### The Ambulance Issue—Again

The lazy days of summer that lull most of us into a mañana frame of mind have not slowed down unfunded-mandate proponents in Hartford, according to First Selectman Gordon Ridgway. A subcommittee of the State Board of Health known as the Paramedic Task Force is busily pushing an unfunded plan that most people thought had a stake through its heart and had been put to rest. The plan calls for vast numbers of paid paramedics to be within a ten-minute response time for every man, woman, and child in Connecticut. Details are not spelled out. How much would the plan cost? Is this the challenge our current, much loved, neighbor-gistically realistic? What effect would such a plan have on existing volunteer ambulance services? Such questions are not addressed.

But the implications are clear, in the view of our selectmen: such a plan would challenge our current, much loved, neighbor-helping-neighbor ambulance service (backed up by paramedics picked up en route). Gordon, when needed). Gordon considers the hospital when needed). Gordon considers the required paramedics and supply the vehicles. But the plan seems to have a life of its own and could well become reality in the absence of a groundswell of grass-roots opposition.

If you have struggled through this bad news without ripping the page, there is another item from the selectmen that may put you back in vacation mode. Our troublesome deteriorating town bridges, built in the twenties and thirties, have been found to be repairable in most instances. The difference between repair and replace is the difference between thousands of dollars and hundreds of thousands. Feel a little better?

—Scoville D. Soule

### Rummage Galore

How early do buyers have to get up to be first in line at the annual rummage sale at the United Church of Christ Parish House? Ask 15-year-old Ben Stones of Bethel, who arrived at 6 A.M. to get Ticket Number One. He was joined 15 minutes later by Bob and Mary Jane Coons of Harwinton, who were first in line in 1995 and in several previous years.

The annual rummage sale sponsored by the Woman’s Society was held on July 20. The sale raised more than $12,000 which will be used for scholarships and church work.

—Stephen Senzer

### The Lowdown on Recycling

In the past year, Cornwall’s Sanitary Transfer Station recycled over a quarter of its refuse workload of 940 tons, according to Lib Tobin Terrall, the town’s recycling coordinator. Recycling accounted for 27.6 percent of the total volume of refuse. That’s even more than New York City’s 25 percent recycling target that Mayor Rudolph Giuliani says the city can’t possibly achieve.

It’s hard to figure out how much money the town saves by recycling, Lib admits. Partly, that’s because the prices paid for recycled materials fluctuate so much. For example:

(continued on page 2)

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**AUGUST 1996**

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*Check time and place at Town Office*
It Takes a Village

Cornwall's fiscal resources are spread thin, but its wealth of experience and knowledge runs deep. The new Cornwall Consolidated School Volunteer Program intends to tap the town's riches in two ways: by cataloguing townspeople whose expertise CCS teachers can use to augment the teaching of numerous subjects, and by bringing parents and community members into the school on a regular basis to help children—and teachers—in need.

A town-wide survey will be mailed next month to scare up the history buffs, scientists, world travelers, writers, and anybody willing to share interesting experiences. One dad helped bring a primary grade study of the westward movement to life this spring when he spoke to kids about his experience as a Life magazine reporter-on-horseback tracking cattle rustlers in Wyoming.

Principal Bill Oro is also looking for volunteers willing to give a few hours a week to assist upper grade students in math, science, English, and social studies; help out in the first and second grade classrooms; direct youthful energy during indoor recesses; and read textbooks onto tape for learning-disabled children.

One obvious benefit of a volunteer program, say organizers Diane Goldstein and Jamie Monagan, is to help teachers cope with growing class sizes. Another is that "Cornwall is a town with a thousand stories," says Goldstein. "For kids to hear firsthand about military service, immigration, government, travel, or science adds a deeper dimension to their studies."

—Jamie Monagan

Replacement of Route 4 Cribs

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is planning to remove deteriorated concrete cribs—those log-like retaining walls—along Route 4 in Cornwall. Some will be eliminated and the slopes regraded to make the walls unnecessary. Where the steepness of the slope and soil conditions make such regrading impractical, the cribs will be replaced. DOT plans to improve drainage behind the new cribs to enable them to last longer.

DOT has completed the necessary soil surveys and is currently preparing preliminary plans. The Department expects to discuss these plans with town officials early in the fall. At that time DOT will get town officials' input on the designs, as well as on what kind of public involvement DOT should seek.

—Hanna Grossman

We Really Blew It This Time

Last month's article on the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department neglected to list its newly elected secretary, Sharon Esteland, and the reelected treasurer, Adam Fischer. Also, engineer Norman Waycott's name was misspelled.

And one non-correctional item: Treasurer Fischer said he is pleased to announce that the Fire Department's tax-supported budget for 1996-7 is ten percent lower than last year. He says this is partly due to successful fund raising and partly to fiscally conservative planning.

—The Editors
Letters to the Chronicle

UPDATING CORNWALL'S PLAN

Connecticut law requires towns to review and update their development plans every ten years. Because Cornwall's last major review was in 1987, our plan must be updated next year.

