



Volume 2, Number 7 - July 2021

From Our New Town Administrator

Dear Fellow Conway Residents,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you whom I have not yet met. I fell in love with Conway and moved here four years ago. The beauty of the landscape and especially the conviviality of the community will keep me here for life, but I had no idea when I moved here that I would also find my dream job of being a public servant to my own community. I am both grateful and humbled.



Interim Conway Town Administrator Ross Perry congratulates incoming Town Administrator Véronique Blanchard at her swearing-in on Wednesday, June 23rd. Photo by Chris Larrabee, *The Recorder*.

Providing information to the community on projects and goals in Conway is a priority for me, and I intend to use this column monthly to keep you updated. I also hope that you, dear resident, will participate as well by providing feedback. The town website will have a form you can fill out to give us your comments and concerns on current projects. If you do not use the internet, you are, of course, always welcome to call the office at 413-369-4235 x3 to speak with me or email me at townadmin@townofconway.com.

My office hours will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a lunch hour from noon to 1:00 p.m. If you are not just passing by, it's probably best to call ahead to make sure I am not out of the office at a meeting.

I look forward to meeting you in the coming months, and I thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Véronique Blanchard

Conway Council on Aging

The COA receives a grant from the state Executive Office of Elder Affairs and an appropriation from the town. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in Town Hall. Next meeting is July 7. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284.

Senior Calendar for July

Healthy Bones & Balance Classes These free classes, sponsored by RSVP, offer a combination of upper body, lower body, core, and balance exercises. Classes are still being held on Zoom Tuesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Contact leader Gary Fentin at 369-0001 for the Zoom link.

Monthly Foot Care Foot clinics are usually held on the first Monday of the month in Town Hall by appointment only. There will be no clinic in July. The next clinic will be on August 2 with appointments starting at 9:00 a.m. There is a \$20.00 fee. For information or to schedule an appointment, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010.

Senior Lunches In August the Sportsmen's Club will host a special meal for seniors. Look for details in *Conway Currents*. For more information call Carolyn Thayer at 369-6948.

Walking Group The walking group is enjoying walks around Conway for companionship, conversation, and exercise. The group gathers at 9:30 a.m. in front of the library every Monday, weather permitting. For more information, contact Phylis Dacey at 369-4326.

Yoga for Seniors Led by Jody Fontaine Wednesdays on Zoom. Class times: mat yoga, 10:00-11:00 a.m.; chair yoga, 12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Call Jody at 413-824-9435 for the Zoom links. Outdoor "pop-up" classes will be held during the summer, weather permitting. In-person classes are expected to resume soon at the library. Call Jody for information.

Senior Services

Durable Medical Equipment Loans The COA has items of durable medical equipment available for loan, including wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes, tub and shower chairs, commodes, and raised toilet seats. Call Hank Horstmann at 369-4405 to borrow equipment. Owing to lack of storage space, we are currently unable to accept donations of equipment.

Home-Delivered Meals Meals on Wheels are provided by LifePath for Conway seniors seven days a week. Call LifePath at 773-5555 for further information and registration.

Transportation for Medical Appointments and Shopping The Shelburne Falls Senior Center provides curb-to-curb van transportation within Franklin County for seniors 60 and over, for medical appointments and grocery shopping. Call the center at 625-2502 to make an appointment at least 48 hours in advance or for information about reservations and fees. A short application with a copy of a photo ID is needed to be pre-approved for ridership. Fares range from \$.75 to \$2.25 each way. For rides to out-of-county medical appointments, call the FRTA at 774-2262 x 163 for information and reservations.

Region and Towns Receive Age-Friendly Designation Through LifePath

The region of Franklin County and North Quabbin has been designated as an Age-Friendly Community and officially enrolled in AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. In addition to this regional designation, nine new area towns have also gained membership in the network after declaring their commitment to achieving a more livable community for older adults and people of all ages. These nine towns are Athol, Conway, Greenfield, Leyden, Montague, New Salem, Orange, Wendell, and Whately

The AARP network is a global initiative established by the World Health Organization and administered in the United States by AARP. It has over 1,100 members worldwide. The network connects stakeholders in these communities to promote a common vision of making them better places for people as they age through assessing and improving essential services like transportation, housing, and social participation.

