



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 1: NUMBER 9 OCTOBER 1991



Selectman Tackle

Roads, TV and Garbage

At their regular meeting the selectmen touched base with the several town programs under way. Gene Ingvertsen reported that some seven road reclamation projects were on schedule. The final surfacing over the reconstructed bases will be oil rather than asphalt due to budget considerations. A citizen complaint was registered by the Norths of Great Hill Road, who, while approving of road reclamation past their house, protested the removal of nine trees and the creation of a steep bank which encroaches on their land. (The selectmen will examine the situation and plan for practical corrections as needed.)

On the cable TV situation - or lack thereof - Paul Baren and Ben Gray will attend a regional hearing in Canaan and report back to the selectmen.

George Brown and Art Breen reported on the closing of the landfill with 3500 yards of dirt. Steve Hedden suggested finishing off the reseeded while the contractors were still there rather than holding the landfill open for another month to use up the last cubic inch of space available. Costs of recycling; disposing of bulky waste, ie: unburnable building

debris and furnishings; and garbage were discussed. No budget-busting surprises are foreseen.

The agenda for the next town meeting set for October 25 is a full one: A vote to transfer the generous Blumenthal bequest from the general fund to the Affordable Housing Commission as stipulated in the will; a vote on accepting the five-year plan as approved by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance; a vote on changing the town ordinance on the make-up of the Inland Wetlands Commission; and the acceptance of the Annual Town Report.

Gordon Ridgway reported on the first meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee which he stated is off to an enthusiastic start. The twin goals of this committee are to preserve and expand agriculture in Cornwall and to educate our children and citizenry about this industry so important to the life and character of our town. - *Scoville Soule*

milk-tasters swirled her offerings around in the glass to assess the color, sniffed it to judge the "nose", then rolled it around in their mouths before spitting it out. A hint of clover? Slight aftertaste of box elder? Rich, full-bodied - and drinkable now.

☞ In its report on the August 7 Championship Swim Meet in the last issue, the *Chronicle* omitted two of the Most Valuable Swimmers. Belated congratulations to Davina Piker and Theo Austin.

☞ For the twentieth consecutive year high school students from Cornwall were given a chance to see how their federal government works by spending a week in Washington as summer interns. Kate Wolfe and Elisabeth Lapina, seniors at HVRHS, participated in the Connecticut Summer Intern Program under the sponsorship of the Cornwall Republican Town Committee. Since the program's inception, Cornwall Republicans have sponsored more than fifty summer interns. Participants are chosen without regard to their parents' political affiliation.

While in Washington, the interns' schedules are intensive. They attend briefings and lectures by congressmen, sena-

(continued on page 2)

News Highlights

☞ Colly, the Clarke-Wolfe family cow, took blue ribbons at the Goshen Fair for her milk and her cream. A Jersey, Colly gives rich milk, but the prizes were not for butterfat content but taste. Taste? Yes, expert

