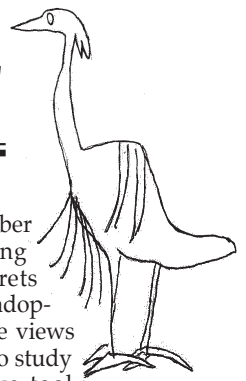




CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 20 : NUMBER 5 JUNE 2010



Incentive Housing

The State of Connecticut established the IHZ (Incentive Housing Zone) program providing cash incentives to cities and towns which, if adopted, overrides local zoning regulations to permit cluster housing development on acreage with green spaces left intact. Twenty percent of such housing units must be affordable housing.

While most Cornwallians agree good and affordable housing is key to a vibrant community, emotional discussion in town and at recent P&Z meetings has caused confusion as to what is going on.

The State of Connecticut provided Cornwall a \$40,000 study grant to explore the feasibility of establishing an IHZ. That money was paid to the Northwestern CT Regional Planning Collaborative to conduct the study.

Part of the confusion is that the vote tabled at a P&Z meeting on May 11 was not to establish an IHZ, but only to implement plans to see how such a project might work. When taken, it will not be a vote to establish an IHZ but only to further explore possibilities.

The only Cornwall property meeting IHZ guidelines is an 18-acre parcel on Route 7 in Cornwall Bridge. It falls within the one-mile limit to a town center required by the state.

Several landowners in Cornwall Bridge

object to the proposed IHZ. Concerns include traffic on Route 7 and that the IHZ would be over a P&Z-designated Aquifer Zone. With a potential septic system limited to 33 bedrooms, most of the proposed 15 housing units would have two bedrooms. In today's real estate market young families generally want three or more bedrooms.

The suggested price of the affordable home is \$190,000 to \$200,000. The market rate units would be priced at \$280,000 and \$360,000. To qualify for affordable housing, a family of four must have an income no higher than \$64,000.

If the proposed project becomes reality the town could receive an IHZ grant between \$36,000 and \$45,000 cash.

Hanna Grossman said, "As for clustering, it is a wonderful idea...it leaves most of the 18 acres green...and lets the residents of those 15 units enjoy access to those acres."

Brian Savin stated "Cluster housing is an issue legitimately up for serious debate. It changes the character of the area and the town. It can be environmentally more friendly."

Joanne Wojtusiak, chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, said, "It might be good if a community could be created around a theme or common interest such as writing

or farming."

Will Calhoun, a member of the Cornwall Housing Corporation board, regrets the postponement of the adoption of the IHZ study. He views it as "a lost opportunity to study and refine a prospective tool which could serve this community's most prominent expressed goal of providing moderate and affordable housing—without incurring public funding."

At this point, the IHZ is only a study plan, but many of the negative reactions voiced at P&Z meetings occurred as if feared going forward with the study would mean implementing the plan. That is not the case. Implementation of such a plan would only occur at a later date after all studies are completed and evaluated. —Priscilla Miller

Ridgway Gives Update

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway says there are complicated issues involving the recently ended State Legislative session affecting Cornwall.

No concrete action was taken on releasing some of the state mandates concerning general regulations, filings, and paperwork required of towns.

On the plus side, state aid to towns was maintained, though the state borrowed

(continued on page 2)