“What wonderful news! A small town like Conway could never do this on its own, but joining with the network should hopefully lead to meeting the needs of elders in our community,” said Pat Lynch, chair of the Conway Council on Aging (COA). Hope Macary, the COA chair in Greenfield, added: “This is just the beginning of a thoughtful process which will support residents of all ages to live a healthy and meaningful life, staying connected to each other and to the community. I look forward to the next steps.”

The efforts to achieve this designation were led by LifePath’s Age-Friendly Project. This initiative is supported by the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Fund and led by a steering committee of older adults and stakeholders from across the region. The next step is needs assessment, followed by creation of an action plan and, finally, implementation. The upcoming needs assessment will include a community survey, listening sessions, and other ways to gather the needed data. Planning for this phase is underway.

“We are thrilled to be able to lead our region in becoming more age-friendly,” said Barbara Bodzin, Executive Director of LifePath. “Our mission compels us not only to work to meet the needs of older adults today, but to create a path to a future of welcoming and a supportive place in which everyone can age with the best possible health and wellbeing.”

For more information or to get involved, contact Nour Elkhattaby Strauch, Age-Friendly Program Manager, at nelkhattabystrauch@lifepathma.org or 413-829-9274.

Senior Picnic at the Conway Sportsmen's Club

Save the date: **Thursday, July 22, at noon.** Thanks to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, the Conway Sportsmen's Club will once again be hosting what was an annual treat for Conway seniors: lunch on the club's porch. Those who have attended in the past will remember the delicious meals and the pleasure of sharing them in

the company of friends and neighbors. So shake off those COVID blues and call Peg Tiley at 369-4010 to make a reservation for this very special occasion!

Tell Us What You Think About Open Space and Recreation in Conway

We are updating Conway’s Open Space and Recreation Plan – a tool through which the town plans for the future of its conservation and recreation resources and becomes eligible for certain conservation and recreation grants. We want to know your priorities for open space, recreation, trails, natural resource protection, and climate change resilience.

YOUR PARTICIPATION MATTERS!

Take the **Open Space and Recreation Survey** here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ConwayOSRP>

EXTENDED DEADLINE: Monday, July 12

You can also pick up and return a paper copy of the survey at the Field Memorial Library or the town office, 32 Main Street.

Historical Society Museum to Open Sundays

The Conway Historical Society Museum is reopening this summer on Sundays from July 11 to August 29, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Escape the heat and take a detour through Conway’s rich history. Several models of Conway’s unique covered bridge are on display, along with selections from a beautifully preserved 19th-century herbarium and many other items that document Conway's mills, farms, and material life.

Update from the Field Memorial Library

The Field Memorial Library is now open to physical visits after being closed due to pandemic safety concerns from March 14, 2020, to June 7, 2021! Face coverings are required, although vaccinated people may request to remove their masks if there are no unvaccinated people in the library. Staff are fully vaccinated. Patrons may walk in during open hours or schedule an appointment for a browse time by emailing the director or calling during open hours. As of July 1, our open schedule is Monday 3:00-6:00 p.m., Wednesday 2:00-7:00 p.m., and Saturday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the library!

FML's "steps-side" system of picking up materials and returning them to our outside book drop continues for now. Patrons may schedule a pickup by emailing the director or calling during open hours. FML is happy to report that we have a new patron computer. Patrons may use it during open hours by appointment or by walk-in if not scheduled.

The Friends of the Library are seeking new members. If you are interested in supporting the library, please contact Co-President Linda McDaniel at lindamcdaniel2@verizon.net.

Our website at <https://fieldmemorallibrary.org> posts news, events, and other resources. We are planning community engagement projects during our 2021 Perspectives on the Pandemic grant-sponsored program to gain perspective on our pandemic experience through community conversations to reflect and share and/or by comparing your experience with the fictional one in the novel *Station Eleven*. We look to sharing and reflection to ease the stress and grief that our real-world pandemic created as well as to share the benefits many have reported, such as more time at home. Scheduled conversations will be posted on our website.

