



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 8 : NUMBER 9 OCTOBER 1998



Library Elects New Trustees

At the annual meeting of the Cornwall Library Association, on September 17, the members of the association elected two new trustees to the nine-member board. They also re-elected four others who had been appointed by the board to serve out the terms of trustees who resigned during the year.

The new trustees are Jessica Fowler and Will Calhoun. Re-elected to new three-year terms were Lisa Lansing Simont and Michael Pollan, while Jill Bryant and Tom Bechtle were elected to complete two-year terms. Ella Clark and Audrey Ferman continue their terms.

The Cornwall residents present at the meeting also heard a report on the recent steps taken toward building the new library. A two-acre site has been acquired next to Town Hall, architect Ken MacLean has made substantial progress on preliminary floor plans and, on September 1, an application was submitted to the State Library asking for a \$462,000 grant to help finance construction. Action on the application is expected by the end of this year.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held immediately after the annual meeting, officers were elected to serve for three-year terms. The new officers are: Lisa Lansing Simont, President; David A. Grossman, Vice-President; Tom Bechtle, Treasurer; and Jill Bryant, Secretary.

—Hanna K. Grossman

New Designs For Cornwall Bridge

A recently published Route 7 "Corridor Management Plan" presents three options for redesign of traffic flows at Cornwall Bridge. Sponsored by the State Department of Transportation, the plan was prepared by Lardner/Klein, a firm of landscape architects, working with a number of other engineering and design firms. Their overall plan, paid for by the Federal Highway Administration, examines and proposes improvements for the entire length of Route 7 in the towns of Kent, Cornwall, and Sharon.

The plan cites the commercial center at Cornwall Bridge as "a good example of how a few minor improvements can define community character and a sense of place..." The planners start by presenting a graphic analysis of actions they feel should be taken to address the traffic and visual problems of the area on either side of the bridge. Then they present three options to address these problems.

Option A is the minimum approach. Mainly, it tries to improve traffic safety by reducing the number of entrances to one per commercial property and introducing an internal roadway within the parking areas in front of the stores along Route 7.

Option B goes a bit further, adding "T-shaped" intersections and right-turn lanes at the corners of the existing traffic triangle

where Routes 7 and 4 meet.

Option C goes much further. It suggests a complete rebuilding of the traffic system around the central green that would essentially convert it into a one-way traffic circle. This approach, the planners say, will "become even more important if traffic volumes increase in the future." But even today, they argue that it would improve the appearance of Cornwall Bridge and increase awareness of it as "a community focus and commercial node."

In all three options the architects recommend improved plantings, including a wild-flower demonstration area.

Asked about the proposed redesign options, several Cornwall Bridge merchants expressed agreement that something needs to be done to improve traffic safety. Dusty Sandmeyer at Northwest Lumber, who was the Board of Selectmen's representative on the state project's advisory committee, said that Option C, the roundabout, struck him as perhaps the best idea. "At least," he said, "it would slow down the cars that now speed south along Route 7 at crazy speeds." But he criticized all three options as unrealistic in the too-limited amounts of space they allow for turning trucks or parking. He also said there wasn't really room for the proposed internal circulation roadway.

(continued on page 2)

