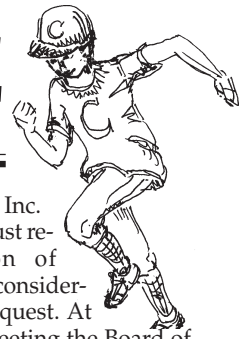




CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 20 : NUMBER 4 MAY 2010



Dual Budget Votes

Cornwall voters have two opportunities to say yes or no to a pair of budgets for Region One and for Cornwall.

On May 4 from noon to 8 P.M. at Town Hall, registered voters and property owners in Cornwall will be able to vote on the budget proposal that supports the Region One administrators, Region One Pupil Services, and Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

The Region One proposed budget of \$14,396,304 for 2010–2011 represents a 1.79 percent increase over the current budget. It reflects savings in the salary line made possible by an early retirement plan offered to eligible teachers resulting in a net reduction of 2.4 staffing positions at HVRHS. Region One Board Chair Judge Manning indicated that the budget might be reduced as a result of negotiations with a new health insurance provider, contingent upon the teachers' union's acceptance of a new plan.

The second opportunity occurs May 21 at 7:30 P.M. in the CCS Gathering Room at a Town Meeting. Those present will vote on Cornwall's 2010–2011 town budget, which includes the local education proposal. Cornwall Board of Education Chair Becky Hurlburt notes that "there are no big issues" in the proposed CCS budget. With the inclu-

sion of Cornwall's portion of the Region One plan, the total Cornwall education budget will grow 3.1 percent to \$3,878,884.

CCS Principal Robert Vaughan expressed gratitude for the various local organizations that provide funds for items that might otherwise cause budget angst. The PTA provides special assemblies, the CCS Fund for Excellence subsidizes summer programs for teachers, the Cornwall Foundation is providing a grant for a Writer-in-Residence program, and Art at the Dump has supported the CCS art program. — *Barbara Gold*

Generous Gates Bequest

When beloved Cornwall resident Judy Seaton Gates died last year she did something that Thornton Wilder, the American playwright and novelist, would have approved. She left her estate to benefit others. "Money is like manure," said Wilder, in his play *The Matchmaker*, "it's not worth a thing unless it's spread around encouraging young things to grow."

Both Larry and Judy Gates decided many years ago that Cornwall would benefit from their assets and honoring that commitment, Judy divided her estate equally among four beneficiaries: the Town of Cornwall, the United Church of Christ Cornwall (UCC), the Housatonic Valley Association, and the

Actor's Fund of America, Inc.

The town, which has just received its distribution of \$251,508.59, is currently considering ways of using the bequest. At the May 21, 2010 town meeting the Board of Selectmen propose to make an announcement on ways the community can offer input into the decision.

The UCC will divide the generous gift among an unrestricted endowment fund, mission projects, and capital improvements on church buildings. The congregation has already voted a percentage of the money to fund needed repairs to the steeple at the North Cornwall Meeting House.

Judy taught English at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and Jayne Ridgway, who was a student at Housy when Judy was there, remembers, "She loved teaching and was very supportive of her students."

"She was also a registrar of voters and taught me the job," added Jayne, "and was on the Democratic Town Committee for many years. She wasn't afraid to speak her mind, often interrupting the meeting with a 'You're out of order' and she was right."

"She was a lovely, kind person," said John Miller, recalling Judy. With this bequest, like a stone dropped into a still pond, her kindness will continue to ripple out into the community in ever-expanding circles.

