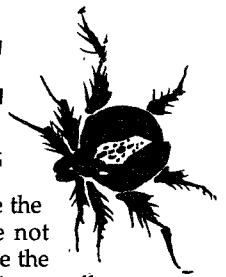




CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 5 : NUMBER 4 MAY 1995



Tale of Town Hall\$

Agreements have been reached, but no one has signed a contract or handed over a bundle. That is the state of the negotiations among the various parties involved with the Marvelwood School and its plan to sell its Cornwall campus and move to Kent.

However, the mysterious Cornwall Limited Liability Company, through its spokespersons, Rick Wolkowitz and Ben Gray, indicates that it is ready to acquire the Marvelwood property for \$1.5 million, and is giving the town first crack at buying the three largest buildings on campus. The offer comes at a time when the selectmen are proposing an addition to the current town office building.

The cost of the addition (\$275,000) could be paid for out of current reserves. However, a number of citizens see a better opportunity for the town in the purchase of one or more of Marvelwood's buildings to meet such current and future needs as a community center, large meeting rooms, a central "town core," more parking space, and better work areas for Cornwall's employees and volunteer groups.

Having determined that neither the Calhoun building nor the Marvelwood library building is a viable option as a town hall, the selectmen have asked architect Alec Frost to study the dining hall building to de-

termine specific renovation costs. Moreover, they have decided to get appraisals of all buildings that may be involved in any transaction, so that the final wheeling and dealing will be based on facts to be made available for a June town hearing. Those appraisals will also include Rumsey Hall with its gymnasium (and ghosts).

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway feels that the town may not be ready to support the major expenditure that purchase and renovation of any Marvelwood building would require. "In fact," he said, "a good percentage of people may not want to go for any project." However, if private funding would defray some of the costs, and if the final figures seem to be a reasonable burden to the town, he would be open to any of the options. His and Selectman William Hurlburt's vote on April 3 to allocate funds for an addition to the town office building was not a directive but an "opinion" vote, he said, whose purpose was to precipitate discussion by the Board of Finance and ultimately at the town hearings that will follow. "Everything is still wide open," he declared.

Selectman Ray Augustyn voted against the April 3 motion because he felt that it was "premature," and that the town should study all options, including the purchase of all three major Marvelwood buildings. "We

need to get the issue before the public," he stated. "We're not under the gun, and we have the time to do that." He is willing to offer tax abatement to the Cornwall Limited Liability Company while such studies go on.

The complexity and vagueness of the entire matter are compounded by the lack of final agreements among the principals involved, and, to some degree, by not knowing the identities and interests of all members of the Cornwall Limited Liability Company. (The Wizard of Oz, perhaps? Forrest Gump?)

Will a prince (or a fairy godmother) appear with a million smackers to save the day—and the town? Will the good guys prevail? Who are they anyway? Look for the next installment of the nail-biter, "Tale of Town Hall\$," in the June issue of the *Cornwall Chronicle*.
—Ken Keskinen

New Rescue Truck for CVFD

The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department is replacing its old fire-and-rescue van. Our "Truck 5" was no longer up to the task of carrying all necessary support equipment needed for emergencies. The department felt that the price of a new vehicle just didn't make sense, so when Chief Gary Hepprich heard that Brewster, New York, had a used one available, he checked it out and came

(continued on page 2)

