben Gray; National Park Service Park Manager Linda Cook; Mary Kathryn Nagle, playwright, activist lawyer, and linear descendant of John Ridge; and Kauanoe Hoomanawanui, lateral descendant of Henry Opukahaia and a leading member of his *ohana*, the group of Hawaiian relatives and friends who helped with his 1993 exhumation.

A luncheon in the UCC Parish House was followed by an informative slide show by Lucianne Lavin, director of the Institute of American Indian Studies in nearby Washington, Conn. She identified the Cornwall region as a major crossroads for native peoples who, she emphasized, have never died out. Few, however, found their resting place in a local cemetery. An exception was Opukahaia, whose impressive memorial stone table lies atop a hill near the east end of Cornwall Cemetery (on Route 4). Here former State Archeologist Nicholas Bellantoni gave an account of the exhumation which he led in 1993.

The highlight of Saturday's goings-on was the staged reading of Mary Kathryn Nagle's *Return to Cornwall*, a performance that included many scenes from her Arena Theater play scheduled to open in Washington, D.C., next January. Inspiration for Nagle's play was the love affair between her ancestor, who fell in love with the Steward's daughter Sarah Northrup while recuperating in her father's house. The script did not stick to the past, however, instead making an effective leap across the centuries with unanswered questions about today's cultural identities and conflicts and the pointed reminder from the indigenous speakers that "we are still here."

On Sunday the main event was an ambitious colloquium titled "Whose Mission?" moderated by Jeremy Brecher. Entertaining talks were delivered by archeologist Bellantoni about his "ground-penetrating radar survey," Amherst professor Karen Sanchez-Eppler about the "friendship album" put together by a Chinese FMS student, and former CHS intern Ryan Bachman

about the history of student "exhibitions." The two descendants of FMS alumni, meanwhile, emphasized vastly different aspects of the school's legacy, with Hoomanawanui hailing the cultural benefits to Hawaii of Opukahaia's influence, and Nagle challenging the audience to address what she described as dubious Supreme Court precedents.

Part reunion, part inquiry into the implications of the hierarchy of cultures, the proceedings of the weekend fostered a better understanding of our forebears' aspirations and the ways they continue to affect us. For a couple of days it seemed as if the spirits of the ancestors—Yankees, Hawaiians, Cherokees, and a world of others—was hovering over Cornwall.

—Paul De Angelis



Lightning Strike

A thunderstorm rolled through Cornwall the evening of May 26. But it wasn't the booms of thunder that woke the Saccardi family on Warren Hill—it was the sound of their smoke alarms.

As Steve Saccardi began investigating each room, his wife, Susan, had an uneasy feeling and began to dress. Within moments Steve yelled, "Get everyone out of the house." She told her two youngest children to leave the house hand-in-hand immediately.

A lightning strike had followed the electrical services to the utility room in their basement. A fire started at that point of entry and began spreading quickly. The smoke curling out of the room into an adjacent space triggered the smoke alarms. Steve exhausted one fire extinguisher and by the time his son returned with a second, the fire was too large and hot to fight alone, forcing Steve to retreat outside.

Upstairs Susan scooped the family's kitten from her daughter's bed; fortunately the noise had not frightened the kitten into hiding. Looking back, Susan saw the hall she had just come down was now filled with black smoke. The alarms blared insistently as she worked her way downstairs—it was impossible to see and very difficult to breathe.

Unable to find the front door, Susan said she feared she was not going to make it outside. She kept her composure and used instinct and observation to exit. Most comfortable with her routine to exit via the

Good-bye to Friends

Douglas Owen Landy
Harry Colley

Land Transfers

John and Joanne Scully to Matthew and Rana Strazza, eight acres of land with all buildings and improvements thereon, at 86 Popple Swamp Road, for \$300,000.

Cindy Clarke to Russell A. and Cornelia L. Fortier, 1.3 acres of land with all buildings thereon, at 4 Hickory Lane, for \$189,000.

kitchen door, she moved toward the kitchen. She saw the smoke moving in the direction of the door and realized it must be open. She realized then that she couldn't find the family parakeet. Her anxious family waiting outside yelled for her to just get out of the house.

With no land line, one of their sons moved to the only location in the yard where a cellular signal was available to call 911. It was six minutes before 1 A.M. when the page went out to the Cornwall Fire Department. Within minutes resources from the department were on scene putting the fire out.

Steve said, "All total, from the time of the strike and alarms going off, the family had approximately four minutes to escape the fire." Susan feels it was less than that.

