



Volume 2, Number 9 - September 2021

Notes from the Town Administrator

Getting settled into the town offices has been a real pleasure, as has been learning things about Conway I didn't know before, usually discovered during a conversation with a fellow resident. For instance, I had no idea that Conway has a flag of its own, created and handmade back in 2002. It is a lovely, quilted flag, and there is one on display in the Field Memorial Library with its twin residing in the Great Hall of the State House in Boston. What a treat that was to discover, and I encourage you to go take a look!

In addition, here in the office is a map of Conway from 1967. On it are listed in bold, capital letters the names of all sixteen villages once active in Conway. Names such as Guinea, Broomshire, Hardscrabble, and South Part intrigue me and make me want to learn more about each of them. No doubt most of you reading this already know all about them, and I look forward to more conversations about these villages and their associated schools. For those of you who, like me, were unaware of these villages, this issue's column "A Look into Conway History" delves into the origins of their names. Also included is a copy of this map, and I encourage you to discover which village you live in: Conway's own historical version of "Where's Waldo?"

As I write this, Conway is under threat from Hurricane Henri. This prompts me to encourage all of you to sign up for our emergency alert system. There is a portal on the town website, <https://townofconway.com>, but if you can't get through or prefer to sign up directly via email, please contact Emergency Management Director George W. Murphy at emd@townofconway.com.

And as the Delta variant of COVID-19 has begun to impact our communities, please do stay safe!

Best wishes for a lovely rest of the summer,

Véronique

From the Assessors

As soon as the conversion to a new valuation system was completed several months ago, we rolled right into a revaluation/recertification process. Our proposed values are under state review right now, and part of the process is the public disclosure period: a chance for you to inquire about your property's new FY2022 taxable value.

Because taxable values must stay current with the sale prices of properties sold in Conway in 2019 and 2020, and because the market has been increasing aggressively, our taxable values are also increasing. Even if buildings are unchanged, their values have been adjusted about +6.5%. The value of the first acre of one's property has risen from \$61,900 to \$64,900, with the next three acres at \$7,400 each. Acres beyond that are valued at a rate that decreases as the total acreage size increases.

These increases in valuation will probably result in a lowering of the tax rate for FY2022, but we will not have the final figures on that until later in September, as any value changes found in the public review will be entered in the final taxable values to be sent for state approval.

The public disclosure period is tentatively scheduled for early September; our office will be open afternoons and early evenings for five days, and we will also be available by phone or email. We are fully vaccinated and still COVID-cautious, so we will be wearing our masks in the office. Please watch the town website, cable channel, the *Recorder*, and the outdoor bulletin boards at Baker's Country Store, the town office, and Town Hall for details.

Contact: assessors@townofconway.com, 413-369-4235, x 5

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 will be September 1. NOTE: While COVID-19 is still a concern, classes that normally meet in person are still being held on Zoom. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email patricialynch@earthlink.net.

Senior Calendar for September

Healthy Bones & Balance Classes These free classes, sponsored by RSVP, offer a combination of upper body, lower body, core, and balance exercises. Classes meet on Tuesday from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Friday classes may resume this month. Contact leader Gary Fentin at 369-0001 for information and the Zoom link.

Monthly Foot Care Foot clinics are usually held on the first Monday of the month in Town Hall by appointment only. Because of the Labor Day holiday, the next clinic will be on September 13. There is a \$20.00 fee. For information or to schedule an appointment, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010.

Senior Lunches Grab-and-Go meals will resume in September. On Thursday, September 23, a meal prepared by group members will be served at noon at Town Hall. For more information and menus, 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 9:00 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 on Wednesdays. Class times: mat yoga, 10:00-11:00 a.m.; chair yoga, 11:15 a.m. - noon.

Call Jody at 413-824-9435 for the Zoom links. Outdoor "pop-up" classes are also being held, weather permitting. 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 in-county 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.

From the Board of Health: COVID Testing and Vaccination Sites

Many area pharmacies are offering both COVID testing and vaccinations. The following is an abbreviated list of what is available where. It is always best to make an appointment ahead of time; however, most pharmacies do take a limited number of walk-ins. BinaxNOW – quick, at-home COVID tests – are in very

limited supply. All pharmacies listed are currently depleted of their inventory but are hoping to get more in eventually. Most pharmacies do offer the more accurate PCR testing by appointment.