MAY 1995

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Note: Deadline for June Events & Announcements and Calendar listings is May 15.</i>	1 Gymnastics begins Goshen Center School (p.4) Park & Rec 7:30 P.M. Town Office Bd. of Selectmen 8 P.M. Town Hall	2 Agric. Adv. Comm. 7:30 P.M. W.Cornwall Firehouse Region 1 Educ. Budget Referendum 12-8 P.M. Town Hall Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Hall*	3 W. Cornwall Merchants Association 10 A.M. Cadwell's	4	5 Judy Gafney Children's Story Hour 10 A.M. Library	6 Marc Simont on "Taximaquia: Bullfighting in New York" 5 P.M. Library (p.4)
7	8 CCC Art Show 10:30 A.M. Cadwell's (p.4) Art Show, Lili Gross Bauer Paintings 5/8-6/3 Library P & Z 8 P.M. Town Hall	9 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library Democratic Town Caucus 7:30 P.M. Town Hall (p.4) Republican Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	10 CCS PTA 7 P.M. CCS Lib.	11	12 Judy Gafney Children's Story Hour 10 A.M. Library	13 Cornwall Assn. Osbornes' 82 Goshen-Sharon Tpk 4 P.M. Kent Singers Concert 8 P.M. Kent School Chapel (p.4)
14 MOTHER'S DAY Kent Singers Concert 4 P.M. St. Michael's Church Litchfield (p.4) Poetry Reading 8 P.M. Cadwell's	15 HVRHS Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. Sharon Cen. School Woodgrain Workshop 7 P.M. CCS (p.4) Med. Emerg. Fund Comm. 7:30 P.M. W.Corn. Firehouse (p.2) Bd. of Selectmen 8 P.M. Town Hall	16	17 Special Olympics Comm. 7 P.M. Town Hall	18 Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib.	19 Judy Gafney Children's Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Town Meeting 8 P.M. CCS (to vote on budget) followed by Bd. of Finance meeting to set mill rate*	20 Plant Swap 10 A.M. CCS parking lot (p.4) Down River Race 11 A.M. (p.4) Public Information Meeting about cable TV 4 P.M. Town Hall (p.4)
21 Covered Bridge Slalom Race 9 A.M. (p.4)	22 ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall*	23	24 	25	26 Judy Gafney Children's Story Hour 10 A.M. Library	27
28 Covered Bridge Dance 6-11 P.M. West Cornwall (p.3)	29 MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED For Memorial Day schedule see pp.3 & 4	30 MEMORIAL DAY	31			 7 14 21 29

*Check time and place at Town Office

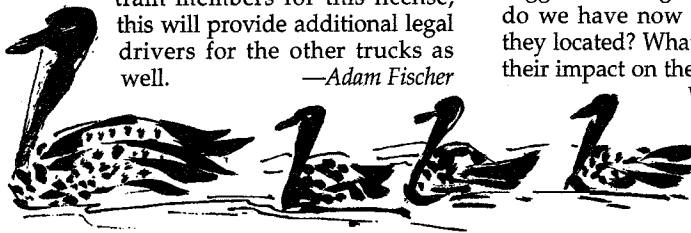
(continued from page 1)

back with the recommendation to go with Brewster's used vehicle for a fraction of the cost of a new one.

Our new "Truck 5" will be a different type of vehicle: a larger, more spacious truck, rather than a van, with twice the payload capacity, a walk-in rescue-type body, a three-person cab, an on-board generator to run auxiliary scene lighting, and a "cascade" air system which will enable us to refill the air packs used in interior firefighting and rescues. In addition, it will carry all the pylons and vehicle extrication tools (like the jaws-of-life) that the old truck held and maybe even the rope-rescue and river-rescue equipment.

Driving this larger truck will require a commercial driver's license just as driving a fire truck does, and a course is under way to train members for this license; this will provide additional legal drivers for the other trucks as well.

—Adam Fischer



Help With Medical Bills

In 1956, the Cornwall Medical Emergency Fund Committee was formed to help Cornwall neighbors burdened with medical bills. Cornwall residents in need may apply for assistance from the committee, which deals in confidence with all applicants, doctors, hospitals, and drugstores.

The committee, made up of representatives of local organizations and clubs, includes the following: Joseph Lush, Jr., president; Richard Dakin, vice president; Ellen Lorch, treasurer; and Pat Preston, secretary. Other board members are Barbara Dakin, Sally Hart, Ernest Kenniston, and Ingrid Laigle.

The committee will hold its annual meeting on Monday, May 15, at the West Cornwall Firehouse, at 7:30 P.M. The public is invited. For more information, call 672-6559.

—Pat Preston

Republicans' Lively Session

At its April meeting the Republican Town Committee heard reports from last year's Washington, D.C., interns, Heidi Hedden and Melissa Borggreve. Both spoke enthusiastically of their five-day stay in the capital, which included visits with U.S. Representatives Nancy Johnson and Chris Shays, and a glimpse of Jim Brady lobbying on behalf of a gun control bill.