OCTOBER 1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 National Iron Bank Art Show Nancy Van Gessek	2	3 Park & Rec. Hay Ride 2-3 P.M. at CCS (p.4) Firefighters' Ball 8 P.M.-Midnight Mohawk Mt. Lodge (p.4)
4 Hedgerow's Upstairs Gallery Photography Show Opening 5-7 P.M. Cornwall Land Trust 2 P.M. Town Hall (p.3)	5 Cornwall Library Art Show Joan Edler 10/5-11/7  Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	6 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	7 Cornwall Play Group 10-11:30 A.M. St. Peter's Stretch Exercise 5-6:15 P.M. Town Hall Cub Scout Parent Meeting 7 P.M. UCC Day Room	8 Voter Registration 9-11 A.M. Town Office (p.4) Cornwall Housing Corp. 4:30 P.M. Kugerman Village Cornwall Library Assn. Trustees 4:30 P.M. Town Hall Red Cross Blood Drive 2-7 P.M. UCC Parish House	9	10 Library Book Sale 9-10 A.M. Early Birds 10 A.M.-4 P.M. Free Admission Cornwall Library (p.4) Girl Scout Bulb Sale 10 A.M.-4 P.M. Cornwall Bridge (p.4)
11 Library Book Sale Bag Sale 9-Noon Cornwall Library	12 COLUMBUS DAY	13 Elderly Health Screening by Appointment at CCS Vaccinations 10-Noon (p.4) Repub. Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	14 Cornwall Play Group 10-11:30 A.M. St. Peter's Stretch Ex. 5-6:15 P.M. Town Hall CCS PTA 7 P.M. CCS Library Dem. Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Tai Chi Chuan Class 6:30 P.M. CCS (p.4)	15 Deadline for November Chronicle Copy Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib.	16 Pre-Schooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library	17 Cornwall Assn. 4 P.M. Town Hall Voter Registration 10 A.M.-2 P.M. Town Office (p.4)
18 Dr. Vernon Ferwerda 11:30 A.M. Parish House Bolton Hill Rd. (p.4)	19 Region 1 Bd. of Educator 7 P.M. HVRHS Library	20  Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall Last Day Voter Registration 9 A.M.-8 P.M. Town Office (p.4)	21 Cornwall Play Group 10-11:30 A.M. St. Peter's Stretch Exercise 5-6:15 P.M. Town Hall	22 Cornwall Library Assn. Trustees 4:30 P.M. Town Hall Green Party 7 P.M. Town Hall	23 Pre-Schooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library Annual Town Meeting 7:30 P.M. CCS	24 Cornwall Assn. Annual Meeting 2 P.M. Cornubia Hall (p.4) UCC Harvest Supper 6 P.M. Parish House (p.4)
25 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS Dr. Abdo Ballester 11:30 A.M. Parish House Bolton Hill Rd. (p.4)	26 ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Office*	27 CCS Student Photo Day	28 Cornwall Play Group 10-11:30 A.M. St. Peter's Stretch Exercise 5-6:15 P.M. Town Hall Cornwall Fire Dept. 8 P.M. West Cornwall Firehouse	29	30 Pre-Schooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library Cub Scout Pack 15 7 P.M. CCS	31 Park & Rec. Halloween Party 2-3:30 P.M. at CCS (p.4)

*Check at Town Office

(continued from page 1)

His views on the dangers of speeding traffic were echoed by Richard Bramley at the Cornwall Package Store. Richard was especially troubled by the people heading north across the concrete bridge who failed to obey the stop sign where Route 7 meets Route 4. Kenneth "KC" Baird of Baird's General Store agreed that anything that would slow traffic to more reasonable speeds would be a great improvement. He cited the winter problem when piled-up snow sometimes obscures the stop sign in front of his store and drivers barrel on into Route 7.

All three local merchants agreed that there is a real need for improvement in the design of the Cornwall Bridge center. If you're interested in assessing the corridor plan options for yourself (or starting work on your own design), a copy of the state report is available in the Town Office.

—David A. Grossman



Corvus Corax

Have you heard a new sound in the air around Cornwall in recent months, a low hoarse croak? It's not a crow with a cold, but a much larger bird, a raven. When you see one up close, notice the thicker, shaggier throat feathers and the heavier beak shaped like a "Roman nose."

Ravens disappeared from the East before 1900 but in recent decades they have been expanding their range again, moving south from the far North into their former habitats. Several years ago, we watched ravens feeding on a deer carcass alongside bald eagles on the frozen pond at Miles Wildlife Sanctuary on West Cornwall Road. It's possible that they liked what they saw around here and decided to settle down. This summer we think a pair of ravens nested in West Cornwall for the first time, suggesting that these highly intelligent birds intend to become permanent year-round residents.

Ravens perform an astonishing display of aerial acrobatics—soaring, wheeling, and tumbling, with spectacular rolls and dives that serve both as mating ritual and play. Ornithologists believe that ravens are testing and extending their physical ability, which may account for why they have adapted so success-

fully to so many different environments.

We are reminded of Princess, our West Cornwall crow who delighted us with her antics before her relocation to the Sharon Audubon Center. Now her cousins have arrived to entertain us as well.

—Carla Bigelow

Vocational Diversity

Maybe it is time to celebrate Cornwall's diversity. When it comes to ways of making a living, our town is truly an amazing place.

One thinks first of people whose work involves some kind of public display. Tim Prentice has been commissioned to do kinetic sculpture all over the world. Leslie Elias' Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children's Theater, featuring costumes and masks made by Ellen Moon, delights family audiences from coast to coast. And Michael Moschen! To call this man a juggler is like calling Itzhak Perlman a fiddler; get his video from the Cornwall Library and enjoy.

