Housing Hassle

The Planning and Zoning Commission has put off until its Sept. 14 meeting a decision on the Cornwall Housing Corporation's request for approval of an affordable housing site on Town Street. The delay was agreed on to give members time to review documents submitted by Hartford lawyer Susan Hays.

Ms. Hays urged P&Z at an Aug. 3 public hearing to reject the Town Street site. She said she was appearing on behalf of "Jeff Gordon and a few other Town Street residents who are so conspicuously absent." They stayed away, she said, to avoid any "mudslinging."

Ms. Hays is representing Jeffrey and Vivian Gordon and Eugene and Susan Flamm in a lawsuit against P&Z, CHC, and the Town of Cornwall. The suit charges that Cornwall's affordable-housing regulations violate state law, are unconstitutionally vague, and deprive Cornwall residents of their constitutional rights.

CHC attorney and board member Peter Ebersol revealed at the hearing that Gordon had offered to call off the lawsuit if CHC would drop its plans for the Town Street site. The offer was unanimously rejected by the CHC board at a special July 27 meeting.

At the P&Z hearing, held at CCS with more than 150 persons in attendance, a parade of Cornwall residents — 21 in all — were enthusiastically applauded as they went to the microphone to support the Town Street application. Speakers included former first selectman Patsy Van Doren and Richard Dakin, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Monty Dunn, Earl Brecher, Lisa Wojan, Tom Bevans, Peter Hammond, Tim Prentice, John Dutton, Karen Stevens, Lori Welles, Michael Moschen, Polly Calhoun, Hendon Chubb, Robert MacDonald, Joseph Struckus, Jeremy Brecher, Jim Whiteside, Jane Prentice, and John Miller, who submitted a petition in favor of the Town Street application signed by 90 Cornwall residents.

The only opposition speaker was attorney Hays, who asserted, among other things, that a house on the proposed site would lower Town Street real estate values. The CHC's plan was also opposed in letters from Laura Stearns, Tinka and Allan Denenberg, and Lois Redington, and supported in letters from John Zinsser and Harriet Clark, who noted that "Cornwall is populated with ordinary people," and asked, "Why are you afraid of us?"

The P&Z hearing was chaired by William Lyons, sitting in for Ginny Potter, who had disqualified herself from deliberating or voting on the CHC application. She felt obliged to do this, she said after the hearing, "because of my proximity to the property involved and because of my family relationship" to CHC President Ken Keskenen. Also disqualifying themselves were P&Z members Keskenen and Jim Whiteside, who explained he was a potential applicant for affordable housing.

At its regular meeting on Aug. 13, the CHC board voted to pay half the legal costs of the defense in the Gordon/Flamm lawsuit. The board also:

- Decided to go ahead with plans to hold a lottery on Friday, Sept. 18, to determine the order in which qualified applicants will be offered building sites. Applications must be filed by Sept. 8; five had been received when the Chronicle went to press. Of the eight sites (including the Town Street property) at the CHC's disposal, one — a gift of Anne and Tom Hubbard — has a two-bedroom home ready for occupancy.
- Voted to provide wells at all building sites and to solicit bids from drillers.
- Accepted with regret the resignation from the board of Gordon Ridgway, who said he felt he needed to take this step "in order to coordinate the town's defense in the Gordon et al lawsuit." — Spencer Klaw

### SEPTEMBER 1992

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<td>Lobster sale 12-3pm Corn. Bridge Firehouse Story hour 10:30am Corn. Lib. every Sat.</td>
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*Check time and place at Town Office. † United Church of Christ
**P&Z Considers Housing**

The August meetings of the Planning and Zoning Commission were chiefly concerned with the Cornwall Housing Corporation's Town Street application (see Housing Hassle, page 1).

In other business, six applications for additions, a pool, a garage, etc., were approved. No papers have been filed to date by the bear with the berry business.

—Ginny Potter

**Selectmen Postpone Hearing, Mull Water**

Warned of a possible lawsuit by the Coalition of Connecticut Sportmen, the selectmen canceled an Aug. 14 public hearing on the proposed shooting-range ordinance. They want to review other town actions and develop a solution that will work for everyone. "We're trying to solve a problem," says Selectman Bill Hurlburt.

