Youth Issue

This month’s Chronicle is our second annual youth edition, featuring essays about Cornwall by several CCS students and two HVRHS graduates. The editors would like to give special thanks to Will Vincent at CCS for his help in soliciting the student contributions and to Amelia de Neergaard of the CCS Fund for Excellence for facilitating the production of this issue.

Younger by 40

If you know me, you might know that I have attended almost every Board of Education meeting for the past two years. Why? Honestly, I ask myself that question every time I walk through the door. But in all seriousness, I go to most of the meetings and I don’t regret it. What you may not know is that I also attend many of the “major” local town meetings, as well as sit on a planning and zoning subcommittee.

Right about now you might be thinking “even I have a better social life than that kid.” But, don’t jump to conclusions. I also get up every Sunday at 8 a.m. to sing in the church choir at the local UCC. So, needless to say, my social calendar is pretty booked.

So why did I just share my exciting social life with you all? I promise it was not to make you jealous. It’s because I realized that all these things share a common factor: I happen to be the youngest person in the room by usually 30 years. Now, I’m used to that, and the number actually edges closer to 40 when you hang around Cornwall. To some, this may not sound ideal, as we would all love to see more young people in this area. But I don’t think that this is a problem. In fact, I find myself lucky. Maybe it’s the un-proportional number of retired folks I hang out with, or maybe it’s just the nature of Region One, but I have never felt more cared for by a community. Even though I often am the youngest person in a room, being involved in my community has been well worth it. The adults in our town hold an abundance of knowledge. Sometimes it’s obscure knowledge, like learning how the residents of Cornwall used to store meat in the winter by dangling it from beneath the Covered Bridge. Being involved has opened opportunities from jobs to friendships and everything in between. It has given me an appreciation for my community that goes beyond words.

This being said, I urge each and everyone, each and every high school student, to get involved in your town, in your community, whether you plan on staying here the rest of your life, or getting out as soon as you can. While you are here, join a town committee, volunteer at a blood drive, become a member of the volunteer ambulance squad, or just go to a town event that you have never attended. Be the only person in the room who doesn’t remember the moon landing. Either way, I promise you, everyone there will be glad to see you and supportive in ways you didn’t know you needed.

—Dean Saccardi

A Mass Snap of Your Forehead

When makers of social media platforms were designing their apps, questions like how will teenagers use our apps and who will be posting on our platforms had to be answered. However, their answers differ from how teens actually use their apps.

On Instagram, you can scroll and like pictures of your friend’s dog on a beach, but you’d rather stalk the accounts of your brother’s cute friends or constantly check how many likes you got on your recent post. On Snapchat, you can update your bestie with a six-second picture of your lunch, but you’d rather send a mass snap of your forehead to your 23 streaks—people you’ve probably never had a real conversation with before. VSC was made so photographers’ personal portfolios could

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On the second day we went on the cannons and memorials. battle and were amazed by the beautiful Harrisburg, where we learned a lot about the war. We also went to a baseball game. There, we could conclude that the food was good and that four home runs were intriguing to watch. We also toured the MLK and the FDR memorials. On the third day we went to a lot of Smithsonian museums and had incredible tours and experiences at Lincoln Memorial and several war memorials. Our tour guide for the memorials was Ruth Epstein’s daughter Jennifer Epstein. She shared a ton of information with us and made the experience special in a local way.

On the fourth day we went to Hershey Park. We all had a blast and almost everyone enjoyed wearing their new Hershey Park merchandise.

Here are some of the eighth-graders’ favorite parts of the class trip: 1) the White Sox winning 5-0 in the first two innings and then the Nationals coming back 9-5 with all the home runs; 2) the monuments we saw, Hershey Park, new Sharon friends, basically everything; 3) lemonade, Papa Sash, ridin’ the big boy roller coasters, Air and Space Museum, and Wiggles; 4) going to all the monuments and the baseball game; 5) hanging out with Sharon.

—Melody Matsudaira and Thea West

Bear Chronicles

As lifelong Cornwallians know, the bear population around our town is very high. But if you are new here, you will quickly be introduced to picking up the garbage that has been spilled all over your front lawn. I have had to do that way too many times!