In Cornwall, it seems, if you look on the far side of the nearest hill, you're likely to find some kind of "odd jobber" who labors along out of the limelight. The following is just a sample:

Scoville Soulé, working in his cellar and a Hartford foundry, is perfecting a ceramic process that some say could revolutionize the whole foundry industry. Bob Murphy is a licensed naturopathic physician who practices at the Northwest Holistic Health Center in Torrington. Barbara Gold is vice president of Curriculum Development Associates, Inc., a firm that publishes inter-denominational Sunday School materials nationwide. Paul Baren's firm, Katonah Architectural Hardware, provides custom door hardware for the high end of the market, such as Bill Gates' new Seattle mansion.

Skip Hunt and his sister run a family business in Goshen, Ground Support Products, which makes the wheels, tires, and casters used on airport baggage carts. Bill Lyon is vice president for human resources of the W. E. Bassett Co. in Shelton, which makes "world famous Trim manicure implements." Biffy Estabrook designs bird replicas that are manufactured by a company in China and distributed through L. L. Bean and other outlets.

Phyllis Wojan—though it's more of a life than a living—continues empirical studies of her mouse colony, and has developed a strain that "cannot be fed into obesity," of great interest to Rockefeller University and others. Harry Colley, a dedicated environmentalist, makes and distributes Cloverdale, an effective biodegradable cleaner sold from Maine to Florida—and now, via the Internet, globally. David Monagan publishes newsletters for doctors covering the most recent developments in cardiology and heart surgery. In addition to his painting, Ira Barkoff has developed a product he calls Deer No No, which discourages deer from eating your flowers and shrubbery.

And we mustn't forget our unique agriculturalists: Deb Tyler sells rich, unpasteurized natural milk from her Local Farm dairy. Gordon Ridgway offers organic vegetables from

his North Cornwall farm. John and Nancy Calhoun raise and sell llama breeding stock on their Cathedral Pines Farm—and have time to run a bed-and-breakfast on the side.

Above, we did say "just a sample." So if we missed your neighbor, pass the word along and we'll try for another story.

—Bob Potter



Welcome

Alyssa Catherine Pequignot to
Janice Pepper and Robert Pequignot

Mikayla May Oyanadel to
Sarah and Maurice Oyanadel

Good-bye to a Friend

Erich Richter, Jr.

Congratulations

Joshua Tyson to Catherine Hosterman

Peter Bernard to Debbie Lynn Laigle

Land Transfers

Est. of Edwin S. Shurtleff to Maurice L. and Sarah R. Oyanadel, house and 1 acre at 112 Popple Swamp Road for \$135,000.

David E. Harmon to Robert S. Rubin, 4.4 acres on Route 63 for \$62,500.

Sarah M. Paul to Leland L. and Frances Taliaferro, 1 acre on Town Street for \$6,000.

Harvey Offenhartz, Inc. Employees Retirement Plan to David Margolis, 6.2 acres off Sharon Goshen Tpk. for \$50,000.

Christine Rappoport to William Peter and Sheila T. Beurket, house and 8.5 acres at 37 Woodruff Lane for \$695,000.

Mark D. and Joy P. Marino to Lydia Leeds, house and 3.5 acres at 14 Johnson Road for \$220,000.

Skunked?

When Gene Pascoello of Yelping Hill Road went into the woods to investigate his dog's persistent barking he found himself face to face with a vicious skunk. It was not your ordinary run-of-the-mill timid skunk. It let out a scream and lunged at Gene. Realizing that such behavior might be indicative of rabies, Gene went home for his gun. He likened what

followed to stalking wild game in Africa: He advanced and tried to take aim, the skunk lunged, he retreated, and so on several times. Finally Gene landed a shot. He then got out his backhoe and buried the skunk deep enough not to be retrieved by other animals.

Rick Stone, Animal Control Officer, reports that the incidence of rabies in our area (one skunk and one raccoon) has been lower than in previous years, and less than in neighboring towns. However, he advises that everyone be on the lookout for suspicious animal behavior and report it to him so he can log it. An animal suspected of rabies does not need to be sent off for examination unless it has had contact with a person or a domestic animal.