As a member of the fire department, Steve is aware of how quickly things can go wrong, and how long it can take to extinguish such a fire. He said the department did an amazing job, putting out the fire and packing up in just four hours.

Susan credits the hard-wired alarm system with giving the family time to escape. Because their system was hardwired, once the smoke reached the detector just outside the utility room, all alarms triggered, giving the family the maximum warning possible. In hindsight, she wishes they had a detector within the area of the utilities. Another factor in the spreading of this fire was how easily the fire reached the insulation and floor above the utilities. While fire-retardant materials on the walls and ceiling of the utility room wouldn't have prevented the fire, they would have slowed the pace.

Susan has turned this frightening experience into one of learning. Running down a list, Susan has said each bedroom needs to have ready a pair of shoes for the occupant to put on and something warm to grab. Practicing exit routes with the family and having a planned gathering point outside of the house are essential. She adds that being able to make a 911 call is critical. With the house phone out, had they not known the quickest spot to a cellular signal, the home would have been a complete loss. As it is, the house sustained heavy smoke and water damage. The only loss of life was their very old parakeet.

The family is very grateful for all of the support received. And while it will be well over a year, they look forward to being back in their own home again. —Diane Beebe

CVFD Celebrates 85 Years

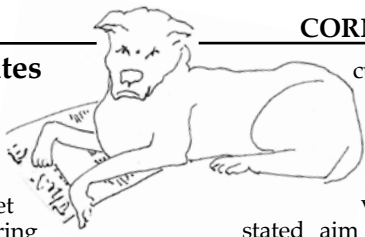
The Cornwall Fire Department remains a busy and important asset to the community. During its recent banquet, the organization celebrated 85 years of community service.

In attendance were departments from neighboring towns as well as family and friends. This year Skip Kosciusko was applauded for his dedication, and as the member with the highest percentage of calls attended. Gordon Ridgway was awarded his 35-year service pin along with many others receiving recognition for their years of service. A representative from the Connecticut Fire Police Association was on hand to present a memorial plaque to the Goddard family in recognition of Asa's many years of service to the department and to the fire police association.

The department has grown this past year. Chief Fred Scoville welcomed the addition of six members, two of whom were previously members of the CVFD Juniors' service. The organization reflected on its 85 years and looks forward to continuing its service for many more years to come.

In addition to the banquet, the department has been busy attending to equipment and training. With the new ambulance sufficiently broken in, the team is excited to share that a new tanker is on its way. With over 275 calls each year, both apparatus are critical in the service of Cornwall, as well as providing mutual aid to neighboring towns.

Emergency medical requests account for more than half of the calls received by the department. During May and June, the department hosted a series of Emergency Medical Response (EMR) training classes leading to state certification. Five individuals from Cornwall participated, as well as five from neighboring towns. This training is directed toward responders who may be first on scene, or who may assist Emergency Medical Technicians. While the Cornwall EMS team is an advanced life support organization, the addition of trained EMRs in basic life support is an important addition. Studies have shown that patient outcomes can be improved based on the initial care received on scene, prior to being transported to a medical facility. Expanding the number of qualified responders is an important component of the department's goal of providing the best and most efficient service to the community, now and for another 85 years



—Diane Beebe

Preserving Democracy

In a town that can nearly always boast a high voter turnout for state and federal elections, it is not surprising to find grassroots activism alive and well in Cornwall.

Inspired by groups in Salisbury and Litchfield that organized after the 2016 election, and concerned about the country's

current divisiveness, Anne Zinsser has organized Cornwall Indivisible. A national movement with almost 6,000 groups active across the country, Indivisible is a liberal group with a stated aim to fight the Trump agenda; however, the nuts and bolts of the movement—a how-to guide by former Congressional staffers on effective participation in democracy with step-by-step instructions on contacting your member of Congress—is useful to constituents regardless of political affiliation.

The Cornwall group's mean age is probably well above 40, with a couple of younger folks attending. Zinsser says she wishes it were all younger people, but that older people may be more sensitive to the fragility of democracy.

Betty Spence has attended and says the Cornwall conversations in particular seek to discuss issues together, across party lines, and different religious affiliations. Immigration and the travel ban are among the topics that have been considered by the group.

The group meets Sundays bi-weekly during the winter, and monthly during the summer. Members also receive email updates from Zinsser. All welcome.

