The Cornwall Conservation Trust has closed on its purchase of 315 acres of land from Trinity Church Wall Street. The forest in West Cornwall rises above the Housatonic River for over a mile and is CCT’s largest acquisition in both acreage and investment. The $715,000 purchase price was raised from private donors and a large state grant.

CCT hopes to create walking trails and a new parking area in the near future. It was also announced that Trinity has given up plans to sell the remaining property and buildings and will reopen in the fall as a conference center. —The Editors

**Trinity Forest Preserved**

In 2011, Adam Van Doren was having drinks with his friend, historian David McCullough, when David asked, “Adam, have you ever thought of painting the homes of the American presidents?” Adam recently talked about the book at the library. “I don’t work from photographs,” he said, and so he spent several days or more at each site painting and soaking up the atmosphere and the emotions each home evoked.

He was painting Washington’s stately manor, Mount Vernon, on a near-100-degree July day when he took a break on the shady veranda overlooking the Potomac. His thoughts went to the slave quarters 200 yards away, where Washington’s slaves endured the heat from dawn to dusk seven days a week. At his last visit to FDR’s estate at Hyde Park, Adam spent a quiet moment beside Franklin and Eleanor’s tombstones in the rose garden. He wrote to McCullough that when he arrived home I received an invitation from the Roosevelts to my grandparents Mark and Dorothy to a reception following Roosevelt’s inauguration on January 20, 1945. The president would die only three months later.

At Jefferson’s Monticello: “My first instinct was to avoid the rear elevation, a view so well known it appears on the back of a nickel. I chose instead the side view, which is equally pleasing. It’s the ultimate compliment to an architect that his creation is engaging from every angle.”

Teddy Roosevelt’s Sagamore Hill is an elegantly designed Queen Anne house, “not what people would expect from the swashbuckling hunter of big game.” But the living room is “pure man-cave, like some back room of a Bull Moose gathering. Hunting trophies line the walls and animal skins cover the floors. Where was my Panama hat and machete, after all?”

Not all homes were grand. Harry Truman’s modest house sits on a small lot in Independence, Missouri. When Adam visited, he replicated one of Harry’s daily walks and stopped for an egg cream at the soda shop where Truman once worked. The Park Service has preserved every item at the house: “down to the cracked linoleum on the kitchen floor.”

When Adam approached our living presidents, only Bill Clinton failed to respond. The most gracious were the Bushes.
especially George W., who invited Adam on condition that he give him a painting lesson. (Adam teaches watercolor painting at Yale.) The result was four friendly days at the Crawford, Texas, ranch, “a discreet eco-friendly structure,” where the two men practiced and discussed art. “He has talent,” Adam said, “I was especially impressed by an image of his dog.” (Like Fala, W’s dog Barney is a Scottish terrier, whom Putin once famously disses: “You call that a dog? Mine is much bigger.”)

Copies of this lovely and literate historical tour are available at the Wish House, or, if you must, from Amazon.

—Ed Ferman

What Now?

It’s June and time for 35 students in Cornwall to move on from ten different schools. Graduation ceremonies will be held at CCS on June 13 and at Housatonic Valley Regional High School on June 14.

Graduating from CCS and entering HVRHS next fall are: Myah Baird, Zady Bevans, Lucas Calhoun, Madison Clark, Ian Danforth-Gold, Derek Elias, Danielle Gorat, Trevor Hampson, Zyaja Huggan, Luke Mollica, Arieh Saed, Daniel Saed, Jordan Shaw, Juan Vanicky, and Mason Weigold. Odin Beardsley and Haley Trapella will attend Marvelwood School, Sage Shepard is heading to Miss Porter’s School, and Daniel Tyson is off to Kent School. Isabel O’Connell will graduate from Washington Montessori.

