



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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Selectmen Weigh Historic District

Recently a number of Cornwall property owners asked the selectmen to form a committee to examine establishment of a historic district in Cornwall Village.

At their Oct. 5 meeting the selectmen turned down the request — though First Selectmen Gordon Ridgway made it clear that the property owners were free to bring the issue to a town meeting by presenting a petition.

Ginny Potter noted that the Town Plan suggested the possibility of a historic district. Ralph Gold, head of the Finance Board, cited problems: no present budget line, no "clean way" to include private funds.

Ridgway was for postponing any discussion until next year's budget process, when the town can assess the expenses associated with a historic district. In addition, the selectmen wanted to resolve questions about Rumsey Hall and the town offices before exploring other issues involving the town's buildings.

In other business, the selectmen recommended inserting from \$15,000 to \$20,000 in the annual P&Z budget to cover legal costs. The amount was based on a total of \$32,000 spent last year and this year to date.

— Charles Osborne

What Is a Historic District?

The Town Plan, as adopted in 1988, recommends a historic district in Cornwall. In Connecticut more than 5,000 buildings are protected in 103 districts.

A historic district is created by a local ordinance, passed for the purpose of protecting buildings and neighborhoods of architectural, cultural, or historic importance. The ordinance must be ratified by two-thirds of the property owners in the designated district.

Such a district would be overseen by a five-member commission, made up exclusively of Cornwall citizens, which would regulate the kinds of changes that property owners may make — new construction, renovation, or demolition. But the commission would have no control over exterior paint color, routine maintenance and repair, or any kind of interior changes.

The town may legally appropriate funds to set up a historic district — though it is not obliged to do so, except for required town meetings and property owner balloting. Other costs may be funded by interested citizens. Once the commission is authorized, it runs on a town budget like any other commission.

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior has

issued guidelines that many districts use to objectify their thinking about alterations. Many guidelines are common sense: alterations should be minimal; additions should be compatible. The principle underlying the guidelines: "Do no harm."

— Charles Osborne

Cropwalkers Break the Bank

Cornwall fielded 16 hikers and runners for a rainy Sept. 29 Cropwalk. Those who finished all or part of the course over Music Mountain collected \$1,642 from their sponsors. This exceeds by more than 60% the amount collected last year. Leading hoofers were John LaPorta of Popple Swamp Road (\$275) and Ginny Potter of Town Street (\$203). The funds support local social service and feeding programs.

— Lisa Lansing

Board of Finance

At the Oct. 15 meeting chairman Ralph Gold led a discussion of the five-year capital plan, which he said had evolved for the time being into a five-year road and bridge plan because the uncertainties surrounding Rumsey make cost estimates impossible.

The board recommended to the selectmen the establishment of a personnel com-

(continued on page 2)

NOVEMBER 1992

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Meet Democratic Candidates 4-6pm Cadwell's Corner Agricultural Adv. Comm. 7:30pm W. Cornwall Firehouse	2 Board of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall	3 ELECTION DAY VOTE Park & Rec 7:30pm Town Off.	4 Inland Wetlands 8pm Town Hall West Cornwall Merchants Ass'n 3pm Freshfields Ethics in America series 7:30pm UCC†	5	6	7 Story hour 10:30am Corn. Library every Saturday
8 Playground dedication Geoffrey Lake fitness course 2pm CCS	9 Skating begins. Every Mon. 7-8pm Salisbury School (p.4) Planning & Zoning 7:30pm Town Hall	10	11 VETERANS DAY Rep. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall Ethics in America series 7:30pm UCC†	12 Cornwall Housing Corp. 7:30pm UCC†	13	14 Poetry Reading 8pm Cadwell's Corner
15	16 8pm Town Hall HVRHS Bd. of Ed. 7:30pm HS Library Paintings by Winifred Van Duxyl Cornwall Library	17	18 Ethics in America series 7:30pm UCC†	19 Board of Ed. 4:30pm CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30pm CCS Library	20	21
22	23 Z.B. of Appeals 8pm Town Hall* Conservation Comm. 7:30pm Town Off.*	24	25	26 THANKSGIVING	27	28
29	30	Benefit for Special Olympics at Mohawk Mountain Ski Area. Warren Miller's film "Steeper and Deeper" will be shown Nov. 12 & 13 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$7.50 at the door or call 672-6100 for information about other places to purchase tickets.			 FQ 2 FM 10 LQ 17 NM 24	

(continued from page 1)

mittee to work toward simplifying budget decisions and achieving a fairer range of compensation.