On Aug. 17, the selectmen heard questions from residents of Cornwall Bridge about the proposed upgrading of the Cornwall Water Company's system of distribution pipes. For over 100 years Cornwall Bridge residents have enjoyed free water. Often their lots are too small for wells. Under pressure from the state to correct high bacteria counts, Nestle's, the former owner, sold the company to local resident Rick Stone for $1. Now Rick must do the upgrading, but the cost, estimated at $20,000, must be borne by the users. The annual bill could exceed $200 per household. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said the main concerns were access by emergency vehicles during the work, and the location of rights of way. Some strong feelings were expressed, but Joanne Wojtusiak summed up the feelings of many in the room when she called for a cooperative approach to the problem.

After the meeting, Gordon said, "People have strong opinions in Cornwall. Even though it takes time, I think we should work out our controversies on a town level and a personal level and try to avoid confrontational hearings and the courts."

—Hendon Chubb

**33rd Rose Algrant Art Show**

Rose herself stole the show. The first sight as you entered the building (directed by a huge pointing finger courtesy Marc Simont) was a wall full of pictures: Rose with dogs and cats, Rose with Rolly, Rose just being Rose, Rose in the twenties elegantly coiffed and made up (yes!), Rose with Thubrer. Farther on, next to a "No Smoking" sign, Rose with a cigarette dangling from her lips (courtesy Tom Bevans).

On the landing, more pictures: Rose by Jenny Ireland, Rose with Dwight Gooden towering over her, Rose's 1991 VFW Community Service Award, a review of Rose's first (1959) show by Lewis Gannett, listing the original artists, including Marc Simont, Armin Landeck, Genevieve Simont, and Arlington Yutzier.

The show was superbly organized by Kelley Ireland, with Bee and Marc Simont, Tom and Margaret Bevans, Joan and Nick Edler, and Tim Prentice. Gross sales were $11,534, up from $6,500 last year, of which $2,000 was allocated to the Cornwall Ambulance Fund, a favorite project of Rose's. Part was raised by toy ambulances embellished by local artists and sold at the show.

Past reviews have somehow, miraculously, named all the artists. No way this year. There were six artists, up from 40 last year, representing wild and wonderful variations of style, mood, and media: bold political statements, nudes, exotic frames, fish, swimmers, cows, splashes of watercolor, pottery, hats and coats of many colors, weaving, elephants, cubes, owls and pussycats, furniture, musical instruments, hip purses, photographs, and wooden trucks. It was a stunning display of talent, hard work, and diversity, and Rose would surely have loved it.

—Phyllis Nauts

**Building Committee Eyes Plans**

On July 30, architect Ken MacLean, who earlier in the year was asked by the Municipal Building Committee to come up with plans for renovating Rumsey Hall as town offices or, alternatively, for putting up a new building on the Rumsey site, offered the committee two possible approaches to renovation and one for a new building.

The committee decided to explore at its Aug. 27 meeting the option of demolishing Rumsey's north wing and using the remaining three wings. The estimated cost of this renovation option is $1.3 million, exclusive of asbestos removal, architect's fees, and furnishings.

The committee asked MacLean to go back to his drawing board on the new building alternative. The plan he submitted, which involved saving the portico of Rumsey's north wing and using the town's projected needs and would cost an estimated $1.5 million.

The committee hopes to have alternatives ready for an information meeting before the end of the year.

—Rita Quinn

**Predator on Bald Mountain**

Sighted on Bald Mountain early this summer: a rare mammal with rich brown, almost black fur long and low, very catlike. Bob and Teddy Bury, who saw the animal stalking across their field, identified it, after many calls, as a Fisher. DEP, thinking the species, native to our woods, was almost extinct, imported some 30 of them from New Hampshire and Vermont during '89 and '90. In the days when people bought furs, fisher ranked above mink, close to sable.