And now to the senior citizens (title lifted from Daniel Ginger’s 1995 Chronicle graduation article!), the Class of 2016. HVRHS graduates are: Kianan Huggan, University of Connecticut; Jacob Hurlburt, Lincoln Technical Institute; Chelsea Kears, Paul Smith’s College; Patrick Kelly; Zackery Larson, U.S. Army; Marina Matsuda, Harvard College; Brittany Pinette, Naugatuck Valley Community College; and Malcolm Scott, Chapman University.

Other New England schools that will also be holding late spring graduations: Anna D’Alvia, Choate Rosemary Hall to Bard College; Sam Hurlburt, South Kent School to Eastern Connecticut State University; Ethan Estern Jadow, Forman School to University of Oregon; Cian Kalmes, Kent School to Syracuse University; Eve Lalbalme, Hotchkiss School to Middlebury College; Elsie Pryor, Brooks School to the University of Vermont School of Nursing; and Sam Thaler is enrolled in a postgraduate program at Hyde High School.

The Chronicle sends congratulations and best wishes to all the graduates as you follow new paths.

—Susan Francisco

Heading for Summer Camp?

With summer vacation just around the corner, camp can be a real boredom buster. This summer there are several in-town day camps for children. The most you’ll need to pack is a snack and a lunch and there is less risk of homesickness!

The Cornwall Free Library will be offering two weeks of day camp (see “At the Cornwall Library” in this month’s E&As). Camp Eureka will be offering three weeks of camp (one in June, one in July, and one in August). Contact Tal@CampEureka.us for registration questions.

The Grumbling Gryphons summer camp runs from June 27 through July 4 and is open to children ages 6 to 16. Contact Leslie Elias at 672-0286 or grumblinggryphons@gmail.com.

The Cornwall Child Center will offer a camp that runs for up to eight weeks for children ages 3 to 6. Contact Amy Bresson at info@cornwallchildcenter.org.

One camp, Art Lab (with Amelia Deneer and Danielle Maier), is already full! Next summer a second week may be added to this camp.

—Erin Hedden

Cornwall Briefs

• Graduations: CCS on Monday, June 13, at 6 p.m.; HVRHS on Tuesday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m.

• Primary Results: For the record, here’s how Cornwall voted in the April 26 presidential primary: Democrats: Sanders 199 (58.3 percent), Clinton 141 (41.3 percent); Republicans: Trump 54 (52 percent); Kasich 43 (41 percent), Cruz 7 (7 percent).

• New Tax Bill Look: Tax Collector Jean Bouteiller reports: “In an effort to reduce costs and streamline procedures in the tax collector’s office, this year’s tax bills are scheduled to be mailed in two instalments: the first of which will be mailed the week of June 6 and the second the week of June 20. Town residents should receive both bills in the same mailing. It is our hope that having two instalments will help prevent the unnecessary mailing of bills to abandoned properties, abandoned vehicles, and multiple owners of real estate and motor vehicles under the same name.

Thank you for being a responsible tax payer and for mailing us your payments on time. Those who have an online account with the tax collector’s office can access their bills by logging into their account at ct.e Taxpayer.com. Those who do not have an online account may contact the tax collector’s office at 860-674-2611 ext. 21 or 22 for assistance.”

• A Referendum will be held at town hall, 24 Pine Street, on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., for the purpose of voting on the following question: “Shall Regional School District Number 1 appropriate $5,760,000 for the 2016 Housatonic Valley Regional High School renovation projects, and authorize the issue of bonds and notes to finance the portion of the appropriation not defrayed by grants (estimated grants of approximately $1,456,000)?” Absentee ballots and the full text of the resolution adopted by the Region 1 Board of Education are available in the town clerk’s office, Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

• Future Bus: That would be the one we are going to share with Goshen. The two towns will work out its operation this summer, and it should be taking folks to medical appointments and be available for shopping and occasional trips by the fall.

• Cornwall Summer Projects:

1. A joint venture with HVA to build a small parking area, boat ramp, and public toilet south of the Hughes Library on land owned by Ever-source (being negotiated).

2. Cornwall Bridge crosswalk on Route 7 in the area of the hardware store and the Country Market. The state has a contractor for the project who is expected to arrive in town this month with a proposal.

