CCS Soccer Teams
Double Champs

“Once in a CCS blue moon” could describe this fall’s soccer season. Both the girls’ and boys’ teams were undefeated and crowned the Region One champions. “This is the first time CCS has had two championship teams at the same time in any sport,” reported former gym teacher and coach Jo Loi.

Ms. Pramuk and Mrs. Samson, the girls’ coaches, attributed their team’s success to the players’ positive attitude, cooperation, and experience. Mr. Boucher, the boys’ coach, was pleased with his team’s drive to play. He was blessed with a group of kids with a strong background in soccer. The players’ high level of experience and love of soccer shone during the games, allowing all the players to come together for big wins.

For both teams and coaches the highlight of the season was the last games in North Canaan. The girls clinched their game by scoring the first three goals. Mr. Boucher recalled: “The girls were able to compose themselves and step up the level of play for the win.”

At the end of the boys’ game, both teams joined each other in a wild sea of blue CCS uniforms. It was a rare scene that the players and their families won’t soon forget.

—Jayne Ridgway

Homeless in Cornwall

During the last weekend in October, 14 dogs were abandoned on Essex Hill Road in the Cathedral Pines.

Far from being wild, they were terrified of being on their own. Most were between 35 and 40 pounds, one to two years old, and possibly from related litters. Two had twined around their necks, and one had sore feet; aside from the ticks, they were in good health.

The first five dogs were caught relatively easily; they seemed happy to be sheltered again. The others were more wary and stayed hidden from people dropping off food. April Stevens spent hours luring dogs one by one into a crate with cat food. Animal Control Officer Rick Stone caught the last five in a dog-sized Havahart trap.

As of November 16, the Little Guild had five available for adoption, and eight were in a Harwinton shelter.

The very last one to be caught, Worry, came every time someone called to him but then panicked at the second. April has Worry at her home, where he is devoted to April and happy with her other dog and cats but traumatized by the hustle of children. Worry needs a new, child-free home.

—Lynn Cheney

Soups and Votes…and Cornbread

Another Cornwall election day. Fewer voters, but everyone whose name appeared on the printed ballot won. Lunch at the UCC Parish House: soups, chili, and cornbread, all homemade. More on lunch later.

The vote: Cornwall had 1,007 registered voters on election day, but only 365 voted. That comes to 36 percent. Not so good when one considers that 90 percent or better voted in past elections.

The winners were: Gordon Ridgway for an eighth term as first selectman; Richard Bramley and K. C. Baird, selectmen; Vera Dinneen, town clerk; John Green, treasurer; Jean Bouteiller, tax collector; Sally Hart and Tom Bechtel, Board of Finance; Jack Preston and John LaForta, Board of Finance alternates; Rebecca Hurlburt, Wynne Kavanagh, and Tom Levine, Board of Education; Roger Kane and John Miller, Board of Assessment Appeals; Richard Lynn, Planning and Zoning Commission; and Brian Kavanagh, Fred Thaler, Donald Clarke, Bridget Lynch, and Ron Laigle, Jr., Park and Rec.

Here’s a breakdown on those 365 voters: 340 voted in person with the new state-sanctioned machine (filling in all those little circles); 15 cast absentee ballots counted by machine; 2 voted by way of an on-site telephone for disabled people; 5 absentee ballots
What’s on the Shelf?

Ever wondered how the exciting and varied selection of new books, DVDs, and CDs lands in the Cornwall Library?

Well, here’s how. Every six weeks the Library’s Book Selection Committee—Amy Cady, Franny Taliaferro (Chair), Ann Gold, and Julie Devlin—meets to discuss books each thinks are of interest. During the previous six weeks, members have all perused book review resources such as The New York Times Book Review, Booklist, The New Yorker, The New York Review of Books, The Washington Post, and collected patron requests.

Each member presents her selection of titles for new buys in the areas of fiction, non-fiction, and mystery. Each category is voted upon separately, and if a title receives three votes, it’s bought. Fewer than three, further discussion takes place.

Books are ordered mainly from Baker & Taylor, which gives libraries a 40 percent discount off list price, as well as from other sources.

Many DVDs, magazines, and books (old and new) come to the Library via donation from patrons. The Library sometimes holds on to many of the donations to feature in its annual fundraising sales.

Books on CD and tape also come to Cornwall on three-month loan from the Middletown Library Service Center.

Library Director Amy Cady says that she is constantly amazed by the generosity of the Library’s patrons and urges all to continue to voice requests. It does matter.

Want to know what’s just come into the Library? Go to www.cornwallfreelibrary.org and click on “New Books.” And while you’re there, ask to receive the Library’s e-mail newsletter, which contains Franny Taliáferro’s delightful “Notes from the Book Selection Committee,” the perfect way to find out what’s on the shelf.