As we begin to think about this process, it may be interesting to look at what other towns have done. In 1994, Litchfield used its decennial review to produce a very carefully thought-out "Vision Plan." It undertook an intensive townwide effort with a 22-member steering committee, dozens of citizen discussion groups, and strong support from consultants. The year-long planning process cost over $35,000, half from the town and half from a local foundation. (If you want to look at the final report on the Litchfield plan, there's a copy in the Cornwall Library.)

Cornwall is smaller than Litchfield, both in population and land area. But we're in the path of the same wave of urban development that's moving toward us from the south. Whether we want to welcome more development or want to ward it off, we need to plan carefully—or we could be overwhelmed.

The ten-year update gives Cornwall's P&Z Commission, the selectmen, and all the civic groups a timely opportunity to think about what kind of town we want to be. Let's take advantage of it!

—William Calhoun

RUMOR QUASHED

Yes, Yes, I did see two rather large black bears but No, I wasn't chased by them! On Friday, July 12, I was taking a walk with our wee babe Sam when I came upon the two gorgeous creatures on the little bridge at the bottom of Dudleytown Road. It took me a minute to figure out what I was seeing and when I did I turned and burned rubber in the opposite direction. Okay, yes, when I did finally gather the courage to look back over my shoulder they had come up the road to where I had just stood but they then made their way up into Will and Alex Calhoun's frisbee field. So, no attack. Just a little curiosity on the part of all four of us.

—April Stevens

MEMORIAL DAY CARNIVAL PROCEEDS

The Chronicle's July feature on Cornwall's Memorial Day activities made no mention of the annual Carnival which occurs after the morning's exercises. The net proceeds of this event are divided equally between the two organizations which plan and run it—the Cornwall Child Center and the United Church of Christ.

This year the Child Center was able to add $1,215 to the Stephen G. Frost Memorial Scholarship Fund, established in 1980 in memory of Steve. Since that time at least 45 families have benefited from the fund.

The $1,215 share assigned to UCC will be distributed to various causes, most recently including the Christian Children's Fund for sponsorship of Jesse White Thunder, OWL's Kitchen, Torrington Community Soup Kitchen, and Operation Fuel.

Thus, as we enjoyed the food and fun of this holiday, we were also helping our neighbors.

—Barbara Gold

BIRD OF PASSAGE

Scarcely a brand of wildlife has gone unserved in this town, so let me add this rather exotic sighting to the Cornwall list.

On July 9 at the junction of Routes 128 and 125 in the early afternoon, the traffic was halted by the leisurely passage of a peacock trailing his gorgeous tail across the road to the driveway of Cobble Hill Farm. (Jim Gold, who also stopped, will verify the sighting.)

On my way home I went up to the farm to check with Amanda Perkins if the peacock belonged there and had returned home; it tos theirs and it was home. However, she anxiously asked if I knew anyone who had lost a black female Nubian goat. She had found one wandering at the bottom of the driveway, and had called around to see if she could find its owner. It is still unclaimed. Please spread the word.

—Julia Scott

The End of the Rainbows

On June 13, the State Department of Environmental Protection shocked the fisherman side of the local fishermen-boat controversy. It announced that, as of this fall, it will stop stocking rainbow trout in the Housatonic River. Rainbows are less tolerant of high water temperatures than the native brown trout, DPF argues. Thus, they are more likely to be involved in "fish kills" on hot summer days.

According to Lynn Werner, executive director of the nonprofit Housatonic Valley Association, DPF has also decided that, starting in 1998, it will require barbless hooks for fisherman in the river.

Furthermore, whenever summer temperatures soar high enough, DPF will close the trout management area of the Housatonic and its tributaries in Cornwall. At such times, water releases from the Falls Village dam will also be cut. Boaters may be forced to wait until fall to make up lost days of river use.

DEP has also made other river management recommendations to Connecticut Light and Power, operators of the river's dams. Ruth Malins, HVAs Resource Center director, says that many of these new DEP proposals are more stringent than those it had previously put forward. As yet, however, they are not binding on CL&P in its struggle to obtain license renewal from FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

—David A. Grossman

Goodfriend Gets it Right

You might say that good art photography rests on a tripod: what you choose to focus on, how you frame it in the camera's eye, where you shoot it from.

Sari Goodfriend gets it right in her exhibition titled Here & There, now at the Cornwall Library. She has included some fine cityscapes and architectural photography in the collection. But I'm partial to the Rocky Mountains and canyon country, so I give highest accolades to Goodfriend's spectacular landscapes, such as Grand Canyon, Dreamscape, and Nine Pipes Wildlife Refuge.

Goodfriend's photographs will be on display through August 10.

—Alfred Bredenberg
A Glorious Fourth
It was a day for numbers: 12 pounds of hot dogs, two dozen small burgers, and, thanks to Cornwall's Park and Recreation Commission organizers, hundreds of good times.

The 12 pounds of hot dogs (and another 12 pounds of burgers) were served up by the VFW Post whose commander, Gus Haller, led a crew of eight volunteers. According to VFW member Bill Gagnier, business has been "outlandishly" good in recent years but nothing like what it was 20 years ago when the Post had more members and sold fireworks.