— *Brenda Underwood*

MAY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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; Women's Adult Basketball, 7:30 P.M. CCS; Tai Chi, 6–8 P.M. Call 672-0064 Sundays: Meditation Group, 1–2 P.M. 672-0229 to confirm						1 Community Contra Dance 7 P.M. Town Hall †
2	3 Reg One Bd. of Ed 6 P.M.; HVRHS Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Commission 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	4 Region One Budget Referendum Noon–8 P.M. Town Hall Park & Rec. 7 P.M. CCS Library Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Office	5 Knitting Group 7 P.M. Library	6 ☾ National Day of Prayer 6–6:30 Village Green †	7	8 Chess for Kids 10 A.M. Library Organic Gard. Workshop 10:30 A.M.–1:30 P.M. Local Farm † Juergen Kalwa Talk 3 P.M. Library †
9 MOTHERS DAY	10 Blood Pressure Screening Noon–1 P.M. UCC	11 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	12	13	14 ☾	15 ☾ Deadline: June Chronicle Copy Wind Energy Talk 7:30 P.M. Library †
16	17	18 ☾ Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	19 Knitting Group 7 P.M. Library	20 Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	21 ☾ Annual Town Budget Meeting 7:30 P.M. CCS †	22 Chess for Kids 10 A.M. Library Family Cow Workshop 10 A.M.–1 P.M. Local Farm †
23	24 ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	25	26 Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. West Cornwall Firehouse	27	28 ☾ Art Opening Reception 4–7 P.M. Lady Audrey's Gallery †	29 ☾ Book Sale 9 A.M.–4 P.M. Library † Art Opening Reception 4–6 P.M. Wish House †
30 Book Sale 10 A.M.–3 P.M. Library †	31 MEMORIAL DAY Memorial Day Observances 9 A.M. on					

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

Fallen Soldier 1944

Maybe you've noticed it. The home-made brass plaque on the wall beside 145 Great Hill Road has been dulled by age, but if the light is right you can make out some of the words. The hand-drawn letters spell out "Alvin H. Worden" and "July 30, 1944." This winner of a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star died nearly two months after D-Day and is buried in St. Laurent, France.

Michael Gannett said that he once asked the late Harriet Clark about the plaque. She said that young Worden had grown up in the little house inside the wall and that his father had worked the Clark farm during the war. Alvin's mother and two sisters lived there too.

Harriet told Michael that the elder Worden was addicted to patent medicines. In those days, these were mostly alcohol. But she had to keep him on the place. She was teaching down in Danbury and on the weekends she brought home the medicine bottles she found in the pharmacies there. She didn't have much of a choice, she told Michael.

Worden could handle the horses for plowing and do other necessary farm chores at a time when most able-bodied citizens were off fighting the war. It's easy to imagine a boy growing up on that hill, learning the landscape, finding blackberries to eat and bagging small game with a boy's gun. Maybe the old man got to be too much and he ran off and joined up far away from here. Whatever happened, young Alvin isn't recorded on any local military records and his only memorial is the one on the wall there.

Harriet remembered that the elder Worden had died by the end of the war and that his wife and the two girls moved back to New York state, where they came from. For years, Alvin's mother returned to Cornwall on Memorial Day. She decorated the plaque and left a little flag in the holder fixed to the wall. He must have been the light of her life.

—Lisa Lansing Simont, 2005



IHZ Topic of Discussion

The Planning and Zoning Commission opened the first half of its April 13 meeting to Q&A from the audience and its own members about the Incentive Housing Zone (IHZ).

Jocelyn Ayer of the NW CT Regional Planning Collaborative, which is advising the P&Z, answered questions and distributed a 15-page response to concerns raised at an earlier meeting. This memo and other materials are available at the Land Use Office at the Town Hall.

The schedule for future meetings includes a P&Z session on May 11 to endorse the IHZ Adoption Application to the state. This will not be a formal public hearing, but comments from the floor will be allowed. If the IHZ application is approved by the P&Z it may be discussed at the May 18 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Please check cornwallct.org calendar for updates.

—Lisa L. Simont

Confessions of a Census Taker

My knock on the door echoed through the hollow halls of the darkened home, slumbering deep in a forest clearing. My eager finger darted to the doorbell. A distant chime broke the hush but no approaching footsteps followed. Yet all was not silence. From behind the house, a cool breeze wafted soft, seductive music to my ears. It led me past the rose-bushes, the Weber grill, and the parked Subaru. Mechanically I slid my hand over the hood (an old census taker trick) ...still warm. The game was afoot. My quarry was near. I vaulted the chaise lounge onto the

back patio. And that is where I found her, dripping wet, naked and glistening.