—Peggy Tagliarino

The Cornwall/Wikipedia Quiz

Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, has an interesting entry for Cornwall. See if you can guess how Wikipedia describes us by taking the following quiz. (“Correct” answers are based on their listing.)

1. Notable residents of Cornwall include:
   A. Manda Gropings and Richard Griggs
   B. John Sedgwick and Alexandra Paul
   C. Gordon Ridgway and Princess the cow
   D. John Miller and Hoagy Carmichael

2. Literary lines that evoke Cornwall are:
   A. “The welcome equinox of spring/Sez tennis now is just the thing.”
   B. “All right, have it your way—you heard a seal bark!”
   C. “The mind, eager for caresses,/Lies down at its own risk in Cornwall.”
   D. “The cow is of the b owl ilk./One end is moo, the other, milk.”

3. What is a notable structure in Cornwall?
   A. Ivan Lendl’s $25 million house
   B. Pinnacle Farm’s $25 million horse barn
   C. The Rumsey Hall squatters colony
   D. The Covered Bridge

4. A work of art that represents Cornwall is:
   A. “July Hay” by Thomas Hart Benton
   B. W’s ears and smirk by Marc Simont
   C. The Foreign Mission School by John Warner Berber
   D. “Reflections” by Tim Prentice

5. What part of our population is below the poverty line?
   A. 7 percent
   B. 3 percent
   C. 1 percent
   D. Just that guy next door with the junk cars and the monkey

6. A well-known feature of the landscape is:
   A. Coltsfoot Valley
   B. Mohawk Mountain
   C. The sand pile at the dump
   D. That stump on the rock that used to be the Tree on the Rock before the tornado

Answers: 1, B; 2, C; 3, D; 4, C; 5, B; 6, B.

—Ed Ferman

Welcome

Henry Graham Belancik and Everett Clark Belancik to Carolyn Schmidt and Dennis Belancik

Good-Bye to Friends

Joan Pelletier-Langevin
Barry Talesnick

Land Transfers

Dana Beecher, trustee, to George T. Charleton and Virginia R. Block, ½ interest in dwelling, land, and improvements thereon at 75 South Road for $75,000.

Dana Beecher to George T. Charleton and Virginia R. Block, ½ interest in dwelling, land, and improvements thereon at 75 South Road for $50,000.

Robert J. Beecher to George T. Charleton and Virginia R. Block, ½ interest in dwelling, land, and improvements thereon at 75 South Road for $25,000.

Yelping Hill Association, Inc., to David Cadwell, 4 acres, residence, and outbuildings at 67 Yelping Hill Road for $160,000.

Planning Meetings Open for Comment

The Planning and Zoning Commission’s work on the new Town Plan will begin a new phase in January, and townspeople are welcome to be part of it.

The commission meets every fourth Tuesday to attend to its planning duties. Four subcommittees—on housing, economic development, natural resources and conservation, and community assets—meet in separate locations in the Town Hall and Town Office.

“People were showing up and wanting to sit in,” said P&Z Chair Anne Kosciusko. Since no accommodation had been made for public comment, “things were getting a little out of control,” Anne said.

Starting in January, public participation in the subcommittees will be possible at the beginning or at the end of meetings. The subcommittees will continue to meet through August 2008, according to Anne.

—The December Editors

Events & Announcements

Tom Walker Returns this year to read passages from Moby Dick at the Library’s annual Boxing Day event. The reading will be at the North Meeting House on Wednesday, December 26, at 4 P.M. Reception follows.
MATCHING GRANT OFFER

With the recent purchase of a site in Cornwall Bridge by the Cornwall Housing Corporation for their affordable housing programs, and knowing what a priority affordable housing is to our community, the Cornwall Foundation has offered the Cornwall Housing Corporation a three-year, $10,000 matching grant. The grant would help prepare their parcel program sites for construction. For every $4 the Cornwall Housing Corporation raises, The Cornwall Foundation will add $1 up to the $10,000 limit.

We know the amount of time, money, and expertise required to develop a site and believe that, as a community foundation, we want to help as much as possible.

—Paul Baren, The Cornwall Foundation

GRADE “A” TEACHERS

This year’s Cornwall Consolidated School Fund for Excellence (CCSFE) Teacher’s Grant was awarded to first-grade teacher Bonnie Burdick, third-grade teacher Joyce Samson, and fifth-grade teacher Kristi Pramuka.

These three teachers have planned a year-long literature collaboration designed to enhance and enrich their curriculum across grade levels. Mary Pope Osborne of the Magic Tree House series is a wonderful highlight to their program.