The candidates for 1995 internships were present, impressing the committee with their poise and sincerity.

State Representative Andrew Roraback told the committee of his efforts to pass bills limiting personal exposure to lawsuits brought against town board members and others engaged in "public" activity.

The meeting concluded with a discussion

of town-office expansion plans. There were exactly as many different opinions as there were committee members present—i.e., 18.

—Scoville D. Soulé

Cornwall's Business Climate

How do we improve it? How warm and inviting do we want it to be? Those are the kinds of questions the Cornwall members of the Northwest Hills Partnership for Progress (NWHPP) asked themselves at its first two organizational meetings.

There is no shortage of suggestions by members of this Board-of-Selectmen-assembled Cornwall group. Opinions fly thick and fast. But in the end the interim conclusion is that the question of "Where are we now?" must be addressed before tackling suggested changes; that is, what businesses do we have now in Cornwall? Where are they located? What are their needs? What is their impact on the quality of Cornwall life?

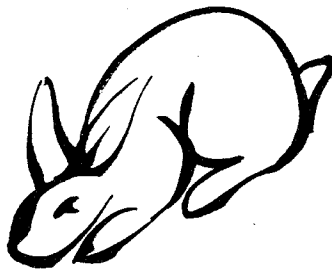
What commercial space is available? What are Cornwall's strengths and weaknesses in encouraging businesses here?

Each of the nine towns represented in NWHPP is charged with formulating its own set of goals for promoting an appropriate business climate. An intra-regional exchange of ideas, information, and services will then follow.

The 11 members of the Cornwall "chapter" are a cross section of local business people and town officials. They are: Todd Aichele, Jerry Blakey, Will Calhoun, John Frost, Chris Hopkins, Carol Lugar, Natalie Hunter, Virginia Potter, Gordon Ridgway, Peter Ripley, and Ralph Sandmeyer, Jr.

The Cornwall Association and the West Cornwall Merchants Association have made preliminary surveys of local businesses, and an independent questionnaire circulated earlier by Debra Tyler is a valuable source of information. But those economic studies have been in bits and pieces. The Cornwall chapter intends to fill in the gaps and to proceed accordingly.

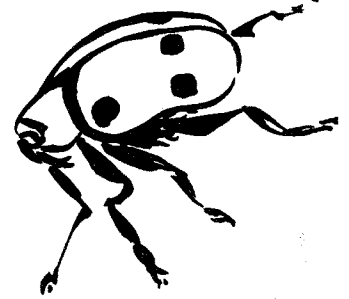
—Scoville D. Soulé



P&Z Permits

At its April meeting the Planning and Zoning Commission approved a special permit for the Trinity Conference Center allowing the facility to be used only by certified non-profit religious or educational organizations.

—Ginny Potter



Ombudspersons Needed

The Department of Social Services' Ombudsman Program is recruiting volunteer advocates to help nursing home residents deal with their concerns by promoting communication among residents, their families, and nursing home staff. Ombudsmen respect the privacy and need for confidentiality of residents as they work to resolve problems in ways that build cooperation and alleviate conflicts.

Volunteers are trained in residents' rights, problem solving, and listening and communication skills. After training, advocates make a one-year commitment to the program, visiting four hours per week at one assigned nursing home. They attend monthly meetings to share work experiences with other volunteers and to receive in-service training.

Training programs of four days each are planned for our area this June. If you want to volunteer or to receive more information, call the Regional Ombudsman Program for the Northwestern Region at 596-4473.

—Jill Gibbons

Welcome

Arnon Desiderio Fischer to
Deirdre and Adam Fischer

Good-bye to Friends

Daniel W. Berry
Miles Daley

Land Transfers

Nancy Morgan Pierce to Martha Loutfi,
house and 3 acres on Stonehill Road
for \$266,000.

David G. and Sarah F. Hubby to Elizabeth
Ann Vorce, house and 5.5 acres on Pierce
Lane for \$195,000.

