



# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 15 : NUMBER 2 MARCH 2005



## A Matter of Justice

Hunt Williams, firefighter, EMT, Civil Preparedness Coordinator, and a noted Cornwall "go-to-guy" in times of trouble, now finds himself the unwilling center of a cause celebre. He has been charged with second-degree manslaughter for assisting in the suicide of his friend, the late John Welles. Now many friends have come to the defense of Hunt, one of Cornwall's most respected citizens.

The sequence of events in June 2004 that led to the charges against Hunt began when John, suffering from rampant cancer, returned from the hospital in order to die at home. John's friends offered to be caregivers and administer to his round-the-clock needs. However, John made no secret of his long-held intention to end his own life while he still had a modicum of control over it. A few days later he prepared to do so.

John told Hunt when he arrived for his aid session that the time had come. Hunt filled John's ever-present pipe for his last smoke. He examined John's pistol to avoid misfire, then said his final good-bye, and withdrew. Shortly afterwards, from up the drive, Hunt heard the shot. He returned to the scene, called 911, and waited for the police. His friend's dying wish had been fulfilled.

Now six months later, to his surprise, Hunt has been charged with second-degree

manslaughter. Cornwall's reaction has been one of instant support and a heightened sense of appreciation for the man so charged. This dramatic news story has spread well beyond the reaches of our Northwest Corner newspapers and citizenry. The *Hartford Courant* headlined the story on page one. State Senator Andrew Roraback is introducing legislation, retroactive to June 1, 2004, that, in effect, would give the judicial system more discretion in judging cases of this nature.

The overwhelming feeling in Cornwall is that by humanitarian standards, actions of friends in situations like these deserve our admiration and respect. So it is with Hunt. Hunt was accompanied by 75 friends to the initial arraignment in Bantam Courthouse. Over the next few weeks there will be more proceedings in the court and the legislature. Those wishing updates or information may call the Selectmen's Office.

Meanwhile, Cornwall can demonstrate its respect and affection for Hunt both by contributions to defray legal expenses, and by sending letters of character affirmation to his lawyer, J. Michael Sconyers, at Ackerly Brown, P.O. Box 815, Bantam, CT 06750. Contribution checks are to be sent to the Hunt Williams Defense Fund, c/o National Iron Bank, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754.

—Scoville Soulé, Ken Keskinen

## Town Budget

The town budget season is underway with officials reviewing programs and requests. The total budget of about \$5 million is divided with about \$3 million being spent on education and \$1.3 million being spent by other town departments. The balance pays for debt service and capital projects.

The Board of Selectmen presented its budget to the Board of Finance on February 17. The Board of Education will follow on March 10 at 7:30 P.M. in the CCS library. The Board of Finance will then look at the projected reserve and have discussions with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education.

The process culminates with a public hearing April 22 and Town Meeting May 20. All citizens are urged to attend these meetings.

Insurance and materials (such as oil) price increases are expected to put serious pressure on the budget. On the happy side, the assessor is estimating a tax base growth well above recent averages. —Gordon Ridgway

## New Ambulance Ordered

The new ambulance has been ordered. Yes! A 10 percent down payment has been made. Yes! That came to a little more than \$12,800. Yes! Multiply that by 10 and you've got the cost of the vehicle.

(continued on page 2)

