



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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'97 Election Preview

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway will run unopposed for a fourth term in the November 4 election. Republicans did not endorse Ridgway at their July caucus but they did not come up with someone willing to run against him. This means that the Board of Selectmen will remain the same: Republican Jack Preston along with Democrats Ridgway and Earl Brecher. The Democratic caucus did unanimously endorse two Republican incumbents, Town Clerk Cheryl Evans and Tax Collector Helen Migliacci. Democrat Hendon Chub is leaving the Board of Finance to run for Town Treasurer. He will also be unopposed.

In other races Democrats Peter Hammond and Celia Senzer will run against Republicans Denton Butler and Roger Kane for Board of Finance. Three seats on the Board of Education will be contested by Republicans Katherine Gannett, Maureen Donahue, and Barbara Gold, and Democrats Carla Bigelow and Hanna Grossman and Independent Phil Hart, running with Democratic endorsement. One opening on the Board of Assessment Appeals pits Democrat David Samson against Republican David Hurlburt, and two openings on Planning and Zoning will be contested by Democrats Doc Simont and Patrick Mulberry and Republicans Anne Kosciusko and Rick Lynn. Demo-

crats Phyllis Nauts and Anne Chamberlain and Republican Janet Gold are running for two spots on Zoning Board of Appeals. And, finally, candidates for Park and Rec. are Democrats Sharon Sawicki, Erin Cole, and Skip Kosciusko and Republicans Hugh Hunt, Brian Kavanagh, and Craig Simons.

—John Miller

Keeping North Cornwall Green

Ralph Gold, president of the Cornwall Conservation Trust, announced that the Trust is working to protect the land adjacent to the North Cornwall Church from possible development. James and Eleanor Rogers of Eliot, Maine, have decided to sell the open 17-acre parcel bounded by Rattlesnake and Cogswell Roads and Town Street in North Cornwall. In addition to an old smallpox cemetery located on the property, there are two tillable fields, a large wetland area, and potentially three building sites.

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers have offered the property to the Cornwall Conservation Trust for \$120,000, with the money to be put in a trust. Upon the death of the current owners, 75 percent of the residual from the trust would be returned to the Cornwall Conservation Trust and 25 percent would go to the North Cornwall Church for its maintenance.

The Conservation Trust has been solicit-

ing donations from neighbors of the North Cornwall property and has received \$99,500 in pledges to date. The balance is being sought from donations by those who appreciate the beauty of the church and its surroundings. The goal is to raise the money needed by October 7. Contributions may be sent to the Cornwall Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 25, West Cornwall, CT 06796.

The Trust intends to keep the land open and free from brush so that the views across the property would remain unobstructed. The fields would still be used for agricultural purposes.

—John Zinsser

Demise of a Problem Zone

Ending months of suspense, the Planning & Zoning Commission voted on September 8 to abolish the Industrial/Residential Zone in Cornwall Bridge. The vote amends the current Town Plan.

The proposal to terminate the zone, scene of protracted controversy over the mining of gravel by FSB Associates, brought out a vocal crowd for the public hearing that preceded the vote. Testifying for the proposed change, David Grossman—member of a commission-appointed planning subcommittee—argued that a combined industrial and residential zone was a "contradiction in terms." Still, recognizing the need to make some provi-