—Pam Longwell

Night Song

Recently, I was awakened at midnight by an animal sound I had never heard before. How do you describe a sound you've never heard? A kind of rhythmic and nasal chanting and whining, with a deep undertone. High and low at the same time. Rhythmic, but not sexually driven. Stopping, and then starting again. I thought something was being mauled and then killed, but after a while I could hear the singer padding heavily through the underbrush. It seemed to be alone; neither as big as a bear nor as small as a squirrel. It went on and on singing to itself, and after a while I saw that quite possibly it was happy. And very, very loud.

The next morning I realized that it might be the porcupine my husband had seen at our mailbox very late a few nights before. A search on YouTube confirmed the diagnosis. Taking a quick poll of my Cornwall neighbors, I established that none of them had heard the porcupine singing. In fact they could hardly believe it.

You have never considered the porcupine I'm sure, except as the nuisance who gnaws at your house or favorite tree, or who leaves quills in the nose of your dog. Some of the stranger porcupine facts: they have orange teeth and as many as 30,000 quills. They adore corn and tender green

leaves and grasses, and may vocalize happily when eating. North American porcupines actually live in trees. Porcupines can weigh as much as 40 pounds; they often fall clumsily out of their living space because they venture out to the tips of branches to eat.

If porcupines fall, they might pierce themselves with their own quills. Not to worry, though; they secrete an antibiotic so that they don't get infected. Porcupines are unconscious of danger, because in fact nothing can touch them—literally. They have only to turn and erect their quills, and any predator must retreat or get a face-full.

What a complicated and lunky thing is the porcupine. And what a complicated thing am I, lying on my sale-priced sheets in my house-shaped carapace, listening for its voice. My porcupine is out there somewhere, snacking on the little green things that grow near our stream. I'm in here, waiting for another night song.

—Jill Cutler

Cornwall Briefs

• **Voice of Reason:** That would be Steve O, captain of the transfer station, who asks us all to rinse out the recyclable food and beverage containers before dropping them off as a "matter of public health." That means

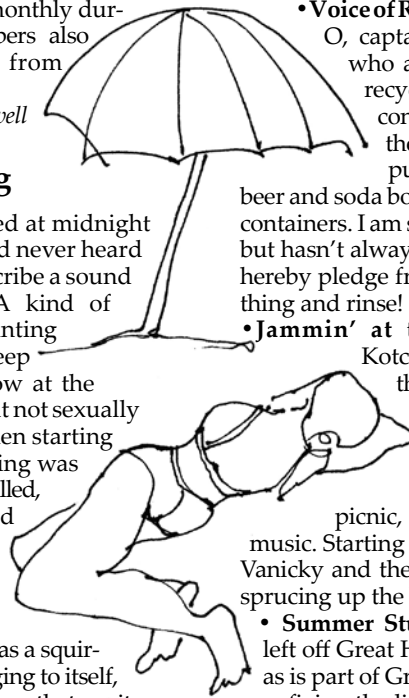
beer and soda bottles in addition to the food containers. I am someone who knows better but hasn't always done the right thing. So I hereby pledge from now on to do the right thing and rinse!

• **Jammin' at the Hammond:** Marina Kotchoubey, new director of the town (aka Hammond) beach, announces a gala event coming on the evening of Saturday, July 22: bring your own picnic, dessert provided, and live music. Starting at 5 P.M. (And kudos to Jim Vanicky and the town crew for a great job sprucing up the beach area.)

• **Summer Stuff:** Clark Road, that little left off Great Hill, is going to be repaved, as is part of Great Hollow. Also, the work on fixing the little bridge on Flat Rocks is now set for August, which means that road will be closed to traffic during the work. And town hall informs us that the painted crosswalk on Route 7 between the hardware and Country Market stores may be getting a pedestrian button that would set off a blinking light to help slow down through traffic.

• **In Case You Missed It:** At the town's Memorial Day ceremony, the 2017 VFW Citizen of the Year Award went to Hector Prud'homme whose 19 years of leadership with the Cornwall Conservation Trust (nine as president) helped preserve the future of our town's "rural and historic character and its natural setting."

—John Miller



Events & Announcements

Taxes Due July 1: The first half payment of taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2016 is due July 1, 2017. Taxes not in excess of one hundred dollars and motor vehicle taxes shall be due and payable in full on July 1, 2017. Payments must be postmarked by August 1, 2017 to avoid interest. Any tax bills not paid by August 1, 2017 will be considered delinquent, and interest will be charged at the rate of one and one half % per month and fraction thereof (including July). This means that even if you pay on August 2 you will be charged for two months' interest. No additional bills will be mailed for second installments. Please use the July bill. Taxes may be paid at the Tax Office on Mon-



Motherhouse Events

All events are at Local Farm, 22 Popple Swamp Road. Register at Motherhouse.us or call Debra at 860-671-7945.