# MARCH 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Every Week This Month:</b> <b>Mondays: Teen/Adult Basketball, 7-9 P.M. CCS Gym;</b> <b>Jam Session, 7:30 P.M. UCC Sanctuary</b> <b>Tuesdays: Blue Mountain Satsang, 6:30 P.M. UCC Day Room;</b> <b>Teen/Adult Volleyball, 7-9 P.M. CCS Gym</b> <b>...More at opposite corner of Calendar</b>		1 Inland Wetlands* 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	2 Hot Chocolate Hour 3:15-4:15 Library	3 ☾ 1Q	4 Story Hour 1:15 Library	5 Felting Workshop 10 A.M. Library † International Dinner 5:30 & 7:30 P.M. UCC Parish House †
6	7 Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Park & Rec. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse ☺☺☺ Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	8 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	9 Hot Chocolate Hour 3:15-4:15 Library	10 ☺ 3PM	11	12 American Girl Club 12-1 P.M. Library
13	14 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House ABC Meeting 5:30 P.M. Cornwall Inn †	15 <b>Deadline:</b> <b>April Chronicle Copy</b>	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY ☾ 1Q Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib. VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	18	19 Felting Workshop 10 A.M. Library † Park & Rec. Easter Bunny Breakfast 9 A.M. CCS † Irish Concert with the Patons 3 P.M. CCS Gym
20 PALM SUNDAY FIRST DAY OF SPRING	21 Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library	22 Brown Bag Lunch Concert 11:30 A.M. CCS Gym † ☺☺☺ Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	23 Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	24	25 GOOD FRIDAY ☺ 3PM	26 Cornwall Assn. 9 A.M. UCC
27 EASTER 	28 ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	29	30 Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	31	<b>Every Week This Month:</b> <b>Wednesdays: Play Group, 10-11:30 A.M. Playscape/UCC;</b> <b>Stretch Class, 5:30 P.M. Town Hall;</b> <b>Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room</b> <b>Saturdays: Chess Club, 10-11:30 A.M. Library</b>	

\* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued from page 1)

It will be coming from a Ford factory in Dearborn, Michigan, some time in April—early April, we hope. The Fire Department is planning an open house to introduce the community and the ambulance to each other. Cornwall, you did it! You came through like you always do.

Our sick and injured will soon be riding in style. Further details in a future *Chronicle*.

—John Miller



## Notes Both Sweet and Hot

They will leave in the dark of night by bus for JFK Airport, thence by early morning flight to London. Not since a 1999 Austria trip has the HVRHS Music Club winged beyond U.S. shores. Last year 80 music students in four groups competed for national rankings in Anaheim, and Orlando was the site of similar competitions in 2003. Both trips also included numerous non-competitive performances.

This bus trip for the Music Club, which was founded in 1991, will be both a beginning and an end—the beginning of a ten-day performance tour, April 18–29 in and around London—and the end of a weekly trip-focused, intense rehearsal schedule which started in September. And it is the end of a two-part harmony of fund-raising events to help each student-musician offset some of the \$2,500 cost of the trip.

For the members of the Jazz Band, Jazz Choir, and the two smaller *a capella* groups—the Sweethearts and the Heartbreakers—the London adventure is a climactic travel and performance opportunity for the students of Kerri Morris, music teacher and club director. “The London trip is an amazing opportunity to perform in exciting and exceptional places,” said Alyssa Ackerman of West Cornwall, a trombone player in the jazz band. In all, the entourage includes director Morris, 50 students, 10 chaperones, and all the instruments.

Eleven of the 50 are from Cornwall. For them this trip is the culmination of several years of instruction and practice which all began at CCS with “Mrs. S” (Alicia Simonetti-Shpur, Music/Band Director). Besides Ackerman, Cornwall travelers include

Ben Gray, voice and trumpet; Helen Hare, voice; Liz Bruehl, trumpet; Evan Bardot, electric guitar; Cammie Naylor, voice; Paige Root, string bass and voice; Shawna Pattison, voice; Julian Lasseur, saxophone; Byron Clohessy, voice and trombone; and Ellen Hart, voice.

A medley of events has provided funding for the entire Music Club, which apportioned funds to individual “accounts” according to hours worked. Indefatigable parent Daphne Naylor has served as liaison between Morris and various events. Members provided table service and entertainment for four seatings of meals at the Wandering Moose, which made \$5,700. Students sold ads for the Spring Concert program. Each Region One town had “loose change” baskets. Dr. Anna Timell donated a one-week Costa Rican retreat as a raffle prize. The Arts Fund for Region One awarded a grant of \$6,250.

At the local level, Amy Cady reports that Extras for Kids and the Cornwall Foundation have secured a grant request of \$750. In addition, all musicians have worked to help pay trip costs. Ellen, Helen, and Paige work at Mohawk’s Pine Lodge. Shawna works at West Cornwall Market and the Wandering Moose. Liz and Evan have collected returnable bottles. Others do home chores and childcare. All have stuffed envelopes and licked stamps for an appeal letter sent to all Cornwall residents; chief organizer Martha Bruehl reported \$4,890 generously given to date. This appeal lasts through the end of March and contributions, payable to HVRHS Music Club, can still be sent to her at Box 187, Cornwall, CT 06753.