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OCTOBER 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
New Board of Selectmen Office Hours Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.			1 Oct. Art Show, Nat. Iron Bank, Corn. Br., Joe Brien (p.4) Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's (p.4) Stretch Exer. Class, 5 P.M. Lib. Cub Scout Parents Meeting 7 P.M. UCC Day Room	2 ROSH HASHANAH	3 Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Absentee Ballots Available from Town Clerk (p.3)	4
5 Elizabeth Horton Sheff Lecture 11:30 A.M. UCC (p.4) Cornwall Conservation Trust Annual Meeting 1:30 P.M. Town Hall (p.4)	6 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	7 Republican Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Conf. Room Park & Rec. 7:30 P.M. Town Office Inland Wet. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Advisory Comm. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	8 W. Cornwall Library Assoc. 9 A.M. W. Cornwall Library (p.4) Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's (p.4) Stretch Exer. Class, 5 P.M. Lib. CCS PTA 7 P.M. CCS Library	9 Voter Registration 9 A.M.—1 P.M. Town Hall (p.3) W. Corn. (Hughes) Lib. Meeting 9 A.M. (p.4) Cornwall Housing Corp. 4:30 P.M. Kugeman Village Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	10 YOM KIPPUR BEGINS AT SUNDOWN Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library	11 YOM KIPPUR Park & Rec. Hay Ride 2—3 P.M. Meet at CCS (p.4)
12 Cornwall Library Book Sale 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4)	13 COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED Cornwall Library Art Show Barbara Wolff through 11/8 (p.4) Cornwall Library Book Bag Sale, 9 A.M.—Noon, Cornwall Library (p.4)	14 Elderly Health Screening by Appointment Flu & Pneumonia Shots 10 A.M.—Noon CCS (p.3) Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library P&Z 8 P.M. Town Hall	15 Deadline for November Chronicle copy Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's (p.4) Stretch Exer. Class, 5 P.M. Lib.	16 Cornwall Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	17 Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library	18 Voter Registration 10 A.M.—2 P.M. Town Hall (p.3) Cornwall Association Annual Meeting 4 P.M. Cornubia Hall
19 Concert to Aid Jubilee School 5 P.M. Cornubia Hall (p.4)	20 Region One Board of Education 7 P.M. HVRHS Library	21 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall Voter Registration (deadline) 9 A.M.—8 P.M. Town Hall (p.3)	22 Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's (p.4) Stretch Exer. Class, 5 P.M. Lib.	23	24 Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Annual Town Meeting 7:30 P.M. CCS (p.4)	25 Harvest Pot Luck Supper 6 to 7:30 P.M. UCC (p.4) Park & Rec. Halloween Party, 6:30 to 8 P.M. CCS (p.4)
26 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	27 ZBA 8 P.M. Town Office	28	29 Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's (p.4) Stretch Exer. Class, 5 P.M. Lib. Cornwall Fire Department 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	30	31 HALLOWEEN Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library	

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sion for industry, he suggested a "floating zone" that could, with P&Z approval on the merits of an application, theoretically accommodate a business anywhere in town. Jed Struckus referred to the aquifer underlying the I/R Zone as "one of the largest potable water sources in the state." Anticipating future needs for town water supplies in Cornwall Bridge, Struckus said it was "vitaly important to protect the aquifer."

In opposition, Blaine Matthews argued that abolishing the I/R Zone would have an unfairly negative effect on his gourmet food business. Even though "grandfathered" following such a zoning change, his business, Matthews claimed, would be restricted in its growth by "non-conforming use" regulations.

Commission discussion of the proposal explored three main points: making sure grandfathered businesses could remain viable; what will replace the defunct zone, which Doc Simont felt was missing from the proposal; and the approaching expiration of the moratorium, approved in April, on non-residential development in the zone. Chairman Bill Lyon reminded fellow commissioners that the moratorium ends in January. That date may seem distant, but strict lead times for hearings and votes crowd the schedule. "We need to act now," he said, "or risk losing control."

A week following the vote, the commission held a hearing on proposed changes in P&Z's regulations, to implement the planning amendment and change the zoning map. Following the hearing, which heard reiterations of the September 8 arguments for and against the zone change, the commission decided to postpone a vote in order to explore other regulatory issues connected to the zone change. High on this list are ways to help existing businesses in the former I/R Zone continue and expand, and how to write and implement regulations providing for "floating zones." —Charles Osborne

Cartographers' Prize Day

More than 60 Cornwall residents, friends, and relatives came to the awards ceremony at the closing of the Cornwall Map Project show on Saturday, August 23, at the Town Hall/Library building. Fourteen awards were made to a total of 17 "citizen cartographers" by black-robed judges Bob Terrall, Lisa Simont, and Ella Clark (acting also in the name of absent judge Dave Cadwell).

Judge Terrall noted that the Project's impressive array of 41 diverse and fanciful maps of Cornwall's past, present, and possible futures, displayed on nearly every available bit of the Library's walls and bookcases, "made a political statement: the Library really does need more space."

