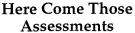


ORNWALL CHRONIC

VOLUME 11: NUMBER 10

NOVEMBER 2001



Cornwall is in the final stages of its long awaited (or long feared) mandated property reassessment. Lauren Elliot, the consulting assessor, has completed her inspection and review of all properties and has assigned market values to each. Each property must be assessed at 70 percent of that market value. Notices of new assessments will be mailed in early November.

Elliot will hold hearings in November at which time owners may challenge their assessments. At that time you can get a copy of a data sheet that explains how the assessor arrived at your market value. If you're still unhappy, you may appeal to the Board of Assessment Appeals, and after that, if you wish, to the state courts. Cornwall Assessor Barbara Johnson will make the figures final in time for her to sign the new Grand List on January 31, 2002. New tax bills go out in July.

For residences, the assessments reflect the value of all buildings on the property. Houses will be assessed in terms of dollars per square foot, with variations based primarily on age and on the quality of construction and built-in contents.

Lot values will reflect the following changes: First, each lot will be given a basic value depending on its zone—a partial change from the old approach where nearly every "basic" lot got the same \$65,000 market value, regardless of zone. Elliot will assign a value of \$55,000 to the first acre in a one-acre zone, \$61,000 to the first three acres in a three-acre zone, and \$67,000 to the first five acres in a five-acre zone. Reduced to 70 percent for taxation purposes, the new lot values will be \$38,500 for one-acre lots, \$42,700 for three-acre lots, and \$46,900 for five-acre lots. This change gives owners in one-acre zones a long overdue break.

The second part of the lot valuation is for excess acreage (defined as land over and above the minimum requirement) to be valued at \$3,000 an acre and assessed at \$2,100—no change from 1991.

Additional values will be assigned to lots with good views. The consultant also plans to increase the assessments in upscale locations such as Cream Hill Road and Town Street, while lots on busy state highways such as Route 7 will receive reduced values.

Moose on the Loose

---David Grossman

Barbara Stone reports that on October 1 a male moose meandered into the Stones' backyard on Popple Swamp Road. Not at all bothered by the sounds and movements of family members maneuvering for a good view or by the frantic barking of their dog,

"the moose just sort of stared at us," Barbara said, "and all four of us were able to study him." Barbara was even able to snap a few pictures before he ambled away up the hill and into the woods.

On the same day, Peggy Paluzzi saw a female moose up in North Cornwall near her house on Cogswell Road.

Shall the twain meet?

—Peg Keskinen

VOTE!

Election Day is Tuesday, November 6. Polls will be open from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. at the Town Hall. In the following list of offices and candidates, (D) and (R) indicate party endorsements, not necessarily party affiliation: First Selectman (vote for one): Gordon Ridgway (D), Roger Kane (R). Selectman (vote for one): Kenneth C. Baird (R), Earl Brecher (D). Treasurer: John Green (D and R). Town Clerk: Cheryl Evans (R and D). Tax Collector: Helen Migliacci (D and R). Board of Finance (vote for two): David Grossman (D), Tom Bechtle (D), Sally Hart (R). Board of Finance (two-year term, vote for one): J. W. Preston (R), Anne Nance (D). Board of Finance Alternate (vote for two): Martha Loutfi (D), Peter Kalmes (R). Board of Education (vote for three): Barbara Gold (R), Charles Yohe (R), Phil Hart (D), Becky Hurlburt (D). Planning and Zoning (vote for two): Stephen Senzer (D), David Colbert (D),

