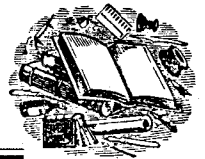


CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 1: NUMBER 8 SEPTEMBER 1991



What Is the Five-Year Plan?

Some time this fall or winter there will be a Town Meeting to vote on our first five-year plan. Once the five-year planning process is in place, there will be far fewer unpleasant surprises in the annual budget. We need to be clear about what the five-year plan is and how it will be developed so that we can understand what we will be voting on and maybe even have a say in what is presented to the town meeting.

Under a new law, the town will no longer be eligible for state aid for roads and a number of other categories unless there is a five-year plan passed by the voters. At present, the selectmen are gathering five-year spending proposals from the different town departments. Their next step will be to prepare a plan to submit to the voters. The selectmen have not said they will hold a public hearing on a draft plan before drawing up the final version, but they might want to hear what people think about how much to spend on roads overall, say, and even on whether to work on Dibble Hill Road or Town Street first.

The law doesn't set any standards for the plan, but there is a consensus in the Board of Finance, which has to recommend

the plan before it can go to town meeting, that the plan should not be just a wish list. It should include all significant capital spending and most importantly it should propose where the money is to come from.

The first plan will cover the five years beginning July 1, 1992. Every year the town must come up with a new plan that drops the current year and adds a new one. The five-year plan is not a binding commitment. Only the annual budget meeting can authorize the town to spend money. But it will be a strong expression of intent. Everyone recognizes that there is a certain amount of guesswork, especially four or five years out. Nobody expects the building committee to come up with more than an educated guess about the cost of possible new town offices when they haven't even been able to start their feasibility studies. Also, as we know from the landfill problem, the state can come up with demands for capital spending that can't wait for four or five years. But it would not be surprising if in future years the budget meeting looks very skeptically at grandiose new spending schemes that haven't been in the five-year plan for a reasonable amount of time.

If you have questions, call me at 672-6607.
- Hendon Chubb

News Highlights

Virginia (Ginger) Sullivan and Dody Clarke-Wolfe are last minute entries in the election for town clerk.

Sullivan, a Democrat, will run on the fourth line as a petitioning candidate.

Clarke-Wolfe, who was an unaffiliated voter, will run on the first line as a member of A Connecticut Party, the party established by Lowell P. Weicker Jr. in his run for Governor.

They will oppose incumbent Barbara Dakin, who received the endorsement of the Republican and Democratic caucuses.

The Cornwall Association is filing an appeal of the decision made at the last meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission in which P & Z approved of a change of use of the Ingvertsen's Automotive location. The basis of the appeal is the Association's disagreement with P & Z that a convenience store would be a less non-conforming use of this location than the current non-conforming allowances. The Zoning Board of Appeals

(continued on page 2)

SEPTEMBER 1991

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1st choir rehearsal 8:45am 1st Church (see p. 4) Community soccer Softball Hubbard Field 11am 6pm	2 LABOR DAY	3 Inland Wetlands 8pm Town Hall	4 Rep. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	5	6	7
8 Park & Rec. 7:30pm Town Off. Nuclear-free Zone Comm. St. Peter's 7:30pm (see p. 3) Plan. & Zoning 7:30pm Town Hall 11am 6pm	9 ROSH HASHANA Nuclear-free Zone Comm. St. Peter's 7:30pm (see p. 3) Plan. & Zoning 7:30pm Town Hall	10 Hous. Riv. Comm. Susan Wick exhibit opens Cornwall Library 2 pm-5pm Dem. Town Comm 7:30pm Town Hall	11 CCS Lib. 7:30pm	12 Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall Cornwall Housing Corp. 7:30pm. First Church	13	14
15 Omi Hepprich's 90th birthday 11am 6pm	16 Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall Est. Income Tax due	17	18 YOM KIPPUR	19 Bd. of Ed. 4:30pm CCS Library Bd. of Finance 8pm Town Hall	20	21 Poetry & singing 8pm Cadwell's Corner
22 Cornwall open golf, South Egremont course (see below) 11am 6pm	23 FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN Z.B. of Appeals 8pm Town Hall Nuclear-free Zone Comm. St. Peter's 7:30pm (see page 3)	24	25	26 Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	27	28
29 Crop Walk (see p. 4) 11am 6pm	30	Cornwall open will be held on Sunday, Sept. 22, First starting time 10:30 am Sign-up sheets at Yutzler's, Baird's, and Sandmeyer's. For information, call Dick Dakin (off) 672-4959, (h) 672-6015. Estimated Income Tax will be due Sept. 16				

LQ 1 30 NM 8 FQ 15 FM 23

(continued from page 1)

will receive this application at their meeting on August 26. Any public hearing will be held at a future date.