Kugeman Village's First Year

Kugeman Village opened on April 6, 1994. Now it is home to 25 adults and 20 children ranging in age from one to eighteen. Eleven of the families are from Cornwall or have Cornwall connections, and others have come from Sharon, Kent, and Torrington. It is a wonderful place for all ages—sidewalks for strollers, tricycles, and easy walking; asphalt for bicycles and roller blades; a play area with swings, slide, and sandboxes; a fenced-in garden for individual plots; and neighbors nearby for conversation—and for help when needed.

A welcome gift of two trees—a red maple

and a green ash—from the Cornwall Village Improvement Society, and a Clifton Read memorial tree, a European beech (dedicated on April 21), will enhance the general landscaping that will go on this summer. The skills of the resident superintendent, Camille Careme, are put to good use in providing extras and in keeping the grounds attractive and safe. —Anne Baren

Prentice Models On View

Architect and designer Tim Prentice has installed a "mini-retrospective" of his architectural models at the Cornwall Library. Over the years, he has designed some 46 homes and remodelings in the Cornwall area, and you'll see models, photos, and bits and pieces of many of these.

Tim's designs draw heavily on traditional New England country architecture—reminiscent of barns, grain towers, mills, and farmhouses. He uses post-and-beam construction to create large interior spaces. These are beautiful, livable dwellings that sit well on the land.

Besides enjoying the models, you can get your own free illustrated Tim Prentice coloring book, making great fun of area real estate ads. —Alfred Bredenberg

Events & Announcements

Covered Bridge Dance: On Sunday, May 28, the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department will sponsor the fourth annual Bridge Dance at the covered bridge in West Cornwall—rain or shine. Proceeds will fund equipment and training for the firefighters.

The Cheryl Cormier Band will play country music for dancing from 6 to 11 P.M. and food will be served beginning at 5 P.M.

Parking on the west (Sharon) side of the river will be at the Northeast Utilities parking lot north of the bridge, and on the east side at CCS and the Firehouse area. Shuttle buses will run between the parking areas and the bridge throughout the evening.

Advance tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4 for youths (\$7 and \$5 at the gate). Children under 10 admitted free, with an adult. For ticket information call 672-4373.

Raffle to Benefit Special Olympics: Area businesses have donated goods and gift certificates for a raffle to raise funds for the Special Olympics World Games. To buy raffle tickets, contact Bill Dinneen at 672-6740, Tricia Collins at 672-6437, or Gordon Ridgway at 672-4959. Gift certificates or goods have been donated by Housatonic Valley Rug Shop, Northwest Lumber, Nora's Nursery, Brookside Bistro, Matthews 1812 House, Sharon Audubon Store, Roaring Oaks Florist, Litchfield County Collective, Nodines, and Scasco. The raffle drawing will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 9 A.M. at WKZE in Sharon.

Memorial Day Schedule: Activities begin at 9:15 A.M. with a traditional observance at the North Cornwall Cemetery led by Charles (continued on back page)

Letters to the Chronicle

NOT JUST BABYSITTING

I've encountered a few misconceptions lately about the Cornwall Child Center that require clarification. Often referred to as "The Daycare," the Child Center is either negatively regarded as little more than a babysitting service or plainly shrugged off as a simple play program to keep kids busy while their parents are otherwise occupied.

Some people are quite surprised to learn that the Child Center offers a nursery school program from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. every day. The daycare misnomer becomes valid only insofar as working parents are able to avail themselves of the excellent opportunities and resources at the Child Center.

Many children, though, are there not as a result of a parent's work schedule, but specifically because it is a wonderful program carefully planned to help each child develop the skills and confidence he needs to venture into his ever-expanding world.

I find it disheartening to be asked by skeptics if the Center is actually equipped to be a nursery school! The children's growth and development are being nurtured and guided by an exceptional staff, with excellent credentials in Early Childhood Education, both by the graduate degrees they have earned and the years of experience each has in her field.

Our four-year-old daughter, Kylie, adores going to "school." She loves her teachers, her friends, the stories and songs and projects. Four years old seems a baby to some, but a four-year-old is among life's brighter, more discerning, clever and candid witnesses.