—Bee Simont

Kay Fenn Retires

The Cornwall Free Library's longest-serving trustee retired in August after decades of dedicated service as a member of the Board of Trustees. Kay Fenn, who served as president of the Library Board for 14 years, led the library through long periods of minimal budgets and limited space, but she was always fiercely proud of the quality of its book collections and the vital role it played in serving the community.

Mrs. Fenn also served as Cornwall's Town Clerk for many years.

—David A. Grossman

Freydberg Resigns

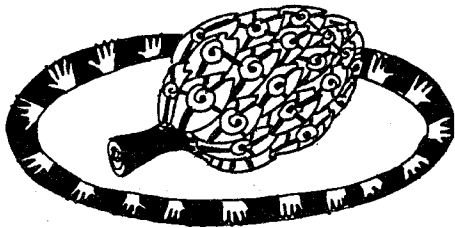
Robin Freyberg has resigned as a member of the Board of Education. She was serving as secretary of the board. The Democratic Town Committee will appoint a replacement to fill the seat on the board.

In other news from the Board of Education meeting on September 17, Brian Kavanagh circulated a proposed survey to determine interest in town in building a new gym at CCS. The board suggested that comments about the survey be sought from the selectmen and the Board of Finance before it is sent out.

—Bee Simont

Correction

Accidentally omitted from last month's article about the Cornwall Cub Scouts' good work effort were the names of Kyle Julian and Matthew Mulberry. Sorry, guys!



Events & Announcements

Why Animals Are Returning to Cornwall: At the annual meeting of the Cornwall Land Trust, Paul Rego of the DEP will give a talk with slides on the return of fur-bearing animals to our area. Everyone welcome. Town Hall, Sunday, October 4, at 2 P.M.

Letters to the Chronicle

TOWN SUPPORTS NEW LIBRARY

Over the past year the Library Trustees, the Board of Selectmen and other organizations have held many open meetings to discuss an improved new library for Cornwall. Still, there are questions about why the Library did not buy the Monroe-Bodkin building to renovate as a new library space. The short answer is that we tried, but we couldn't reach an agreement with the building's owners, either on what would be a fair price or on several restrictive conditions they wanted to set on the Library's use of the site.

After our efforts to reach an agreement failed last January, the Library Trustees voted to look for a new site. Luckily we were able to acquire the best possible place, right next door to the existing Library, at a very reasonable price.

Our planning meetings have been open to the public and many Cornwall residents came and gave us their views. On June 27, all Cornwall citizens had a chance to vote on the matter in a formal referendum. The voters spoke, by a three-to-one margin, to approve the Library's plans to move. We voted on the town's participation: \$250,000 to compensate the Library for its old space which the town will use for office space. All the rest of the funding to build the new library will come from private contributions and from a state grant, for which we have already applied.

We know it has been difficult to get to this decision. We are grateful for the support we have received from town residents. The Library Building Committee learned on its trips to look at other libraries that each of them had gone through similar struggles and each of them had found their towns loved the new buildings and used them frequently.

The value of a new library means something different to each of us. The one common ground we can find is the gift a new library will be to our children, ours and our neighbors', in the many future years this new library will serve us.

—The Trustees of the Cornwall Library
(see story p.1)

CORNWALL NEEDS ITS BUGS!

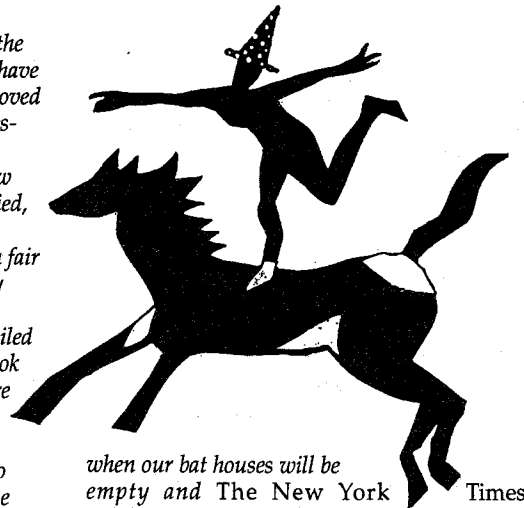
Katherine Freygang Flagg must be complimented for alerting the town to the scarcity of gnats this summer in her letter to last month's Chronicle, but I take issue with her light-hearted approach ("I have lost my excuse for not weeding my garden") to an extremely alarming situation. And it's not just the gnats. Mosquitoes too are becoming an endangered species here.