FML will also be sponsoring a concert Saturday, October 2, by local hero musicians Katie Clark and Larry LeBlanc. They will use music to further the healing goals of the project and bring us together. We have planned this as a hybrid in-person and on-Zoom event so that all can join and still be socially distanced.

Also on our website is a link to a wonderful new video biography of Marshall Field and the creation of our library, produced by Jonathan Boschen. FML is in conversation with the Conway Historical Society and the producer of the video to schedule a screening at the library in the fall.

FML also has an exhibit of Eric Carle books available for borrowing and is renewing our passes for area museums and state parks. Contact us for details.

David Whittier
Director, Field Memorial Library
director@fieldmemorallibrary.org
Phone 413-369-4646

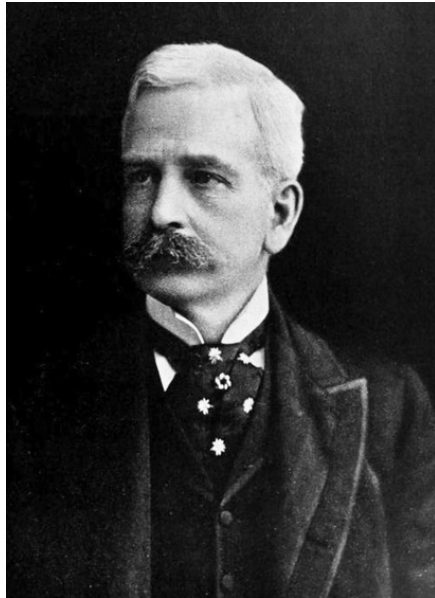
Distinguished Conway Residents: Marshall Field

Marshall Field (August 18, 1834-January 16, 1906), the founder of the Chicago-based department store Marshall Field and Company, was a self-made millionaire who virtually created the modern department store and is considered one of the greatest retailers of all time. The motto "The customer is always right" is attributed to him. Joseph Field paid a tribute to his brother's entrepreneurial spirit when he said, "If Marshall Field had anything to sell, he would sell it, if a customer came in; if a customer did not come in, he was not above going out and finding one."

As his wealth grew – and he became one of the ten wealthiest men in the country – so did Field's philanthropy. In 1890 he joined with oil magnate John D. Rockefeller and the American Baptist Education Society in founding the University of Chicago.

Rockefeller put up \$600,000, and Field donated the land. Chicago's famous Field Museum of Natural History was named for him in 1894 following his endowment of a million dollars for the project. He left the museum another \$8 million in his will.

Marshall Field was born on a subsistence farm on Field's Hill in Conway, the third of six children, to John Field IV – whose ancestor Zechariah Field had come to this country from England in 1629 – and Fidelia Nash. His boyhood experience working on his parents' farm apparently led to Field's lack of interest in the hard life of a farmer. According to Conway resident David Barten, author of *Marshall Field: A Study*, "The world was beginning to show young people that you could make money in ways other than the hard labor of farming. He was one of those young people."



Marshall Field, c. 1915, Library of Congress (public domain)

Although one article about his life states that as a schoolboy, Field was "expert at trading with the other boys for their pocketknives," his first venture into retailing was unsuccessful. He was fired at age 15 from his job as a clerk in a local store and returned to farmwork. He tried again at age 17, when his parents sold the family farm to his oldest brother, Chandler, and went to work at a dry goods store in Pittsfield alongside his brother Joseph. In 1856, when he was 21, he moved on to a position at a leading retail store in Chicago, and the rest is history.

As wealthy as Field became, he never forgot his Conway roots. He had generously donated to the formation of a town library in 1878

and then – as a memorial to his parents – made a gift to the town of the beautiful domed library in classic Greek style that stands at the head of Main Street: the Field Memorial Library. David Barten said. "He felt he owed whatever success he had in life to his parents."