Fortunately for all concerned, she was inside and I was outside, with a stout stucco wall between.

"Hello, anyone there?" I called toward the little window several feet above my head whence the music and a soft patter of water could be heard.

"I'm in the shower," came the reply. "Who's there?"

"It's the census taker. I need to ask you some questions."

"This is as good a time as any," she gurgled.

And that is how we filled out a form for one Cornwall resident, with her scrubbing and me scribbling. I am confident that Cornwall bears the distinction of hosting the only census-interview-cum-ablution in history.

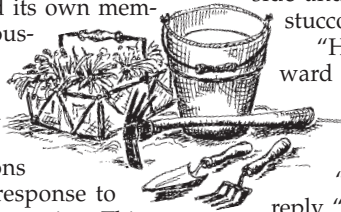
Generally, a census taker's day consists of pleasant drives down roads one might not otherwise take.

It's all for a good cause, too. In the 2000 Census, 50,000 Connecticut residents were missed, costing us, among other losses, government aid and representation in Congress.

—Matt Collins

Summer Times at CCC

From July 5 to August 27, the kids can have care plus enrichment in extended programs offered by the Cornwall Child Center. Summer Care provides for toddlers (one and two-year-olds) to eight-year-olds from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. Children three to eight years will enjoy a new program each week (Creepy Critters, Goopy Science, etc.) weekdays 9 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Contact CCC for registration forms:



[email cornwallchildcenter@yahoo.com](mailto:cornwallchildcenter@yahoo.com) or 672-6989. Sessions will fill quickly.

With this summer program, Sandy Gomez will begin her new position as director of the center. She comes with impressive credentials in education as well as experience as director of Housatonic Day Care.

—Ginny Potter

Welcome

Micah Emmanuel Broers to Kristy and Steven Broers
Chayton Joseph Pastre to
James Pastre and Shanna Miller Robinson

Good-bye to Friends

Allyn Hurlburt, Jr.
Jacqueline Soulé

Land Transfers

Mark E. Kent, Susan Kent and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to JP Morgan Chase Bank, NA, foreclosure on property at 12 Burlwood Lane.

Charles R. Ebersol, Jr. and Carol H. Ebersol to William Lawrence Goulet and Stella Jane Louisa Goulet, land and improvements thereon at 140 Great Hill Road for \$1,250,000.

Cornwall Briefs

- **Farmers' Market:** It's a-comin' Saturday morning, May 15, in front of Wish House in West Cornwall. Winter is *really* over when we start gathering on Bianca's lawn sipping Saccardi family coffee and munching mom's mini muffins. It'll take a few weeks for the veggies to get going, but local eggs, bread, pastry, meat, flowers and cheese will be available, plus Carol Bonci and her fabulous foccacia, or is it Carol Foccacia and her fabulous bonci? Either way it's very tasty. And finally a reminder from Al Gore to bring your own shopping bags to the market.

- **Plastics:** It is expected that come May 1 the transfer station will begin accepting all types of plastics with that friendly little number in the triangle. Check with Fred or Steve the next time you're there to see if the state has given the go-ahead. (See insert.)

- **Cell Tower(s):** Word comes from the First Selectman's Office that Verizon intends to pursue placing a tower on the Gulliver property off Bell Road west of Popple Swamp. And that another, so far unidentified company, is looking at a site for a possible tower off Route 63 in Cornwall Hollow. Is the "greenest town in CT" about to become "Towerville, USA?"

—John Miller



HOUSING AFFORDABLE FOR EVERYONE

We are a bit surprised that someone finds it a problem that the section of the 10-year plan dealing with housing was written by people who "had a very clear agenda." Of course we did (Anne was among the volunteer members on the subcommittee working on that topic). For years, when asked what the pressing needs in Cornwall are, affordable housing has been at the top of the list every time. That's why back in 1986 a housing task force was appointed and that's why we now have at least the few affordable houses and rental units we do. We need more and at last we have begun to realize that it's not only for the young who want to stay in town, it's also for those like us, older people who no longer need or can care for two-story houses with lawn and garden, but who also want to stay in town.