✪ The Board of Selectmen has created an Agricultural Advisory Committee. The members are George Brown, Dody Clarke-Wolfe, John Frost, Ralph Gold, Allyn Hurlburt, Edward Kenniston, Priscilla Mauro, Peter Ripley, Fred Scoville, and Anne Zinsser.

✪ Cramped in, kicked out, and rained on - being the Cornwall First Selectman is no bed of roses. Dick Dakin now knows what it's like to have a lead role in the fable of the Arab and the Camel in which the main human character is eased out of his tent an inch at a time. First he agreed to make room by giving up the sizable First Selectman's office for a corner "Closet" at the end of the hall. Then, when there still wasn't enough room for the other town officials, he moved out to a trailer with no direct access to the main building. And as if that was not enough, the trailer has developed a leaky roof.

Will the end of this saga find Dick out in the parking lot under a tree with only a table and file cabinet to call home? Only the camel knows.

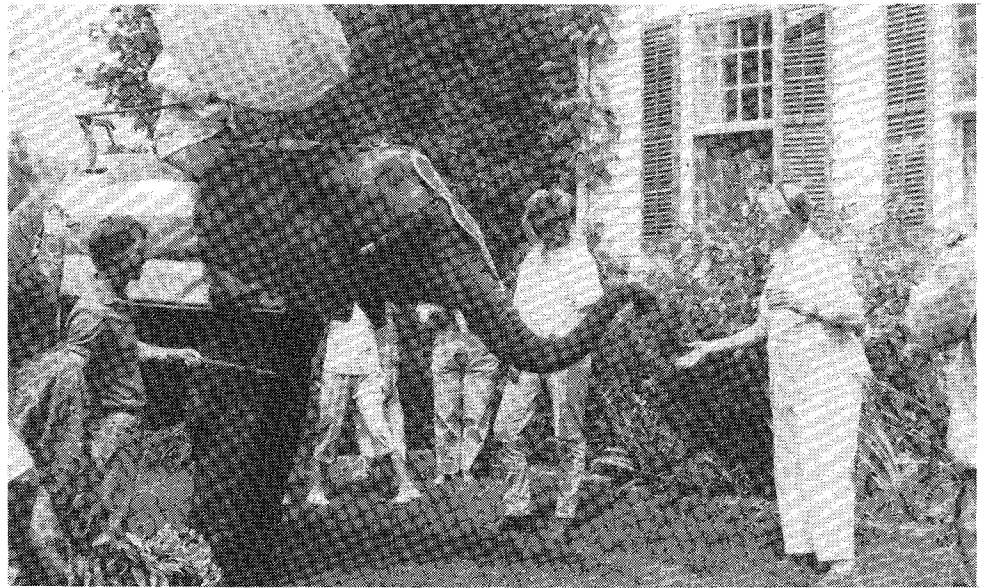


✪ Swimmers from five towns competed in the Championship Swim Meet on August 7 at Cream Hill Lake. Cornwall placed second in the meet and first place awards were won by Davina Piker, Jennifer Heiny, Jenny Goodfriend, Timothy Saunders, and Hector B. Migliacci. In addition, the awards for "Most Valuable Swimmers" were presented to Jennifer Heiny and Frederick Scoville. Lakeville placed first in the meet. Third, fourth, and fifth places went to Canaan, Sharon, and Kent.

The Friends of Rose Algrant

Mark Van Doren said it many years ago, "The people of Cornwall live in secret ways." This is particularly true of our many artists who spend most of the year courting the muse in relative isolation. Some are inspired by their inner thoughts and others by the issues of the day. Once a year in a creative sort of ground-hog day, they emerge into the light of public attention and show each other and the community what has been on their minds.

We are all grateful to Rose Algrant and the many volunteers who put in the work required to make the occasion seem joyful and effortless. - Tim Prentice



Montgomery Hare (behind umbrella) presents Polly Calhoun with a large and unusual birthday gift. Polly boarded the beast and rode it through the village, to the cheers of dozens of friends and neighbors. - Photo by Dody Clarke-Wolfe

CEO of CCS A Talk with Bill Oros

We tracked down Principal Bill Oros at the Consolidated School in mid-August. We figured that without students and teachers around, he would be in a talkative mood. We were right. Two hours later ...