JUNE 2010

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| | | 1 Inland Wetlands 7:30 P.M. Town Hall | 2 Knitting Group 7-8 P.M. Library | 3 | 4 Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Library | 5 Hazardous Waste Disposal 9 A.M.-NOON Falls Village Town Garage Community Contra Dance 7-9:30 P.M. Town Hall |
| 6 Social Agencies' Presentation St. Bridget Church 9:30 A.M. † | 7 Region One Bd. of Ed. 6 P.M. HVRHS Park & Rec. 7 P.M. CCS Lib. Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall | 8 P&Z 7 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library | 9 | 10 | 11 Art Reception 5:30-7:30 P.M. Library † | 12 Motherhouse Chicken Workshop 10:30 A.M.-1 P.M. Local Farm Talk by Tim Prentice 4 P.M. Library (see insert) |
| 13 | 14 Blood Pressure Screening Noon-1 P.M. UCC Democratic Town Committee 7:30 P.M. Library | 15 Deadline: July Chronicle Copy CCS Graduation 6 P.M. | 16 Knitting Group 7-8 P.M. Library | 17 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M. End of School Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library VFV Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse | 18 HVRHS Graduation 6:30 P.M. | 19 Hammond Beach Opens Electronic Waste Disposal 9 A.M.-1 P.M. Torrington Library Benefit Garden Tour 10 A.M.-4 P.M. (see insert) Benefit Cocktail Party 5-7 P.M. Annual Beach Picnic 5-8 P.M. CHLA |
| 20 FATHERS DAY | 21 SUMMER BEGINS | 22 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall | 23 | 24 | 25 Historical Society Opening Reception 5-7 P.M. † | 26 Cornwall Historical Society Walking Tour 10 A.M.-12:30 P.M. † Lecture: Rise of Foreign Missions 4 P.M. UCC † |
| 27 | 28 ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall* | 29 | 30 Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse | Every Week This Month: Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 P.M. Call 672-0229 for location. Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7:30 P.M. CCS Gym. Wednesdays: Stretch Class, 5 P.M. Town Hall; Tai Chi, 6 P.M. CCS. Call 672-0064, Women's Basketball, 7:30 P.M. CCS. Sundays: Meditation, 1-2 P.M. Call Debra for location, 672-0229. | | |

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957
† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued from page 1)

money to accomplish this.

On the downside, the Legislature abolished local towns' shares of the Real Estate Conveyance Tax. One hundred percent of that tax revenue now goes to Hartford. In a good real estate market this will cost Cornwall \$40,000 or more.

The Legislature failed to take action on the "10 Mil Land" program established in 1913 granting a low tax rate to landowners who agreed not to develop raw land. There are 12 Cornwall properties in the "10 Mil Land" program. This program is set to expire in the near future at which time owners of such land would be liable for the differential between the low tax rate paid over the years and the non-program rate. In some cases this could amount to more than \$100,000 per property. While conservation groups said this tax penalty could be avoided if the landowners granted permanent conservation easements, that alternative presents other potential concerns for owners. Ridgway believes the State Legislature will take up this issue in the next session.

Asked about the Incentive Housing Zone application before the P&Z Commission, Ridgway said the current application was tabled by P&Z and is now up in the air. P&Z must be in favor of this application for it to move ahead.

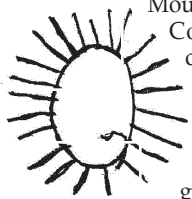
He also reported Verizon submitted a formal application for a 110-foot cell tower on Bell Road off Popple Swamp Road. There will be hearings by the Connecticut Siting Council as well as balloon tests. Copies of this application are available for public inspection at the Town Hall.

—Asher Pavel

A New Beginning

Congratulations and good luck to the 32 Cornwall residents who will be graduating this year. Housatonic Valley Regional High School will welcome nine CCS graduates including Sabrina Brashares, Zachary Busby, Autumn Classey, Anna Geyselaers, Heather Kearns, Katelyn Kearns, Chloe Ocain, Jeremy Stiewing, and Jenna Vanicky. Also graduating from CCS this year are Patrick Curry, who will be attending South Kent School, Thomas Hatcher and Carl Hurlburt, who are continuing their education at Oliver Wolcott, and Benjamin Nicholas, who will be attending the English International College in Spain this upcoming year. Samuel Neubauer will be going to The Hotchkiss School this fall. Two students are finishing eighth grade at Indian

Mountain School including Connor Elwell, who is currently undecided regarding his high school plans, and Emily Hubbard, who will attend Berkshire School. Margaret Hopkins will continue homeschooling.