OCTOBER 1991

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BE SURE YOU CAN VOTE! If you expect to be out of town on election day, Nov. 5, check with Barbara Dakin at the Town Office about an absentee ballot, which will be available Oct. 4.		1 Removed voters list posted Town Hall Inland Wetlands 8pm Town Hall <i>(William Humphrey & Armin Laudeck show, Corn. Lib.)</i>	2 <i>Bulgy 8th, isn't it?</i>	3 Bd. of Finance 8pm Town Hall	4 Absentee ballots available Town Hall	5 PTO tag sale CCS 9am-3pm (see p. 4)
6 Community soccer 11am Sundays Hubbard Field 	7 Park & Rec. 7:30pm Town Off. Nuclear-free Zone Comm. St. Peter's 7:30pm	8 Dem. Town Comm 7:30pm Town Hall Medieval Fair 4:30-6:30pm CCS Hous. Riv. Comm. CCS Lib. 7:30pm	9 DPUC cable TV hearing 2pm & 7pm Town Hall N. Canaan	10 Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall Cornwall Housing Corp. 7:30pm First Church	11	12 Voter regist. 9am-8pm Town Hall (see p. 4)
13 11am Agricultural Advisory Comm. 8pm Town Hall	14 COLUMBUS DAY	15 Voter regist. 9am-8pm Town Hall (see p. 4) Plan. & Zoning 8pm Town Hall Conn. Income Tax due (see p. 2)	16 Rep. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	17 Board of Ed. 5:30pm CCS Lib.	18	19 E. Indian dance demonstration by Matteo 8pm Cornubia Hall
20 Dems' election party 4:30-6:30pm W. Cornwall Firehouse (see p. 4) Talk on Islamic World, 11:15am 11am First Church	21 Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall Nuclear-free Zone Comm. St. Peter's 7:30pm	22	23	24 Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	25 Town Meeting 8pm CCS	26 Poetry reading 8pm Cadwell's Corner
27 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS 11am	28 Z.B. of Appeals 8pm Town Hall	29	30 Elderly health screening, West Cornwall Firehouse (see pg. 4)	31 HALLOWEEN 	LQ 30 NM 7 FQ 15 FM 23 Please send in your housing survey.	

(continued from page 1)

tors, lobbyists, and members of the news media and the diplomatic corps. A typical week as a summer intern includes 25 such meetings. It is not, however, all work. This year Kate and Elisabeth also spent time sightseeing and saw a play at the Kennedy Center.



Night Skiing? Maybe, Maybe Not

As the *Chronicle* went to press, there was still no decision about night skiing at Mohawk this winter. On Thursday, Sept. 19, the Department of Environmental Protection, which administers the park, abruptly cancelled a second informational town meeting scheduled for the next night, Sept. 20, as a follow-up to the large and vocal one held on August 30. Barely had First Selectman Dick Dakin posted signs to that effect when the DEP decided to call a meeting after all, a small one, involving just the town selectmen, DEP officials, and Mohawk president Carol Lugar, plus a lawyer or two. Word of this meeting spread, however, and when reporters started asking questions and it became obvious that Cornwall's residents would again turn out, the meeting, now set for Monday, Sept. 23, was hastily relocated by the DEP to Hartford.

Carol Lugar said that whatever the DEP decided, it "would be extraordinarily difficult to get the lights in now" in time for the coming season. She pointed out that it would take "six to eight weeks of intense work" to install the lighting system. But she said Mohawk badly needs the income. "Frankly, we are fiscally running out of time."

Though DEP officials would not predict what would be decided at the Sept. 23 meeting, Richard Clifford, a DEP bureau chief, listed for the *Chronicle* "some of the things we do NOT consider appropriate for Mohawk. Miniature golf, an amusement-type park, alpine slides, condos are inappropriate," he said. Deputy DEP Commissioner Thomas J. Dudchik said soothingly that the DEP "just wanted to sit down with the principals and share information. We want to be a good neighbor."

Dick Dakin said he planned to explain the town concerns - lights, traffic, noise - to the commissioner at their private meeting in Hartford. Selectman Gordon Ridgway promised that whatever might be decided in Hartford, there will be a public meeting here later.

- Barbara Klaw

Yutzler's from Bishop to Wiske

Yutzler's Country Store in West Cornwall has been sold by Philip Bishop, effective Oct. 1, to former New York City bankers Paula and Paul Wiske. The Wiskes, summer residents for 15 years, are now living full-time on Cook Road in Cornwall Bridge, and plan to run the store as a hands-on operation.

Ticket Toppers Respond to Chronicle Questions

Richard Dakin answers:

1. *Why do you want to be First Selectman?*

To serve the community which has nurtured my family and to maintain the high standards this town has exhibited.

2. *If elected would you run again in 1993?*

It is somewhat premature to predict two years hence but most likely, yes.