3. Construction of one or two hydrants in the area of the Route 7 bridge to draw water out of the Housatonic for use by the fire department.

—John Miller

Goodbye to Friends

Earl C. Thitchener, Sr.
Tandy Nuese Van Doren

Land Transfers

Anne Frieze, Conservator for the Estate of Dorothy D. Card, to Jameson Secco, land with buildings and improvements thereon at 52 River Road, for $128,000.

Everett A. Van Dorn to Aaron Landman, 18.314 acres of land with all buildings and improvements thereon at 175 Dibble Hill Road, for $400,000.

Everett A. Van Dorn to Henry M. Blodget and Amy P. Zilliak, 12.674 acres of land of Dibble Hill Road, for $300,000.

Trinity Episcopal Center Association, Inc. to Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc., 304.5904 acres on Lower River Road and Dibble Hill Road, for $715,000.

Cornwall Trinity

River Road Trail

In the early days of the settling of Cornwall, West Cornwall and Cornwall Bridge were linked by a road that ran along the east side of the Housatonic River. For many years it was the only direct road between the two Cornwalls. Then, in 1842, the railroad bisected the river road. In 1864 the covered bridge and what is now Route 7 offered an alternate route between the two villages, and the old road fell into diminished use.
Correction

The story “Benefit for the Dolan Family” in the May issue of the Chronicle did not correctly assign credit for the event. It was organized by Brian Lynch, Al Kinsella, Russ Murdock, and Bill Dinneen. The Cornwall Agricultural Commission was in charge of the buffet and dessert table. The Chronicle regrets this error.

Events & Announcements

Senior Events

Free spring social for Northwest Corner towns at the Grove in Lakeville, Friday, June 3, at noon. Buffet lunch, door prizes, bingo. Reservations: call or email Mike Beck, 860-435-5191 or mbbeck@salisburyct.us.

Senior bus trip to the Norman Rockwell Museum is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7; bus leaving from UCC at 9:30 a.m. and returning at 2:30 p.m. Admission to the museum is $16. Lunch can be purchased at its Terrace Cafe, or bring your own. RSVP to Jen at Park & Rec by June 1, 672-4071. That means call her TODAY!

Free Blood Pressure Clinic, Monday, June 13, noon to 1 p.m. at the UCC Day Room. For info contact VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000 or vnaww.org.

The monthly senior luncheon will be held on Tuesday, June 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wandering Moose Cafe. Newcomers are especially welcome at this monthly mixer. No reservations necessary.

More on Frontier

I loved reading “The Hills of Cornwall” [Chronicle, April 2016]. As a fellow Cornwall cyclist, I must say that Terry Burke has described the most diabolical series of hills imaginable. I was huffing and puffing just reading the route he put his friend through. I wonder if his guest will ever return to Cornwall.

—Jeff Morgan

Letters to the Chronicle

ART @ THE DUMP 2016

The road crew members are the real heroes of Art @ the Dump, as they cleared the mountains of sand and gravel from the shed just in time for this year’s show. Chilly temperatures in the morning made way for sun and warmth later on, bringing with it waves of art lovers for our 16th year. The artists outdid themselves with everything from shoes to bird baths.

Speaking of shoes, this year’s extra added attraction was “Shoe ReDo.” The seventh grade at CCS led the participation with a collection of altered shoes that were nothing short of amazing. Richard Griggs wowed us with red loafers atop blue springs (“Spring in your Step”), while Aaron Pequignot’s silver spoons fashioned into a demure low heel seemed to give new meaning to the saying “born with a silver spoon in your mouth” (or on your foot?).

James Hackett (Salisbury) won first place with his welded horse sculpture. Gail Jacobson (Cornwall) took second with her Salt Shaker Chandeliers, and Marilyn Olsen (Cornwall) captured third with her collection of papier-mâché animals.