Cornwall supports music through local and high school budgets, attendance at events, fundraisers, and the Arts Fund for Region One. Success is our reward, and, of course, good sounds. More good sounds can be heard at Jazz Night, a dinner-concert in the high school cafeteria on April 16 at 7 P.M. The annual Spring Concert will feature all groups including the high school band on May 24 at 7 P.M. in the high school auditorium.

—Philip Hart

## Robotics and More...

The Cornwall Extended Day Learning Program at CCS sponsored by Park & Rec. has had a successful beginning. Thirty children have registered, 15 of whom use the service on a regular basis. The two-and-a-half hour program, from 3 to 5:30 P.M., is open to third-through eighth-graders and devoted to enrichment activities as well as homework time. Enrichment activities are divided into six-week segments and have included basketball, pottery, Jeopardy, space exploration, and robotics. Aikido, which is also offered, is ongoing.

Describing the robotics segment, Carla Whiteside, coordinator of the program, said, “Students built their own robots with Lego MindStorms and, with the help of a student from the robotics team at the high school, learned how to program them using the

computer.” Bethany Thompson, director of the program at Cornwall Park & Rec., noted that “parents appreciate having this program available to them; the children have fun learning and exploring...and enjoy doing their homework together.”

The service is open to all children including those visiting Cornwall; parents can use it one afternoon a week or five, or on a drop-in basis with 24-hours notice. All participants must register. A snack is provided. There is a flat fee of \$10 an afternoon. To register or for more information call 248-3009.

—Brenda Underwood

## Welcome

Tanya Dorsen to Jennifer Dorsen  
Eric Douglas to  
Tom Hine and Diana Carlson-Hine

## Congratulations

Celia Frost to Martin Ewen

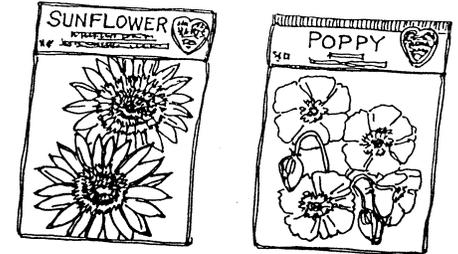
## Good-Bye to Friends

Delphine (Kay) Fenn  
Charles Osborne

## Land Transfers

Frank H. Bailey and Caroline Cavanaugh to Wesley A. Hallock, buildings and land at 11 Furnace Brook Road for \$261,000.

Robin Freyberg to Jeffrey P. and Bridget R. Lynch, house and land at 110 Pierce Lane for \$477,000.



## Cows in the Mist

Dan Gracey remembers when he was a kid, those early misty mornings in Coltsfoot Valley, waking up on the open back porch of his grandmother Jean Calhoun Bacon’s house. “We’d hear udders splashing in the brook, legs squelching in the mud. It was the cows from the Coltsfoot Farm at the top of the valley, owned and operated by my great-uncle Frank Calhoun. Released after morning milking, they would graze from the barn to the end of their pasture about one-and-a-quarter miles down the valley, passing very close to us. It was great fun to occasionally slip out and wander amongst them, a mixed herd of Holstein, Guernsey, and a rare Jersey or two. But in the mid-1980s the Coltsfoot Farm shut its doors for good, and the valley that had contained its beasts was chopped up and sold off.”

Because part of what made Dan fall in love with that Cornwall was the presence of cows, he is bringing them back, to remind himself and others of a gentler time. In fact, the Milking Devons he has chosen to start his herd are descended from two heifers and a bull that arrived in the Plymouth Colony

in 1623. (You can still find the breed at Sturbridge and Hancock Villages.) According to information from ([milkingdevon.org](http://milkingdevon.org)) Oklahoma State University, "Their immediate value was as draft animals. They have long been recognized for their speed, intelligence, strength, willingness to work, and ability to prosper on coarse forage.... When treated kindly," the cow is "elegant and docile" and the bull is "noted for his ease of handling and even temperament."