A transfer of \$9,000 from the contingency fund to P&Z for legal expenses was approved in anticipation of legal work on sawmill and affordable housing litigation.

Lisa Lansing presented the board with the audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 1992, and said that the town report is almost ready. This year it will not be mailed but will be available at the town office and the library, and at the annual town meeting on Oct. 30. — *Ed Ferman*

HRC to Oppose Towers

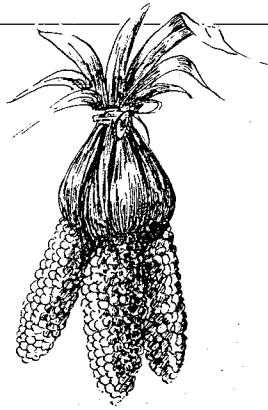
The Housatonic River Commission weighed into the Canaan Mountain microwave tower and access road imbroglio as an opponent. HRC received formal "intervenor" status before the Connecticut Siting Council which will make the decision on location of two communications towers.

Cornwall Rep. Phil Hart said the HRC agrees that the planned Canaan Mountain structure is "antithetical" to the HRC's mission to protect scenic areas along the riverbank. The commission plans to oppose other ridge-line towers within the river's outer corridor, including the proposed Mine Mountain tower in Cornwall.

Chuck Lewis, an HRC member, describes the effect on Canaan Mountain: "The tower itself would become the dominant feature on an otherwise totally undeveloped ridge line that borders the river on the east for many miles. That portion of the ridge line that is Canaan Mountain is particularly notable as viewed from the Housatonic River for its precipitous, rocky, west-facing escarpment. That lovely view would now be crowned with, and despoiled by, obtrusive man-made structures which will forever affect how people relate to that view." — *Lisa Lansing*

Locals Grill DPS on Towers

Solemn and hushed voices at the Siting Council hearing on Oct. 19 in the Kellogg Auditorium in Falls Village revealed both anxiety and frustration with the attempt by the Dept. of Public Safety to bulldoze a 7,500-foot road into the remote natural area of Canaan Mountain in order to erect a microwave tower for police communications. The public knows this is the first of many battles about the placement of large steel towers in our northwest hills. DPS squared off against intervenor organiza-



tions: Friends of Canaan Mountain, BLEC, HVA, HRC, and Canaan Inland Wetlands. The eight state Siting Council members listened to interrogations and exchanges between lawyers and engineers representing both the ten-member, dark-suited, briefcase-laden DPS team and intervenor groups. A telecommunications engineer, an HVA witness, questioned the ability of the tower to perform as planned in reducing dead spots and suggested further investigation of "dedicated line" technology.

Attorney Zbigniew Rozbicki, speaking for Friends of Canaan Mountain, drew out reluctant responses from DPS which revealed that there will be multiple users of the road and telecommunications site — five now known. Flat or dead spots will still be a problem, even with a new tower. Because the site will serve mobile units, more towers and antennas will be needed. (The issue is a building, a road, several towers, etc.) There is no present access. The environment was not considered before site selection. Finally, the state will condemn land if necessary to gain access.

Local groups and individuals feel that the state has not looked carefully into alternative technology or other tower sites, and thus jeopardizes the pristine mountain area. The hearing will continue at a time and place to be announced. — *Phil Hart*

Piano Recital

Cornwall's own Anne Chamberlain gave a piano recital on Oct. 3 at Simon's Rock. Her program consisted of works by 19th and 20th century composers.

It became apparent almost immediately that the pianist could easily cope with any technical difficulties presented by the music, leaving her free to highlight expressively the pieces' shifting moods — playfulness, intensity, intimacy, wit, and mystery, to name some of them.

But the underlying reasons for the success of the program was the consistently beautiful tone she produced. Never percussive, she seemed to draw warm, burnished sound from the piano and left her audience marveling at her artistry. — *John Zinsser*

Cornwall Bridge Bridge

Repairs to the bridge crossing the Housatonic at Cornwall Bridge will not only take longer than planned; they will

cost the state \$2.4 million more than expected. Charles Staats, a consultant with the engineering firm that is doing the work, said that the quality of the existing concrete is worse than anticipated.

It is hoped that the downstream side will be finished by early spring of 1993, and the whole project by the end of November 1993.

Mr. Staats wants to compile a history of the original construction of the bridge. If anyone remembers anything about it, contact Mr. Staats on the site any weekday.