—Cliff Read

**Hungry Neighbors with Hooves**

As gardens flourish, so do deer. How many in Cornwall? No one knows, but a lot — and they seem to be increasing at three to five per cent a year. An aerial survey four years ago found 56,600 in the state. Another survey is planned for this winter. In 1991, 11,311 deer were "harvested" legally by hunters with guns and bows, and some 2,000 were killed by road accidents.

In Cornwall in last year's season, 119 deer were killed by hunters, 23 destroyed under property-damage license, and four killed by cars. All this from a DEP deer biologist, Howard Kilpatrick.

How to protect plants and vegetables from these persistent residents? Some gardeners rely on soap or human hair, others favor Milorganite, a few sprinkle urine around (but not directly on the plants). DEP suggests Hinder or Deer-Away but says that hungry deer will eat, however repelled to them the odor or taste. A six- to eight-foot fence works well. Legal hunting, DEP says, offers some protection. Season for archers starts Sept. 15. License details are at the Town Office. Are deer beautiful treasurers, a good source of meat, or pests like rats with hooves?

—Cliff Read

**Welcome**

Christina Holly Kemp to Wendy and Robert Kemp, Jr.

Isaac Henry Belzer Pollan to Michael Pollan and Judith Belzer

**Congratulations**

Priscilla Waterman Miller to Asher S. Pavel

**Goodbye to a Friend**

Marie W. O'Dell

**Land Transfers**

Estate of Helen S. Tankersley to Harold Gurnee, house on Bolton Hill Road.

Estate of Violet Lethbridge to Paula J. Brunetto and Raymond W. Shove III, house on Kent Road.

Alain Coblese to Ira B. Shapiro and Jacqueline Dedell, 35+ acres on College St.

**Protection Begins at Home**

Do you have wetlands on your property? No? Well, don't be too sure. The law defines "wetlands" as any soil that is poorly drained, including alluvial deposits (i.e. silt left by receding water) or flood plains which may be only intermittently wet.

Wetlands used to be dismissed as wasteland to be filled, drained, or dumped on. No more. Wetlands are now recognized as having crucial roles in nature as fillers for a clean water supply, positive factors in flood and erosion control, and home for many species of animals and plants.

To engage in certain "regulated activi-
SEE YOU AT THE PLAYGROUND!

If you haven't been by CCS this summer, go have a look. Cornwall has a beautiful new playground and fitness course.

It's hard to believe that only six months ago Sue Williamson, Karen Stevens, and I were sitting around a conference table asking, "Where do we begin?" Well, the answer to that question became increasingly apparent over the next few months — with the people of this community: the anonymous donor who challenged us to match a $10,000 donation; the students of CCS who collected coins for the penny jar and sold Tupperware and flower baskets; Mrs. Budge's enthusiastic 4th grade class; "Bye Bye Birdie" cast and crew; book-fair and T-shirt sales; parents who helped with the spaghetti supper and donated raffle items and organized bake sales; the New Vintage Big Band who held a benefit concert; the selectmen who gave freely of their time, town equipment and fill; the merchants who donated goods and services to whatever function we were having; the more than 30 skilled volunteers, especially Rick Stone and Dave Williamson, who cleared and prepared the site and assembled the structures; and the family and friends of Geoff Lake, whose donations made the fitness course possible.

Thank you one and all for making this possible, for without you this playground would still be a dream. Thanks, too, to my coworkers Susie and Dave Williamson, Karen Stevens, Rita Quinn, and Dave Cadwell. It was a pleasure.