3. *Which should have the greater priority, a new Town Hall or road reconstruction?*

If a choice MUST be made, road reconstruction. However, these are only two areas of concern for the town.

4. *What is your plan for roads?*

A five-year Capital Projects Plan is in the construction stage and will address this question more fully.

5. *What is your preferred solution to the Town Hall problem?*

Conversion of Rumsey Hall into town office space.

6. *Do you think it is important to get cable TV into Cornwall?*

Not for me personally, but, yes, for those who desire it.

7. *What is your favorite: a) machine, b) animal, c) TV show?*

a) My one iron, b) elephant, c) six o'clock news or Milton Berle.



P & Z Hears Sawmill

The P&Z's long meeting this month was devoted primarily to the Special Permit application of Lawrence Stevens for a small, enclosed sawmill on Cream Hill. He is applying under the new amendment, which is currently being appealed before the Litchfield Court, but which stands as legal unless otherwise ruled by the Court. Because this amendment requires many additional details on the site plan, the first portion of the hearing was devoted to reviewing the site plan and checking that the applicant had complied with all the regulations. The location, equipment, structure, buffering, access, sound monitoring, etc., were all reviewed. Then citizens present spoke both in favor and in opposition to the proposal.

Several people spoke of the need for diversity in a rural town and felt the size of the operation as proposed would help a person make a living but not cause adverse effects. All three Selectmen spoke in favor as well as Cream Hill residents Hunt Williams and Anne Bevans.

Other Cream Hill residents, including Toby Cole, Lois Redington, and Ilyana Adams as represented by an attorney, listed noise, pollution, depreciation of land values, and the intrusion of a factory in a residential zone as objections to the mill.

After about two hours everyone who wished had spoken, and the hearing was closed. The Commission postponed a decision on the proposal until the next regular meeting.

- Ginny Potter

Gordon Ridgway answers:

1. *Why do you want to be First Selectman?*

I have lived in Cornwall most of my life. Over the years, I have received many of the benefits of being part of this community. It's clear to me that this town's greatest gift is its people's willingness to serve. I would like to continue that tradition by being First Selectman.

I know many of the problems and opportunities facing the town from my own experience as Selectman. I anticipate a more vigorous Board, meeting more often and facing projects in a creative and timely way. With the help of able volunteers, I believe we can resolve problems and move ahead.

2. *If elected would you run again in 1993?*

I will have to see how the first term goes before thinking about a second.

3. *Which should have greater priority, a new Town Hall or road reconstruction?*

Rebuilding our roads should be an immediate priority. By investing a million dollars in roads over the next five years, we'll save a tremendous amount of money by preventing continued deterioration. A new town office needs careful planning rather than immediate construction and expense.

4. *What is your plan for roads?*

All town roads should be listed with problems realistically evaluated and corrections accurately planned. Within five years, our worst problems will be addressed.

5. *What is your preferred solution to the Town Hall problem?*

At last October's referendum, I felt the town would be served best by a new office building. Although I still believe this, my views will be tempered by the more thorough information coming from the Municipal Building Committee this year. Making sure all options are researched is more important to me than personal preference.

6. *Do you think it is important to get cable TV into Cornwall?*

Personally, I've never felt the need for cable TV, but if many people express an interest I'd see what I could do.

7. *What is your favorite: a) machine, b) animal, c) TV show?*

1) it depends, b) Sheila, Maybelle, and Roosevelt, c) "Green Acres."



Connecticut Income Tax Due

First quarterly payment is due Oct. 15. Forms are available at the Town Hall.

Marriages

James Terrall to Elizabeth C. Tobin

Goodbyes to Friends

Constance M. Dutton

Geoffrey T. Lake

Marion Chester Smith

P&Z Candidates Answer

1. Do you think zoning in Cornwall is too restrictive, not restrictive enough, or just about right?
2. Do you agree or disagree with the P&Z decisions approving the operation of a kennel, a sawmill, a convenience store?

