



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 16 : NUMBER 9 OCTOBER 2006



Last Milk Run at Scoville Farm

On Saturday, September 9, as children ground corn and tumbled over hay bales down at the Ag Fair on the Town Green, Ralph Scoville rode along with the last lot of cows to a dairy in Farmington. "I wanted to see where they were going," he told me the next day. "I'm glad I went. It's a good farm. I could tell just from the outside. If the outside's sloppy, inside will be sloppier. This place was neat, the white of the cows was white. And the man brought me peaches. Our cows couldn't have gone to a nicer place."

A hundred years ago, Theodore Gold cited the dairy in Cornwall as furnishing "a product which would allow of transportation and which, with beef and pork, has continued to be the main reliance of our farmers for supplying their outside wants." Commercial dairy farming in Cornwall soon surpassed beef and pork production.

Scovilles have been dairying here since 1780. In the old days, farms had been more diversified, Ralph told me. "They usually had a few sheep as well as the milk cows, and some pigs, maybe a beefer. They had orchards, raised their own vegetables. Everyone had barrels of cider."

Ralph and Thalia went into dairying in 1948 with two horses and two cows, and gradually built up the herd to over 40. "There

were about 17 small dairies in Cornwall then, down from the 40 or so of our grandparents' day." It was back-breaking work, particularly in the beginning, not the least of which was the cutting and hauling of heavy chunks of ice to cool the milk in 40-quart cans. The farm, along with Thalia's work as a night nurse, put their children through college. "The kids always helped out," said Ralph, "doing farm chores before and after school. And Fred and his family have always been faithful. But there hasn't been money in dairying for some time."

The demise of the small dairy in the Northeast has been in part due to a biological phenomenon: cows that produced 3,000 pounds of milk annually in 1900 now produce 17,000. This, coupled with the need for economies of scale, has driven many cows west, especially to California. Three dairies remain in Cornwall: Hautboy Hill, Local Farm, and Stone Wall Farm, all of which produce specialty dairy products in the form of raw milk or ice cream.

"We took the low milk prices as long as we could," said Ralph's son Fred, who graduated with a degree in animal husbandry from the University of Connecticut. "With about 45 milkers at our peak, we couldn't compete with the big farms. We'll still be baling hay and cutting corn and rais-

ing pigs, and we'll be going into beef cattle more—Angus and Simmental. But the real money around here now is in landscaping."

At one o'clock on Sunday afternoon, September 10, the milk truck came for the last time to the Scoville Farm. The white hose writhed with sucked milk. "You must see a lot of farmers getting out of dairy," I said to the affable Agri-Mark driver.

"Yes," he said. "We see far too many of them." He looked toward the barn and finished coiling the hose. "Couldn't ask for nicer people."
—Ella Clark

Selectmen's News

Personnel Changes

In a unanimous vote, the Board of Selectmen appointed Rick Stone the new foreman of the town's highway crew to replace Don Reid, who has moved to a similar position in Salisbury. With the help of former selectman Jack Preston, the board interviewed seven applicants, all Cornwall residents. Rick brings experience as a mechanic, a contractor, a snow plow operator, and a member of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department.

Tara O'Neill is the new Land Use Clerk, responsible for minutes and administrative duties for the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Inland Wetlands Commission. Her hours are

(continued on page 2)

OCTOBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 YOM KIPPUR Park & Rec. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Ag. Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	3 Inland Wetlands 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	4	5	6 Speakers on Aging & Legal Issues 8:30 A.M.—noon Library † Walkathon 1 P.M. CCS † <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i> 8 P.M. UCC Parish House †	7 Book Sale 9 A.M.—4 P.M. Library † Benefit Food Sale 9 A.M.—noon W.C. Market & Baird's † Cornwall House Tour 11 A.M.—4 P.M. † Heritage Walk 1:30 P.M. Cornwall Historical Society † Art Opening 5–7 P.M. Insiders/Outsiders Gallery †
8 Half Price Book Sale 11 A.M.—4 P.M. Library † C-Span Karen Armstrong Interview 11:30 A.M. UCC Library †	9 COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED Bag Sale Books 10 A.M.—2 P.M. Library † Blood Pressure Screening noon–1 P.M. UCC Parish House Twine Wreath-Making Workshop 1–3 P.M. Local Farm Barn †	10 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	11	12	13	14 Electronic Waste Day 9 A.M.—1 P.M. Torrington † Motherhouse: What's in a Pickle? 10:30 A.M.—1:30 P.M. UCC Parish House † Film: Charlie Rose Interviews Al Gore 4 P.M. Library †
15 Deadline: November Chronicle Copy	16	17 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	18 Mother-Daughter Reading Program 6:30 P.M. Library	19 Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib. VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	20	21 Household Hazardous Waste Day 9 A.M.—2 P.M. Torrington † Cornwall Association 9 A.M. UCC Day Room
22	23 Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	24 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	25 Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	26	27 Potluck and Talk about Turkey 6 P.M. UCC Day Room † Annual Town Meeting 7:30 P.M. CCS †	28 AUTUMN BEGINS ROSH HASHANAH
29 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS Slide Show/Lecture on Kenya 11:30 A.M. UCC Library †	30 SPRING AHEAD  FALL BACK	31 HALLOWEEN Halloween Party 5–8 P.M. Town Hall †	Every Week This Month: Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 P.M. Village Meeting House; Adult Basketball, 8 P.M. CCS Gym Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7–9 P.M. CCS Gym Wednesdays: Bend & Stretch, 9:30 A.M. UCC; Play Group, 10 A.M. Playscape or UCC; Stretch Class, 5 P.M. Town Hall; Yoga with Ruthellen Griffin, 6 P.M. UCC; Tai Chi, 7 P.M. CCS Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room Fridays: Story Hour, 1:30 P.M. Library Sundays: Meditation Group, 1–2 P.M. Debra Tyler 672-0229 for location			

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued from page 1)

Tuesday, 1:30 to 7 P.M., and Thursday, 1:30 to 4 P.M. New hours for the Land Use Administrator and Zoning Enforcement Officer Karl Nilsen are Tuesday, 5 to 7 P.M., and Friday by appointment (1 to 2:30 P.M.).

Voting Machines

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway continues to express frustration at the State of Connecticut's progress in addressing the requirements of the Help America Vote Act. At the moment it appears that for the November 2006 election Cornwall will have a new IVS machine that will enable all disabled voters, using a telephone at the polling place, to vote privately and independently. The new optical scan voting machines that will replace the old faithful lever machines are due for the November 2007 elections. Town officials are attending workshops to learn about the new technology, but several concerns remain to be addressed, including cost of backup infrastructure, installation of the infrastructure itself, maintenance, and training for poll workers. Gordon asserts that the town will do what is necessary, but as far as he's concerned, it will be making the best of the state's "bad decision."

River Road

Discussions continue regarding the disposition of the 230-acre parcel of land recently sold on River Road. (An additional 70 acres of the same parcel are located in Falls Village.) Town Planner Tom McGowan is drafting a letter to the new owners from the Board of Selectmen outlining several possibilities. The Cornwall Land Trust or the town could apply for a matching grant from the state's Open Space Grant to purchase some of the property. There is some state money, highly sought after, for expanding State Forest land, which foresters would like to see extend to the banks of the Housatonic in this case. Finally, the town and the Land Trust can offer services to indicate where limited development is appropriate. —Barbara Gold

Fire Department Scholarships

Educational aid totaling \$6,000 has been granted to Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) family members by the committee overseeing the Gary Heprich Memorial Scholarship Fund. Since the fund was established in 2000 to honor the volunteer spirit of the former chief of CVFD, 11 active members and their dependents have received more than \$23,000 in scholarships, including this year's grant, to assist them in pursuing educational objectives beyond high school.

Those receiving grants this year were Megan Cadwell, Weston Cadwell, Amy Ingvertsen, Kristin Ingvertsen, Ellen Hart, Karin Heaney, Jessica Savan, and Lindsey Stone. Prior recipients include a recent college graduate who now serves as a line officer of CVFD.