My name is Aramis, a CCS eighth-grade student. Over the past years I have had many bears visit my house. Sometimes when a bear visits, I need to keep my brothers and sisters safe, but mostly it is a matter of getting the bear away from the garbage and ducks/chickens, encouraging it to leave. Our usual ways include firecrackers, car horns, off-road lawn mowers, and spreading bleach on the trash.

Bears don’t act like teddy bears. My Uncle Peter did not get as much corn because they destroyed a large amount of it. Also, the wrapped round bales of hay are often targets. They also like scaring cows which, in turn, make the cows destroy the fence.

Bears remind us of our closeness with nature, but don’t make good visitors. They are much nicer when they are not at your house or in your trash. —Aramis Oyanadel

Consolidated Sports

Region One has some small schools. That can be tricky when it comes to putting together a sports team. Last year Cornwall joined with the Kellogg School in Falls Village for soccer, softball, and basketball. They were called “Corn Village” or “KC.” This year, we also combined with Kellogg and Sharon for soccer. The team called itself “KCS.”

It is fun being with kids from other schools and practicing and competing with them. You get to know a wider range of people. Then when you visit for things like dances, you already know more people. By the time we get to high school, we will already be embedded within a community of students.

Practice locations for soccer were at Foote Fields last year. This year soccer was at Sharon, where it took a while to get the goals set up and the fields didn’t drain well after raining. The bus ride to get to practices is annoying because sometimes we have to...
take the whole bus route first, and also Sharon is about 20 minutes away. A couple of times Cornwall athletes would have to be dismissed early to get to games on time.

The teams have been pretty successful. Some have even been the Region One champions. However, it is confusing when it comes to what schools get to have the trophies and/or banners.

We should keep combining with other schools. Maybe we could mix up where the practices are, but overall it’s a positive experience and in some ways even better than just one town by itself.

—Dana Saccardi and Jimmy Villa Arpi

Cell Phones: To Use or Not?

In this age of technology, it’s beginning to become a social norm to have your phone at school. But should a student be permitted to use it? On the one hand, phones are one of the most useful devices that can be used to find information and transmit messages in a heartbeat. But they are also one of the most prominent tools of distraction we’ve created in the past century. Allowing phone usage in school could result in a huge decrease in productivity and focus, which would be a loss to education. A good compromise might be to allow particular apps, but prohibit social media.

Cornwall Consolidated School has some stricter phone rules. We are not allowed to have our phones out without permission unless we have an important reason, such as research or relaying data. The penalty for having your phone out during class is generally having it taken away until the end of the day, but repeat offenders may have them taken right at the beginning of the day.

If used correctly, cell phones could be perfect for relaying information quickly or taking photos of important documents or projects. We just have to come to a compromise between student and teacher. Cell phones may be permitted more in the future, but, for now, they remain prohibited.

—Harry Sanders

The Coyote Chronicle

Some third graders at CCS created a Coyote Chronicle, a newsletter about events at our school. Kids in the class interviewed people who had particular information about specific topics, like Mr. Croft, who told us about being a principal, and Mrs. Munson, who knew about the guinea pig.

In the Coyote Chronicle, we each wrote an article and a puzzle. The types of puzzles are: Sudoku, crossword, Word Search, and Word Scramble. In addition, we took pictures for our articles. Then, Mr. Vincent and Ms. Law put them into a newsletter. After that we gave every family in the school a copy.

Third-graders started this project back in September. Travis Barber says, “I really liked interviewing people.”

—Lily C. Danforth Gold and Dominic J. Nicol

Nights at Mohawk

In the winter, Mohawk Mountain is a fun place to be at night. The lights are turned on at 4 P.M. and the mountain closes at 10 P.M.

The lights are very good. You can see just fine. The ski patrol is out a lot more at night to make sure everyone is safe. But you do have to be a little bit more careful when out at night. Kids are allowed on the slopes at night, but you usually see them there with their parents. There are a lot more skiers than snowboarders at Mohawk in general, and at night it seems to be the case even more so.