Chronicle: We don't see any dart boards in your office, Bill. What do principals do during the summer months?

Bill: For the first time in several years I took a few days off for work around the house. But mostly I've been revising the Teacher's Guidebook, writing a newsletter, updating the Parents' Guidebook, talking to the bus company, studying, and, in general, getting ready for school opening.

Chronicle: We hear horror stories about the failure of education in the U.S. CT Mastery Tests given to 4th, 6th, and 8th graders statewide were failed by a majority of students in basic areas of composition, reading and math. How do our students fare?

Bill: Extremely well. But academic subjects are only a part of education. Our job is to teach the whole child. Good attitude and a sense of how to use what he or she has learned are even more important than academics alone. (Ed. note: Analysis of published state test scores for the year 1990-1991 clearly shows Cornwall Consolidated School with the *highest* averages in the entire state! First out of 140 schools!)

Chronicle: What changes can we expect to see in our school this year?

Bill: We will teach children how to manipulate and understand figures as they are used in the new computer technology. The emphasis will be on problem-solving in math. We will also extend our intersubject approach to knowledge. For example the 7th grade will be studying the

Medieval Age in the history of math, music, English and art. When a student realizes how all his subjects relate to one another, he or she finds studying to be that much more meaningful.

Chronicle: Do you see distance learning via TV as a potentially revolutionary teaching tool?

Bill: I certainly welcome it. As a small school we have no foreign language program and little in the way of enrichment and advance-course opportunities. With distance learning, a monitored student could interact with high school classes and, later, with courses given by schools across the state. The taxpayer would be getting a lot for his dollar. We have our cable connections in place. When cable comes to Cornwall we'll be ready. (See page 3 for Baren letter).

Chronicle: We hear you were a talented science teacher early on. Do you miss teaching? Do you miss the teacher vacation schedule?

Bill: I've never left teaching, actually. This year I will be teaching a 6th year math class. Also, I feel that my interaction with the teachers and with parents is a type of teaching. As for vacations, a lot of teachers, including myself, find it hard to stay away from the school in summer. Teaching is a way of life and you find yourself coming in to prepare for the year ahead, even when there aren't any children around and you should be out fishing. - Scoville Soule



Marriages

Tilla Vahanian to John P. Waterfield
Elizabeth Schmidt to Lutz Stober



Letters to the Chronicle



THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE

As an eleven year old child, saving the environment is very important to me. Everyone says the future is in our hands. As children, we should start now to clean up the environment for our future. The town of Cornwall has started recycling, but think of all the other ways we can clean up our world. For example, if we're in the car and see litter all over the road, instead of looking at it, let's pick it up. When we go for a walk we should pick up the litter along the roadside and around our house. Adults too. Instead of buying paper and plastic bags when shopping, go to our wonderful Yutzler's store and buy a reusable cloth bag.

There are many good actions we can take such as re-planting trees. Think about them. You may think this plan is only for Cornwall; the truth is, Cornwall is just our starting point!
- Janna Kenniston

NOT THE LOADING, THE CUTTING*

Oh My! The Imp of Inaccuracy has struck again! At no time have we complained about "loading logs" - or logging - or loggers. All we have objected to is the logger's landing being located directly across the road from the Gyorsoks' house and about 50 yards from mine. Whole trees, denuded of limbs, are skidded to this landing where they are cut into lengths, graded, moved and stacked to await loading; the firewood is cut in 18-24 inch sections and split. The noise emanating from these activities can be harrowing.

Torrington Area Health District measured the noise levels at 82-86 dbA; the TAHD limit is 61. OSHA regulations state that continued exposure to levels of 75-85 dbA constitutes a health hazard and can result in numerous physical and/or psychological problems. We're halfway through the sixth month and, believe me, instead of complaining about loading we rejoice anew at every truckload that leaves. The sad thing is that the whole unpleasantness could have been easily avoided by exercising a modicum of common sense and neighborly consideration in locating the landing elsewhere - not really an impossibility but merely less convenient.