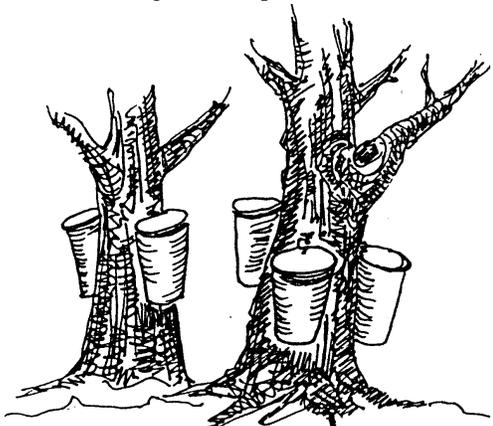
Dan treats his herd with impeccable kindness. You may have noticed the calm bull in Dan's paddock south of the Library. This is Mike, who arrived from Massachusetts in a converted school bus in July of 2003 and, refusing to use the ramp, leaped out of the back of the bus to the ground, startling the onlookers. He is two-and-a-half years old, and has doubled his weight, now standing at 1,200 pounds. (Dan tells me that bulls max out at 1,600 pounds.) His two consorts, from New Hampshire, are Cudgie (old American slang for "cousin") and Corrina (as in Bob Dylan's song of that name), the "C" chosen to echo the Coltsfoot Cottage brand name; they are due to calve in May. All three animals are very friendly and elegant: a rich chestnut with lustrous deep-brown eyes. Cudgie's lashes are particularly long and her horns curve in a particularly graceful manner.

The Milking Devon, as a triple-purpose breed (milk, work, and beef), cannot compete with specialized, high producing dairy or beef breeds, and there is little need for draft animals. As a result, their numbers have dwindled; Dan tells me that there are believed to be only 500 to 600 in existence today, so they are listed as "critical" by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy. But if Dan can find enough pasturage for his growing herd, the Milking Devon will thrive, and perhaps we'll have cows in the valley once more.

—Ella Clark

## Events & Announcements

**Brown Bag Lunch Concert:** Tuesday, March 22, 11:30 A.M., in the CCS gym. The community is invited to hear students perform vocal and instrumental pieces. Dr. Fitz says she "got the idea from Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Massachusetts, where city workers have lunch listening to artists practice."



**Sugar House Open House:** If you have ever wondered about the process of maple sugaring, you might want to come out on March 13 between 1 and 4 P.M. and see for yourself. The Agricultural Commission is sponsoring an open house at each of the following three sites: Ridgways at 142 Town Street; Harts at 70 Cherry Hill Road; and Frost/Kalman at 62 River Road. A representative of the Agricultural Commission will be on hand at each house to answer questions. Visit one house or all three and enjoy a snack of delectable maple syrup over vanilla ice cream. For more information call Bill Dinneen at 672-6740.

# Letters to the Chronicle

## MATCHING GRANT FOR TSUNAMI RELIEF

The United Church of Christ in Cornwall, Congregational, is offering a challenge grant of up to \$10,000 for tsunami disaster relief. This "seed money" grant, with a cut-off date of June 30, is designed to encourage donations from church members and the community at large. The challenge grant is in addition to a donation of \$10,000 the church is making now to Church World Service for disaster relief in Asia and Africa.

The UCC in Cornwall will be acting simply as a conduit for such donations and a contributing partner to each individual donor. The on-the-ground dispenser of this aid will be Church World Service, a cooperative ministry of 36 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations providing sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance in more than 80 countries around the world. Church World Service has a history of being an effective, low-administrative-cost, non-profit agency, and 100 percent of donations designated for tsunami relief will be used for that purpose. Ongoing administrative costs will be paid for out of other funds.

Contributions may be sent to the UCC in Cornwall, Congregational, P.O. Box 35, Cornwall, CT 06753. Checks should be made payable to the UCC in Cornwall and designated for the Tsunami Relief Fund. These moneys are to be matched dollar-for-dollar up to the \$10,000 limit as specified. Acknowledgement of contributions will be sent to donors for tax purposes.

—Paul Baren, Co-Chair  
UCC Mission Committee

## CORNWALL COAT RACKS

What are the chances of finding a perfectly matched pair of deer antlers in your garden? According to the experts, this is relatively rare because deer are constantly on the move looking for new foraging grounds.