The fund was established by an initial grant from the Heprich family and has been supplemented by additional bequests and donations from residents of the Cornwall and adjacent Sharon community who receive emergency health and property protection services provided by CVFD volunteers. Neighbors interested in supporting students' educational objectives can contact the Cornwall Selectmen's Office for guidance in making tax-deductible contributions and/or bequests. —Bill Winters

Agricultural Superlatives

"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness?" Yes, and of agricultural superlatives. John Keats's *Ode to Autumn* would have been twice as long if he'd made it to the Cornwall Agricultural Fair, held this year on Saturday, September 9.

Animals were outnumbered by vegetables but had the advantage of mobility. Pixie, a white rabbit at the end of a red leash, moved with somewhat more grace but no less charm than Malik, a Vietnamese potbellied pig who lives on Dibble Hill. Malik made compelling pig-noises; Pixie had no comment. Most beguiling inanimate critter: a painted wooden cow with rubber udders, surrounded by children responding to the sign: "Please milk me."

In the Town Hall, a dedicated band of judges solemnly weighed the merits of squashes and tomatoes, pickles and jams, and baked goods. Most popular jamming fruits: blueberries and peaches. Most surreal plants: three kohlrabis, looking like horned moon-triplets; three sunflower tops, like jumbo shower-heads.

Most versatile farm substance: hay bales, for jumping on or tossing or (if you're a cow) nibbling.

—Franny Taliaferro

Bare Your Soles

Cornwall Consolidated School's third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade Roots & Shoots group is sponsoring a drive this month to collect "gently used" cleats to send to a school in Massaca, Mozambique. Cornwall's own Juliet Lyon, who works for the Peace Corps, visited the Roots & Shoots students at CCS in June to share her experiences in Africa. Most of the children in Massaca play soccer barefooted on hard dirt.

Roots & Shoots is the Jane Goodall Institute's environmental and humanitarian educational program for young people. The collection is being coordinated with the U.S. Soccer Foundation's Passback Program and Eurosport, which will ship the soccer cleats directly to Juliet in Mozambique at no charge.

The children's goal is 40 pairs of cleats, but they will take more. So check your closets;

check your basements. You may drop cleats off at the school or at any CCS home soccer match. For more information call the school at 672-6617, ext. 232. —Tricia Collins

Welcome

Aislinn Ann Cook to Keri Ann and Adam Cook

Good-Bye to a Friend

Bruce A. Mason

Congratulations

Paige Reising to Adam Perrin
Danielle Mailer to Peter McEachern

Land Transfers

Sharon L. Dietzel to Daniel D. Hubbard and Ellen O'Toole Hubbard, 7.021 acres on Dibble Hill Road for \$225,000.

Paul G. Murphy, Thomas Powers, and Gustavo A. Fallo to Joseph and Cheryl M. Marchetti, 0.56 acres and former schoolhouse building on Route 7 for \$270,000.

Gerald Blakey to Edward and Gerylenn Kenniston, one-half interest in land and commercial building on Route 7 for \$260,000.

Curator Comes to CHS

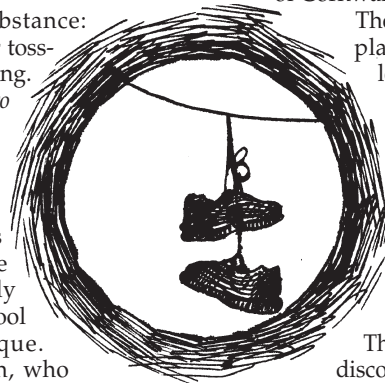
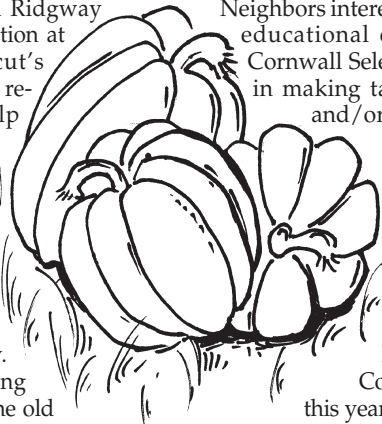
In July the Cornwall Historical Society was awarded a four-year grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council to support the position of a curator. Taking this assignment is Jodi Polsgrove, who already knows well the road from Simsbury, her home, to Cornwall: for the last two years she has been the consultant on inventorying the CHS collection. Now she will be working with the board of directors on strategy for the Society's growth and taking a leadership role with exhibits and collections management. In short, she'll be the upbeat expert, helping to organize, preserve, and show the "stuff" of Cornwall's history.