A Look into Conway History: Dedication of the Field Memorial Library

The town celebrated Marshall Field's gift of the Field Memorial Library twice: on July 4, 1900, when the cornerstone was laid, and on July 13, 1901, when Marshall Field handed over the deed and keys to the building at its dedication.

The cornerstone laying began with a dinner for residents and visitors held at the Congregational Church parsonage, followed by a procession, accompanied by the Sunderland Band, down the hill to where people assembled beneath an elm tree at the building site. The main address was delivered by Chicago resident and Conway native Walter M. Howland. Marshall Field's sister, Helen Field James, placed within the cornerstone a copper box containing an assortment of items, including the town library catalog; copies of Chicago, Springfield, and Greenfield newspapers that described the library; and photographs of Marshall Field and his parents.

The library's dedication was cause for a much more elaborate celebration, for which a stand had been erected and seats placed on the green in front of the library. A band concert preceded the formal ceremony and, following it, a dinner attended by some 1,200 people was served in a large tent. According to an article in the Chicago paper *The Inter Ocean* headed "Town on a Holiday," "Every house in the town had been decorated for the event . . . the greatest in the history of the community. The day closed with a display of fireworks such as the townspeople had never seen before."

As the main speaker, Marshall Field made a formal presentation, saying, "It is now my privilege and great pleasure to present this token of my friendship, as I now do, in memory of my father and mother; and . . . in behalf of the trustees, I deliver the deed of the property, the endowment fund, and the keys, with the hope that the library will give pleasure to all the inhabitants of Conway, that it will be a power for good and a lasting benefit to this community."

Garden Club Notes: Growing Milkweed for Monarchs



The common milkweed (*Asclepias syriatica*) – a hardy native of North America – is an important source of nectar for native bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, and other nectar-eating insects. More than 450 different insect species feed on some part of the plant. But for monarch butterflies, this plant is crucial to their very existence. Milkweeds are the *sole* food source for monarch larvae. Monarchs lay their eggs on the underside of the leaves, which the larvae then eat after hatching.

Milkweed leaves provide not only energy for growth but help protect the larvae and the butterflies they will become from predators. The toxic chemicals in the sap make both caterpillars and adults distasteful.

Milkweeds get their name from the sticky white sap that oozes when leaves are damaged. Although toxic, milkweed sap has a long history of medicinal use among native tribes of North America, including the Omaha, Menomin, and Dakota. In 1753 the famous botanist and taxonomist Carl Linnaeus named the genus – *Asclepias* – after Asklepius, the Greek god of healing.

Milkweed is a beautiful, colorful, and fragrant addition to a wildflower garden or meadow. Grow it to provide habitat and food for essential pollinators – but especially for the monarchs. The only requirement is full sun. Common milkweed thrives in average garden soil and tolerates a dry environment. Even in poor soil, there's no need to fertilize this tough perennial. And common milkweed has no common pests or diseases.

If you intend to grow the plant from seed, the ideal time is in the fall. Starter plants may be planted at any time and should be spaced about 18 in. apart; fall planting gives them time to establish themselves before winter. Transplanting milkweed is not advised: once established, they develop a deep taproot.

Note: The Conway Garden Club is not meeting at present. For information contact Pat Lynch at 369-4284 or email patricialynch@earthlink.net.

Festival of the Hills Scholarship Recipients

We are pleased to announce that the following Conway seniors were recipients of 2020 (awarded in 2021) Conway Festival of the Hills scholarships: Amanda Canepa, Aiden Falla, Brooke Flanders, Sage Fuller, Christy Kasbo, Kenedie Kocot, Zoe Lemos, Ethan Machon, Peter Newman, Devyn Prusak, and Abigail Selva. A total of \$7,000 was awarded to eleven students representing five schools (Frontier, Charlemont, North Star, PVPA, Mohawk).

Festival of the Hills Scholarships are available to all graduating high school seniors from Conway who submit complete applications, no matter what the graduate's postgraduation plans may be. Consideration is given to a student's community/school involvement, academic standing, financial need, work history, and Festival of the Hills service.