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
•	VO	TE.		Bend & Stretch Clinic 9:30–10:30 A.M. UCC (p.4) Meditation for Mothers Every Thursday 1:15–2:15 P.M. UCC Day Room (p.4)	Preschool–K Story Hour 10–11 A.M. Cornwall Library Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby 5:30 P.M. CCS	3 Open Rotary Meeting Joseph Markow, 8 a.m Cornwall Inn (p.4) Masquerade Ball Mohawk Ski Lodge 8 p.m. to Midnight (p.4
4 Democratic Candidates Social, Wandering Moose 4–6 P.M. (p.4)	Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Park and Rec. 7:30 p.m. CCS	6 Polls Open 6 A.M.—8 P.M. CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M. Blue Mt. Satsang Every Tuesday 6:30–8:30 P.M. UCC Day Room Inland Wetlands 7:30 A.M. Town Office	7 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M. Soup and Video Noon, UCC Day Room	Bend & Stretch Clinic 9:30–10:30 A.M. UCC (p.4) CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M.	9 Preschool–K Story Hour 10–11 a.m. Cornwall Library	10 Open Rotary Meeting Don Stevens, 8 a.m. Cornwall Inn (p.4)
11 Veteran's Day	12 VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVED Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 p.m. UCC Day Room P&Z 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	13	Soup and Video Noon, UCC Day Room Film Series: The Time of Your Life, 7:30 p.m. Town Hall (p.4)	Bend & Stretch Clinic 9:30–10:30 A.M. UCC (p.4) Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W C Firehouse	16 Preschool–K Story Hour 10–11 a.m. Cornwall Library	17 Open Rotary Meeting Jim Rokos, 8 a.m. Cornwall Inn (p.4)
18	Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Republican Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	20 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall	21 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M.	22 THANKSGIVING DAY OR	Cornwall Talent Show 7:30 p.m. UCC (See Insert)	24 Open Rotary Meeting Ken Keskinen, 8 a.m. Cornwall Inn (p.4)
25	Christmas Crafts 10 A.MNoon CCS (p.4) ZBA 7:30 p.m. Town Hall*	27 Classes Resume at CCS	28 Soup and Video Noon, UCC Day Room Green Party 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 p.m. W. C. Firehouse	Bend & Stretch Clinic 9:30–10:30 A.M. UCC (p.4)	Preschool–K Story Hour 10–11 A.M. Cornwall Library	December 1 Christmas Fair UCC 10 A.M.—3 P.M. (p.4) December 2 Talk on Islam and the West, 11:30 A.M. UCC Parish House (p.4)

(continued from page 1)

Roberta Tyson (R), Patrick Hare (R). Zoning Board of Appeals (vote for two): James Longwell (R), Janet Gold (R), Hanna Grossman (D), Ann Schillinger (D). Board of Assessment Appeals (vote for one): Nan Frost (D), David Hurlburt (R). Park and Rec. (vote for four): Debra Morehouse (R), Thomas Baird (R), Neal Kosciusko (D), Josh Perlstein (D). Park and Rec. (two-year term): Margaret Haske (D). —The Editors

What's Next for the School?

Following a well-attended round table meeting at CCS in September, at which time many citizens had the opportunity to voice their views, the Board of Selectmen has now decided to return

the school-building issue to a Town Meeting in January.

Meanwhile, the selectmen have formed two study groups to approach the issue in terms of location. One group is to study how to add to and remodel the existing building. The other group will explore the feasibility of building an entirely new school in a different location—an option presented by Nancy Calhoun at the September round table.

The Existing-Site Study Group is made up of Susan Hatcher, William Hurlburt, Roger Kane, Jim Terrall, and Catherine Tyson. The New-Site Study Group includes Nancy Calhoun and Lorraine Whitney. Both groups will be coordinating their plans with the Casle Corporation, a professional construction service retained to help the town in its re-evaluation of all building proposals.

The Existing-Site Group will consider other less-costly ways to meet the school's needs, along with the option of the work being done in stages over a period of time. The New-Site Group will research the availability of land for a new school, as well as determine how the present school could be sold to help defray the costs of new construction.

The selectmen will also form a third group whose mission will be to find ways to raise private funds to help pay for whatever school project is acceptable to the voters.