— *John Zinsser*

Welcome

Jeffrey Baxter Hammond
to Jill Gibbons and Peter Hammond

Congratulations

John Joseph O'Donnell to
Nancy Ella Heath

Donald Thomas Kenniston to
Unni Elisabeth Larsson

Goodbye to Friends

Daria Kotchoubey
Herbert Lape
Katherine C. Nash
Herbert Whitman

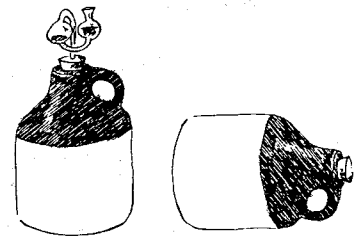
Land Transfers

New Samaritan Corp. to the Cornwall Housing Corporation, 6.46 acres on Kent Road.

Martha R. Estabrook to Lawrence N. Van Valkenburgh and R. Duane Norris, a house at Cream Hill and Scoville Roads.

Hector P. and Erica C. Prud'homme to Janine Selendy, 10.34 acres on Town Street.

Linda A. LaPorta to Philip S. Bishop and Donna L. D'Aquila, a house on Twixt Road.

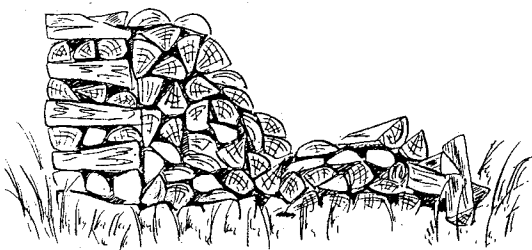


Irene Gross Berzon's Art Show

Poppies are a recurring theme in Irene Gross Berzon's show of photographs and paintings at the Cornwall Free Library. The camera records one poppy unfolding, crinkled papery petals atop a hesitant stem reaching for the light. In another photograph, use of a blue filter conveys the dejected mood of a seated figure, back to the cameras, head bowed.

Among the paintings are affectionate portrait studies and evocations of changing seasons in the country — a ploughed field in spring, shadows cast by winter trees, autumn's fire. Until November 14.

Herb Whitman would have enjoyed



writing about this show. Over the years his insights into an artist's aspirations and his anecdotes have made enlightening reading, often of the aha! kind. How well Herb knew how to get across his enjoyment in what he was looking at. His gusto was infectious — his bouncy reviews will be missed!
— Brigitte Hanf

P&Z Special Permits

At its regular meeting the Planning and Zoning Commission brought to a conclusion the months-long effort of the Cornwall Housing Corporation to obtain a special permit for an affordable lot on land donated by Ella Clark on Town Street. (See story below.)

An application for a sawmill by Gary Hall on Nuese land was presented at a sparsely attended public hearing by attorney Peter Ebersol. The site was described as remote, with a buffer of vegetation, and the monitored decibel level was reported to be in the acceptable range. The hearing was continued until November so that members can inspect the site, and required legal documents will be submitted.

A question about varying road construction specifications was too technical for members; the problem will be referred to the engineering consultant.

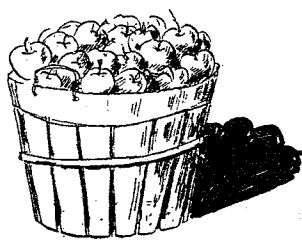
— Ginny Potter

Affordable Housing Cont'd

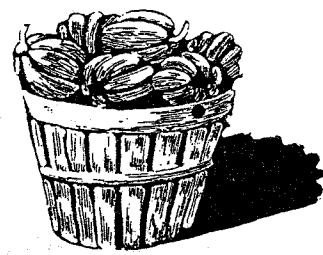
The Cornwall Housing Corporation's plan for affordable housing on Town Street has been unanimously approved by P&Z. In accepting the CHC site plan, the commission imposed two additional conditions, both generally in line with suggestions made by CHC. Any building will have to be set back at least 100 feet from Town Street, and no trees may be cut within 50 feet of the road except for a driveway and utility maintenance.

P&Z acted in the face of determined opposition from several neighboring landowners, two of whom filed a lawsuit last July asserting that Cornwall's affordable-housing regulations conflict with Connecticut's laws and constitution.

However, talks between CHC and one of the plaintiffs, Jeffrey Gordon, are continuing and could lead to the dropping of the lawsuit. Negotiations are centered on the protesting landowners' demands for additional restrictions on the use of the Town Street site. CHC President Ken



Letters to the Chronicle



DARIA KOTCHOUBEY

The Cornwall community was stricken by the news of Daria Kotchoubey's death. She was unique, with her own irresistible way of expressing herself. Her wonderful wit, her loving warmth, her joy in her family, and her loyalty to her friends gave her a special place in my heart and I am sure in Cornwall's heart. I know many will join me in sending love and supportive thoughts to her husband and children.