See you next year on April 22nd & 23rd. —Gail Jacobson

OUR BLESSED EMSEMS

March 11, 2016, started out just fine. A Friday playing hooky from my day job while spending time with my brother Bill splitting firewood. Suddenly this perfect day turned into a dreadful nightmare. My brother collapsed, failing to exhibit any vital signs and rapidly losing any semblance of color other than a scary blue.

Stephen Scoville, standing beside him, thought at first he just hit his head falling. We soon discovered otherwise when Joyce Hart arrived and immediately administered CPR. Fred Scoville was moments behind and quickly applied shock therapy before an ambulance took Bill to Sharon Hospital. Clunes looked bleak as a waiting helicopter carried his unresponsive passenger to St Francis in Hartford and its renowned regional cardiac trauma center. After 24 hours on a life support system, the cardiologist braced us to prepare for the worst. All the vital signs suggested that medical science had done what could be done. The waiting game commenced.

After two long days with family gathered around, the unexpected happened: first one eye twitched and then the other opened. The tide had turned and the healing process began. Five days later, Bill was back home in Holyoke, Massachusetts, waiting to resume his active and purposeful life.

The expert medical team at St Francis gave all the credit to our Cornwall first responders. Timing and proper medical protocols were what saved Bill’s life. Without their immediate response and expertise, all the technology and science in Hartford would have been for naught.

On May 28th, the extended Cain family is gathering at the farm to celebrate Bill’s 75th birthday. Our “guests of honor” will be Stephen, Fred, and Joyce, so each can experience firsthand the appreciation and gratitude from our extended family. Hats off to Cornwall for attracting, supporting, and nurturing dedicated neighbors who populate our EMS. We have a lot to be proud of in Cornwall, and that community pride begins with EMS. Thank you all for defining the spirit of “good neighbors.”

—The Cain Family

Hedgerows Farm MORE ON FRONTIER

I read the article in last month’s Chronicle entitled “Had Your Fiber Today?” by Matt Collins, and a few things struck me. First of all, there was no mention of NWConnect, a group led by Sharon Selectperson Jessica Fouler, that has been working incredibly hard to bring a solution, not only for Internet, but for cellular service as well. Also, for anything this complex to be “up and running” in a year is extremely optimistic—the legal review of a proposal and the negotiations could take quite a while. Thirdly, there was no discussion of a regional approach, where 21 towns (or as many towns as possible) could share the costs, which is what NWConnect is advocating, and a large group of towns collectively sharing costs/risks is a lot more palatable to taxpayers. Not that we don’t want episodes of Bosch (starring local celeb Titus Welliver) to stream faster, but there are many angles and potential paths to consider.

—Janet Carlson Sanders

A CORNWALL CYCLIST WEIGHS IN

I loved reading “The Hills of Cornwall” [Chronicle, April 2016]. As a fellow Cornwall cyclist, I must say that Terry Burke has described the most diabolical series of hills imaginable. I was huffing and puffing just reading the route he put his friend through. I wonder if his guest will ever return to Cornwall.

—Jeff Morgan
lead a bike ride through several scenic Cornwall cemeteries on Saturday, June 4, at 10 a.m. The tour will consist of an initial loop of 12 miles and an optional second loop of 14 miles. Bring a helmet and water. See insert for starting place and time; contact Terry at 860-619-8013 for more details.

An opening reception for “Artists and Authors,” an exhibit celebrating Cornwall’s rich artistic history, will take place at CHS on Friday, June 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served; admission is free.

New England Country Dance, Saturday, June 4, 7 p.m., at town hall. Live music by Still, the Homegrown Band, with contras, circles, and squares called by Rachel Gall. All ages, skill levels, and left feet welcome. Donation requested to pay the caller. For more information contact Jane Prentice at 672-6101 or motherhouse.us.

Music Mountain invites Cornwall residents to a free concert on Saturday, June 4, at 5 p.m. Peter Askin, noted composer and conductor, and his graduate music students, will be holding demonstrations for CCS students at the school the week before the concert.