The groups will present their findings at a Town Meeting tentatively planned for January. After agreement is reached on an option, then detailed plans and cost estimates for the favored option will be prepared and made available to all the voters, after which the issue will be brought to another referendum at a date to be announced. —Ken Keskinen

Bibliomation—A Deprivation

Alas. In our new bibliomated library, no signout cards will be included—just cards for "optional comments." No longer will I be assured of looking at a card to see who and how many have read the book I have selected. No longer will I have a sense of their personalities through their signatures—the Palmer Method loops, the nearly illegible scrawls, the care-

fully printed names. No longer can I take note of the choices that reflect their intelligence and taste, thereby to confirm the wisdom or folly of my own selections.

Now, when the computer in the new library blinks its indifferent red slash on the code bar, links to the past will be shredded if not severed. The names of long-gone folk who signed out books generations ago will not be seen. No longer will their presence be felt; no longer will we have the ties to the past that give a community its personality and unity. No longer will today's readers add their names to the lists of readers of the past for the benefit of readers in the future. Alas.

The blinking computer is quick and efficient, yes—but why should we be in such a hurry? Why should we allow such digital distance to develop between book lovers, librarians, and other readers? We will have lost the advice and counsel of past readers, leaving us to rely on the reviews of out-of-towners or on the book-jacket propaganda itself.

What a choice. What a loss. Alas.



Preserving the Hurlburt Farm

The state has approved \$470,235 for purchase of development rights of the 81-acre farm of Allyn Hurlburt on Hautboy Hill Road. The transaction will preserve the farm by restricting the property to agricultural use. The Hurlburts will retain ownership of the farm; they can sell it, but no one will ever be able to subdivide or develop it.

—Čharles Osborne

Fall Hunting Schedules

Small game: Now through December, species and dates vary. Turkey, archery: now through November 13; December 19 to 31. Turkey, firearms: Now through November 3. Deer, archery: Now through November 13 and December 19 to 31 on state lands. Now through December 31 on private lands, zones vary. Deer, firearms: November 14 to December 18, state and private lands; November 1 to December 31, landowners.

Hours: With some exceptions, half an hour before sunrise to sunset for deer and turkey. A half-hour before sunrise to a half hour after sunset for small game. No hunting on Sundays.

Safety: Wear orange. If alone, let somebody know where you will be. Hikers, if you see hunters, call out to identify your location. For more information, call DEP Wildlife, (860) 424-3011. —Jim Levy

Good-bye to Friends

Theodora Bury Melvyn Degreenia Harry Dordick Douglas Marr Olga Schilling

Welcome

Simon Woodruff Sprague Horan to Julie Beglin and Dan Horan

Congratulations

Jennifer Hurlburt to Joseph Markow

Land Transfers

Lofton P. and Ravinder Holder to Neil Taylor, house and 25 acres at 22 Whitcomb Way for \$675,000.

Margot H. Feely to Thomas B. Schiller, house and land at 87 Lake Road for \$275,000.

Frank and JoAnne Bradley, 3.1 acres on Popple Swamp Road as gift to Cornwall Conservation Trust.

Christopher H. Hopkins to Martin Horner, 6 acres on Furnace Brook Road for \$50,000.

The Conservation Fund to the State of Connecticut, various parcels totaling 80+ acres off Swift's Bridge and Kent Roads.

The Estate of Elizabeth Lorch Palmer to Richard T. Crouch and Nina Dawn Setaro, house and land on Kent Road for \$154,000.

Mary Mitchell Hinchman to Jutta B. and Kurt F. Leopold, 7.22 acres on Great Hill Road for \$80,000.

James S. Gilson and Patricia J. Schmer to Vivian Ditisheim and Tommie Thompson, 2 River Road for \$231,250.

Noel Urben to Clarisse B. Perette, house and 11.14 acres on Dibble Hill Road for \$320,000.

Nancy B. and Clifford M. Lawrence, Jr. to James J., Ophelia L., and John P. Vanasse, 36.44 acres on Ballyhack Road for \$101,000.