I encourage parents of pre-schoolers to visit the Child Center. Whether your child is currently attending, or you are considering enrollment, spend some time there and see the program. Many of us are only there at drop-off and pick-up times—neither of which is indicative of the real time spent there by your child. Come observe, ask questions, get involved, and learn more about the program and the philosophies of the teachers. And be wary of those bearing misinformation. It could cause you and your children a missed opportunity.

—Kim Gellatly

FACT BANK ESTABLISHED

The debate over the town's office-space needs has churned up a lot of facts, figures, and questions. To add to the confusion, negotiation among the parties means that what was "true fact" last week is not true this week.

Celia Senzer and I have volunteered to maintain a clearinghouse for facts and figures related to the town office-space options—the opportunities at Marvelwood as well as the current space. So if anyone has ideas, for example about financing the options now under discussion, please tell us.

Celia can be reached at 672-6898. My office number is 672-2707; call or come by.

—Lisa Lansing



MORNING PLEASURES

The first pleasure of my day is looking down Coltsfoot Valley, which lies directly south of our house. I always say, "This is the day that the Lord hath made. I will rejoice and be glad in it." The sun gilds the top of the three crests of Coltsfoot Mountain, sold to the State of Connecticut to be FOREVER WILD. The valley floor is to remain undeveloped, thanks to an easement given the town when the family Coltsfoot Limited Partnership created the environmentally correct development. No buildings to be built in the open valley. The second pleasure of the day is greeting my Lab, Honey, who is always ecstatically glad to see me. I let her out, and meet the third pleasure, feeding the birds. I call the chickadees, and before I can get back into the house, the chickadees and juncos are after the seeds. Cardinals, blue jays, finches, and white-throated sparrows are more wary.

—Polly Calhoun

NOEL NEST

We really are going to take down our Christmas wreath some day, but there are mitigating circumstances.

First, a misguided, misdirected, or missed-the-turn-south bird spent the winter in the wreath. No sooner had he left, than a flirty purple finch gave his lady love a song and dance about this fantastic circular castle he'd found for them to live in; she bought his tale. Heaven only knows what he told her about that great, flapping red ribbon—probably some cock-and-bird story about the pennant flying only when the King (he, of course) and Queen (she, of course) are in residence. Meanwhile, the nest is a-building and he spends lots of time perched next to the red bow preening himself.

In any case, we promise that as soon as the eggs hatch and the big mouths become little birds, then fledglings, and the fledglings fly away, that frazzling wreath will come down! 'Til then, don't think of it as a Christmas wreath but as one bloody BIG birdhouse!

—Connie Steuerwalt and Jane Giddens-Jones

BRICKS, ANYONE?

The third grade class of Cornwall Consolidated School has been studying plants and would like to thank the PTA for awarding us \$100 to build an herb garden. We would like to edge the garden with red bricks. If you have any red bricks please contact Susan O'Neil at 672-6617. —Alexandra Collins, third grade



Events & Announcements (cont.)

Gold. Participants often bring flowers to decorate the graves.

At 10 A.M. the Seamen's Memorial Service will be held at the covered bridge in West Cornwall.

At 11 A.M. we will gather for the annual parade and ceremony at the Cornwall Village Green. The parade will form on Hubbard Field at 10:30 A.M. All veterans are invited to march; uniforms are not required. This year, we would like all veterans, especially World War II veterans, to join us at the podium area to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. In case of rain, the program will be held in the CCS gym.

From 11 A.M. until 2 P.M. the Cornwall Historical Society on Pine Street will feature an exhibit—"My Favorite Work of Art."

At 12 noon, directly following the program on the green, the annual Memorial Day



Carnival will be held on the grounds of the United Church of Christ. Hosted by the church and the Cornwall Child Center, the carnival will provide entertainment, games, and plentiful food for all.

"My Favorite Work of Art": The Cornwall Historical Society seeks your participation in its Memorial Day exhibit by the brief loan of a small object (whether or not Cornwall-related, whether or not of your own creation). Contact Paula Holmes (672-6427), Maureen Prentice (672-0135), or Michael Gannett (672-6958).