Doc Simont:

1. Zoning in the Town of Cornwall is somewhat uneven. Some areas of concern are barely covered while others are quite closely regulated. This is because detailed requirements concerning land use have been placed on the town by Federal and State agencies. Other regulations have been enacted to allow the town to qualify for aid from government agencies. Where the Commission has been able to act freely, I feel the regulations serve well to maintain the character of the town.

2. I would prefer not to comment on matters under appeal or litigation. As a Commission member I work to ensure that all sides in all cases are fully considered.

Bill Lyon:

1. I feel that zoning in Cornwall is sufficiently restrictive to protect legitimate and reasonable interests of townspeople. My belief is that the citizens of this town place a high priority on maintaining its rural character, and that the regulations, and their administration, serve this priority.

2. The operation of sawmills, as currently regulated, is reasonable and of benefit to the town. The issue of a convenience store is complicated. I do not feel that a convenience store is preferable to the existing automotive business. When considering, however, the potential for more intensive automotive business on the site, the store is certainly preferable.

James Whiteside:

1. Being an alternate on the Planning and Zoning Commission for the last year I feel it would be inappropriate to respond.

2. I will state, however, that I consider it an honor to be a part of the commission. The Cornwall community should be proud of this group, which weighs all sides of the issues that come before it, and renders decisions, not by personal opinions, but guided by the regulations set forth, and with true concern for the future of Cornwall.

Vera Dinneen:

1. I think the zoning in Cornwall is just about right.

2. I never heard any complaints about Little Guild when it was on Great Hollow Road. The new location is less populated. I have two children attending the school and I have heard very little noise coming from the kennel when I am at the school.

I approve of the sawmill providing the noise level, hours of operation and traffic associated with the sawmill are frequently monitored. I am happy with the convenience store decision since the limitations were put on it. All cases should be judged individually.



BARKING DOGS

I read with interest Ken Keskinen's article on the Little Guild of Saint Francis and, in particular, his note that "soundproofing fences and plantings have proved to be successful in limiting noise." Clearly he did not speak with the Guild's neighbors.

I am perhaps the nearest residential neighbor to the Guild, less than two hundred yards away. I hear the dogs bark from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. When the dogs are let out for exercise or visitors arrive, they bark almost incessantly for a half hour or more.

I have spoken about the noise problem numerous times with the Guild as well as with the local and state dog-control officers, and with one of the selectmen. As in the case of the logging noise on Popple Swamp Road, the state regulations are ambiguous and difficult to enforce. I have been advised to keep a log of the noise, to make sound recordings, to retain a lawyer, and to sell my house.

I invite Mr. Keskinen to visit us and discover firsthand how unsatisfactory the situation is. The Guild should never have been relocated to a residential neighborhood.

- Johan Winsser



HOUSING QUESTIONS

Re: the CHC's insert in the September Cornwall Chronicle. This is a laudable concept and one which deserves the interest of all.

We wonder, however, how thoroughly this has been thought through. The "rules" as outlined seem to raise some important questions:

- Can the P and Z simply change the rules (about 3 and 5 acre zoning) merely because CHC wants them to?

- If someone donates 100 acres, does that mean that theoretically there could be 100

Letters to the Chronicle



homes built on 1-acre each?

- Is the income qualification an ongoing one? Creative accounting may make one qualified one year, and not in succeeding years (deferred income, tax exempt bonds, company perks, etc.).

- Can the town handle such immediate growth? The dump is in a dire situation now with the existing population of the town.

It would seem to be contradictory to reject a "convenience" store and embrace more housing in light of the fact that some have expressed horror at the prospect of turning our rural paradise into another Fairfield County.

We propose town meetings - to be held when weekenders can attend - to fully discuss all of the ramifications of this important and major change in the town's plans for the future.