Housatonic Heritage Area

As a result of Congressional legislation, the National Park Service is evaluating our region's rich heritage and present assets. A favorable report can result in the creation of an Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area. There are many benefits to be derived from such designation, including technical and financial resources for the research, education, promotion, and preservation of this 60-mile-long corridor from Kent up to Hinsdale, Massachusetts. It could underwrite funds for both ongoing and new community efforts.

The National Park Service will hold a public hearing on November 17 in Sheffield at which people can present information and learn more about our extraordinary heritage. A large and enthusiastic attendance will be regarded as support for designation. For more information, write to: Upper Housatonic Valley Heritage Area, P.O. Box 493, Salisbury, CT 06068, or call Carol Nelson, 672-3333, or Lynn Fowler, 672-6738.

---Carol Nelson

Letters to the Chronicle





ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

After reading the text of Earl Brecher's letter to the October Chronicle ("Traffic and Space at CCS"), I decided enough was enough. I replied, hoping local newspapers and the Chronicle would print it. None did: I was too verbose—1773 words. Understandable.

The Chronicle offered 135 words to respond. That's about one word for every meeting I've attended on this issue over five years—PTA, Strategic Planning, Building Committee.

One hundred thirty five words—can't do that; but I can offer my letter through the Cornwall Community Network, E-mail (briwynne@snet.net), or call for a hard copy.

Two points: Earl, you're wrong. Social Studies classes met in the hallways last year—frequently; they had to. The children (and town) lost in August because of a blitzkrieg of misinformation and a leadership vacuum—Board of Education, Finance, and especially, Selectmen.

Whew, 135. —Brian Kavanagh

WANTED: LIFE MAGAZINES

My severely autistic younger brother is a talented artist who lives in a group home near Winsted. As a young boy just after World War II, Michael began drawing from photos in Life magazine. He still loves to work from the magazine, and he is incapable of understanding why there are no new copies. He continues to search the news rack for them. Does anybody have a collection gathering dust? Any vintage or condition would be fine, but I suspect that he might enjoy the old ones the most. I'm at 672-6700.

—Jerry Doolittle

SEND KIDS OUT OF TOWN?

For the record, I twice voted for the new school project, but I am not disappointed that the town will not be taking on a \$4.7 million debt. I feel we need to do something that is both cost efficient and reasonable.

It appears that a middle school is not in the offing, but could we send our sixth, seventh, and eighth graders to neighboring towns for their educations? Students living near Falls Village would go there, near Goshen to Goshen, and so forth. This way we wouldn't overwhelm one neighboring town or make our students travel great distances. We would have to pay tuitions, but some of that cost would be recouped by not educating them in Cornwall.

Classrooms would be freed up, about 20 parking places would no longer be needed, and some reasons for a big gym would be eliminated. It is the older children who need a place for dances and regulation-sized basketball courts, not third graders. Let's then concentrate on the sprinkler and septic system upgrades and anything else that is vital. While I don't have any cost information for this proposal, I think it might be worth looking into. —Gail Jacobson

PRIME TIME HOUSE TOUR

October 6 turned out to be a splendid day for the third and very successful Cornwall House Tour for Prime Time House, a center located in Torrington for people recovering from mental illness. Two hundred sixty-four people came to the Cornwall hills in search of our architectural treasures. The homes of the Scotts, MacLeans, Parkers, Geissers, Coffins, and Lawrence Van Valkenburgh satisfied everyone's desire for diversity and interest.

The board, staff, and members of Prime Time House extend their thanks to the homeowners for their gracious hospitality, and to the 83 volunteers without whom we could not have pulled off this event. Special thanks go to all the businesses and individuals who sponsored the event, to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, The River Grille, CL&P, the town, and the New England Catering Company.

The \$15,420 raised by the event will go toward the purchase of a much-needed van for PTH. Thank you, Cornwall!