Along with the continued good fortune of living in Cornwall, I had the luck to find two deer antlers in our garden in early spring, 2004. You can imagine my surprise as I reached down to pick up what I thought was an unusual-look-



ing stick to see a perfect antler about two feet long. With a little poking amongst leaves and branches I came across its partner—also perfect and undamaged.

Being a neophyte on the subject of deer lore, I decided it was time to Google (verb; Webster, 2006). I learned that members of the deer family—deer, elk, moose, caribou—shed their antlers every year during winter. Why, then, aren't we all tripping over them? Because they are hard to see when there is snow on the ground, and with the arrival of spring they soon get buried under new growth. And mice and small creatures quickly find them and nibble them away. A tell-tale sign that a deer has been around and is looking to shed an antler, however, is when you notice that bark on a tree has been scratched and rubbed off.

So why do deer lose their antlers every year? There are a number of theories put forth (the least of which is for the making of interesting coat racks): It is an energy-saving measure in winter so the buck doesn't have to put needed nutrients into maintaining his antlers; fatigue or lack of nutritious food can contribute to the antlers granulating and falling off (bucks with large racks of antlers lose them first); and antlers are shed and re-grown to keep pace with the increased growth of the buck as it ages.

The size of the antlers is important, for it determines how often the buck will mate—which brings me to the reason for having them.

Besides being a useful asset to amaze females (You see guys, it is so easy!), a buck with an impressive rack of antlers can fight off his competitors for the females' affections and will have greater success in the mating game.

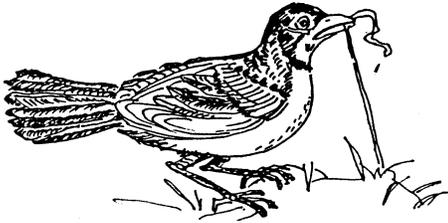
Early this winter, I was lucky to find another, smaller, antler in our garden but, as of this writing, have not found its mate. With several winter storms behind us and six inches of snow on the ground, I won't be out searching for deer antlers for a while, although I'm tempted. But, once spring arrives, I'll be out there once again looking to beat the statistics.

—Brenda Underwood

**Medical Equipment Reminder:** Residents of Cornwall and nearby towns are reminded that hospital beds, wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, tub seats, and other medical items can be borrowed free of charge by calling Jerry or Pat Blakey at 672-6516. The equipment is housed at UCC and can be delivered if needed.

If you have a medical item to donate, please contact Pat or Jerry. There is still a need for good wheelchairs, electrically operated hospital beds that are new enough to be disassembled for storage, and living room chairs with controls.

**International Dinner:** On Saturday, March 5, the UCC Church School will host an International Dinner to benefit Heifer Project International. There will be two seatings, one at 5:30 P.M. and one at 7:30 P.M. Tickets by reservation: \$7.50 for children 12 years and over; \$5 for children two to 11 years; and \$25 per family. Call 672-6323 for reservations.



**Show Those House Numbers!** For safety purposes the Town of Cornwall asks that residents display their street address numbers clearly so that the Cornwall Fire Department and Ambulance can quickly identify a location. Numbers should be "conspicuously placed above, on, or at the side of the main door of each building so that the number can be seen plainly from the street line. [If] a building is set back more than 15 feet from the edge of the roadway, the number shall be placed near the walk, driveway, or common entrance to such building at no less than mailbox height." All numbers should be "not less than three inches in height" and easily discernible from the roadway and from the approaches on either side.

**Felting Workshop:** Learn how to make felt pictures and felted objects at the Cornwall Library on Saturdays, March 5 and 19, from 10 A.M. to noon. This is a creative process using dyed wool, soap, and water, taught by artist and felter Debbie Tait. All materials will be supplied. Open to parent-child duos for kids under eight, and single children over eight or adults. There is a \$15 fee per person or duo for each session. Please register by calling the Library at 672-6874. Limited to 15 people.

**Child Center Auction:** Save the date—May 7—for the Cornwall Child Center Auction. To donate items please call Emilie Pryor, 672-4226.

### Tax Deduction

A spaniel entered in the recent Westminster show was named Tax Deduction, but you don't need a dog to claim one of your own. A donation to the *Chronicle* qualifies, though that is only one small reason to send your check right now to your long-running community paper.