The first activity was a trip for students, parents, and teachers to the Warner Theatre to see Ms. Osborne’s Magic Tree House: The Musical. Soon after this performance Ms. Osborne came to CCS for an all school assembly. Our children were mesmerized by her ability to bring the craft of writing to life in a very real way.

The program these fine teachers have established will have many benefits including helping students become active participants in their learning, encouraging them to take risks and try new techniques, helping them to learn from and listen to each other, teaching them useful skills and strategies as readers and writers, fostering a positive attitude about reading and writing, commenting thoughtfully on each other’s work, and valuing each other’s efforts.

As a school we thank the CCSFE Committee for their generous commitment to our teachers by supporting their creative visions in such a positive way.

—Respectfully submitted, Dr. Fitz

UPRIGHT AT LAST

On May 24, I bent down to make the bed and slipped a lumbar disc. Debilitated! Little did I know that yet another blessing of this Cornwall community was ready to come to my aid—the awesome stash of donated home medical equipment in the basement of UCC, so generously gathered and loaned by Jerry and Pat Blakey. This is expensive stuff, folks. And, with luck, most of us need it only temporarily. Fee? Sign-out? Due date? Nope. Jerry just handed it over. Slowly I graduated from a borrowed walker to a cane to an adjustable hospital table (great for stand-ups). Upright at last, I was very grateful to be able to return them for others in need to use. My huge thanks to the Blakeys and all who have contributed to this wonderful storehouse of help.

—Al Waller

GIVING MADE EASY

Annual donations are a bugaboo for most people this time of year; solicitation letters bounce off tight finances and family needs into the round file even though issues abound. So, here’s one solution.

I consider donations a fixed expense, a percentage of income reserved for giving; and try to improve this each year.

I have a pie chart of the issues in the world that are key to me: health, education, environment, policy-making, emergency relief, etc. What would yours look like? Then I have developed a list of the best groups addressing those problems, and give them a similar proportion.

Done, and I have contributed to what I hold essential and dear in the world again, which is what I think it takes, conscientious consistency.

—Katherine Freygang

MORE INCONVENIENT TRUTH

Fall is almost over but the leaf blowers are still blaring around Cornwall. These scourges pollute the air and waste fuel. Even our town crew uses leaf blowers and we should do better. Here are the facts, cited by the California EPA-Air Resources Board, which helped to ban leaf blowers in 300 California cities and towns.

1. Toxic exhaust fumes and emissions are created by gas-powered leaf blowers.
2. The high-velocity air jets used in blowing leaves whip up dust and pollutants like fecal matter, pesticides, fungi, chemicals, fertilizers, spores, and street dirt which consists of lead and organic and elemental carbon.
3. Blower engines generate high noise levels. Gas-powered leaf blower noise is a danger to the health of the blower operator and an annoyance to the non-consenting citizens in the area of usage.

This is a plea to leaf blowing Cornwallians to try picking up a rake, or better yet, let the leaves lie, decompose, and nourish the earth.

—Margaret Tully

DRIVING IN THE DARK

I had a scary incident on Route 7 last evening. It never crossed my mind that I would come across a school bus delivering kids to their homes at night—in the dark. So when I was driving north from Kent about 6:15 last evening, and rounded a corner and saw a big vehicle and flashing lights, I assumed it was an accident. It was on the other side of the road and I stopped. And then in my car lights saw children in front of me at the edge of the road striding towards their driveway! Horrified, I looked again at the vehicle and saw that it was not an ambulance, but a school bus. I was shocked. What if I had not stopped? I certainly had not stopped soon enough.

I’ve got the scene in my mind now. I am writing this letter in case there are others who at night have never suddenly come upon a school bus drop off on the other side of the road where kids had to cross the road to get to their homes.

—Anne Zinsser

COLD-WEATHER CHECKLIST

As temperatures drop, it’s time to check on winter preparedness. Simple steps that can make a difference include; changing batteries in smoke detectors; making sure your street numbers are visible from the road (for 911); having emergency supplies of food, water, heat, medicines, and radios on hand; checking automobile tires for good tread; and discussing emergency numbers and plans with family members.

Building inspector Paul Prindle (672-0711) should inspect any installation of new supplementary heating systems such as wood- or coal-burning stoves. They can be dangerous if the rules aren’t followed.

We’ve had a good response to the fuel bank program. If you need fuel assistance, call Jill Gibbons (672-2603).

—Gordon Ridgway

THEN AND NOW IN 2008

The Cornwall Historical Society exhibit of photographs of Cornwall’s homes and businesses, comparing then with now, continues in the form of a 2008 calendar, available at the Library and from CHS board members, or by calling 672-6191.