The society is planning a display of objects of work and leisure activities in the winter evenings of an earlier Cornwall. Open hours on Saturday afternoons from 1 to 4 P.M. will continue. Phone 672-0505 or 672-6191 for information. —Ginny Potter

Tick Troubles

Thirty years after it was first discovered in a group of arthritis patients who lived on the Connecticut shore, Lyme disease has more than kept pace with changing landscape patterns. Open farmland has all but disappeared, forests have grown back, and the deer population has multiplied along with the blacklegged deer tick, *ixodes scapularis*, which spreads the *borrelia burgdorferi* bacterium and whose effectiveness is due to its egg-laying success—two to three thousand eggs at a time.

Ticks are arthropods, not insects, and today, Lyme disease is the leading arthropod disease in the United States. Two emerging infective diseases, human babesiosis and human ehrlichiosis, are associated with it. Babe-



siosis is a malaria-like illness caused by a protozoan found in the red blood cells of many wild animals and spread by the bite of an infected deer tick. It has been recognized since the 1960s and is usually treated with clindamycin and quinine sulfate. Ehrlichiosis was first recognized in 1986 and can be effectively treated with doxycycline. (Five cases have been reported in Cornwall this year.) Symptoms for both Lyme disease and ehrlichiosis include fever, headache, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, and malaise.

A tick management program aims to discourage activity of several key hosts and create a physical and/or chemical barrier between woodland habitat and areas you use most frequently. Eighty-two percent of blacklegged ticks are within three yards of your stone wall or forest edge. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station offers detailed information on how to minimize the number of ticks in your yard: www.caes.state.ct.us.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health has also published an informative series of reports for the public on these emerging infectious diseases. A folder containing this information along with lists of Lyme disease incidence in Connecticut by town is at the Library.

Ultimately there is no substitute for that very careful check of your body, head to toe, at least once a day from early spring to fall.

—Carla Bigelow

Yale in Cornwall

Late in August seven incoming Yale freshmen, four girls and three boys, accompanied by two student leaders, pitched their tents at Debra Tyler's Local Farm for four days of orientation and work as part of "Harvest," a program for freshmen interested in sustainable and organic farming. Later, while she milked Pumpkin, Debra talked about their visit.

"They spent their first night in the barn because it was pouring. The next day I showed them their job: to clean the briars on the east side of the pasture. They were stunned. City kids all, they'd never seen briars. Or a lopper. They wanted to know why I wanted the briars cut. I explained about how cows were ruminants and could convert grass into milk and meat and energy, so the less briars, the more grass. Soon they were lopping away, but very carefully, twig by twig, and playing intellectual games as they worked. They'd never seen each other until they got on the bus in New Haven, but by the end of the week they were, like, glued together."

It wasn't all lopping briar. They helped feed, walk, and halter the 19 cows; they cranked ice cream and butter; and one night they attended a contra dance at the Town Hall.

"They learned a lot about farming," said Debra, unhitching Pumpkin from the milking machine, "but I think even more about themselves. When they left we were all crying. It was like camp!"

—George Kittle

Letters to the Chronicle

ANOTHER TAKE ON TESTING

I was distressed to learn that Cornwall's CMT scores were so low. I hope that no one will consider leaving Cornwall Consolidated School just because we didn't do that well on the CMT. I think that we shouldn't judge the whole school on the tests when some of the classes that worked hard and got good scores are ignored. I want people to know that my class, now seventh graders, got a good score. Within the schools in the Northwest we were one of the top sixth grade classes in the region. My class was the first in math, second in reading, and fifth in writing. I will admit that we need to work on writing, but besides that, we did very well. A lot of my classmates and I worked hard to get good grades. I just want people to not lose faith in good old Cornwall Consolidated School, and trust that we will get back on track and become one of the tiptop schools again. So please fellow Cornwallians don't lose faith in us.