There is no "concentration of power" between P&Z and Cornwall Housing, but there is a common recognition that if we want Cornwall to remain the community we love, we need to maintain the economic and social diversity we now have. We need both the long-time residents and the part-timers; the young and the old; the workers in town; those who work at home; and those who commute to work. And we need housing for all of these, which certainly includes moderate and "affordable" places to live.

The Incentive Housing Zone plan is worth considering because it could possibly provide Cornwall with 15 moderate-size housing units, three of them technically "affordable," and P&Z would have a certain amount of control as to how they look.

—Anne and Paul Baren

DANGEROUS GAMES

On Easter Sunday a guest of mine happened to look out my picture window and discovered two boys down in my woods. Watching them for a couple of minutes we discovered what they were doing. They were having a great time pushing over dead trees. We went outside and as we watched, one boy began pushing on a fairly large dead tree, pushing it back and forth until it finally toppled over. As the tree swung we could see that the tree was well rotted, not only on the bottom but also at the top.

I'm sure the lads were totally unaware of the danger they were in. Had the top broken off and fallen back it could have killed the boy doing the pushing or even swung around and hit the other. I finally yelled at them and they left. It was obvious they had also pushed over other trees.

Woods can be extremely dangerous, not only with rocky terrain but also with dead trees and limbs, called by woodsmen "widow makers" just waiting to come down with the slightest breeze. We were lucky there are no leaves on the trees yet and could see what was going on.

I have no idea who these lads were, where they live, or their ages. I would suggest to parents that they educate their young people of



Letters to the Chronicle

these dangers and if they do want to let them go out into the woods that they show them where their boundary lines are. Imagine how terrible it would be to have a child hit on the head with a dead limb or tree and be maimed for life or worse yet, killed.

Please spread the word. After all, there are a lot of dead limbs and trees that are rotted or badly damaged after winter storms and high winds.

—Barbara Victorien

HOUSING IS A TOWN PRIORITY

Cornwall's Incentive Housing Zone (IHZ) proposal has not gotten a fair shake. As with many worthwhile proposals, the opposition may not be larger but it is louder than the support.

Plans for cluster/affordable housing are likely to incur some opposition in any town, but Cornwall's new 10-year plan identifies such housing as a priority for our town. If we don't satisfy our obligations to provide moderate and affordable housing in this town, are we then culpable for the monolithic and exclusive culture which is diminishing the once diverse mix of citizens we pride ourselves in?

The proposed Incentive Housing Zone on Route 7 south of Cornwall Bridge would allow 15 homes to be clustered on 18 acres leaving 15 acres of preserved open and forested land around most of the perimeter of the property. Under the plan, 20 percent of the units must be affordable to residents earning \$69,000 or less. The remaining units would be priced for the moderate income buyers.

Under the IHZ, our P&Z would retain significant control over the design of both site and housing. Some neighbors claim this is "spot zoning" and that someone "has it in" for Cornwall Bridge. After reviewing a number of options within the "Village Centers" in Cornwall, finally the lot in consideration met the criteria of being for sale and having the requisite septic soil conditions.

It's important to note that the site is in the one-acre zone which would allow nine lots on the property under existing regulations. It may prove unpopular with neighbors whichever way it goes. I think Cornwall should do the right thing and answer the need for moderate-priced housing in this town.

—Will Calhoun

Will is a member of the IHZ advisory group

NO SUBSIDIZED HOUSING

My American Heritage Dictionary says that a subsidy is "monetary assistance given by a government to a person." I was more than a bit surprised to see that Maggie Cooley thinks that many of us live in our homes because we received a "subsidy." I believe there is a HUGE difference between such subsidized housing and the home my husband and I bought with our earned money or even if we had bought it with

money we inherited from our family who had earned it.

I have no disagreement with those who choose to use the money they earn or inherit to enable others to buy houses as that is their choice. But I say NO to mandates that take increasingly scarce tax dollars and use them to build so called "affordable housing" units in our town.

Our fiscally irresponsible government representatives at all levels are spending far more money than is available from us taxpayers and putting our country into an increasingly huge hole. Flagrant disregard for our mounting debt and deficit crisis is fiscally and morally wrong.