A Good Time Was Had by All

The Hey Hey Club performed in Maggie's and Zee's beautiful backyard on Sunday, June 13, for many of our friends and neighbors. It was a gorgeous day, not too hot, folks relaxing on the grassy bowl while being entertained by the Hey Heys performing West Coast Blues and classic swing from the knoll above them. Much thanks to Maggie and Zee for hosting and to the many volunteers: Kat Llamas, Laurie Richards, Carole Groman from SF, Chris and Pat from down the road, and new neighbor Craig Pinter.

The Cure Could Kill You!

by Sir Reginald Buttweiler

The nightly news can make one feel sick. But it's the commercials between news segments that make us feel worse. It's an unending barrage of ads for new pharmaceuticals showing us the smiling, courageous imbibers of said product. They garden or swim or eat outdoors with more smiling people while a calm, off-screen voice purrs a frightening litany of side effects, often ending with the possibility of . . . "THE BIG D." The list of horrors often runs longer than the positive effect that their product has on the fever, rash, depression, indigestion, pimples, gout, *et al* that you are now convinced you have! They tell you to call your doctor to see if their product is right for you. Certain that you now have whatever it is that they're saying you might have, you desperately call your doctor before it's "too late." You speed dial him (or her) at home, interrupting dinner. You ask if *Sayonara* – the product now on your TV screen – is right for you. Through a mouthful of egg salad your doctor cautions you not to take *Sayonara* if you're taking Dreadgestuate or Litamatchburnyual. Huh!? You're not sure if either of those medications is in the arsenal of pill bottles that spill out of your medicine cabinet. "Do not take it with Phenomorphamizitol," he adds. "What's Phenomorphamizitol?" you ask. Before he can reply, you hear his wife screaming in the

background, "Leonard! Hang up! You're spitting egg salad all over the clean tablecloth!"

At the end of these commercials, they cut from all of the sick but smiling people ignoring the countless warnings of what could go wrong to show you the product. It's usually a nice, pastel-colored box floating in the sky for some unknown reason, accompanied by harp music. The clouds and harp have set your mind at ease about those silly warnings, and you'll never remember the names of those bad medications garbled through egg salad. All that you'll remember is that it's *Sayonara* for you.

The Pool Is Open!

Yay! The Conway Swimming Pool is now fully open! We welcome all Conway residents and their guests to come for a swim, a picnic, or a BBQ. We extend thanks to the volunteers who helped out during our spring clean-up. Your efforts helped to ready the pool for the season with a genuine feeling of community. If you weren't able to attend but want to help out, let us know, as help is always welcome with a range of tasks for all skill levels. Our next meeting is at the pool on July 13 at 6:30 p.m. Come join us.

The Swimming Pool Committee is seeking a qualified swimming instructor. Interested applicants should email sangerm@mac.com.

And finally, the committee will sadly miss Tony Borton, a valuable member of the pool committee and swimming community.

Cover Banner, *South River, Summer*, Courtesy of Michele Turre

P. 9 - Marshall Field, c. 1915, public domain

P. 11 - Milkweed, public domain

P. 22 - *South River off Reeds Bridge Road in Early Morning Mist*;

Ruth Bowman



Irish Road Bowling Returns to Conway! Saturday, July 17, rain or shine!

If you don't know what we're talking about or, if you participated five years ago and want to see how young you looked, go to www.youtube.com and search "Irish Road Bowling Conway MA." Fun! Fun! Fun! – the (finally!) coming together and renewed community spirit that reminds us of why we live here. Mask or no mask, your choice; we're outdoors and pretty spread out. But for the few who may not be vaccinated, for your own safety, wear a mask or sit this one out. All proceeds go to the Conway Sportsmen's Club Scholarship Fund.

Object(s) of the game: The team that completes the course with the fewest number of shots wins prizes, bragging rights, and the admiration of most of the town.

Details: Put together a four- player* team. Age range: 12 -112. Family members? Neighbors? Friends? All-women? All-men? Local business team? (Teams, or their members, don't all have to be from Conway.) The number of spots is limited. Teams will be placed on a first-come/first-served basis, so form your team as soon as possible, then call or text Mike Haley (413-537-9149) with names and a contact number. Please be sure that *all* your players will be available on July 17.