—Tim Prentice, Amy Cady, Tom Whelan, and the Benefit Committee

POST 9856 ALIVE AND WELL

The Cornwall VFW Post 9856 is still active, even though we have sold our building. Several months ago we elected new officers, and we have given out three scholarship awards, namely: Colin Gold, Cornwall; Kelly Downey, Falls Village; and Megan Van Deusen, East Canaan.

Although we just have a small membership, we still intend to be active.

—Rudolph Zabransky

WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Ira Shapiro, owner of wetlands in Cornwall, was asked by the town five years ago if he "wanted beavers removed from his property." He said, "No." He likes the beavers, but since he

doesn't want the town to get upset when the roads overflow, he and his kids keep the drains clear.

My neighbor Jay and I have observed the town-delegated hunter attempt to destroy the beavers at Cogswell Swamp with steel leg traps. When the hunter had gone, Jay sprang the traps. I celebrate his act of civil disobedience. I called John Guilsher, the property owner; he agreed not to allow the town to continue the trapping. However, draining of Cogswell Swamp continues unabated. Rattlesnake "Lake" is gone. The ducks and herons are gone, along with a rare hooded merganser and her ducklings.

Long after the school addition is built, we will have the question of wetlands and wildlife protection in this town. I believe that Roger Kane, a member of the Inland Wetlands Agency, will do a better job of working with the environmental defenders than the present administration.

And I hope Ira, his sons, and his beavers have long happy lives as co-inhabitants of Cornwall, along with the rest of us.

—Biffie Dahl Estabrook

LET'S BUILD A NEW SCHOOL

The August 11 school vote conveyed the concern that a majority of Cornwall voters have about the cost of the school project-does it represent value for money? I believe voters also had serious doubts about yet another patch job on an aging structure. Will the town be faced with another patch job in ten years or less? The events since September 11 should add further concern about spending more on a facility that may be difficult to expand further. Cornwall would seem a pretty good choice for families seeking refuge from metropolitan areas. For these reasons I believe the town should explore the alternative of building a new school, of modular construction, that can accommodate the needs of the town today, yet offer ease of expansion for the future at reasonable cost. A side benefit of this approach would be to cause no disruption to the school population while a new facility is being constructed. Sale of the present school could offset some of the cost of the new plant.

Finally, the big issue for many voters of "value for money" could be satisfied, and Cornwall would have a new, fully energy-efficient, technologically up-to-date facility that pupils, teachers, parents, and the town could be truly proud of.

—Charles S. Hodgman



Getting Together

For the past two years, joint church services have been held each January and February by St. Peter's Lutheran Church and the Episcopal Chapel of All Saints, the Cornwall parishes of two long-estranged Protestant denominations. One result of this collaboration between St. Peter's Pastor Scott Cady and Father Christopher Webber of All Saints has been their new

book, Lutherans and Episcopalians Together: A Guide to Understanding, which appeared on the market last spring. All this is most timely, since the Episcopal and Lutheran Churches in America have recently reached an understanding entitled "Called to Common Mission." This document heals a rift between the two denominations, dating back to the time of Henry VIII, when he chastised Luther for his attacks on (continued on page 4)

the Roman Catholic Church. Today, instead of living with a misunderstanding, Cornwall Lutherans and Episcopalians alternate the venues and liturgies at their joint services in each other's churches during our coldest winter months.

—John Leich

Events & Announcements

New Playground on the Way: After many years of wanting a town playground, Park and Rec. has received a generous offer of a large playscape from the new owners of the Castle. The gift was made available via the Cornwall Child Center. Park and Rec. is exploring possible sites for the new playground, one option being the lot between the old and new libraries. A "playground raising" is hoped for in the not too distant future, according to Park and Rec. Chair Deirdre Fischer.

Book Sale: Thanks to the help of 25 volunteers and an unknown number of book donors, this year's Friends of the Library Book Sale on Columbus Day weekend netted \$2,311 for Library operations. One of the treasures was a little two-volume 1923 Book of Etiquette, very helpful as a guide for giving elegant tea parties and dealing with servants in the proper manner.