Mr. Dunn's hope that Cornwall does not become another Westchester or Fairfield County rates a hearty endorsement from me. We all know, too, that life does not exist in a vacuum. Perhaps we should face the fact that in a healthy society change is inevitable. Would it not be better if we were to resolve to embrace the good in it instead of vainly insisting on living in the past, no matter what? Not for a moment do I mean to imply that there is no good in the past- I am a Southerner, born and bred, and goodness knows no one has greater love and respect

for the past and rural life than a bunch of Southerners - however, the words "good" and "past" are not necessarily always synonymous any more than "good" and "change" are. If we are suffering from growing pains - and we are - let us face them squarely and honestly and move forward as a community of people of diverse persuasions with a common goal - a better Cornwall for everyone. "Compromise" really isn't a dirty word.-Jane Giddens-Jones

*The Chronicle regrets getting the source of the noise wrong.

FAN MAIL

Dear Chronicle editors and contributors: You can have Vanity Fair and Newsweek. The Cornwall Chronicle is now my favorite read. Many thanks for the excellent reporting, good spirit and droll wit. The Chronicle is the best thing to happen to Cornwall since buttercups and dancing on the green.

How did we ever live without you?
Keep up the good work!

With our thanks - Al and Kim Waller

NIGHT SKIING

That was extremely nice of Ezra Mager to write a letter of apology in the August Chronicle concerning the tornado debris along our roadside properties.

Our next "in-town" controversy, I believe, will probably be about night skiing at Mohawk Mountain Ski Area, which I am all for.

The Schoenknecht and Hedden families have always been very generous to the skiers of Cornwall, especially our school children. Both families have worked long and hard and, unfortunately, have suffered some major setbacks in recent years. The tornado of '89 did catastrophic damage to the ski area. Last summer an electrical storm struck the storage building at the top of the mountain, destroying snow making equipment. In the past few winters relatively little snow has fallen, just to worsen the situation.

If these people feel night skiing is feasible, I say they should go for it. It will save area skiers a trip to Catamount, even Brodie, for a few hours skiing after a day's work.

I am a near neighbor of Mohawk Mountain Ski Area. I welcome this new venture, and wish all concerned a very successful, prosperous future.

- Ann Peterson

CABLE IN HAYSTACK

Are you happy with TV reception as it now is in Cornwall? We could have cable if Haystack Cable honored the terms of its franchise instead of complaining that our houses are too far apart.

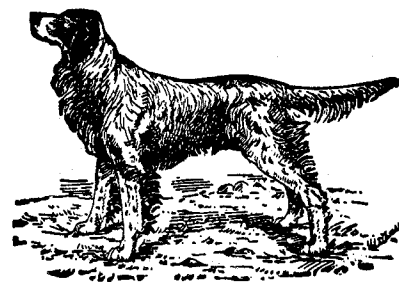
For shut-ins and for those who can't drive, TV is another information resource, like the library, and people should have inexpensive access to both. We look to our selectmen to press the case for Cornwall with Haystack. If Haystack believes no one in town cares, Haystack will have no incentive to fulfill its contract.

If you feel as we do, please tell our selectmen.
- Paul and Ann Baren

A CARING TRADITION

I want to echo Ken Keskinen's sentiments about Val & Jim Lennie and the new Little Guild. Our house is right across from the "old" Little Guild so we feel we are "Guild people." Not too long ago we agreed to take a dog from a family in Danbury. She is a fine dog but was the wrong dog for us. Val & Jim helped us find her a perfect new home. They are continuing the caring tradition of a Cornwall "landmark."

- Judy Bronner



BEYOND THE NUCLEAR DUMP

What's happening now that Cornwall has voted to become a Nuclear Free Zone? It's catching on. Salisbury was the first town in the Northwest corner to vote to be nuclear free. Then came Cornwall, with Kent and Winsted following soon after. Harwinton is looking into it and an informational meeting was held in Sharon on August 16 to consider the matter. The Northwest Nuclear Free Zone Committee has been meeting every two weeks in Cornwall and is providing information and advice to concerned citizens in the area.

This is not merely a NIMBY issue. The Committee's aim goes beyond the fear of a nuclear dump. We want to encourage the development and use of environmentally safe alternate sources of energy, including conservation. Currently we are educating ourselves about energy issues and investigating the possibilities for challenging the legislation that makes the state government responsible for nuclear waste rather than the generator of that waste. It's important and exciting work; we hope many will join us. Our next meetings are on Sept. 9 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Cornwall.
- Marie Prentice

Ticket Toppers to Take Test

The October *Chronicle* will publish the answers to the following questions, to be asked to our First Selectman and Planning & Zoning candidates.

Readers: we would also like to receive your answers to any of the questions and will print the most interesting.