Ms. Flagg supposes that the state of affairs is temporary. But what if, as the result, say, of global warming, Cornwall's summer gnats and mosquitoes are going the way of the timber wolf?

Cornwall's traditions are at stake. And consider the consequences.

Will we have to rename the Cornwall Gnats? Will we have to call them the Cornwall Luna Moths?

Many people in Cornwall have installed bat houses. What are the bats to eat? I foresee a time



when our bat houses will be empty and The New York Times will be publishing heart-rending photographs of starving bats that have fled as refugees to more favored towns.

And what about our bragging rights for having the meanest mosquitoes this side of New Jersey? If the word gets out that they're not a problem any more, all the stockbrokers and public relations people who now infest Kent and Lakeville will buy summer places in Cornwall. And there goes the neighborhood.

Something must be done! We must petition the selectmen to put out old tires and other receptacles for stagnant water where insects can breed. Cornwall was once bug paradise. It can and must be paradise again.

—Hendon Chubb

POET LAUREATE

I would like to carry a step further the suggestion of Paul Baren that we adopt an epithet for Cornwall. How about an official Poet Laureate for our town? Robert Pinsky does fine on a national level, but our community of talented creative people really deserves its very own laureate. And what better choice, after hearing his moving reading of Iron Roses, (and his more lighthearted commemorative verses on many other occasions) than Ken Keskinen?

Perhaps the Board of Selectmen would be willing to act on this suggestion.

—Stephen Senzer

ALL IS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD

All is right with the world; David Cadwell is back working at Hedgerow's Market in West Cornwall. He has been missed, so I hope his previous clientele will know where to get friendly service, some chit-chat, a cup of java, sandwiches, etc.

Now if only the other restaurants could re-open, maybe West Cornwall would come alive after many dead months, with only the kids playing on Main Street. The only drawing cards have been The Wish House, Pottery Store, The Book Store, Housatonic Outfitters, Shaker Furniture, Little Benefit Shop, and most of all, this time of year, Mary's giant hibiscus.

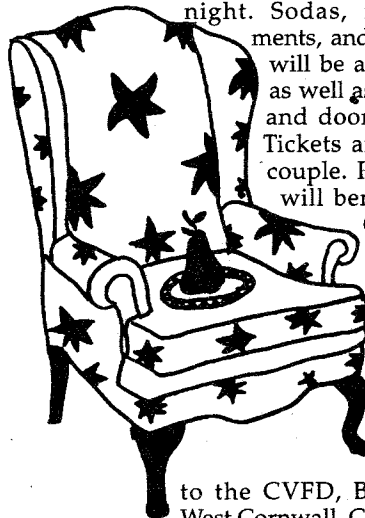
—Elizabeth Locke

School Volunteer Program: The CCS PTA is looking for people to donate some time as CCS volunteers. Volunteers are needed to dedicate one or more hours per week to work with students and staff in a variety of situations. Some volunteers work with individual students or small groups of children, while others assist teachers with special projects. People who have experiences or knowledge to share are welcome. A training/orientation session is provided. Anyone who is interested should call Mary Ann Fox at 672-0192.

The Cornwall Association annual meeting will be held Saturday, October 24 at 2 P.M. at Cornubia Hall. Kay Fenn and Scoville Soulé will be honored with awards for their service to the Cornwall Library. Officers and new board members will be elected. Refreshments will follow the meeting. All are welcome.

UCC Harvest Supper: The United Church of Christ will hold its annual Harvest Supper on Saturday, October 24, at 6 P.M. at the Parish House behind the church. The supper will be potluck, with the church furnishing meat, buns, and beverages. Anyone with questions should call Joyce Hart at 672-0247.

The Firefighters' Ball will be held Saturday, October 3, at 8 P.M. at Mohawk Mountain Lodge. Ram Miles and Advanced Phunk will play for dancing until midnight. Sodas, refreshments, and set-ups will be available, as well as a raffle and door prizes. Tickets are \$25 a couple. Proceeds will benefit the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department. Checks may be mailed to the CVFD, Box 180, West Cornwall, CT 06796.



Cornucopia

Moneybags stopped by the office the other day, bearing a tomato the size of a small pumpkin and the news that our appeal in the August issue has so far produced 140 very generous contributions, for which we thank you very much. Our horn is filling up, but it's far from overflowing; if you haven't yet sent in a check, please don't forget.