Twelve students from Cornwall will graduate from HVRHS this June. Shelby Baird, Nicholas Dzenutis, and Dylan Morehouse will continue on at Northwestern Connecticut Community College this fall, while Trey Hatcher and Laine Jurgilewicz plan on attending UConn. Also continuing their education this year are Sabina Busby (Quinnipiac University), Helen Prentice (Arcadia University), Kayla Robinson (York College), Kathleen Rogers (Colby-Sawyer College), and Rebecca Sawicki (Wagner College). Lauren Kosciusko will graduate and remain at HVRHS for one more year for the work-study program and hopes to carry on her education at Northwestern the following year. Mike Guerra will graduate and plans on taking a year off after high school. Three local students are graduating from Oliver Wolcott this year. Among them are Jessica Hurlburt, who has received a CNA job at the Sharon Health Center and plans on becoming a registered nurse, Mark St. John, who will continue with employment in mechanics and landscaping, and Jonathan Hurlburt, who will continue working full time for Cornwall Plumbing and Heating.

In hopes that they will each aspire to, and one day achieve their personal goals and dreams, Cornwall wishes every one of these students good luck because, as Orin Hatch once said, "Graduation is not the end, it's the beginning."

—Camilla Busby

Good-bye to Friends

Ursula Dinneen

Congratulations

Lesley Gyorsok and Jonathan Kirschner

Land Transfers

Darren L. Marshall and Mary A. Garrett to Lee A. Davies and Jody M. Davies, land and buildings thereon at 55 Kent Road for \$515,000.

Solar in Cornwall

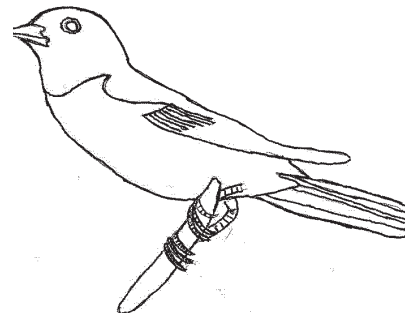
On April 22 a celebration of the new Solar Installation at CCS was held. This includes three poles holding 42 panels, an internal monitoring system with national comparisons, and a tree dedicated to John and Anne Zinsser, who helped establish the Cornwall Energy Task Force. These panels will provide the school with 5 percent of its energy, a number that will increase with added conservation practice, saving the town upwards of \$2,000 annually for 25 years or more. The educational value is ongoing and progressive as energy conservation practices become more sophisticated and essential.

Robert Vaughan moderated as Gordon Ridgway explained to the students the ongoing value of focus and persistence in any project, Katherine Freygang reviewed the history and future plans of the Energy Task Force, Richard Dziadul demonstrated the installation and Bob Wall, of the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund which sponsored the program, outlined its programs and cut the ribbon with the kids.

The real heroes are the people of Corn-

wall who heard the call for action for energy reform, reviewed the evidence, and chose to embrace the Clean Communities Program signing on at a rate at more than 30 percent. Our children have a facility that serves to educate and operate with clean energy, that will reduce costs and impact on the environment while increasing our security, sustainability and overall wellbeing. What a great town!

—Katherine Freygang



Cornwall to the Rescue

I write this with special permission from my cat Loquita who assured me there would be no catty behavior on her part if my story is about dogs. So here goes.

It begins with an invitation from my friends Asher and Priscilla to come to their cozy chapel on River Road in West Cornwall to meet their new dog Leroy. Leroy had just arrived by bus along with 40 or 50 other animals who had been rescued from those so-called five-day kill shelters in the South. These are places where people can bring pets they can no longer care for, sometimes because they have lost their homes due to foreclosure. But if no one comes forward to adopt them within five days, they are destroyed. Happily two of them were to find homes in Cornwall.

Leroy turned out to be a big, muscular animal with a coat of black and tan, most likely of a houndish mix. He greeted me at the door with a friendly curiosity as I bent down with my usual dog-talk blend of affectionate gibberish. We bonded immediately. He is a friendly, beautiful animal.