— John Zinsser

PEEL 'EM AND REAP

Cornwall Consolidated School has issued a call for everyone in the community to save Campbell Soup Company labels. These labels can be left at the post offices in Cornwall Bridge and Cornwall, at the landfill, and at CCS. Information sheets, including what labels to save, are attached to the barrels at these locations.

In March the school selects from the Campbell catalog something of value to the school, and "pays" for it with the labels. (Last year it was a computer product.) It's a great (and painless) way to get equipment and supplies for the school, so please join in.

— Joan Thitchener

MOVING THE MICE

Last month's article on Havahart traps and flying squirrels prompts a letter about the trap and the mouse.

Seems lots is going on. On a quiet road I saw a woman ostensibly walking her dog. She did have a leash with a dog attached in one hand, but in the other I noticed a Havahart, and I

became skeptical about the purpose of their walk.

A man I know was caught at it. He was unwise to pick a friend's barn. The friend saw him and called out a hello. When it became clear to her why he seemed furtive, the scene turned embarrassing. In the same neighborhood someone else was noticed making an inordinate number of Havahart runs. Seems the person had given up and called the exterminator and was trying to save as many mice as he could before their day of reckoning.

I've gotten a lift, to find I had to sit in the back because the front seat was occupied by several full Havaharts.

I think we are sharing each other's mice.

— Anne Zinsser

MOCK TRIAL VOLUNTEERS

Jurors and witnesses are needed for mock trials. Graduating students of the University of Connecticut School of Law will be conducting mock trials on Dec. 5. Volunteers are needed to play witnesses and jurors for a murder trial, a police brutality trial, and a rape trial. All trials will take place in Superior Court in Hartford on Saturday, Dec. 5. The trials will begin at 8:30 a.m. and should be over by 1 p.m. We encourage volunteers from all walks of life, all racial and ethnic groups, and all ages. Past volunteers have included grandparents, factory workers, professionals, and high school students. For more information and to volunteer contact Emmett Dwyer at 672-2667.

— Emmett Dwyer

Keskinen said these include limitations on resale of the property, and provisions enabling neighbors to insure compliance with all site restrictions.

Other affordable-housing developments:

- Keskinen said CHC might be able to hold a lottery before the end of October to determine which of several applicants will get first crack at a site on Route 7 (a gift to CHC from Anne and Tom Hubbard) which already has a two-bedroom house ready for occupancy. Keskinen added that he hoped a lottery to determine the order in which qualified applicants will be offered the seven other building sites at CHC's disposal could take place in November.

- Keskinen said CHC hoped to break ground in November for its Kugeman Village rental housing development. But he said that, contrary to his earlier understand-

ing, applications from prospective tenants cannot be accepted until three months after construction starts.

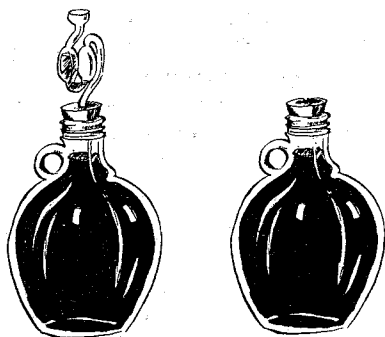
— Spencer Klaw

Third Annual Autumn Fair

Twenty-six craftspeople displayed their wares at the third annual Autumn Fair sponsored by Mohawk Mountain Ski Area on Oct. 17 and 18. Business seemed as brisk as the weather on this lovely fall weekend.

Our own Cornwall exhibitor, Helen Hedden, displayed a variety of folk crafts, including hand-painted cats and elephants wearing handmade dresses. Other interesting items were Barb and Joe Callahan's sweat shirts with computer-made inserts, displays of wood crafts and wood carvings, and earrings, necklaces, and bracelets in the jewelry booths. We hope all the craftspeople had a successful weekend and will be back next fall.

— Liz Fishman





Raw Milk Is Back

For the first time since 1980 raw milk is now available by the bottle in Cornwall. It is being produced by Debra Tyler, in collaboration with her ten Jersey cows.

She is following in the footsteps of Frank Calhoun. Remember him delivering milk in his pickup truck, carrying wire baskets of clinking bottles up to the door? We loved it, our kids loved it, and, boy, did the cream on the top taste good on summer berries! It is great to hear that we can have those good things again. Debra's barn is the old Chamberlain barn at the top of Popple Swamp Road. For information call 672-0229. — *The Editors*

Park & Rec to Be Hit by Tax

The Park and Recreation Commission has learned that fees for adult programs (age 19 and up) will be subject to the 6% state sales tax. The new regulation went into effect on July 1. The tax will also be assessed on family programs, such as skating, but only for the adults involved. Programs aimed at children will be unaffected.

