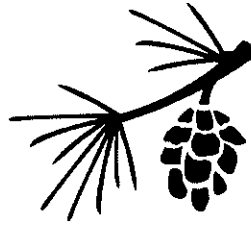


Town of Cornwall



October 6, 2022

Town Hall News

Dear Friends,

There is an amazing number of activities planned for our Town in October. I suggest you look at CornwallCT.org for more details and listings. There are 10 events listed for October 15th alone! I would like to highlight a few of these events:

October 12, Covid and Flu Vaccine Clinic, Town Hall, 11:00 – 5:00

October 15, National Iron Bank 175th year celebration on the Village Green, 9:30 – noon

October 15, Little Guild 5K Walk and Wag, 12:00 noon on the Village Green

October 15, Newcomer's Tea at the Cornwall Library, 3:00-5:00

October 16, Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department Open House 90th Anniversary,
West Cornwall firehouse, 12:00 – 2:00

October 16, Save Sharon Hospital Rally, Sharon Green, 2:00 p.m.

October 18, Public Input Session on Maternity Service discontinuance at Sharon Hospital
Via Zoom

October 19, Housing update Forum via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

October 26, Voter Registration at Town Hall, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

October 31, Halloween Celebration, Cornwall Village

Following is a story concerning Sharon Hospital. Details about the hospital can be found at Save Sharon Hospital on the CornwallCT.org website.

Sincerely,

Gordon M. Ridgway
First Selectman
Cornwall

A physician's birthing story

It was a cold dark December night as I finished seeing patients in the Amenia clinic. As always, it was busy and one of the last patients was a lovely nurse who needed prompt attention for her painful urination. My uterine contractions, which had been sporadic for weeks, seemed more regular now. When I noticed a bloody show, I alerted my colleague Dr. Anna Timell. We are family practice doctors; and in our training we had delivered babies. She did an exam and confirmed that my cervix was beginning to dilate. My husband, who had to rush up from his work in Westchester County, arrived at last. Snow was gently falling but the wind was picking up.

I have great respect for my colleagues at Sharon Hospital though it is the smallest hospital I have ever worked in. The physicians are extremely well-trained and competent. It punches way above its weight in experience and expertise. Because I hoped to keep my professional and private lives somewhat separate, I planned to deliver at Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie. In good weather that is a 45-min-

ute drive from Amenia. Dr. Timell said she would drive behind us in case there was an emergency. The storm was gathering strength. Though Sharon Hospital would have no prenatal records for me it was only 10 minutes away, so we decided to go there.

During the short drive the labor pains increased considerably. On arrival I was whisked quickly up to labor and delivery. The nurses noted that I was fully dilated and wanting to push. Dr. Mortman, who was still in his street clothes, had rushed over when Dr. Timell called to let him know what was happening. He asked me to please hold on a minute, because in addition to a sterile gown he wanted to put on his galoshes. I thought this was funny, but it was very practical as there can be a lot of blood dripping on your feet during a delivery. The whole team in the delivery room operated with the utmost professionalism; they were calm, smiling, and made me feel completely secure.

I was lying draped on the operating table when Dr. Mortman looked at me kindly and said don't push, just give a little cough. And with

that Abraham was born safe and sound. A few minutes later I saw Dr. Timell's face peeking through the round operating room window. She could hardly believe that the newborn baby was suckling at my breast just 20 minutes after we arrived at Sharon Hospital.

The unspoken part of this tale is that the outcome could have been very different. I was a 39-year-old woman in her third pregnancy and if Vassar Brothers Hospital was the only option for me the community might have lost a mother, a baby, and a family doctor.

Lisa Straus, M.D.
Millerton

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