The judges praised the high levels of ingenuity and imagination shown by the map-makers, sentiments that were clearly echoed

in ten full pages of comments written into the exhibit visitors' book. Comments included: "I'm upset that the subway route [shown on one of Tim Prentice's maps] doesn't go to Cream Hill!" A visitor, commenting on a map showing the homes of Cornwall's Grand Old Ladies, wrote, "Just you wait," and signed herself "One of the old ladies."

Handsome prize certificates were given to three members of the Colbert family (David, Hannah, and Ellen Moon), Jill Gibbons, David Grossman, Rosa Jurjevic, Ken Keskinen, Cindy Kirk, Roger McKee, Bunny and Bucky Miller, Dean Potter, Tim Prentice, Erica Prud'homme, Marc Simont, Mark Wilson, and Jamie Zuckerman. Prize categories included "really gorgeous," "mysteriously lovely," "most frightening," and "least pedestrian."

A special award was given by the judges to Tim Prentice, founder of the Map Project. In response, Tim invited the audience to an impromptu but well-received champagne reception.

It remains to be seen how the Planning and Zoning Commission will integrate the work of Cornwall citizen cartographers into its decennial revision of Cornwall's Town Plan. —David A. Grossman

Town Buildings Use: New Regs

Some of the complications that have arisen concerning insurance coverage when people use town buildings for activities not connected with town government have now been clarified. At their September 16 meeting, the selectmen adopted a new policy that refers specifically to the Town Hall and the West Cornwall Firehouse.

Cornwall residents and organizations wanting to use those buildings for meetings and other functions (classes, exhibits) must sign an agreement to indemnify the town and hold it harmless for any mishaps or damage that may occur. They must also sign an application that affirms willingness to maintain good order, prohibit smoking and the sale of alcoholic drinks, and generally leave the site as it was found, with trash removed. Would-be users must contact the Selectmen's Office beforehand to check on availability of space and sign the application and indemnification agreement. —Charles Osborne

Softball Champs

The 1997 Cornwall softball champions are the men, boys, and woman (Connie Steuerwalt) of Cornwall Bridge. On a sunny Saturday in early September, the "Bridgepersons" defeated Cornwall Village 9 to 4 in the morning and came back in the afternoon to defeat West Cornwall 27 to 11. It was their first championship in the town's annual softball tournament. For those who got hungry during the games played at the CCS field, Sue Williamson was there selling hot dogs, muffins, and soft drinks. I didn't sample the food because I had just started a diet, but

Sue's hot dog profits have made Cornwall's two Little League teams self-sufficient, paying for uniforms and other equipment.

Back to the softball field: I'd like to mention two of the players. First, young Dustin Tuthill, playing second base for Cornwall Bridge, caught two consecutive line drives to prevent a rally by West Cornwall. And, finally, West Cornwall's Skip Kosciusko hit a home run over the trees beyond left field which, rumor has it, bounced off the roof of Hedgerows Market and into the Housatonic River. A week later the softball was reportedly seen floating under the Merritt Parkway bridge on its way out to Long Island Sound. That, friends and neighbors, is power. The games were umpired by Ray Augustyn, who

made up for a lack of verve with a gentle quality rarely seen in the men in blue. Ray once even let the batter decide if the previous pitch had been a ball or a strike. We hope he's back next year. —John Miller



Welcome

Madeleine Grace to
Pamela and James Longwell
Samuel Jacob to
Clytie and Frederic Thaler

Good-Bye to a Friend

Richard Gordon Totten, Sr.

Congratulations

Jamie Sheffield to Gail Gibson

Land Transfers

S. Scott Zuckerman and Joanne Taylor to
Adrian and Margaret Selby, 14.9 acres on
Whitcomb Hill Road for \$85,000.

Patricia F. Williams to Elizabeth Preston,
house and land on Lower River Road for
\$134,000.

Mary Mitchell Hinchman, Joan Hinchman,
and Elizabeth H. Polglase to John and
Patricia O'Hara, house and land on Pierce
Lane for \$200,000.

Hunters and Hikers

The autumn woods are a hunting scene with dates and rules that all should be aware of:

Small Game: Species and dates vary. A rule of thumb: the season runs from now until year's end.

Turkey—bow hunting: September 15–November 18; December 24–December 31.

Turkey—firearms: October 18–November 1.