—Wallace Harding

POETRY RENASCENCE

A revival of the Annual Cornwall Poetry Reading took place on Saturday March 27, at the Library. This event was initiated long ago at the then Cadwell's Restaurant (now Wandering Moose) and enlarged to fill the Town Hall by Phyllis Nauts. After a few years of absence, a wistful band of poets gathered to reinvent the event in the Library.

Original poems were read by Ken Keskinen, Marie Prentice, Jeff Jacobson, Bee Simont, Katherine Freygang, and Eliana Calhoun. Ella Clark read an excerpt from Bob Bailey's "Calendar of Daze," and Earl Brecher read a Viking narrative he is scripting.

Highlights were Eliana Calhoun's poem about a blue heron and Jeff Jacobson's expression of love by not showing his wife the two five-foot milk snakes in the garage.

Introductions were composed by the members of the audience who each chose a poet to present. All poems will be available to read in the Library. This event is meant to inspire more writing and sharing. Next year we will encourage other lively exchanges so there will be an opportunity to hear your wordsmithing too.

—Katherine Freygang

ROMANS V. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The article in April's Chronicle reminded me of the "roads" at our air base in England during World War II. One day we saw two English workers who had dug down at least four feet along a section of road and were putting down a layer of large rocks. As the days went on they used smaller and smaller rocks until the cut was filled. I understand that the Romans used the same method. At almost the same time, a small road to the mess hall had to be repaired. The Corps of Engineers came and finished the job in two days. We were impressed by the difference. But a month later, after much rain, snow, and frost, the engineers' road was a mess, full of holes and ruts, and had to be redone.

—George Pearson



Events & Announcements

Community Contra Dance: May 1, 7 to 9:30 P.M. at the Town Hall with Jeff Walker calling and Still the Homegrown Band playing. Suggested donation is \$3/child, \$5/adult. Questions? Call 672-6101.

The Cornwall Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, May 3, at 8:30 A.M. at the Society, 7 Pine Street.

A Referendum will be held in the Cornwall Town Hall on Tuesday, May 4, from noon to 8 P.M. to vote on the Region One school budget. Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's Office.

The National Day of Prayer has been observed since 1988 on the first Thursday of May. All are invited to take part in this year's celebration on May 6 from 6 to 6:30 P.M. on the Green in Cornwall Village.

At the Cornwall Library

- Oral History: Juergen Kalwa, a journalist and producer of video biographies, will speak on Saturday, May 8, at 3 P.M.
- Book Sale: Saturday, May 29, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., Sunday, May 30, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.
- Russian: Interested in learning Russian? Talk to Amy Cady at the Library, 672-6874.

The 11th Annual Spring Bird Walk led by Art Gingert will step off Sunday, May 9, at 7:15 A.M. The two-hour tour is limited to 14 birders equipped with binoculars and mud boots. Rain or shine. Call Art at 672-0077 to register and ask questions.

Local Wind: David Hurwitt of Optiwind will discuss local wind energy on May 15 at 7:30 P.M. at the Cornwall Library.

Memorial Remembrance: An outdoor Mass in honor of deceased members of the Armed Forces will be celebrated at St. Bridget Church in Cornwall Bridge at 1 P.M. on Memorial Day, May 31. All are invited to attend, come rain or shine.

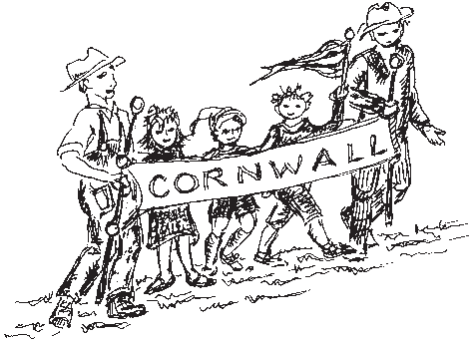
The Darling Buds

May has inspired more words and music than any other month with the exception of June when people like to get married. Whether you're singing at the sight of blossoming trees or weeping during the Wedding March, please take a moment and remember the *Chronicle*. Thank you.