For First Selectman candidates:

1. Why do you want to be First Selectman?
2. If elected would you run again in 1993?
3. Which should have the greater priority, a new Town Hall or road reconstruction?
4. What is your plan for roads?
5. What is your preferred solution to the Town Hall problem?
6. Do you think it is important to get cable TV into Cornwall?
7. What is your favorite: a) Machine, b) animal, c) TV show?

To P & Z candidates:

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?

Convenience OK'd by P & Z

Under discussion at the P & Z's August meeting was the proposed change of Ingvertsen's Automotive to a convenience store. The limitations on signs, lights, white color, designated parking, retained trees, etc. that were stipulated on the site plan were examined. The application was approved 5-1 with John Frost dissenting. The consensus of the majority found the proposed plan less non-conforming than the extent of uses now allowed.

A hearing on Lawrence Stevens' application for a permanent sawmill on Cream Hill will be held at the next regular meeting of the P & Z, Sept. 9 at 7:30. The saw has been monitored by TAHD at its proposed location and found to be within acceptable decibel readings.

- Ginny Potter



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You don't have to cut up your *Chronicle* by sending the coupon. Just send your name and mailing address with your check. Other contributions, larger or smaller, are welcome.

THE CORNWALL CHRONICLE
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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/ST/ZIP _____



Architects and Asbestos

The Municipal Building Committee is now in the architect selection phase. The architect chosen will develop a feasibility study to include a new building design, a renovated Rumsey, and possibly an addition to the gymnasium for town office space. We need to recommend someone with sensitivity for the community architecturally as well as philosophically, a good designer of new buildings, and someone who can work with a committee of fourteen!

The asbestos samples have been taken from the library building, Rumsey Hall, and the gymnasium. We should have the results from those tests soon. - Rita Quinn

New Finance Board Members

At a special meeting of the Board of Finance held on August 1 Carol Lugar was elected to fill the vacancy left by Scoville Soule's resignation. K. C. Baird was appointed as alternate to the Board until the election.

Two bids were presented to the Board for printing the 1991 Annual Town Report. The bid received from Oddo Print Shop of Torrington for \$1,725.00 was accepted.

Vaccinations required by the State for the Volunteer Fire Dept. were discussed, as funds were not included in the 1991-1992 budget for this purpose. The Board agreed to recommend to the Selectmen that this expense be paid from the Fire Dept. Operation & Maintenance line item.

The Board expressed appreciation for Scoville Soule's service and particularly for the extra work he put in representing the Board on the Regional Strategic Planning Committee.

- Pat Bramley



Events & Announcements

250th Anniversary Book: The First Church has published a collection of reminiscences, history and pictures that brings Cornwall's Congregational heritage to life. Rare first editions can be purchased from the Cornwall Historical Society, the UCC Church offices, or the two libraries. Read of a church built from the lumber of faith, good humor, and a few knotty planks of controversy to keep things interesting.

Three Choirs Welcome Singers: All adults from high school students to senior citizens who love to sing are welcome to join the choir at the United Church of Christ, which will begin its fall rehearsals on Sunday, September 1 at 8:45 a.m. The Adult Choir sings every Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Children's Choir meets every Friday at 3:00 p.m. at the Church, and Junior Choir follows at 3:45 until 4:30. Our first rehearsal of these choirs will be on September 13. Children in kindergarten through second grade sing in Children's Choir; third graders and older are in Junior Choir. All children are welcome to sing with us.

The Junior Choir has been invited to sing at a fundraising event at the end of October, sponsored by the Northwest Corner Peace Vigil. They have also been asked to sing at the Geer Memorial Health Center in Canaan. Both choirs sing about once a month during the church service.

For further information, call 672-6133.

- Anne Chamberlain

Community Education: The Taconic Learning Center is now accepting registration for the fall semester, which begins on September 16. For further information write P.O. Box 1752, Lakeville, CT 06039 or call 435-2922.



Crop Walk: The Northwest CT Crop Walk for the Hungry will be Sunday, Sept. 29 - rain or shine. This year the route will take us through ten miles of Falls Village scenery and every step will raise funds for local families. Walkers ask sponsors to pay any amount they choose for each mile on the route. The money goes straight to where it will do the most good: to local organizations running food pantries and kitchens.

It isn't often that we get a chance to act directly to help. This isn't like dropping a check in an envelope and never knowing what happens next. This is real and it matters that we walk on Sunday, Sept. 29.

Please call Lisa Lansing at 672-2659 and ask for your walking papers.

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CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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