Then I remembered that I'd run into Brian Thomas on the train to New York just last week and he mentioned he and his partner Catherine Noren had recently adopted another of these rescued dogs. So off I drove to their house on Rattlesnake to meet their new pride and joy Guy. Guy was another k-9 beauty, full of enthusiasm when Brian came to the door to let me in. We kissed (Guy and I), a Cornwall tradition, while Catherine described him as a palomino-colored cross, possibly between a Lab and Irish wolfhound. They had picked him from a large group of rescued dogs at a holding area at the Hartford Expo Center. "He was smart and well-trained," said Brian, "and he looked at us with an affectionate expression. We were hooked." (While I was there Joe and Bobby Ellis arrived with Milkbone dog biscuits to welcome Guy to the neighborhood.)

How nice it is for these two Cornwall couples, and for Guy and Leroy, to have found

them. And how nice it is that Cornwall's own animal rescue home, The Little Guild of St. Francis, is currently in its 50th year and has provided shelter and homes for thousands of dogs and cats in those five decades. You might consider paying the Little Guild a visit if you're interested in finding a new family pet and friend.

P.S. Leroy and Guy are not the only rescued dogs in Cornwall. There is also Allie, a puppy belonging to Becky and Bill Hurlburt, and Corkie, a two-year-old female dachshund/Jack Russell mix who lives with Roxana and Ledlie Laughlin. They were among 70 dogs shipped to Connecticut from Tennessee.

—John Miller



Instant Illustrations

The illustrations in this issue were drawn in less than an hour. On April 28 I joined Diane Dupuis's fifth-grade art class at CCS and asked the students if they would like to make illustrations for the *Chronicle*. We sat and sketched, myself included. At the end of the class Ms. Dupuis and I had more than 20 drawings to choose from. It was a hard choice because so many were good. Some artists turned in two or three, but we took only one per student.

I want to thank Ms. Dupuis and the members of the class. I was slated to do the illustrations for the June issue but the ones the class came up with were better than anything I would have done.

—Hendon Chubb

Cornwall Briefs

Hazardous Waste Collection Day is coming up on Saturday, June 5. Here's how it works: you must call Joyce Hart in the First Selectman's Office (672-4959) to pre-register. If you go there in person, Joyce will give you a green pamphlet that spells out the various waste materials you can bring to the Falls Village Public Works Garage west of Route 7 just off Beebe Hill Road on Railroad Street from 9 A.M. until noon. Some examples of what to dispose of: corrosive products (acids and alkalines), flammable or toxic items which are frequently used in our homes, vehicles, as well as for gardening and lawn work.

On June 19 you can bring electronic waste and stuff for shredding to the Torrington Water Control Plant on Bogue Road near Agway from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M. Any questions, call Joyce at the above telephone number.

A reminder from the first selectman that tax bills will be going out at the end of June and there are two tax relief programs avail-

Letters to the Chronicle

SETTING TILES STRAIGHT

Re: May Chronicle: Art in Cornwall
The Dutch tiles on exhibit at the Cornwall Library are not mine alone. They were collected by both me and my wife, Ann Petracek, over the years. Ann came by her interest via Dutch friends and relatives, while mine goes back to ancestors who left behind potatoes, tulip bulbs, and wooden shoes to seek careers in the Dutch East Indies. Ann and I have enjoyed hunting for tiles and sharing them with family and friends.

—Johan Winsser

A SWINGER OF BIRCHES

I am writing in response to Barbara Victorian's letter in May's *Chronicle*. In it she warns children to be wary of the forest for its many dangers of rocky terrain and dead tree limbs waiting for just the right moment to maim the unsuspecting young adventurer.

In this age of endless cable channels, Facebook, and Japanese card games that I don't pretend to understand, discouraging our kids to go outside to play and explore is the last thing we should be doing. What we should be doing is giving them the courage to go out and explore the world outside (but be respectful of property lines) and find out things for themselves. Jump and climb and crawl and dig. Get dirty, get bit, get scraped up, get wet and yes, every now and then there might be a trip to the hospital for a

able for those who qualify. Persons facing difficulty paying their tax bills may apply for a \$200 reduction if their bills exceed 10 percent of their incomes. Secondly, if the tax bill exceeds eight percent of a person's income, he or she can enter into a tax-free deal in which the town takes a lien on the property and the lien is eventually settled when the property is transferred or sold.