The Town Budget will go before the voters on Friday, May 21, at 7:30 P.M. in the Gathering Room at CCS.

Art in Cornwall:

- Lady Audrey's Gallery will host an opening reception on Friday, May 28, from 4 to 7 P.M. for "Sophisticated Exuberance," the debut of the most current oil paintings by Liz Lambert, and "Family of Man," whimsical sculptures by British sculptor Chris Stone.
- The Wish House will host an opening reception for artist Jane Bevans on Saturday, May 29, from 4 to 6 P.M.
- At the Cornwall Library, the show of Swede Arhstrom's landscape paintings will continue through the end of May. In the glass case, Johan Winsser will show his collection of antique Dutch tiles.



Town Memorial Day Events: The decoration of veterans' graves and a tour by Charles Gold will begin at 9 A.M. at North Cornwall Cemetery. The Seamen's Memorial will be observed at 10 A.M. at the Covered Bridge. The parade starts at 11 A.M. in the Village in front of the Town Hall.

Memorial Day Carnival and Lunch: After the parade and ceremony on the Town Green on Monday, May 31, enjoy food and games at the Village Meeting House Carnival sponsored by the UCC Christian Education Committee and the Cornwall Child Center. Devour hamburgers and hot dogs grilled on the spot, fresh salads, beverages (root beer floats again!), and ice cream; and join in games for children of all ages. Proceeds support CCC scholarships and a variety of UCC mission concerns.

Maintaining Cornwall History: The burning of the Scoville barn reminds us to record our historic structures. If you have an antique structure on your property that has not been documented, please contact the Cornwall Historical Society at 672-0505. CHS will photograph these buildings and record them for future generations.

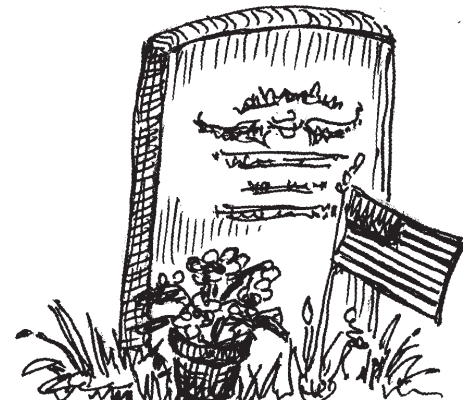
Motherhouse Workshops at Local Farm require preregistration by calling 672-0229 or by email: Debra@Motherhouse.us .

Peas and Cukes of Organic Gardening: Raised beds, mutually beneficial plants, and organic practices. May 8, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M., \$35 per family.

Keeping a Family Cow: Finding, feeding, housing, fencing, breeding, and caring for a cow. Try milking, making butter, cheeses, and more. May 22, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. \$35/person, \$50/family of up to four.

Job Vacancy: The part-time position of director of the town's Park and Recreation Commission is open. Those interested can drop off resumes at the Selectmen's Office.

Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut has applications for ownership of its newest home to be built in Canaan. For more information contact the Habitat office at 435-4747 or email: president@habitatnwct.org. Jill Gibbons at the Town Hall also has information as does Habitat's website: habitatnwct.org. The deadline for applications is June 30.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

MAY ISSUE

Roxana Laughlin, Illustrations
Lisa L. Simont and Brenda Underwood, Editors

JUNE ISSUE

Ella Clark, Priscilla Miller, and Asher Pavel, Editors
ellaclark@sharon-ct.org or priscilla@bainrealestate.com

MANAGING EDITOR Ruth Epstein

CALENDAR EDITOR Anne Baren
pbaren@optonline.net

CIRCULATION Nan and John Bevans,
Lucy and Jack Kling

DIRECTORS

Lisa L. Simont PRESIDENT • John Miller VICE PRESIDENT
Franny Taliaferro SECRETARY • Audrey Ferman TREASURER
Hendon Chubb • Paul De Angelis • Sharon Dietzel
Edward Ferman • Anne Kosciusko • Ginny and Bob Potter
Tom and Margaret Bevans, FOUNDERS

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