—Ginny Potter, President, CHS
The CCS Music Program will present a pair of Christmas concerts: Grades K–4, Tuesday, December 11, at 10:30 A.M. and 7 P.M. (snow date: December 13); Grades 5–8, Tuesday, December 18, at 7 P.M. (snow date: December 19).

Bridge Anyone? The Library is looking for a bridge instructor for up to 12 people, or three tables. Though most have played some bridge, it has been a long time since hands were dealt. Therefore a person of patience and humor is needed. Contact Amy Cady at the Library (672-6874) if you are interested in teaching and/or joining. Sessions will start in January.

Three by Tenn, an evening of short plays by Tennessee Williams (plus a surprise), will be staged by the Town Hall Players on Saturday, December 1, at 8 P.M., and Sunday, December 2, at 5 P.M. at the Town Hall. The works will be minimally staged—“a director’s workshop,” says director Fred Thaler. Pay at the door: $7.50 for adults and $5 for seniors and playgoers under 12.

A Book Fair sponsored by Barnes & Noble will be held at CCS by the PTA between Monday and Friday, December 10 to 14, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily. Adult bestsellers and new releases, children’s and teens’ books, calendars, educational games, holiday music, and bar-

The Annual Winter Bird Count will take place on Sunday, December 16. This census makes for “a pleasant walk, pleasant talk,” and some heavy-duty counting of the feathered population. Anyone willing to do a feeder bird count or willing to participate in the town-wide bird count should call Celia Senzer at 672-6898.

The Town Meeting on December 14 at 7:30 P.M. in the Gathering Room at CCS will vote on a proposal to join six other towns in a regional planning initiative supported by $10,000 in state funds. The hope is to reduce local taxes for projects such as economic development or housing by using a regional approach.

Annual Carol Sing and Tree Lighting will be hosted by Park & Rec. on Saturday, December 15, at 6 P.M. in front of the Town Hall. Bring your best voice to sing with the Hot Chocolate Society band. Refreshments will be served.

Transfer Station Tips: To avoid long lines after Christmas, Fred Bate and Steve O’Neil suggest: (1) Make more than one dump run over the course of Christmas week; (2) Save wrapping paper and packaging for the week’s end; (3) Re-sort all recyclables at home in order to save time in line; and (4) Remember that wrapping paper and greeting cards are not recyclable and are to be disposed of in the household garbage.

Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the UCC Parish House on Bolton Hill Road on Thursday, December 20, from 1:30 to 6:15 P.M. Walk-ins are welcome; however, to avoid a possible wait, please call to schedule a time. Allow one hour in all. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health. To register to donate blood or request further information, call the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE LIFE or Jerry and Pat Blakey at 672-6516.

Food, Fuel, and Medical Help are necessities for all of us, and the demand for assistance among townspeople is growing. People wishing to help their neighbors may send tax-deductible donations to the town’s Cornwall Food and Fuel Fund at P.O. Box 205, Cornwall, CT 06753. Substantial donations to the fund last winter made a real difference, especially after CL&P raised its rates in early spring. If you’re looking for the perfect gift, think of giving to the fund in honor of a parent, a sibling, or a neighbor.

A Concert and Pot-Luck Supper to raise funds for former Cornwall resident Pat Quinn, who is facing cancer, will be held on Saturday, December 29, at UCC. Call Elaine Whiteside for details at 672-1057.

The Iraq Moratorium meeting will hear David Cadwell speak on “Support Our Troops: Beyond the Bumper Sticker” at the Town Hall on Friday, December 21, at 7 P.M. Discussion and refreshments will follow. The Iraq Moratorium, a national movement, saves the third Thursday of every month to offer programs promoting understanding about the effects of the war. Call 672-6089 for more information.

The Christmas Pageant will be held at UCC on Saturday, December 15, at 7:30 P.M. (snow date: Sunday, December 16). “White Gifts,” a new toy wrapped in white paper, will be collected to give to a local shelter. Refreshments will be served after the pageant. Those interested in playing a shepherd, an angel, or one of the wise men (and anyone with questions) should call Jane Prentice at 672-6101.

The 9th Annual Pancake Breakfast will be served on Tuesday, January 1, from 8:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. The menu features buttermilk pancakes, local maple syrup, sausage, cereal, milk, orange juice, coffee, and tea. The breakfast benefits the La Casa Project, which built four homes this past year for the very poor in Northern Mexico.

End-of-Year Giving
We feel a little shy asking, but we hope that the Chronicle’s coupon is in your pile of end-of-year donations. You know, the one you’re planning to deal with before New Year’s Day? If you can’t find that coupon, there’s another one just below. And the very best of holidays to us all!

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