Teams meet at the Conway Inn at noon on the 17th for team registration, IRB instruction, liquid refreshment, and payment : \$15/player, cash or check.

** If you can't field a full team but want to bowl, I'll put you on a waiting list to be assigned a team.*

Transfer Station Annual Stickers Available Online!

Board of Health Regulations state that the use of the transfer station is limited to Conway residents who have purchased and display a special permit sticker on their vehicle.

- Dated annual transfer stickers are available for purchase on townofconway.com with payment made online using UniPay. Once payment is received, a receipt is emailed. Print out your receipt and take it to the transfer station during normal working hours, where the gate attendants will attach your sticker.
- You may also pay in person at the treasurer's office during office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9am to 3pm. Proof of residence will be required, including name, address, phone #, make of car, and license plate # for up to four vehicles. Stickers cost \$10.00 per vehicle.
- As in the past, stickers can still be purchased from attendants at the transfer station.
- Stickers must be displayed on the upper portion of the windshield of the vehicle, behind the rear-view mirror. This placement is essential for attendants to quickly identify properly permitted vehicles.
- Stickers not affixed in accordance with #3 above by August 1 will be in violation of this regulation.
 - Vehicles with a noncompliant sticker may be turned away.
 - Trash disposal with a noncompliant sticker will be considered illegal dumping and may be subject to a ticket and fine as described in the Town of Conway Non-Criminal Disposition Bylaw.
 - Repeat offenders may be banned from using the facility.

Conway Firemen's Auxiliary Annual Turkey Dinner

The annual turkey dinner WILL be held, at the Conway Grammar School this year, but as of this writing, the date is TBA. There will be two seatings, one at 5:00 p.m. and another at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$15.00 and for kids, \$8.00. Takeouts will be available! Call for reservations: 413-369-4936 or 413-369-4087.

Proceeds from the dinner help fund the annual Firemen's Auxiliary Scholarship, awarded to graduating Conway seniors each May. Donations to the fund are always welcome and may be made to:

Conway Firemen's Auxiliary
P.O. Box 46
Conway, MA 01341

Thank you!

Guidelines for Submissions to *Conway Currents*

- Articles should be submitted electronically, preferably as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), or, for brief notices, within the body of an email. When this is not possible, please contact Kathy Llamas at 413-695-5626 to discuss a possible alternative.
- To submit, email your article to conwaycurrents@gmail.com.
- Photographs may be sent as either a .tif image in 300 dpi or a high-resolution .jpg.
- Deadline for submissions is the 20th of the preceding month.

Making Our Travels Interesting

by Sir Reginald Buttwinker

There's nothing more boring than passing countless highway signs that repeat to the traveler the same old information: "Slow . . . Stop . . . Road Construction Ahead," etc. To make trips more interesting for folks, I would like to suggest putting up the following road signs:

SLOW! UNRAVELING STRING	CAUTION ROAD SHADOWS	FALLING ARCHES ZONE
RUINED LIVES NEXT 10 MILES	DANGER! TROLLS UNDER BRIDGE	SO-SO VIEW AHEAD
BRIDGE OUT! SLOW TO 70 MPH	MYSTERY DETOUR AHEAD	IDLE ROAD CREW NEXT 8 MILES
BRONTOSAURUS CROSSING	FOR NO REAL REASON EXIT 3 IS NOW EXIT 41	VISIT HEATH POP. 1,436,905



First human? First cat?
Tall gray fox sniffed, danced, eyed us:
Cat and I stood still.

SB

Currents Advertisements & Notices

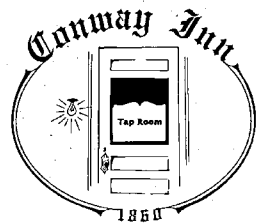
Rates for ads up to 150 words are: one month \$7.75, three months \$15.75; six months \$25.75, twelve months \$44.75. For cost of longer ads or to include images (limited), call or email Louise at 413-559-1180 or lmbeckett@crocker.com.