Hammond Beach will open for the summer on Saturday, June 19. Registration for swimming lessons will take place June 21 through 25 from 1 to 3 P.M. The lessons, which begin July 5 and run for six weeks on Mondays and Wednesdays, are free to Cornwall residents who hold a beach pass. Swim team practice will begin on June 28 with the practice and meet schedules to be announced.

—John Miller

Rite of Spring: West Cornwall Farmers' Market

Here in the so-called Temperate Zone, we seem to have had our first real spring in years and nothing announces the season more cheerfully than the reappearance of the Farmers' Market in West Cornwall. This year it opened on May 15, a dazzling day if there ever was one.

On the Wish House lawn, the regulars were arranging their wares and happy to comment. Carol Bonci, beaming over her

few stitches or maybe even a broken bone. It is all part of growing up and most of us here can recall with much pride a war wound or two from our youth. Wouldn't have missed them. (Let me show you this scar I got from....)

With one in three children in the country considered obese the last thing we need to do is discourage them, no scare them, from going outside to play, especially in all these wonderful woods we're surrounded by. (For crying out loud, the Boy Scouts of America now offers a video game activity pin. No, I'm not kidding.) We need to encourage them and accept the risks that may come with it. There are far more obese kids out there than maimed ones and the risks of being overweight are just as dangerous and far more real than the chance of getting bonked on the head by the odd stray tree limb.

My wife and I are expecting our first, a boy, and I'm already putting a list together of the things he'll need out there. A pocketknife, a small axe, fishing poles and rope. He will clamber over our rocks and climb our trees and probably fall out of one or two.

—Jim Young

display of little pizzas, said, "I love this place!" and burst into an old Peggy Lee song that begins "It's a good day." Tom Levine of Longmeadow Farm (meat, fish, bread, and more) uttered this green injunction: "We're trying to keep people off the roads as much as possible so they should shop here."

(A tempting local delicacy, raspberry cream cheese muffins were sold by Dean Saccardi to raise money for his eighth-grade class trip...in 2015.)

Gordon Ridgway, farmer and first selectman, noted that the growing season is a week or two ahead of last year. Still, the only edible green things at the market were wild ramps gathered "deep in the forest" by Clarkson Deming Smith, who cannily avoided specifying which forest.

As we advance from spring to summer and fall, we'll observe the slogan of the Farmers' Market and "Watchit Grow." In the meantime, Bianca Langner Griggs surveyed the opening day from her perch at the Wish House and summed it up. "The market gives people food and entertainment and community. It makes people happy."

—Franny Taliaferro



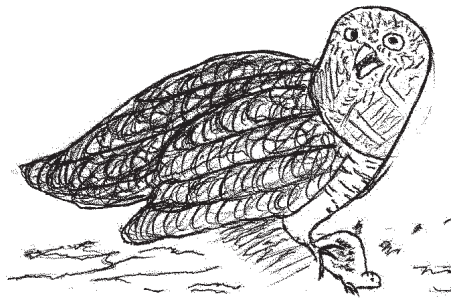
Events & Announcements

Edward Starr's History of Cornwall reports in the early 19th century Cornwall's Foreign Mission School was one of only three places deemed "noteworthy" for "intelligent travelers" in Connecticut. In the nine short years of its existence the school literally put Cornwall on the map.

The Foreign Mission School was founded to teach "heathen" youths to be missionaries to their own people. More than 100 students came to tiny, cold, rocky Cornwall from distant lands across the globe and from many Native American tribes. The Historical Society's summer exhibit, *Visions and Contradictions: The Foreign Mission School, 1817-1826*, examines what the school was really like through the eyes of its students, teachers, and the community, revealing the inherent, fatal conflict between their varied goals and ambitions. What happened in Cornwall then still echoes in the nation today.