— Cheryl Evans

UP, UP AND AWAY

On a clear Tuesday, Aug. 6, about 9 a.m. we observed out our back door up on the hill a very large, brightly colored, globular object hovering, but also gently descending to the freshly harrowed earth in a small field. There were beings in a large basket attached thereto, waving their arms and shouting, "We need help." So we trotted, albeit slowly, up the hill and found, just about to land, a large balloon with three passengers, a woman pilot, and a crew chief who said, "We have run out of propane for the burner and could not stay aloft." So after a burst of hot air to raise the balloon up over a nearby stone wall to an adjacent hayfield (much cleaner than dirt), crew, passengers and this writer together collapsed the balloon and rolled this once-35,000-cubic-foot critter into a large "stuff bag." The burner was removed and appropriately stored, and the basket set on a small tractor brought conveniently up a tote road by a third member of the crew whose job is "chasing the balloon." The flight had begun at Sharon Flats and did not go over Salisbury as intended (passengers were Salisbury folks). When the gear was secured on the van and on the tractor, a bottle of champagne mysteriously appeared and a toast was made by all hands for a successful landing from which everyone walked away. Toast included this property owner, who also got (along with the passengers) a certificate. The van and trailer carrying passengers and gear then proceeded back to Salisbury. A very definite learning experience for some of us older pensioners. We were glad it all ended so well. "All's Well That Ends Well", Wm. Shakespeare. — Craig Behn

THANKS, CORNWALL

What a unique town Cornwall is! When we moved here twelve years ago we were amazed when neighbors brought cakes, bread, and other goodies, or just stopped by to introduce themselves. Never have we felt such a warm and genuine camaraderie in a community.

Recently I had open-heart surgery and spent a good portion of June in the hospital. I'd like to offer my deepest thanks to all who offered their wishes and prayers, and who sent cards and flowers. Thank you to those who, with their hectic schedules, still found time to care for Meagan and Jamie. And a very special thanks to all who cooked those delicious meals for us.

Thank you each and every one of you — you who make up the best community there is. We feel so privileged to be a part of Cornwall and to know such incredible people. You are extraordinary.

— Joanne Pastre

WE'LL MISS HERB WHITMAN

Herb Whitman has moved to Whidbey Island near Seattle to live with his daughter Ronnie. Herb first came to Cornwall in the 1930s to visit his aunt and uncle, Nora and Jo Machado. Ten years ago their daughter, Dody Prentice, persuaded him and his wife Maureen to move here. Recently he has been living on Pine Street with his daughter Virginia Bredenberg and her family.

Herb wrote several books during his years in Cornwall, including two guides to the Litchfield Hills. He was also active in seminars at Music Mountain and endeared himself to local artists by his thoughtful and enthusiastic reviews for the Lakeville Journal.

Herb will be greatly missed. He wants to stay in touch with his friends in Cornwall and hopes to have many visitors. You can write him at 560 E. Houston Rd., Coupeville, WA 98238.

— Marie Prentice

AN ALBUM FOR HERB WHITMAN

I am collecting pictures of Herb Whitman's friends and views of Cornwall to make an album to send to Herb in his new home. If you have any pictures you would like to contribute, please send them to me (clearly labeled) as soon as possible at 120 Great Hill Road, Litchfield, CT 06759. — Beth Samuels
Red Cross Drive a Success

Despite hard economic times, or perhaps because of them, the Town of Cornwall responded generously to the recent appeal for support by the Red Cross. A total of $3,345 was raised by mail solicitation, permitting a contribution of $1000 to Disaster Relief and $2500 to the general fund administered by the Torrington chapter. Martha Bruenle headed the fund appeal.

The Cornwall branch of the Torrington chapter of the Red Cross held its annual meeting Aug. 10 and elected the following officers for the 1992-93 year: chairperson, Seville Soule; secretary, Herb Lape; treasurer, Bruce Ridgway; and nominating chair, Ursula Dineen. — Seville Soule

Kugeman Village Out for Bids

The State Department of Housing has given the Cornwall Housing Corporation the go-ahead to invite bids for the construction of Kugeman Village. Bids are due by Septem-

Cleared for Habitat

Flames on a rainy August Sunday consumed the remnants of a house on two acres given to Habitat by the Cornwall Housing Corporation. The burning was by eight members of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department as a necessary step toward building the first Habitat house in Cornwall. The plan is to have the two-bedroom home closed in before winter.

The project has had wide volunteer support: a ramshackle house was leveled by a Frost and Calhoun hydraulic excavator, Denny Frost did the site tests for the septic system, Gary Heaney evaluated the water pump system, and mason contractor Rex Barberi of Lakeville and general contractor W.R. Tingley of Sharon are chains of the building committee. The August burning was supervised by Ron Laigle. Architect Rich Stone of Falls Village is working on the design of the house. Applications to live in the house can be made now to Ella Clark, chair of the Family Selection Committee. Preference will be given to someone from Cornwall who has worked on the building. Family income for four should be around $30,000, half the median income for Litchfield County.