### Park & Rec. Announcements:

Saturday, March 19, Park & Rec. will host a breakfast with the Easter Bunny followed by an egg hunt. The free event for children up through grade two will be held in the Gathering Room at CCS from 9 to 10:30 A.M. Children should bring an Easter basket.

Teen/adult basketball, CCS gym, Mondays, 7 to 9 P.M.

Teen/adult volleyball, CCS gym, Tuesdays, 7 to 9 P.M.

**Cornwall Sweatshirts Available** from CCS PTA. Great for athletes of the school or Park & Rec. to wear as a warm-up. Great for parents, friends, and supporters to wear to show their support. The sweatshirt is royal blue with "CORNWALL" written in gold letters with a white outline. Sizes available are adult XL, L, M, S, and youth L, M, and S. Cost: \$30 per sweatshirt. To get yours call Bethany Thompson at 248-3009. Proceeds benefit the CCS PTA.

**The Cornwall Directory Deadline** is March 15 for (free!) listing in the third issue of the biennial publication. ABC, the Association of Businesses in Cornwall, also encourages retailers, trades people, artists, and contractors to join the Association, which meets the second Monday of the month. The March 14 program will be by the HVA at the Cornwall Inn. Call Priscilla Miller at 672-0730 with questions.

**Cable News:** On February 9, the Department of Public Utility Control held a public hearing in Canaan on the franchise renewal for Comcast Cable to serve the towns of Canaan, Cornwall, Falls Village, Norfolk, Salisbury, and Sharon. At issue was the fact that the Connecticut Network (CT-N), our state's version of C-SPAN and subsidized by our taxes, is not available on the basic tier of channels, and can be accessed only by the more expensive digital cable. Dale Jones, chairperson of the Comcast Advisory Council, points out that the basic tier not only neglects to offer CT-N or educational options like the Discovery Channel, but has also added a second shopping channel. CT-N welcomes your opinion and/or support at ct-n.org or (860) 246-1553.

**Substitute Needed at Transfer Station:** Hours depend on when needed. \$15 per hour. Call Fred Bate or Steve O'Neil at 672-6230.

**Art in Cornwall:** The Outsiders Gallery is hosting an opening reception Saturday, March 12, from 4 to 7 P.M. Featured artists are Rusty Brockman, showing abstract oil paintings, and John Waveris, photography. Also exhibiting are six different artists from gallery owner Kelly Futerer's personal collection of outsider art.

At the Cornwall Free Library, Debby Jones will have a show of mixed media works entitled *Tumbleweeds and Liars Plaids*, while the glass case will hold the Prentices' wonderful collection of painted eggs. Both these shows may be seen from March 1 to April 2.

The National Iron Bank has Danielle Mailer's hand-painted prints through mid-April, and the West Cornwall Market continues to display photographs by Asher Pavel.

**The Chronicle Needs Help** with distribution for two or three hours at the end of every month. The volunteer should be able to lift a 20-pound box and willing to drive about 35 miles. A backup is ready to cover vacations, illnesses, etc. Persons interested in this much-needed service should call Bob Potter at 672-6191. All questions answered.



### CORNWALL CHRONICLE

#### MARCH ISSUE

Roxana Laughlin, Illustrations  
Ella Clark and Brenda Underwood, Editors  
Ginny and Bob Potter, Publishers

#### APRIL ISSUE

Anne Kosciusko and John Miller, Editors  
Tom Bechtle, Publisher

CALENDAR EDITOR Anne Baren

CIRCULATION Nan and John Bevans

#### DIRECTORS

Robert Potter PRESIDENT  
Edward Ferman SECRETARY • Audrey Ferman TREASURER  
G. Scott Cady • Hendon Chubb • Cheryl Evans  
Anne Kosciusko • Lisa Lansing Simont  
Tom Bevans (1912-2003) FOUNDER

### THE CHRONICLE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

We hope you enjoy this on-line edition of the *Cornwall Chronicle*. Remember that all our revenues come from readers like you, and we need your help to continue producing this electronic edition along with the print edition. If your contribution is \$10 or more, we'd be glad to mail the print edition to any out-of-town address. Please mail your tax deductible gifts to: Cornwall Chronicle Inc. 143 Cream Hill Rd., West Cornwall, CT 06796. Comments, letters and news may be e-mailed to the publishers at: elfhill@aol.com