Grumbling Gryphons is offering theater classes for children aged three through early teens in July & August. Call Leslie Elias at 672-0286 for more information.

St. Bridget Church is hosting a community presentation by Women's Support Services and Susan B. Anthony Project June 6 at 9:30 A.M. on school bullying, teen dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual assault services offered by the agencies. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. All are invited to attend.



Summer's Maiden

June is summer's maiden state, innocent, furnished with clean new leaves and flowers. The earth is moist and cool, ready for growing things. In this season of newness, rejoice by sending a check to the *Chronicle* and get ready for summer!

The State of Connecticut requires that all dogs six months of age or older be licensed annually on or before June 30 in the Town Clerk's Office in the town where the dog is owned or kept. Licenses will become available on June 1. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be submitted or be on file. Neutered or spayed dogs cost \$8 and male or female dogs cost \$19. For a neutered or spayed dog being licensed for the first time, a certificate from a licensed veterinarian must be presented. Penalties apply for late registration. If you register by mail, enclose a SASE for return of tag and license, otherwise the Town Clerk's Office is open Monday through Thursday 9 A.M. to noon and 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. Please notify the Town Clerk if your dog is no longer living with you so that he/she can be removed from the dog register.

T'ai Chi Classes: On June 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 9 to 10 A.M. Leslie Elias will teach T'ai Chi Chuan for adult beginners in her home studio at 29 Lake Road. First class is free, subsequent classes are \$8. To register or for more info, call Leslie Elias at 672-0286 or email to grumblinggryphons@yahoo.com.

The Cornwall Historical Society will celebrate the opening weekend of its major new exhibit on the Foreign Mission School with a reception on Friday, June 25, from 5 to 7 P.M. On Saturday, June 26, from 10 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., a walking tour is scheduled to two village homes where the weddings of Cornwall daughters to Foreign Mission School students took place. *The Rise of Foreign Missions*, a lecture by the Reverend Richard Taylor, will take place at the UCC at 4 P.M. with refreshments to follow.

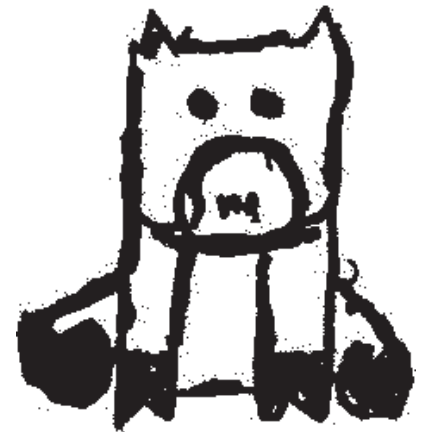
Art in Cornwall

- The Cornwall Flower Show, works by more than 30 Cornwall artists starting June 8, will fill the Library. An artists' reception will be Friday, June 11, from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.
- Rudi Wolff's work is on view at the National Iron Bank for the month of June.
- The Ritual Art Show, an exhibition curated by Magaly Ohika, will be at the Cornwall Bridge Pottery Store during June. With her own work, Ms. Ohika has chosen 12 other artists from Cornwall to show with her in the upstairs Covered Bridge Gallery.

At the Cornwall Library

A group of Cornwallians recently gathered at the Cornwall Library to talk about a new program, "Bringing Books to Readers." The Library has partnered with the Friendly Visitors/Garden Angels (sponsored by the Chore Service) to provide books and other library materials to our elderly or disabled homebound Cornwall residents. The program will also provide transportation to the Library so our friends can browse and enjoy all its benefits. If you would like to learn more about this program, to receive this service or to be a volunteer, please call Beri Greenwald or Bianca Fiore LaPorta at 364-0171.

The Cornwall Child Center will be open daily this summer from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. There will also be eight sessions of week-long programs offered from 9 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Open to children ages one to eight. Call 672-6989 or visit CornwallChildCenter.org for more info.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

JUNE ISSUE

CCS fifth-graders, Illustrations
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