Deer—bow hunting: September 15–November 18 on state and private land; December 10–December 23 on private property; December 24–December 31, state and private land.

Deer—firearms: November 1–December 31, landowners; November 19–December 9 on state and private lands; December 10–December 23, muzzleloaders, state and private lands.

Sundays: No hunting; no hunting implements in the field (some exceptions for private preserves).

Hours: In general (some exceptions), a half hour before sunrise to sunset for deer and turkey; for small game, a half hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset.

For more information, call DEP Wildlife at (860) 424-3011. Hunters and hikers should respect one another's use of the outdoors: pack your trash out. The safest color is orange.
—Jim Levy

Library/Town Update

The news is that as of September 18, nothing much had happened since August 11, when the Library trustees agreed to enter into negotiations with the Town over the terms of the Library trust and a move by the Library to Monroe/Bodkin.

At the Library's well attended annual meeting on the evening of September 18, vacancies on the board of trustees caused by the resignation of Richard Blake, and the expiration of the terms of John Miller and Madeline Lape, were filled by the nomination and election of David Grossman (to fill Blake's unfinished term), Lynn Cheney, and Ella Clark. John Calhoun, whose term was also up, was reelected. Questioned about the progress of negotiations, President Audrey Ferman informed the audience that no meetings had been held but that the Library's lawyer had written a letter on September 15 to the Town's lawyer suggesting that as a first step they meet after the former's return from vacation on September 24. It was expected that the new board of trustees would meet soon and choose representatives to meet with the lawyers. Questioned as to whether the lawyers understand the need to move expeditiously, John Calhoun said they did.

The date of the October quarterly meeting of the Library board of trustees will be posted in the Library.
—Anne Baren



Housatonic Valley Stomp

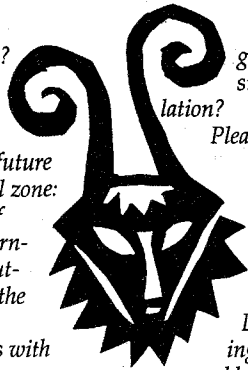
"I was feeling sort of desperate," as Jed Struckus recalls the moment when he had the idea for the "swing party" held on September 6. "There had been so much emotion"—over the Cornwall Bridge gravel mining set-to—"that I just thought, 'Let's just let it go,' and try to get the community back together with a good party."

Struckus is president of the Cornwall Bridge Association. With some support from

A LID ON CORNWALL'S FUTURE?

Hooray for the Planning & Zoning Commission! By ending the only industrial zone in Cornwall, it has just put a lid on a viable future for the town. You know the industrial zone: it's between Route 7 and the tracks of the Housatonic Railroad, south of Cornwall Bridge. Maybe now P&Z can outlaw 18-wheelers on Route 7, or turn the railroad tracks into a bicycle path.

Are these P&Z members ostriches with their heads in the sand? How can they even think of getting rid of ways for the town to make money and for people to find local jobs? Why aren't they encouraging light manufacturing? Will the only jobs in the future be the care of weekenders' estates? (If that is the future, the caretakers won't be able to afford to live here. We'll live in Canaan.) A look at the 1874 map of Cornwall in the Beers Atlas of Litchfield County shows that, at that time, this town had manufacturing companies strung out along the two main brooks (Mill and Furnace, so rightly named), and included the Cornwall Bridge Iron Company and several shears companies, as well as such ancillary places of employment as hotels, boarding houses, doctors' and lawyers' offices, plus the traditional farms. Is Cornwall now so emasculated that we will be reduced to service companies only? And are these small concerns



going to come up with the tax dollars to support the ever-growing school population?

Please think again, P&Z.

—Harry L. Colley II

LOCAL LOTTERY?

I read with interest David Grossman's article in the August Chronicle concerning Connecticut Lottery spending in Cornwall. According to his research, over \$100,000 is gambled annually, approximately \$70 for every individual in town. And there have been no big winners of over \$5,000. Cornwall sees very little of that money.

Wouldn't it be appealing to have that money remain in town and have a big local winner yearly? What if each Cornwall resident "contributed" a few dollars to the town and the town "gave," randomly, one individual each year a tax credit of, say, \$15,000? Do the math: with the small number of taxpayers in Cornwall and the guarantee that one of them will win a tax credit, the odds are excellent. And that would mean an additional \$85,000 to the town each year. There are strict laws against gambling, but a town function to add amenities to the town and keep taxes from increasing has benefits for all. Just a thought to ponder.