Meditation for Mothers will meet on Thursday afternoons, 1:15 to 2:15 p.m., at the UCC Day Room. Informal instruction in meditation allowing for the special demands of mothering. All ages welcome. Child care provided. For more information, call Debra Tyler, 672-0229.



Cornwall in Pictures for Sale: To sell its new book, the Cornwall Historical Society, 7 Pine Street, will be open 10 A.M. to noon, Saturdays, November 3 through December 8.

Deficit Alert

Whether you view the *Chronicle* as a source of essential news or a respite from other news, please remember that we need your continued support to keep publishing. Our revenues this year are running behind our expenses—thus this reminder that we'd appreciate a donation if you haven't sent one recently.

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Library viewers have only until November 3 to see the lively and humorous show of design concepts for the new addition to CCS. From November 5 to December 8, Joan Hinchman will be exhibiting photographs from her extensive travels. During November at the National Iron Bank, Gary Barren will show illustrations for a new book, *The Secret of Grandma's Garden*.

Meet Dem. Candidates: The Cornwall Democratic Town Committee will host a meet-the-candidates party from 4 to 6 P.M., Sunday, November 4, at The Wandering Moose. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided for all ages.



A Christmas Fair will be held Saturday, December 1, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. at UCC. In the Parish House, there will be crafts by local artists, evergreen wreaths, decorations, and a room for children to shop for and wrap presents for the family. A soup and sandwich lunch and holiday foods will be available in the Day Room of the church. To reserve wreaths, which must be ordered in advance, call Joan Edler at 672-6789.

A Masquerade Ball for the benefit of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department will be held on November 3 from 8 P.M. to midnight at Mohawk. Costumes encouraged but not necessary. Music by Rock N Roll Heaven. \$20 per couple, BYOB, adults only. Tickets at local merchants or at the door. Call 672-0042 for more information.

The Contest for School Design produced 23 highly original entries, ranging from pictures, collages, and written descriptions, to three-dimensional displays. Certificates were awarded to recognize the particular contribution of each entry. Example: Best Use of Liquid Assets (Paul Baren's floating school). Entries will be on view through November 3.

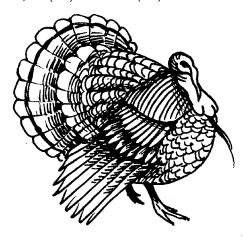
Islam and the West: Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Rabi, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary, will speak at the UCC Parish House on *Islam and the West: Dialogue or Confrontation?* on Sunday, December 2, at 11:30 A.M. For more information, call the church office, 672-6840.

New Local Rotary Club Formed: The Rotary Club of Litchfield Hills (an offspring of clubs in Salisbury and New Milford) meets for breakfast on Saturday mornings at the Cornwall Inn (\$6 per person). It has a sister club in Africa and one in Texas. Like all Rotary Clubs, it is a service group with local and international projects. See the *Chronicle* calendar for the programs at the Cornwall Inn, to which the public is invited. For more details, call Ann Treimann at 672-1114.

Christmas Crafts: Park and Rec.'s Christmas crafts workshop will be held Monday, November 26, from 10 A.M. to noon in the CCS Art Room, for children K through fourth grades. Call 672-6058 to register, as space is limited.

Film Series: The Time of Your Life, from William Saroyan's play about a bunch of eccentric characters who frequent a small saloon on the San Francisco waterfront, will be shown on Wednesday, November 14, at 7:30 P.M., at the Town Hall. With James Cagney, William Bendix, Broderick Crawford, James Barton, and Paul Draper (1948).

A Bend and Stretch Clinic for older adults will be held at the UCC Parish House on Thursdays, November 1, 8, 15, and 29 from 9:30 to 10:30 A.M. Offered (free) by Visiting Nurse and Home Care Northwest. To register, call (800) 752-0215 or (860) 567-6000.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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