- [Riteaid.com](https://www.Riteaid.com) (413-774-2201): To schedule an appointment for COVID vaccination for those 12 and over or to schedule a COVID test
- [CVS.com](https://www.CVS.com) (413-774-7201): To schedule an appointment for COVID vaccination for those 12 and over or to schedule a COVID test
- [Bigy.com/pharmacy](https://www.Bigym.com/pharmacy) (413-774-3858): To schedule an appointment for COVID vaccination for those 18 and over or to schedule a COVID test. Johnson & Johnson vaccine (one shot) is available seven days a week; Moderna vaccine (two shots) is available on Wednesdays.
- [Walmart.com/COVID](https://www.Walmart.com/COVID) (413-587-9555): To schedule an appointment for COVID vaccination for those 12 and over. They take many walk-ins. No testing available.

Perspectives on the Pandemic:

A program of the Field Memorial Library

You are invited to join a community-wide Zoom conversation on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. to share our experiences of the pandemic and bring perspective to ourselves and others. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted and wreaked havoc on life. It has also, for some, revealed silver linings for which we can be grateful.

Reading *Station Eleven* allows comparing its fictional pandemic with our real-world one. Other works on pandemics can also bring perspective and foster gratitude, while still recognizing the losses. But these sources are not necessary to participate. Ideas for our conversation include:

Disruptions, Losses, & Heartache

Fear of exposure to the virus
Isolation from others
Disruption of normal routines
Increased time on screens
Stress on those who work outside the home, especially health care workers
Not being able to meet in person with family and/or loved ones
Fear of going out in the world
Sickness and death



Questions, Copings, Silver Linings

How did you react to fear of exposure to the virus?
Gratitude for science, vaccines, workers
How did you spend extra time at home?
Did you establish new routines?
Did connecting with others on screens help you cope with the pandemic?
How did you cope with pandemic-related work stress?
How satisfying was connecting virtually with friends and family?
Internet & media; delivery & curbside
Grieving and healing

Email director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org for registration and Zoom link. Visit our website at <https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org> for more information.

Mosquito and Tick Bite Prevention

We're at the height of summer, which means we're also at the height of mosquito and tick season. Ticks and mosquitoes are more than a nuisance; they can carry diseases, such as Lyme disease and anaplasmosis (in the case of ticks) and West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (in the case of mosquitoes). Luckily,

there are many things you can do to avoid tick and mosquito bites and stay healthy.

Prevention measures that work against both ticks and mosquitoes:

- Wearing long pants and long sleeves provides the best protection.
- Light-colored clothing is less attractive to mosquitoes and makes ticks easier to spot before they attach to skin.
- Spray yourself and your children with EPA-registered insect repellents, such as those containing DEET. DEET has been in use for more than 40 years and has a strong safety record. Look for the EPA registration number and follow directions on the product label.
- Treat clothes you like to wear outdoors with Permethrin or buy pretreated clothing. Permethrin repels or kills mosquitoes and ticks, and it is odorless and nontoxic to humans once it dries. Again, be sure you read and follow directions on the label.

Prevention measures for mosquitoes:

- If you go outdoors between dusk and dawn, be sure you are well protected, as this is when the mosquitoes that carry diseases are most likely to be out in search of a meal.
- Use screens on windows and doors. Repair holes in screens to keep mosquitoes outdoors.
- Mosquitoes breed in standing water, so once a week empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers.
- Tightly cover water storage containers (buckets, cisterns, rain barrels) and, for containers without lids, use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.

Find more information on preventing mosquito bites from the Centers for Disease Control:

https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/pdfs/MosquitoBitePreventionUS_508.pdf

Update from the Field Memorial Library

September and fall bring numerous offerings at the Field Memorial Library. First is our Zoom-based conversation on Tuesday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m. Our aim is to facilitate a conversation that helps people gain perspective on the pandemic through sharing and comparing their experiences. This conversation is part of our sponsored "Perspectives on the Pandemic" community-engagement project, funded by a grant from the American Library Association through its "Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small & Rural Libraries" national program. Email director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org for the Zoom link to join.