Advertisements can be paid for by checking account or credit card through the town's website: <https://townofconway.com/> > [View or Pay a Bill](#) > [Pay Newsletter Advertising](#) or send a check to:

Conway Currents, PO Box 240, Conway, MA 01341.

Please send the text of your advertisement to Louise by email at lmbeckett@crocker.com. If you want to discuss your ad or have any questions, please call or email.

The Conway Inn - Open for pizza, chicken wings, and breadsticks, Friday and Saturday, 4 - 10 p.m.; Sunday 5 - 8 p.m. Call 413-369-4428 to order for takeout. Dine in or outdoors as weather permits. Thanks again for the hometown spirit you've shown toward your local businesses!



Baker's Country Store - open seven days a week for all-day take-out breakfast and lunch. Limited seating outside when weather permits, and inside since the partial lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. Hours: Monday-Friday 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 369-4936. We now have local summer squash and zucchini, blueberries, shelled peas and a few veggies and flowers to plant at 25% off while they last. Find a variety of homemade desserts and baked goods and a large selection of last-minute items. We always have freshly baked cakes, muffins, pies, and cookies - put in your order today for one of Helen's famous pies! Check us out on Facebook: facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store for today's specials.

Join Natural Roots CSA - for delicious, fresh vegetables grown right here in Conway. We have several CSA share options, including part-time and low-income shares, main season (June through October) and winter shares. Our farm store is also open to the public year-round during daylight hours. We offer eggs from our own pastured hens as well as other local items like beef, chicken, pork, dairy, bread & baked goods, honey & maple products, coffee & tea, ice cream, snacks, beverages and more! Support a horse-powered farm in Conway and enjoy this beautiful, bountiful farm and the vibrant community that we feed. www.naturalroots.com. Natural Roots, 888 Shelburne Falls Rd., Conway, MA 01341, (413) 369-4269, naturalroots@verizon.net

Your Home Town Realtor - As a Conway resident for over 20 years, I provide local, attentive and trustworthy service for both buyers and sellers in our community. Previous experience as a licensed residential architect is valuable for my clients. Please contact me for a free, no obligation consultation! Sarah Newman, Realtor with Coldwell Banker Community Realtors. Call or text: 413-548-6525 or email sarah.newman@cbcommunityrealtors.com - Thank you!

Auto Detailing - Exterior/Interior services available. Call or text Matt at 413-262-2687 for details or to make an appointment. Pick-Up and Drop-Off service available in Conway, April - October weather permitting. Makes a great gift for someone who "has everything".

PCA Wanted - Looking for a personal care attendant in our Conway home. Openings available on Fridays and Saturdays, possibly Thursdays. \$15.75/hour. Flexible times and will train. Prefer medical/nursing background but not necessary. Contact Henry at tstreetcars@gmail.com or call Danielle 413-369-9975.

Outdoor Music Lessons - in Conway this summer! Would you like to learn an instrument or take voice lessons in a beautiful outdoor setting? Two certified music teachers are offering voice, violin, piano, French horn, guitar, music theory/history, and composition. Contact us at maki.matsui1@gmail.com or 413-884-3022 to find out more.

Unheard Melodies

by Nicole Braden-Johnson

"Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard /Are sweeter"
– John Keats *"Ode on a Grecian Urn"*