In the Intramunicipal Baseball Games, West Cornwall ground out a 20-12 extra-innings win over a tenacious Cornwall Bridge brigade, and followed it immediately with a 7-6 win over the smoothly functioning and talented Cornwall Village nine. Fine play came from all three teams, most notably among the younger players, trained in Little League, who outdid their elders in fielding and hitting most of the afternoon. In fact, the elders were pretty sore on Monday morning.

The bicycle parade drew about 25 entrants, each aboard a red, white, and blue two-wheeled example of the art of bike decoration. Winners were: Rosa Jurjevics, Nestor Bramley, Sophie Austin, Rebecca Sawicki, and J. J. Nelson.

The Volkswagon Van will host Bob Markowitz, who will perform at the Cream Hill Lake picnic. Come early and bring a picnic. Winners were: Rosa Jurjevics, Nestor Bramley, and J. J. Nelson.

The Cornwall Historical Society will offer an exhibit of tools, both ordinary and exotic, starting August 3. Viewers may examine not only a saw set and a tailor's square (which at least sound ordinary), but a bench dog, a stovepipe muller, a rope winder, and a shade leveler—among other less familiar utensils. Visitors will be challenged to guess the uses of some of the more esoteric tools. All are from the collection of Daniel Semel, who loaned them to the society. Hours are from 9 to 1 on Saturdays, and 9:30 to noon on Tuesdays.

The Cornwall Golf Associates will hold their annual Cornwall Open Tournament on Sunday, September 15, at the Copake Country Club with an 8 A.M. tee-off. Proceeds will go to the Dan Gracey Fund. A $50 entrance fee will include 18 holes with cart, plus a luncheon. For details about entering, phone Ray Augustyn at 672-0295.

Absenee Ballots: College-bound electors who want to vote in the November presidential election should request an absentee ballot application now from the town clerk. Return it properly filled out and with your school mailing address, and a ballot will be sent to you when it is available.

A Boy Scout Parent Meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. August 7 in the Day Room at the United Church of Christ.

For Children at the Cornwall Library: On Friday, August 9, at 10:30 A.M. the Library will host Bob Markowitz, who will perform his original singalong story Going to the Store. His program is directed to four- to nine-year-olds, but all ages find it fun. Refreshments will conclude the morning.

The middle-reader Wednesday evening sessions Grow with Books and the preschool story hours on Friday mornings will continue through August 21 and 23, respectively.

JP Bulletin: Between August 1 and November 1, 1996, any unaffiliated or minor-party elector may apply to the town clerk for appointment as a justice of the peace for a term starting January 6, 1997, and ending January 1, 2001. Should more than 14 people apply, a lottery will be held in November. Applications are available from the town clerk, Monday through Thursday, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

The Myth of Persephone will be presented by Cornwall's Grumbling Gryphons at the Sharon Stage on Friday, August 23, at 11 and 1. Children and parents are invited to come and be part of the show. The pre-performance workshop is at 9:30 A.M.

Leslie Elias has adapted the ancient Greek myth into a highly imaginative and entertaining show for children, with audience participation essential. The scenery and costumes were made by Cornwall's Ellen Moon. For further details contact Sharon Stage at (860) 364-1500.

The 37th Annual Rose Algrant Art Show opening will be on Friday, August 16, from 5 to 8, and the show will continue on Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 5. This year the show will be in the Mohawk Ski Lodge, thanks to the Ski Area, which is lending the building for the art show this year.

St. Bridget's 24th Annual Country Fair will be held on August 10 from 9 to 2 on the church grounds at the junction of Routes 4 and 7 in Cornwall Bridge. There will be a farmer's market, baked goods, attic treasures, and many dealers offering a variety of crafts and goods. Food will be available throughout the day.

Road Oilings Scheduled: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway announced that road oiling is scheduled at the end of August and beginning of September for the following roads: the southern half of Town Street, Cogswell Road, Lake Road, Hautboy Hill Road, Hurlburt Place, Bradford Road, Hall Road, and Johnson Road.

Events & Announcements

Swing Your Corner and allemande left at the Cornwall Extras for Kids square dance on August 10, 7 to 10 P.M., at the Cream Hill Lake Association. Come early and bring a picnic. Everyone welcome, no previous experience necessary.

The Republican Town Committee will hold a meeting at 7:30 P.M. on August 13 at the Cornwall Consolidated School.

Old Home Sunday: After a lapse of some years, Cornwall's traditional Reunion/Old Home Sunday will be held on the grounds of the North Cornwall Meeting House on Sunday, August 25, at noon, rain or shine. This will revive a 100-year-old tradition of welcoming children who grew up in Cornwall, newcomers, and summer visitors, together with everyone in Cornwall—a time for fellowship and the gathering of the wider Cornwall community.

The event will include a potluck lunch under tents, entertainment for the children, and a musical program. Everyone is invited. Please bring a potluck dish—beverages will be provided. For information call 672-6840 or 672-6637.

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