Hazardous Waste Day: Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to noon. Bring your waste to the Falls Village garage just off Route 7. Preregistration required: call 672-4959.

At the Cornwall Library
Screening of Shallow Waters: The Public Death of Raymond Zack, a film by Jaime Longhi, June 4, 5:30 to 7 p.m., followed by a Q&A with the director and mental health experts on depression and suicide. No charge; donations will benefit the Cornwall Food and Fuel Bank.

Zumba at the Library: a six-week course beginning Tuesday, June 7, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. $10 per class. Registration not required. For more information: 672-6874.

Emigration
Results of the primaries got you down? Thinking of moving to Canada? The Chronicle can be mailed to any out-of-town or foreign address for a donation of only $15 a year.

Books and Blooms talk and reception, June 17 at 5:30 p.m. Garden tour June 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. $50 for all three events. (See insert in this issue.)

Summer camp for kids entering first through fourth grade. Two weeks; first week is June 20 to June 24; second week is August 22 to 26. 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. $15 per half day. Contact the Cornwall Library for details. (860) 672-6874.

Joseph Daniel Sobol, a storyteller, music-maker, folklorist, and author, will perform three unique concerts in Cornwall on Tuesday, June 7. The first two will take place at CCS; the third will be an evening performance for adults at the Elias-Saed home from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sobol will perform Jack and the Last Gal, a two-act fantasia based on Appalachian wonder tale themes and replete with original and traditional songs. For reservations contact Leslie Elias at 672-0286 or email gryphons@gmail.com. Suggested donation $12.

Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the United Church of Christ, 8 Bolton Hill Road, on Tuesday, June 7, from 1 to 5 p.m. Blood will be drawn on the Save-A-Life Bus, but the great refreshments will still be served in the UCC Parish House. For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit online at redcrossblood.org.

Art in Cornwall
At the Southerain Gallery, the exhibit “Elemental,” with works by Richard Griggs, opens with an artist reception on Saturday, June 11, from 3 to 6 p.m.

The following exhibits will continue through June: “Moments in Flora,” by Krista Narciso (at the Cornwall Library); “Wood Carvings of North American Waters and Woods,” by Duke Besozzi (Parish House); “Migration Series and Beyond,” by Gay Shemp (Covered Bridge Gallery); works by Richard Griggs (National Iron Bank); paintings by Curtis Hanson, new works by Don Bracken, and sculpture by Dan Murray (Toll House Gallery).

Book Signing: On Saturday, June 11, from 10 a.m. to noon, the Farmers’ Market will host a book signing for Sally Cook and her new book, How to Speak Golf.

The Morris Dancers will make their annual appearance at the covered bridge in West Cornwall on Saturday, June 11, at approximately 3:40 p.m.

Annual Town Beach Party: Hosted by Park & Rec, at the Cream Hill Lake Association, Friday, June 17, at 7 p.m. Franks and burgers provided; bring a side dish.

Hammond Beach will open for the summer on Friday, June 17. Passes ($20) are available immediately at the selectmen’s office.

Community CPR Class: CVFD will be holding a free CPR class for Cornwall residents on June 22 at 7 p.m. at the West Cornwall Firehouse. Participants must be age 14 or older. Space is limited. Please email Cornwallvfd@gmail.com by June 15 to save your spot.

June is for the Dogs: The state of Connecticut requires that all dogs six months of age or older be licensed annually on or before June 30 in the town clerk’s office in the town where the dog is owned or kept. Licenses will become available on June 1. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be submitted or be on file. Neutered or spayed dogs cost $8, and male or female dogs cost $19. For a neutered or spayed dog being licensed for the first time, a certificate from a licensed veterinarian must be presented. Penalties apply for late registration. If you register by mail, enclose a SASE for return of tag and license; otherwise the town clerk’s office is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Eleventh Annual Artists’ Open Studio: Saturday, July 2, noon to 5 p.m. For a list of participating artists, directions to their studios, and a map, go to cornwallart.org one week before the event and click “Links,” then “Artists & Writers.”

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