—Nancy Calhoun

the Cornwall Association, he and his group staged a humdinger at Peter Stiglin's house, perched opposite the green wall of Silver Hill across the Housatonic.

A star on this rural stage was the New Vintage Big Band led by Cornwall Bridge's Joe Marchetti. These guys and their male and female vocalists belted out sophisticated city-style renditions of *New York, New York*, *Do I Love You*, and other standards, while people danced, including some obviously too young to remember much about the '30s and '40s (or even the '80s and '90s).

Enjoying the music and the eats and drinks were as many as 160 people; knowledgeable observers thought that about half were from Cornwall Bridge, the rest from elsewhere in Cornwall.

With the view, the entertainment, and the company, it was one of the best parties I've ever gone to anywhere in Cornwall.

—Charles Osborne

More Appointments at CCS

There have been several additional appointments to the staff at Cornwall Consolidated School since the three announced last month.

Jane Hanley will be teaching languages and Margaret Lyon will be teaching math to the four higher grades. Elizabeth Clark will be special education teacher for the lower grades, and Jandi Hanna-Butler will be speech pathologist. The school psychologist

will be John Pierce. New aides are Carolyn Gleeson and Tricia Collins.

—Stephen Senzer

Events & Announcements

The Registrars of Voters are working on a final registry list for the November 4 elections. Lisa Cruse (Rep.) and Jayne Ridgway (Dem.) will be on hand to register voters at the Town Hall on October 9 (9 A.M.—1 P.M.), October 18 (10 A.M.—2 P.M.), and the deadline, October 21 (9 A.M.—8 P.M.) You can also register at the Town Office and the Library during regular hours.

Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk as of October 3. November 3 is the last day for picking up these ballots.

Flu Shots and Health Screening will be offered to Cornwall residents over 60 on October 14 at CCS. Hearing, vision, blood pressure, urine and stool are among the available tests, along with electrocardiogram, glaucoma, Pap/pelvic/breast, and prostate examinations. For an appointment, call Jill Gibbons, 672-2603.

Torrington Area Health District representatives will also be on hand to administer flu and pneumonia vaccines. These vaccines are recommended for those over 60, anyone over nine with a chronic illness that lowers resis-

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tance to infection, and anyone caring for a person whose immune system is impaired. There is a nominal fee for the vaccines, which will be offered from 10 A.M. to noon. Those wanting just the vaccines need no appointment.

A Concert To Aid the Jubilee School will begin at 5 P.M., October 19, at Cornubia Hall (\$15 at the door). Jubilee School is an inner-city school in Philadelphia run by former Cornwall resident Karen Whiteside Falcon. Pianist Anne Chamberlain and soprano Lee Dougherty will perform Brahms, Schubert, Ives, and Debussy.

Park & Rec. Hay Ride: From 2 to 3 P.M. on October 11 (rain date October 12). We'll start at CCS and meander up Cream Hill. Come enjoy cider, doughnuts, apples, and the company of friends.

P&Z Fee Changes: Included on the agenda of the annual town meeting on October 24 (7:30 P.M. at CCS) will be a proposal to amend the town ordinance governing fees charged by P&Z to process special permits and transact other complicated commission business.

Cornwall's P&Z has not changed its fee policy for ten years—remaining what the commission describes as "the cheapest town in the region with which to do business."

An amendment would allow the commission to align fee amounts more precisely with actual costs incurred for hiring outside professionals to review applications or help amend the zoning map.

Looking for Girth: Who can find the Cornwall tree with the biggest trunk? Please send circumference (measured four feet from the ground), location, and type of tree to Phyllis Nauts, 65 Johnson Road, West Cornwall 06796. Winners to be announced. And while we're at it, does anyone know which the oldest house in Cornwall is?

Feeling Blue

Our Treasurer, Moneybags, stopped by last week, on his way home from his evening swim. He looked a bit blue, and it turned out it wasn't because the temperature was in the low 50s but rather because our revenues were not keeping up with our expenses. Please help return his color and ours by sending in a check ASAP.