- Suzanne and Dick Frank

THANK YOU, ROSE

As I wandered from section to section of the Rose Algrant Art Show, I found my heart swelling with such gentle pride. I live here! I live here in Cornwall with all these wonderful souls who create with a multitude of mediums and ideas. How lucky I am! How grateful I am to be here. Thank you, Rose, and thank you, neighbors, for all your wonderful energy and the results of that creative energy.

- Pat Spaulding

GOOD SUMMER FOR CHILD CARE

The Cornwall Child Center had a successful summer session this year in the new art room kindly lent us by the Consolidated School. In spite of a deficit at the end, everybody was pleased we could try this venture, including the twenty-one working parents and their children whom we were able to serve. It has proved to us that there is a real need for year-round preschool care in the town, and we look forward to next summer.

We are now back in our winter home (the parish room of the Congregational Church) beginning our eighteenth year.

- T. Bury



Finance Board Weighs Capital Plan



At its September meeting, the Board of Finance pondered a draft of the Selectmen's 5-year capital plan. It calls for expenditures of about \$3.1 million, mostly for roads, bridges, trucks and a new town office. It seemed generally accepted as no-frills proposal to bring the town's infrastructure up to par. The only item that could possibly be classified as an amenity was \$16,000 for tennis courts.

The Board also discussed revenues to pay for these projects and agreed that close to \$1 million was available in surplus from the school bond and insurance. The balance would be financed by state grants and taxes, possibly including a bond issue for the town hall.

In other business, the Board recommended the appointment of a selectmen's advisory committee to explore ways of increasing revenues without impacting the mill rate. It also elected Carol Lugar as the Board's representative to the Board of Education.

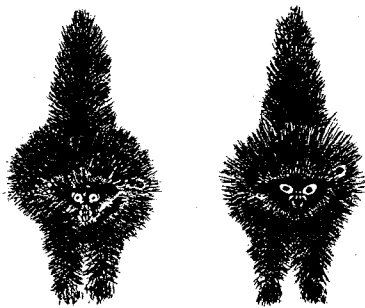
- Ed Ferman

How to Register to Vote

There are at least 300 Cornwall citizens who cannot exercise their right to vote in Cornwall because they have not registered here. If you are one of them, please read on:

1. You are qualified to register to vote if you are a US citizen 18 years old or over who lives in Cornwall.
2. You may register with the town clerk at the town offices, Mon. through Thurs. between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
3. If you wish to vote in the coming Nov. 5 elections, you will need to register with the town clerk by Oct. 14, 1991 or with one of the registrars at the town hall (Library building) on Oct. 12 or Oct. 15 during the hours of 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
4. If you become qualified between Oct. 16 and Nov. 5, (ie: become 18) you may register with the town clerk at the town offices on Nov. 4 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and still vote on Nov. 5.
5. If you will need to mail in your application, cards may be obtained by phoning one of the registrars, Judy Gates (672-6568) or Maureen Prentice (672-0135). A mail-in card, however, must be witnessed (at no charge) IN CONNECTICUT by any justice of the peace, any notary public, any registrar or deputy registrar, or any town clerk or assistant town clerk. (Proper witnesses may not be candidates at the time.) Applications must be received by the registrars by Oct. 15 to qualify for the coming Nov. 5 elections.
6. If you were registered for a time in Cornwall between the years of 1987 and 1990, but then registered elsewhere, you may be "Restored" to the Cornwall registry list for 1991 at any time, including election day, IF you can satisfy both registrars of your continued residence in Cornwall since your name last appeared on the Cornwall registry list.
7. If you are an applicant already registered in another town, your earlier registration will be cancelled automatically when you register in Cornwall.

- Registrars, Judy Gates, Maureen Prentice



Look Ma - no coupon!

If you'd like the *Chronicle* mailed monthly to an out-of-town address, send a \$10 contribution to:

The CORNWALL CHRONICLE
P.O. BOX 246
WEST CORNWALL, CT 06796

We welcome other contributions, too, large or small.