—Sebastien Lasseur, Grade 7

New Registry Requirement

Effective October 1, 2006, the State of Connecticut is requiring that all planning and zoning commissions establish a "public notice registry." This registry will be used to inform interested landowners, electors, and non-profit organizations of actions initiated by the Cornwall Planning and Zoning Commission. Participants will be notified by the town of the commencement of public hearings on commission-initiated amendments to the zoning regulations, changes to the zoning district boundaries, changes to the subdivision regulations, and the preparation or amendment of the town's Plan of Conservation and Development.

Notification will be sent either by E-mail or regular mail. To keep the town's costs to a minimum, the town urges registrants to receive notification by E-mail. The commission will send notices at least seven days prior to the beginning of the public hearing, in addition to legal notices published in the local newspaper.

To be placed on the public notice registry, fill out the form available from Land Use Clerk Tara O'Neill (672-4957).

—Anne Kosciusko



CHARACTER ALWAYS COUNTED

The September Chronicle's mention of "Character Counts," the "new framework for school conduct" at CCS, reminded me of the first day of school about 25 years ago.

Back then, Principal Bill Oros solemnly and swiftly laid out the Five Rules: (1) No running in the halls; (2) No gum chewing; (3) No swearing; (4) Be where you're supposed to be, when you're supposed to be there; (5) Treat other people the way you want to be treated.

To students, teachers, and parents, the framework behind these rules was simple and potent: fairness, respect, and common sense. May it ever be so, even as our culture becomes simultaneously more structured and more uncivil.

—Dean Potter

Events & Announcements

Annual CCS Walk-a-Thon to benefit each class's eighth-grade trip account and *Give Kids the World* (gktw.com), a charity to benefit children with life-threatening illnesses, will set off on Friday, October 6, at 1 P.M., from the intersection of Cherry Hill and Cream Hill Roads; all walkers are welcome. Please make checks payable to CCS. Rain date will be October 13. Contact Bente Busby (672-2543) for more information.

An Inconvenient Truth, a recent movie hosted by Al Gore and dealing with the issue of global warming, will be shown at the Parish House of UCC on Friday, October 6, at 8 P.M. This event is free and open to the public.

On October 14, at 4 P.M. in the Library, a videotape of Mr. Gore interviewed by Charlie Rose will be shown, with discussion to follow.

CHS Offers Heritage Walk: On Saturday, October 7, from 1:30 to 3 P.M., the Cornwall Historical Society will join upper Housatonic Valley towns giving Heritage Hikes. Starting at CHS at 7 Pine Street, Ann Schillinger will tell the story of the Foreign Mission School (1817-1826), its influence on the 90 Hawaiian, Chinese, and Cherokee students, and on the citizens of Cornwall. In a walk around Cornwall Village, Ann will locate the Mission School and the homes of teachers and students.

Food Sale on Saturday, October 7, from 9 A.M. to noon, will benefit the peace and justice programs of the Adult Ed. Committee of UCC. The food will be found at the West Cornwall Market and Baird's General Store.



Library Book Sale will take place October 7, 8, and 9. Hours are Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. (early bird admission 9 A.M. for \$10); Sunday, 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. (half-price sale); and Monday, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. (bag sale; \$3 per bag). Breakfast and luncheon treats will be sold all day on Saturday. Donations of gently used books (no textbooks or Reader's Digest condensed) are accepted when the Library is open, or call 672-6164 for a pick-up.

At the Library: On Friday, October 6, from 8:30 A.M. to noon, the Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging will sponsor a discussion on aging and legal issues featuring three speakers.

On Wednesday, October 18, at 6:30 P.M., the Library will hold a reading discussion group for third- and fourth-grade girls and their mothers. This is the second session of the *Wings to Fly* program. For more information call the Library at 672-6874.

Motherhouse Events: Free twine wreath-making workshop at the Local Farm barn on Monday, October 9, from 1 to 3 P.M.

Thea Harvey will teach how to preserve food (pickles anyone?) using lacto-fermentation on Saturday, October 14, from 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. Cost is \$35 per family; contact Debra Tyler (672-0229 or lifeskills@motherhouse.us) for reservations.