The Information Dirt Road

Here are some things we won't be covering in future issues: Huskymania; O.J.; the information superhighway; Newt, Bill, and Bob. Just Cornwall news, all the time. Is that a sigh of relief we hear? Are you heading for your checkbook to send us a vote of support? Thanks.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

\$10 will get the Chronicle mailed out of town.

New System for Open-Burning Permits: Jim Vanicky, Assistant Fire Chief, has resigned his position as open-burning official after several years of dedicated service.

Applications for burning permits can now be obtained through the selectmen's office. Burning is not permitted on many days during the spring and summer due to forest fire dangers and air pollution conditions.

For further information call 672-4959 or write to the Office of the Selectmen, P.O. Box 205, Cornwall, CT 06753.

Cable TV Information Meeting: The Cornwall Association is sponsoring a public information meeting with Laurel Cablevision on Saturday, May 20, at 4 P.M. in the Town Hall. Representatives of Laurel's sales and installation departments will be present to answer questions concerning available channels, prices, etc. Laurel may start wiring homes by the end of June.

Park & Rec News: Gymnastics with Jean Jacquier will start May 1 at Goshen Center School. For information and registration forms, call Martha Bruehl at 672-6373 or Jean at 824-0325.

The USA Soccer School of Excellence will hold its soccer camp at CCS July 17-21 (9 A.M. to 12 noon) for ages 5-7. Registration forms are available at CCS.

A "Woodgrain Workshop" will be taught by Lisa Cruse at 7 P.M. Monday, May 15, at CCS. The class will feature faux finish/easy woodgrain in acrylic. For details and registration, call Lisa, 672-6049.

Rembrandts, No; Pollocks, Maybe: There will be an exhibition of artwork done by the children of the Cornwall Child Center at Cadwell's Corner during the month of May. The "Opening" will be on Monday, May 8, at 10:30 A.M. Join us for milk and cookies and meet the artists.

Mothers—Bring a Child: The Kent Singers' spring concert, a delicious mix of English music from Byrd to Britten, will be presented Saturday, May 13, at 8 P.M. at the Kent School Chapel and on Sunday, May 14, at 4 P.M. at St. Michael's Church, Litchfield. Tickets (\$10 for adults, \$6 for those under 18) can be bought from any of Cornwall's singers or at the door. This year mothers of all ages will be admitted half price when accompanied by a child. Marie Prentice has even more information at 672-6261.

River Races: The annual Down River Race sponsored by the Housatonic Area Canoe and Kayak Squad (H.A.C.K.S.) will be held on Saturday, May 20, at 11 A.M. The race begins at the hydroplant in Falls Village and

ends at the Housatonic Meadows picnic area. Registration is 9-10 A.M. on the day of the race and is open to all amateur and professional canoeists and kayakers. For more information call Bill Tingley at 364-5321.

The Covered Bridge Slalom Race will take place at 9 A.M. on Sunday, May 21, in West Cornwall. Advance registration is required. For information call Barb Kingsborough at (914) 763-6253 or Mark Clarke at 672-6365.

Bullfighting at the Library: At the Cornwall Library, on Saturday, May 6, at 5 P.M. Marc Simont will lecture (with slides) on "Taximaquia: Bullfighting in New York." Sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library. Everyone invited.



News from CCS: On Thursday, April 13, CCS welcomed visitors from the Special Olympics. They showed us a Turkmenistan flag and medals from different competitions, and explained the purposes and values of the Special Olympics. We hope many people will volunteer to participate in the visit of the Turkmenistani athletes to Cornwall at the end of June.

Reminder: CCS eighth-grade fundraiser sweatshirts are still on sale at CCS. Proceeds support the eighth-grade trip to Pennsylvania.

A Democratic Town Caucus will be held on May 9 at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Hall to elect a new Democratic Town Committee and officers.

Return of the Swap Thing: Conquer garden crowding by bringing your excess plant progeny to a Plant Swap at the CCS parking lot on Saturday, May 20, at 10 A.M. It's fun and it's free. For more information call Jamie Monagan at 672-4815 or Cheryl Evans at 672-0094.



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