Elizabeth Horton Sheff will speak on *Developing Diversity and Multicultural Understanding* on Sunday morning, October 5, at 11:30 A.M. at the United Church of Christ. Everyone is also welcome at the worship service that morning at 10, during which Ms. Sheff will give the sermon. Long active in efforts to achieve societal diversity and quality integrated education, and the driving force behind the well-known Sheff vs. O'Neill case, she is currently running for the Hartford City Council on the Green Party ticket. Refreshments in the church basement at 11 A.M. For more information, call the church office, 672-6840.

West Cornwall Library Association (a.k.a. Hughes Memorial Library) will hold an open meeting at the Library at 9 A.M. on October 9. Reports and by-law modifications will be discussed.

A Harvest Pot Luck Supper will be held on October 25 at the UCC Parish House from 6 to 7:30 P.M. Please call to reserve a seat and let us know what you would like to contribute (main dish, side dish, or dessert). Call either Thalia Scoville at 672-6288, Marie Murphy at 672-2429, or Jack Forster at 672-0141.

After the Harvest Supper everybody is invited to a traditional Hymn Sing at 7:30 P.M. in the church. We will sing any requested favorite hymn.

Weed Your Bookshelves! The Cornwall Library Book Sale will take place on Sunday, October 12, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. There will also be a bag sale on Monday, October 13, from 9 A.M. to noon. We need books! And also volunteers to help sort (10/10 and 10/11) and sell (10/12 and 10/13). Please call Ella Clark at 672-4817 or 364-1003.

Road Oiling Scheduled: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway announced that oiling is scheduled for the first week of October for the following roads: Dibble Hill Road, Pierce Lane, Cream Hill Road, Rexford Road, Scoville Road, the northern half of Town Street, Yelping Hill Road, and Lake Road.

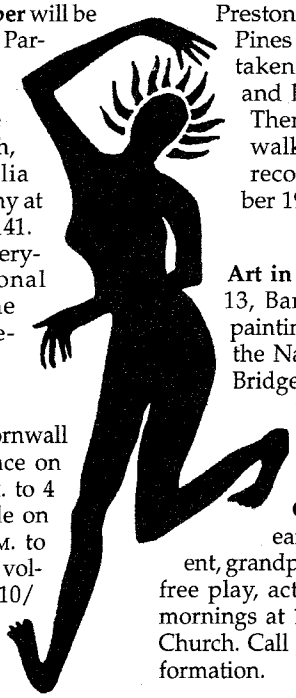
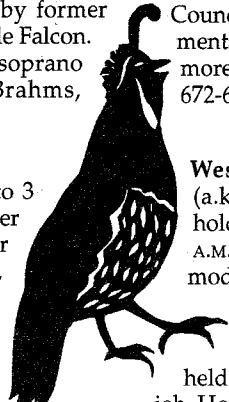
Park & Rec. Halloween Party: Get your costume together early this year. On Saturday, October 25, from 6:30 to 8 P.M. at CCS, Park & Rec. will take you through a creepy spook house and have games, crafts, and treats for all. Come see if you can recognize your neighbors.

The Annual Cornwall Town Meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. on October 24 at CCS to review the Town Report and the Five-year Capital Plan. Copies of the Town Report are available now at the Town Offices and will be available at the meeting.

The Cornwall Conservation Trust's Annual Meeting will be held in Town Hall on Sunday, October 5, at 1:30 P.M. Judy Preston of the Nature Conservancy will give a short talk about the effect of the 1989 tornado on the Cathedral Pines, and before-and-after slides will be shown. Then Preston will lead a walk through the Pines to show the changes that have taken place since the devastation and how recovery is progressing. There are a few steep places on the walk. Boots or running shoes are recommended. (Rain date October 19.)

Art in Cornwall: Beginning October 13, Barbara Wolff will be showing paintings at the Cornwall Library. At the National Iron Bank in Cornwall Bridge, throughout October, Joe Brien will be showing photographs of his work in wood.

Cornwall Play Group: Pre- and early-schoolers, bring your parent, grandparent, or nanny to a morning of free play, activity, and snack. Wednesday mornings at 10 A.M. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Call Jane Prentice, 672-6101, for information.



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