Children's Librarian Change: The Cornwall Library wishes Virginia Bredenberg a very fond farewell; she and her family are moving to Danbury. Newly appointed to the position of assistant/children's librarian is Amy Buck. She is a graphic artist who has taught children's art classes and substituted at CCS.

Elderly Health Screening will be on Tuesday, October 13 at CCS. This service is available to Cornwall residents age 60 and over. A wide range of tests is offered, including hearing, vision, urine, height, weight, Pap/pelvic/breast exam, prostate exam, blood tests, blood pressure, stool, electrocardiogram, glaucoma, and health education. The suggested donation is \$20 (\$25 for Pap test). For an appointment call the Municipal Agent for Elderly, Jill Gibbons at 672-2603.

Torrington Area Health District representatives will also be present that day offering influenza and pneumonia vaccines. There is a nominal fee for the vaccines, which will be offered from 10 A.M. to noon, with no appointment necessary.

Bulb Sale for Girl Scouts: Girl Scout leaders and parents will be raising funds for the Scouts by selling White Flower Farm bulbs on Saturday, October 10, 10 A.M.-4 P.M. in front of the Housatonic Rug Shop in Cornwall Bridge. There is still time for girls in grades K-12 to join the Girl Scouts. Call Cynthia Hurlburt at 672-6268 for information.

Art in Cornwall: At the National Iron Bank, Nancy Van Gessek will be showing prints, oils, and watercolors beginning October 1. At the Library, Skip Hunt's exhibit continues until October 3. From October 5 to November 7, Joan Edler will show watercolors and pastels.

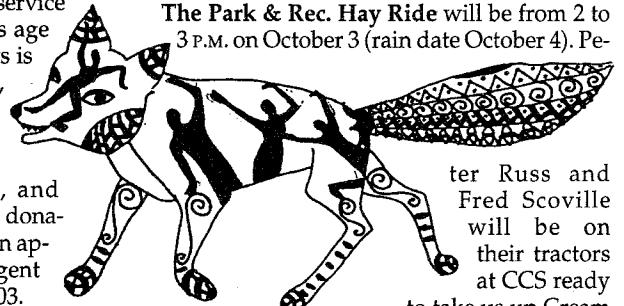
At the Hedgerow's Upstairs Gallery there will be an opening on October 4 from 5 to 7 P.M. of an exhibit of photographs by Harry Colley, Asher Pavel, Art Gingert, Don Heiny, and Peter Hollander.

Any Old Odd Jobs will be welcome to eighth graders who are raising funds for their class trip. Two kids will labor for \$10 an hour raking leaves, shoveling snow, stacking wood, or cleaning house. Call 672-2939 and leave a message.

Speakers on International Justice: On two Sundays, October 18 and 25, at 11:30 A.M., Dr. Vernon Ferwerda and Dr. Abdo Ballester, specialists in the field of international law, will speak at the UCC Parish House on the relationships between human rights, international law, and national sovereignty.

Tai Chi Chuan classes will begin October 14 at 6:30 P.M. at the CCS gym. Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese martial art and the classes are part of the PTA CHOICES afterschool program. The October class is free and will consist of a demonstration and beginner class. For more information call Martha Cheo, (914) 677-0304.

The Park & Rec. Hay Ride will be from 2 to 3 P.M. on October 3 (rain date October 4). Peter Russ and Fred Scoville will be on their tractors at CCS ready to take us up Cream Hill. Cider, doughnuts and apples await us, young and old, when we return.



The Park & Rec. Halloween Party will be held this year at CCS on Saturday, October 31, from 2 to 3:30 P.M. for children, pre-school through fourth grade (please note time change). There will be a costume parade, a haunted house, games, and a craft table especially for pre-schoolers, with treats for all. Come in costume and join the fun!

An Early Bird Special will open the Library Book Sale on October 10. For a contribution of \$10 you may have first pick of the books from 9 to 10 A.M. Admission thereafter is free. Meanwhile weed out your books, videos, tapes, CDs and bring them to the Library by October 7. All proceeds benefit the Library. Want to help sort or sell books? Call Celia Senzer, 672-6898.

Election News: Applications and absentee ballots for the November 3 election will be available from the Town Clerk's Office after October 2. The deadline to register to vote is October 20. Voter registration sessions will be held at the Town Office on: October 8, 9 to 11 A.M.; October 17, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.; October 20, 9 A.M. to 8 P.M.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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