Potluck and Missionary Program on Friday, October 27, at 6 P.M. in the Day Room of UCC will feature Betty Frank, who has worked for 32 years for Global Ministries. Currently she and her husband work in a school and hospital in Turkey and concentrate on Muslim-Christian dialogue and refugee/migrant work.



No Foolin'

In recent months, the *Chronicle's* expenses have greatly exceeded its income. The reason, we think, is that so many of you responded so generously to our major fund drive exactly a year ago. People who wrote those nice numbers on those nice checks could not be expected to heed the monthly appeal in this space.

But that was then. This is now. We urge you to think about all the time that has passed since you last sent a donation our way. Meanwhile, our costs for paper, printing, and postage have continued to rise. Please help us balance our books. Thanks.

Annual Town Meeting will be held Friday, October 27, at 7:30 P.M. in the Gathering Room at CCS to receive the Town Report, approve a Five-Year Capital Plan, receive one acre from the estate of Lynn E. Neibergall, and approve tax abatement proposals.

Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held Saturday, October 21, from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M., at the Water Pollution Plant on Bogue Road in Torrington. The necessary pass is available at the Selectmen's Office.

Art in Cornwall: From October 7 to 9, from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M., the Wish House will celebrate *Stunning Stones*, jewelry by designer Sara Taft, and *Battle Hill Forge*, ironworks by Israel Fitch and William Bliss.

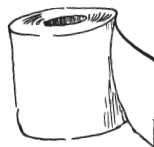
The Insiders/Outsiders Gallery will host a reception on October 7 from 5 to 7 P.M. for their *Fall Rhythms* show—paintings by Lauren Zarambo, woodcarvings by Steve Sokolin, and photographs by Catherine Noren.

The Library will show paintings by Tom Walker and, in the case, a mixed-media aviary by Marc Simont. Outdoors, "Burtle the Tug," by Richard Griggs, will be installed through the month of October.

The National Iron Bank will feature works by Marilyn A. Olsen.

The Eighth Annual Cornwall House Tour on Saturday, October 7, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M., will feature six houses in the Cream Hill Road area of West Cornwall. Proceeds will benefit the Cornwall Housing Corporation. Tickets are \$25 for the tour, and \$50 for the tour and a reception at 4 P.M. at the Cream Hill Lake Association. Tickets will be sold the week of the tour at the Cornwall Package Store and the Wish House. For information contact Wynne Kavanagh at 672-6774.

Elections will be held on Tuesday, November 7, at the Town Hall, 24 Pine Street, from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. Absentee ballots become available from the Town Clerk on October 6. Electors may use an absentee ballot only if they will be unable to appear at the polling place on the day of the election for one of the following reasons: active service in the armed forces, absence from town during all the hours of voting, illness, physical disability, or religious tenets.



Dumping at the Dump: In the interests of safety and economy (which applies in which case should be self-evident), the dumpmeisters have made the following requests. First, please keep young children and pets in the car or truck while unloading. Second, make sure any waste oil is "clean"; otherwise, any other chemical such as anti-freeze or brake fluid that is mixed in must be removed on site.

The Cornwall Conservation Trust, on behalf of Planning and Zoning, has prepared a survey to help determine what features of our town people care about the most, and to allow input on some other issues as well. The survey can be found at all Cornwall post offices (on the work tables), as well as the Library, Wandering Moose, and the Town Hall. You can also find it online at the Cornwall website under "planning Cornwall's future." Thanks for your participation.

Sunday Adult Education Programs are offered in the UCC Day Room at 11:30 A.M.; all are welcome. For more information call the church office at 672-6840.

October 8 features a video interview of Karen Armstrong on her new book, *The Great Transformation: The Beginning of Our Religious Traditions*.

On October 29 Ellie and Ned McDowell will present an illustrated talk on "A Church World Service Study Tour of Kenya."

Halloween: Come to the Town Hall Tuesday, October 31, from 5 to 8 P.M., to enjoy soup, cider, hot chocolate, sandwiches, and more while watching classic Halloween movies.

Electronic Waste Day will be held Saturday, October 14, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M., at the Torrington Water Pollution Plant on Bogue Road. No pass is required.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

OCTOBER ISSUE

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NOVEMBER ISSUE

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