Going to Hell on Dibble Hill - a note from the past

There is an old story that on Dibble Hill, that region of wonders, there was a remarkable cave, situated "somewhere back of Ann Delaney's"... near one corner, was a hole of unfathomed depth. Many efforts had been made to find bottom there, but all experiments seemed to prove the uselessness of the attempt. A stone dropped into the opening could be heard bounding and rolling for an indefinite distance, at first producing a series of sharp metallic sounds, culminating in a prolonged roar. Some believed this to be an opening to the infernal regions, and wild stories were told of strong blasts of sulphuric air blowing out of the place and extinguishing torches, of strange and fiendish shrieks heard there at midnight, and strange apparitions appearing and vanishing near this place. ... The majority of our townspeople have always believed that his Satanic Majesty had private communication between Dibble Hill and his headquarters ...
- *The Cornwall Star, Oct. 1880*

MBC Picks Architect

Ken MacLean, a Boston-based architect whose family has lived in Cornwall for many years, was the survivor of a long and exhaustive search by the Municipal Building Committee.

The MBC interviewed ten architects, inspected the work of three finalists, and chose MacLean. He will be charged to begin a feasibility study that will analyze several options for a new town hall, including a design for a new building. - *Rita G. Quinn*

Second Tornado Anniversary

The Treasurer's Office is happy to report that all expenses incurred by the Town in connection with the tornado have been fully reimbursed by the State and Federal Governments. This figure totals \$937,129.

On Sunday, Sept. 8, Jerry and Pat Blakey held their Second Annual Post Tornado Picnic at their home. The picnic had the best of everything - bright sunshine and a big crowd of around 200 people bearing all sorts of homemade dishes and delights.

Stories about the 1989 tornado were exchanged by townsfolk as all remembered the unlimited hospitality the Blakeys pro-

vided the villagers, volunteers and contractors at "Blakeys' Corner Restaurant."

- *Pat Bramley*



Events & Announcements

Pre-Election Hoopla: All Cornwall voters are invited to a party on Sunday, October 20, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the West Cornwall Firehouse sponsored by the Cornwall Democrats. Citizens of all political stripes are urged to come to meet the candidates, to dine on nonpartisan specialties in the home of Cornwall's proud chariots of fire, and to play an exciting new game - Cornwall Political Bingo! Kids are welcome and will have special entertainment provided by candidates for Park and Rec.



P.T.O. Tag Sale: Saturday, October 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. a tag sale will be held at Cornwall Consolidated School. It is sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Organization. Proceeds from rental of tables (at \$15.00 each) will be used for school materials, programs, or events which the P.T.O. supports. Inquiries can be made by calling 672-6077 or 672-0170.



Lecture on Islam: Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', Muslim faculty member at Hartford Seminary, will speak on "The Modern Islamic World" at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, October 20, at the United Church of Christ in Cornwall.



Health Screening: The town of Cornwall and the Health Screening Service are offering a health screening on October 30 at the West Cornwall firehouse. This service is available to all residents ages 60 and over who have not already received E.H.S. service this year. E.H.S. provides mobile health screening and a health education program aimed at early detection of diseases and promoting good health habits. A wide range of tests is offered. The suggested donation is \$18. To schedule an appointment or receive more information, contact Jill Gibbons at the Town Office on Mondays: 672-2703. This clinic is limited to ten persons.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

PUBLISHED BY *The Cornwall Library Association*

DISTRIBUTED BY *The Cornwall Association*

PRESIDENT *Tom Bevans*

OCTOBER EDITORS

Scoville Soule Barbara Klaw Spencer Klaw

NOVEMBER EDITORS

Barbara Klaw Spencer Klaw John Miller

ILLUSTRATIONS BY *David Bean*

THE CORNWALL ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 128, WEST CORNWALL, CT 06796

BULK RATE
CAR-RT SORT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
West Cornwall, CT
Permit No. 7

CORNWALL RESIDENT