From Riches to Rags

The Chronicle’s treasury is shrinking. If it shrinks far enough you won’t receive your monthly fix of news and other stuff. And you’ll miss our swimsuit issue, special pullout on “how to avoid property tax,” map of celebrities’ homes, full-color pet centered fold . . . the list is endless. So pull out your checkbook and send a tax-deductible contribution to the Cornwall Chronicle.

Kugeman Village Out for Bids

The State Department of Housing has given the Cornwall Housing Corporation the go-ahead to invite bids for the construction of Kugeman Village. Bids are due by September 8, with the contract to be chosen in early October. It is expected that construction will begin shortly afterward, with completion of the town-house units scheduled for the summer of 1993.

"It’s been nearly seven years," said Ken Keskinen, as he interviewed himself, "with a lot of bureaucratic baloney and blather blocking building bids, but now we can look forward to seeing some of our neighbors moving into their new apartments within a year or so."

Applications for the apartments will be accepted as soon as construction begins. All those who wish to have application forms or more information should call 672-6516 or 672-6486 as soon as possible. — Ken Keskinen

Yelping Hill Turns 70(?)

The Yelping Hill Association was established as an "intentional community" of like-minded thinkers(2). The problems inherent in such noble experiments have erupted periodically but never more forcefully than during July festivities to celebrate the 70th year of the community's founding.

On the evening of July 25, Dr. Douglas Green, president of the Yelping Hill Association, announced the dire tidings: a study of Yelping Hill's incorporation papers showed that the community had been founded, not in 1922, as all had thought, but in 1921. Suddenly the purpose of the evening’s assembly and pot-lucks supper was clouded. By unanimous vote of the members waiting to begin dinner, it was decided to solve the dilemma by celebrating for the next full year. And so the eating and drinking began — to be continued for at least one more day, as the community, on Sunday, hosted residents of Cornwall on the lawn of the Yelping Hill community center.

— Earl Brecher

Events & Announcements

The Cornwall Youth Group will begin its fall activities soon. Last year the group enjoyed bowling, swimming, hiking, ice and roller skating, riding, and fund-raisers — always with food! The group is open to all Cornwall young people in grades 6, 7, and 8, and is sponsored by the United Church of Christ. Further information will be sent to families early in September or may be obtained by calling the church, 672-6840.

Registrars’ Notices: Special voter registration session, Sept. 1, 12-3 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Deadline for new voters to register to vote in a primary Sept. 14, before noon:

Three Primaries: U.S. Senate (Rep.) Christopher Burnham vs. Brook Johnson; 6th Congressional District (Dem.), Eugene F. Stason vs. Alan R. DiCaro; 6th Assembly District (Rep.), John E. Calkins, Jr., vs. Andrew W. Roraback — all on Sept. 15, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Maureen Prentice 672-0135
Judy Gates 672-6568

Ambulance Dollars: The total raised is now $57,000. Target is $80,000. Contributions should be sent to Ambulance Fund, Cornwall Volunteer Fire Dept., Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754.

Cornwall Library Talk: Michael Pollan, Cornwall resident, executive editor of Harper’s and author of Second Nature, a book about the delights and dangers of gardening, will speak about gardening in Cornwall and read from his book on Sunday, Sept. 6 at 4 p.m. at the Town Hall. The trustees of the Cornwall Library invite everyone for refreshments afterwards.

Cropwalk: Hikers, strollers, and just plain walkers should plan to hit the road Sept. 27 when Cornwall will again participate in Cropwalk, a fundraiser for area social service agencies. Last year, Cornwall walkers generated contributions of just over $1,000. Anyone interested in Cropwalk, please call Marie Prentice (672-6418) and arrange to receive an envelope. Mark the date!

Library Read-In: On Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. there will be a story hour for small children. They will gather in the meeting room at the Cornwall Library. Celia Frost is initiating the program. She hopes children will have fun while learning to like books.

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