The commission, now headed by Joan Thitchener, is working with the selectmen and with the town treasurer's office to iron out procedures for planning and conducting Park & Rec activities. Alice Cadwell will be the liaison between the commission and the treasurer's office. — *Lisa Lansing*

Give the Chronicle for Christmas

A year of the *Chronicle* is a thoughtful and unusual gift for out-of-town friends or relatives. They'll get 12 months of your town's news, all for the thrifty Yankee sum of \$10 (tax deductible). We'll even enclose your card or note in the first issue if you get it to us by Dec. 12.

Whatever contribution you care to give the *Chronicle* for Christmas is welcome.

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What Revaluation Will Mean to You

Every ten years Cornwall revalues the property on the grand list. Some time this month Assessor Barbara Johnson will be mailing out your new assessment. Don't panic if it's a lot more than last year. It doesn't mean your taxes will increase. They may even go down. If the grand list as a whole triples and your assessment triples, your share of the grand list and therefore your share of the real estate tax remains the same. Of course if your property's value is up more than the average, your tax will go up. But if your property value has lagged over the last ten years, your tax burden will actually decrease. The insert that comes with this issue is an article from the *Hartford Courant* explaining how property taxes and revaluation work.

— *Hendon Chubb*

Kudos

To: Chan Tenney for winning the Pierpont Edwards Medal for Distinguished Masonic Service. To win the medal one must also have led an outstanding civic life, and Chan's record in Cornwall certainly qualifies him in that regard.

To: Patsy Van Doren, who won an award from the Connecticut Association of Human Services. Patsy, one of four state-wide winners of the award, has directed the Retirement Services Volunteer Program for 19 years in 18 towns of the Northwest Corner. Congratulations to both!

— *John Zinsser*

Region 1 Teachers Settle

Teachers and negotiators for the six towns of Region 1 reached tentative agreement in mid-October on a new three-year contract. Pending final action by the towns' school boards, the contract provides:

- An average 2.99% salary increase for teachers for each of the next two years.
- Increased teacher participation in insurance premium payments to reflect actual costs; a cash buy-out for teachers who decline coverage was eliminated.
- Changes in language affecting parenting leave, preparation periods, and correction of past contract errors.

According to negotiators, the settlement avoids widely divergent financial impacts on each of the six towns. Cornwall, for example, will not feel the full 2.99% increase because most of its teachers are at the highest end of the pay scale where the increase is 1%.

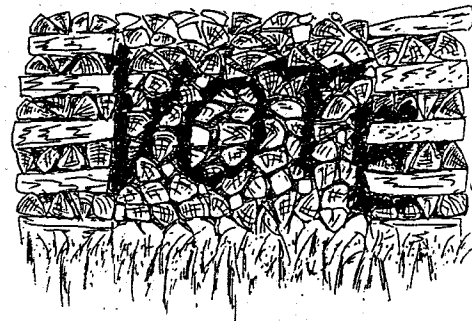
— *Lisa Lansing*



Events & Announcements

Meet the Candidates: All are invited to meet Democratic candidates Dan Dwyer for State Senator and Mary Ann O'Sullivan for Assembly on Sunday Nov. 1 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Cadwell's Corner.

Just Turned 18? Read On . . . If you have your 18th birthday between Oct. 21 and Nov. 2, you may register at the town offices on Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and still vote on Nov. 3. Bring identification such as a driver's license, social security card, birth certificate, or passport. If you have any questions please call Registrars Judith Gates, 672-6568, or Maureen Prentice, 672-0135. Don't miss this chance. You'll always remember the first time you voted.



Vote, Vote, Vote! Cornwall's percentage of voters going to the polls has always been very high. *The Chronicle* suggests that EVERYONE in town vote so that we can maintain our record as one of the votingest towns in Connecticut.

Election Day Baby-Sitting: To give parents an opportunity to vote without distractions, Vera Dineen and her Junior Girl Scout Troop #53 will provide free baby-sitting on Election Day in the basement of St. Peter's Lutheran Church from 3:30 to 4:30.

Skating: Park and Rec has announced that skating at the Salisbury School rink will start on Nov. 9 and continue every Monday thereafter through February. The hours will be from 7 to 8 p.m., and Park and Rec will ask for a \$1 donation at the door. Questions? Call Mark Pastre at 672-0179.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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