Some slopes are closed at night: Route 100 is closed, Deer Run, Pinnacle, Ledges, Rapids and Chute. Those are favorite trails for a lot of people, so with only the major trails available at night, some people may feel annoyed. But Pine Lodge, the restaurant, is popular at night. It is a good place to rest and regain your energy after a day on the slopes.

It is also fun to be at Mohawk at night because skiers and snowboarders get really focused on the trail in front of them, and the outside world feels far away.

Hudson Sebranek recalls a memorable nighttime ski experience: “One time at night, my friend and I were skiing on Arrowhead Trail. We were about to turn onto Exhibition, and we both wanted to hit a jump. But since it was night, I was focusing my sight on the jump. Then, out of nowhere, my ski hit a small rock. That was enough. Since I was going fast, one of my skis fell off, I started rolling, and my other ski fell off. I rolled into the jump. My friend brought me my ski. We were both laughing very hard. I put my skis back on, and, after we could stop laughing about it, we continued as if it never happened.”

—Hudson Sebranek and Wyatt Rose

Region One Dances

Region One dances are fun, recreational activities. They are an opportunity for middle school students from Cornwall, Falls Village, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, and Kent to mingle and make some new pals. Each school hosts one dance a year. The high school will usually host another one or two dances. They are usually well attended.

For most of the time, no one really dances. Calling it a dance isn’t really accurate. For the most part, the “dancers” just talk with friends and there is really loud music playing in the background.

However, students do have a good time listening to music. Some popular songs at most of the dances are “Cotton Eye Joe” and the “Cha Cha Slide.” These songs actually get most people dancing because there is a certain move you do during the songs, and they’re easy to figure out.

There are always enough people so they are very popular. I think the dances are very positive for students in Region One.

—Peter Gorat

Pros and Cons of Chatting Apps

Many kids nowadays have phones and social media accounts on those phones, ranging from a chatting app, such as Snapchat, to an app where you can view posts, such as Instagram. There are also many apps where you can chat anonymously, such as Lipsi. All social media apps have pros and cons.

Snapchat allows you to send pictures or messages to your “friends” or people who’ve accepted a friend request from you or vice versa. The chats between people are deleted after you exit the chat, and this is where there can be problems. Many people think they can say anything or send anything since chats are automatically deleted, but in fact chats can be screenshotted or saved. This can worry people, especially parents, and their fears are not necessarily unfounded. Still, using Snapchat you can easily communicate with other people, show others what you are doing, and see what celebrities are up to.

Apps like Snapchat and Instagram were made to unify people. The downsides are mostly fixable. Some people might send bad messages or mean things to people over social media, but if you see something like that going on, report it. Social media is a place where users express their feelings, whether good or bad.

—Wolf Shepard and Ellie Sanders

Congratulations 2019 Grads

Graduation has recently passed and the Chronicle would like to congratulate and recognize all the Cornwall students who have made the leap into a new chapter of their lives.

Saying goodbye to CCS is Nathan Benjamin (Kent School), Peter Gorat (Oliver Wolcott Tech), Quinn Hedden (the Gunnery), Evan Jeans (IMS), Spencer Markow (HVRHS), Melody (Matsudaira (HVRHS), Aramis Oyanadel (HVRHS), Cameron Rose (HVRHS), Ellie Sanders (HVRHS), Harry Sanders (HVRHS), Wolf Shepard (Avon Old Farm), and Thea West (Westover).

The following graduated from HVRHS: Amelia Budny, Caleb Shpur (Endicott College), Caroline Hurlburt (Curry College), Dean Saccardi (Manhattan College), Donovan McCray (Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences), Kaitlyn Buckley (Western Connecticut State University), Kit Fitch, Lancelot Oyanadel, Manuela Matsudaira (Rhode Island School of Design), Nicholas O’Neil, Emma Seplon (Uni-
Events & Announcements

For updates, changes, and additions, check the online calendar at cornwallchronicle.org or cornwallchronicle.ct (it is the same calendar). And for reminders, see the Chronicle Facebook page.