The conversations about the "Disruptions, Losses, Heartache" and "Questions, Copings, Silver Linings" brought on by the pandemic will be followed by a more joyful forum. Katie Clark, Larry LeBlanc, and Dave Chalfant will bring music to further healing from the pandemic and bring us together at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 2. We are planning this as a hybrid in-person and Zoom event so all can join and still be socially distanced. Masks and vaccinations will be required. However, because we are subject to continued disruptions from the new COVID variants, we may switch to a virtual-only concert or postpone it depending on conditions closer to October 2. Check the library website for updates.

Another important event is planned for Saturday, September 25. This will be another episode of the famed Friends of the Field Memorial Library's book sale. We will have tents outside in the "backyard" to provide outside browsing and social distancing. Details are posted elsewhere in this issue of *Conway Currents* and on the library website.

These events will be followed by workshops at the library funded through the Massachusetts and Conway Cultural Councils: "The Art of Listening: Exploring Ourselves through Poetry and Prose"

on Saturday, October 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and "Exploring Creative Writing," offered on four Wednesdays this fall. Details appear elsewhere in this issue of *Conway Currents*.

Meanwhile, FML has joined CWMars, and we are in the process of acquiring barcodes for every item in the library (roughly 14,000) and unique FML library cards that will connect patrons to FML and all the libraries of the CWMars network. This process includes many steps, but we are well on our way and will keep you posted on our progress.

Lastly for 2021, we have joined with the Conway Historical Society and video producer Jonathan Boschen to offer an event on the afternoon of Saturday, December 4. Although the presentation is in its early stages, we plan to have Jonathan speak about making the video, followed by a screening, and then a reception and the opportunity for library patrons to get a first-edition FML library card! This is an item predicted to be collectible in the years to come.

Our open hours are Monday 3:00-6:00 p.m., Wednesday 2:00-7:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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

Fall Book Sale

Friends of the Field Memorial Library will be having their Fall Book Sale on Saturday, September 25, at the Field Memorial Library at 1 Elm Street from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We have all been wanting to get out in the fresh air once again, so come out and browse our large selection of wonderful books, CDs, and DVDs in every genre for every age group. Please follow COVID-19 guidelines, practice social distancing, and wear a mask. All proceeds benefit educational and cultural programs at the library. See you there.

Wanted: Young Creative Writers

The Friends of the Field Memorial Library is offering an exciting creative writing series for local students. The workshop, "Exploring Creative Writing," will be held on four Wednesdays this fall: October 20 and 27 and November 3 and 10. Each session will start at 3:30 p.m. and finish at 5:00 p.m. Participants will have an opportunity to share their work with the community on November 17th at the library.

The workshop, open to young people from Conway in grades 4 through 6 (public, private, or home-schooled), has a workshop maximum of ten students. The workshop leader, Jacqui Goodman, is a retired teacher who lives in Shelburne Falls. We are thrilled to have Jacqui present this workshop, and she promises that it will engage the hearts and minds of young people. She has over 38 years of teaching experience in public and private schools, most of which was spent teaching grades 4 to 6.

Registration is open from September 15 to October 13: first-come/first-registered. There is a \$5.00 fee due at registration for snacks and drinks. The workshop will provide all needed materials at no cost. To register, get an electronic application from the library website at <https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org/> or email Jacqui for information and/or to register at jacquigoodman@gmail.com. The Friends of the Field Memorial Library give thanks for funding support from the Conway Cultural Council, part of the Mass Cultural Council.

Conway Cultural Council Grant Funding Proposals Due October 15

The Massachusetts Cultural Council has set an October 15 deadline for organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs. These grants can support a variety of projects benefiting the people of

Conway, such as exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, performances, workshops, and lectures. In the past, preference has been given to applicants from Conway and/or programs that take place in Conway and/or benefit Conway residents.

The Conway Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural-funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. Previously funded projects have included such things as nature programs, art/music programs for students, historical presentations, art and writing workshops for teens and adults, and musical and theatrical performances and workshops. Events may be live or virtual.