July 8: Full Rose Moon Drumming Circle from 7 to 9 P.M.

July 15: Bat count and potluck picnic from 6:30 to 9 P.M.

July 22: Women's Drum Circle from 7 to 9 P.M.

Cornwall Artists Open Studio Saturday, July 8, 12 to 5 P.M. A list of the participating artists, directions to their studios, and a map is available at cornwallct.org (click "Links," then "Artists & Writers").

Nature Scavenger Hunt for Kids: Join the Cornwall Conservation Trust on Sunday, July 9, at 11 A.M. (weather permitting). Explore and collect nature's treasures (best for ages 5 to 9). Prizes awarded. Hart Farm Preserve, driveway #64 on Cherry Hill Road. Please park in the mowed area on the field to the right.

Senior Events

July 11: Senior Luncheon (Bring Your Own Lunch) at the Cornwall Library at 12 P.M. No RSVP needed this month.

July 31: Senior trip to the Shoreline Trolley Museum in East Haven. Leaving at 9 A.M. from the UCC Parish House. Lunch at the Sandpiper Restaurant. Cost is \$7 plus lunch. RSVP to Jen Markow at prcornwall@gmail.com or 672-4071.

Annual Rummage Sale: Cornwall Woman's Society rummage sale will be Saturday, July 15, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.; Sunday, July 16, 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.; and Monday, July 17, 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. at Mohawk Ski Lodge and the UCC Parish House. (See insert.)

Art in Cornwall

At the Cornwall Library: Scott Zuckerman, "The Lake and the Woods," wildlife oil paintings, from July 18 through August 26. Reception July 22 at 5 P.M.

At the Toll House Gallery in West Cornwall: work by Donald Bracken, Lennart Swede Ahrstrom, and Scott Zuckerman, Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

The Wish House celebrates its 20-year anniversary at its Souterrain Gallery with a potluck BBQ and the opening reception of "Mighty Minis," curated by Suzan Shutan, on Saturday, July 15, starting at 3 P.M.

Rose Algrant Show Applications Due: July 20 for the upcoming show August 11, 12, 13. Applications available at rosealgrantartshow.org. Artists must be adults and have a Cornwall address.

Cornwall Historical Society will present its annual Family Day, Saturday, July 22, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M., at the Cornwall Historical Society, 7 Pine Street. Build a wren house (bring your own hammer, all other materials provided). Free (children grade four and above); refreshments served. At 5 P.M. join the curator for a gallery walk on the topic of "Made in Cornwall." For information contact Jill Cutler at 672-6046.

Beach Party: Saturday, July 22, 5 P.M., at Hammond Beach. Dessert and music provided. Bring your own picnic. All invited.

Democratic Caucus: Sunday, July 23, 4 P.M. at the library.

Republican Caucus, Monday, July 24, 7 P.M. at the library.

Trinity Retreat Center Community Picnic: Saturday, July 29, 12 to 4 P.M. Food, tours, music. Trinity Retreat Center is at 79 Lower River Road, West Cornwall. (See insert.)

Grumbling Gryphons Theater Arts Camp:

Starting July 30, an eight-day camp for children 6 to 16 at Cornwall Town Hall.

Public performance August 6 at 2 P.M. Call Leslie Elias at 672-0286, email grumblinggryphons@gmail.com or visit grumblinggryphons.org.



July Festival: A celebration sponsored by Park and Rec, Saturday, July 1, on the green in the Village, 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. Lunch and drinks provided by CCS eighth-grade, bike parade, mile run (children 12 and under at 12:30 P.M.), and more.

At the Cornwall Library

Saturday morning children's programs: July 1, 11 A.M., the White Memorial Conservation Center will present Build a Forest Community, a live animal program; July 8, 11 A.M., Bird Food Making Workshop with Patty Bramley; July 15, 10 A.M., Bird Bingo by Sandy Fiebelkorn; July 22, 12 P.M., "The Bear Who Couldn't Sleep," author talk and program by Caroline Nastro; July 29, 11 A.M., arts and crafts.

Uncover Cornwall with Instagram: Cornwall EDC invites you to uncover Cornwall and share what you find in an Instagram contest. To enter, geotag your Cornwall picture and use hashtag #uncoverCornwall. The post with the most likes by July 8 wins \$50 and will be featured on our social media. explorecornwallct.com.

Beat the Heat

Summers may grow hotter, but the Chronicle stays cool. Keep us nippy with your dollars. Contribute this July!

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

cornwallchronicle.org

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