Taxes Due July 1: The first half payment of taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2018, is due July 1, 2019. Taxes not in excess of $100 and motor vehicle taxes shall be due and payable in full on July 1, 2019. Payments must be postmarked by August 1, 2019, to avoid interest. Any tax bills not paid by August 1, 2019, will be considered delinquent, with interest charged at 1.5 percent per month and fraction thereof, including July (if you pay on August 2 you will be charged two months’ interest.) No additional bills will be mailed for second installments; please use July bill. Taxes may be paid at the tax office Mondays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m., or by mail to Tax Collector, P.O. Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753; or pay online at cornwallct.org (it is the same calendar). For reminders, see the Chronicle online calendar at cornwallchronicle.org or cornwallchronicle.org.

What’s the Word? Wait no longer for an outlet for your creativity. At our monthly meeting we choose a word and return the next month with a drawing, poem, song, or whatever we’ve created to depict it. July’s word is LACUNA. Next meeting is at 11 a.m. on Monday, July 1, in the Cornwall Library community room. Questions? Contact Connie Steuerwalt at 672-2861 or csteuerwalt@gmail.com.

Standup Paddle Board Yoga at Hammond Beach on July 6, 20, and 27 at 11 a.m.

Community Dance at 7 p.m. on July 6 at the town hall, with caller Rachel Gall and music by Betsy’s Band. Suggested donation $5-

A Very Stable Paper

Erratic weather and a volatile stock market may give you the jitters, but the Chronicle is there for you regularly every month. Help us keep up the tradition by donating generously.

child, $10-15/adult. Contact Debra@Motherhouse.us or 672-0229. No partners needed, no experience necessary.

At the Cornwall Library

Saturday, July 6, at 10 a.m.: Children’s Sing Along with the Music Collar’s Jonny.

Roxana Robinson will read from her novel Dateless on July 6 at 5 p.m.

“Homer’s Odyssey”: the second of two discussions led by Franny Taliaferro will be held on July 13 at 11 a.m. RSVP.

On July 27 at 4 p.m., Robin Foster will talk about her biography of Carl Van Doren.

Children’s Reading Challenge: see cornwalllibrary.org/childrens-programs.

Donations of artwork, photographs, and posters are being accepted for the Labor Day Art Sale. Drop off during library hours or call to arrange pick up.

To RSVP to an event or for info visit the library website, cornwalllibrary.org or contact cornwalllibrary@biblio.org or 672-6874.

Welles Preserve Hike: Meet at trailhead on Saturday, July 6, at 11 a.m.; hike guided by Sachem Hawkstorm, head of the Schaghticoke First Nation.

Remembering the Tornado of 1989. Join the Cornwall Historical Society for two events on NWCT regional forest ecology. On July 6 at 4 p.m., Bart Jones will give a talk on Cornwall’s forests today. On July 13 at 1 p.m., Peter Del Tredici will lead a hike in the Cathedral Pines to discuss forest regrowth processes since the tornado.

A conversation with “connectivity” experts will take place on July 11 at 7 p.m. at the town hall to discuss WIFI, broadband, 5G, fiber optics, microcells, municipal gain, radio frequency radiation, etc.

Trinity Retreat Center: Outdoor movies at dusk with Mr. Softee ice cream: July 13, 19, 26.

Outdoor movies at Cornwall’s Beach: July 20, 27.


A special town meeting will be held on July 26 at 7 p.m. at CCS to authorize preliminary expenditures of up to $10,000. (See insert.)

Grimbling Gryphons Theater Arts Camp will be held at the town hall from July 29 to August 2 and from August 5 to 10. Call Leslie Elias at 672-0286; or email grimblinggryphons@gmail.com.

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Ruin the Wind,” continues at the Cornwall Library. At the Southerain Gallery in West Cornwall, Shauna MacDavid’s show, “Trees,” also is on view Thursday to Sunday. The Toll House Gallery continues showcasing paintings by Lenard Swede Ahstrom, landscape photographs by Ian Ingersoll, and works by Don Bracken, Monday to Saturday.

Rose Algrant Show entry forms must be received by July 25; late entries not considered. Visit rosealgrantartshow.org.

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