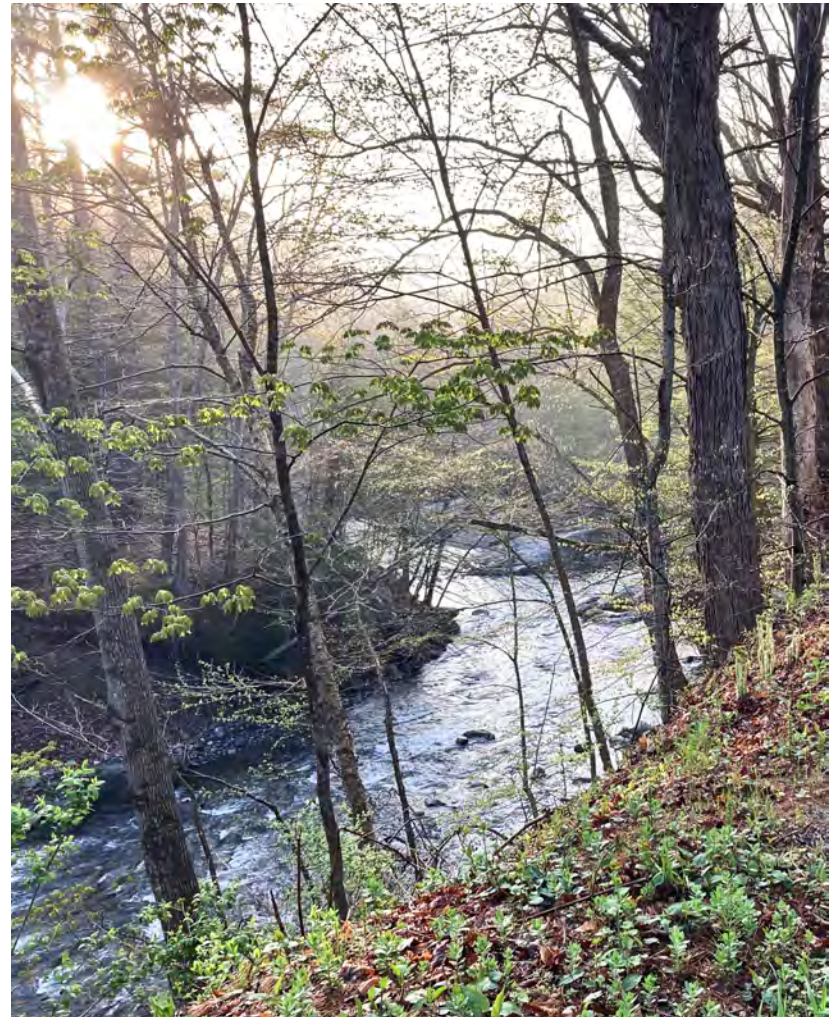
The Conway Electric Street Railway

Under a leafed canopy, between horsetail and oak tree,
The stone remnants of a once-bridge rest,
A landmark of a town's dreams,
A ghostly monument to its possibilities.

The trolley rode in on steel tracks as a balm
To Civil War wounds, offering
Cheer and pride and economic relief.
For 25 a person could enjoy
A gently winding journey along the river South,
The soft hills in viridian forest draped,
And the sudden exhilaration on Deerfield River Bridge.

But these are sights unseen through the capitalist's lens
Which only values how a trolley treads the narrow path
Between red- and black-inked figures.
Thus impoverished minds threatened the small rail's existence
That connected rural people to the world as they united
Against impersonal Boston legislation and corporate greed,
For with just some time and trust they might succeed.

At times the end is in the little things:
A bit of snow and ice, an outworn engine,
The physics of track arcs and carriage velocity.
The rails were taken up to build some other dreams,
And what remains is but a hopeful haunting.



South River off Reeds Bridge Road in Early Morning Mist;
Ruth Bowman. "I feel so blessed to live on this ever changing,
magical landscape."

2021 Local Election Results

We thought you would like to see the results of Conway's local election, which took place earlier this month:

- Selectboard (3 years) – Philip Kantor
- Assessor (3 years) – Russell French
- Board of Health (3 years) – Jacqueline Choate
- Board of Health (3 years) – remains vacant
- Local School Committee (3 years) – Denise Storm
- Local School Committee (3 years) – remains vacant
- Planning Board (3 years) – Jennifer Mullins
- Planning Board (3 years) – remains vacant
- Moderator (1 year) – James Recore
- Question One – Yes

Volunteer Opportunities

Committees are always in need of volunteer members. Besides the vacancies noted above, the committees below especially need volunteers:

- Finance Committee: contact Jimmy Recore at jimmyrecore0318@gmail.com
- Board of Health: contact Virginia Knowlton at boardofhealth@townofconway.com
- Parks, Recreation & Trails Committee: contact parksandrec@townofconway.com
- Energy Committee: contact Peter Martin at plm314@hotmail.com

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