For complete information on the Conway Cultural Council as well as specifics on guidelines and the application process, see www.mass-culture.org. The application process is relatively straight forward, but feel free to contact the Conway Cultural Council with any questions: conwayculturalcouncil@gmail.com

Take Our Survey

The Conway Cultural Council would like input from Conway residents to help determine the council's priorities for issuing grants. Conway residents are invited to complete this short survey at <https://forms.gle/dcTHUitwQjxQnoFSA> by September 30. Your name will be entered into a drawing for a basket of the following items:

- Boyden Brothers 1-quart Grade A maple syrup
- OESCO \$25 gift certificate
- Handmade soap by Kim Goddard from Shirkshire Farm
- Music CD, *Feathered Dove* by Culomba, featuring local singers Sophie Michaux, Adam Simon, and Lysander Jaffe

You must be a Conway resident to enter, and you may submit only one entry. We will contact the winner by email after September 30.

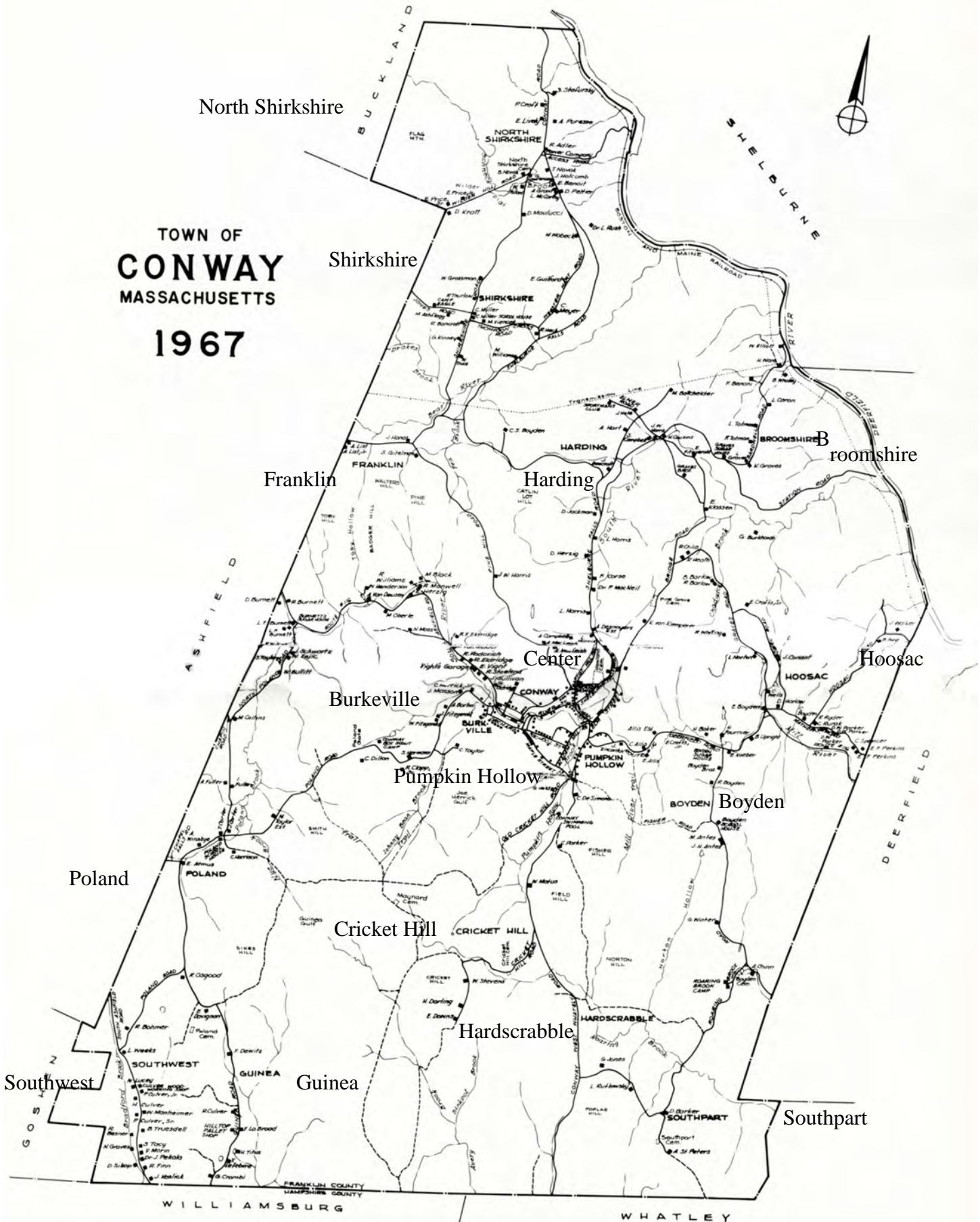
A Look into Conway History . . .What's in a Name? Conway's Sixteen Neighborhoods

Although Conway officially became a town in 1767, its settlement occurred gradually over years. In 1817 the town center – and the first of Conway's sixteen neighborhoods, or districts – was Pumpkin Hollow. Around the common were the town's first schoolhouse, church, and cemetery, as well as businesses that could supply the needs of most of the town's residents: an inn, store, and wagon and harness shops. Why was the area called Pumpkin Hollow? According to tradition, pumpkins from hillside farms frequently rolled down into the valley. Attempts to change the name to something else, such as "Church Green," met with strong resistance. More than a hundred years ago, Rev. Charles Baker Rice (1829-1913) declared, ". . . I make it here to be known that so long as the greatest of those vegetable orbs will roll from the top of Field's or Newhall's hill the valley that lies between shall be called of men Pumpkin Hollow."

Boyden, Burkeville, Franklin, and Harding took their names from early settlers. In fact, Josiah Boyden became Conway's second settler (after Cyrus Rice) when he bought a plot of land here in 1771. Center is, of course, the present town center, and South Part and Southwest identify the geographic locations of these neighborhoods. Baptist Hill was named when the Baptist Church, first constructed near where St. Mark's Church now stands, was dismantled and moved onto Baptist Hill in 1810.

Deane Lee, in the book he edited – *Conway: 1767-1967* – offered the traditional origins of some of the district names taken from a speech given by Capt. Otis Childs in 1845. According to Capt. Childs, "Broomshire got its name from the walnut brooms made and sold by William Warren. He made them because he was

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MASSACHUSETTS
1967



hungry and out of meat. He would walk to Deerfield, hire a horse and pung [a box-shaped sleigh] to carry his brooms, and then return to Deerfield to sell them for a pound and a half of pork each."

Shirkshire was named by a man who offered to help road workers in return for a meal. When told that his services were a contribution to the town, he supposedly responded that the place should be called Shirkshire, because they had shirked their obligation to pay him. As for Hardscrabble, its poor soil made it so unfit for farming that it became the only part of Conway to be abandoned. Tradition (and Capt. Childs) tells us that the name of Cricket Hill came about when a group of early surveyors or hunters spent a night there and complained about the constant chirping of crickets. Poland may or may not have been named "following a struggle between two boys over the skins of some pole cats," a common name for black-footed ferrets.

According to Deane Lee, no explanations for the names of Hoosac or Guinea have been found. However, I discovered that the name of the Hoosac River – and perhaps that of Hoosac itself – is derived from the Mohican *wudjoo*, "mountain," and *abic*, "rock." And Guinea? Guinea fowl, native to Africa, were introduced into Europe by Portuguese explorers and raised for their meat and eggs. Early settlers in North America brought guinea fowl with them. It's not hard to imagine a Conway settler with a flock of these delicious relatives of pheasants.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, the organizing committee or town officials and should not be construed as such. Although we work to produce accurate and typographically correct copy, we cannot be responsible for errors or accuracy of materials submitted. *Conway Currents* does not endorse any specific product or service mentioned in its pages and is not responsible for the reliability of any service.

Covered Bridge Road Race

Despite the cancelation of the 2021 Conway Festival of the Hills, the Covered Bridge Road Race will be happening on Sunday, October 3, 2021! Race starts at 10:00 a.m. Course description is below.

Entry Fees: Adult \$25.00, child of a registered parent \$5.00 (This discounted fee is to run the standard course; there will not be a shorter kids' race this year.)

Prizes: Merchandise prizes in all divisions. Prize list coming soon!

Preregistration: Register online at Runreg.com.

Register on race day at Field Memorial Library starting around 8:30 a.m. and ending at 9:40 a.m.

Parking: Turn off Rte. 116 onto Elm Street. Parking is on the left. Watch for signs.

Route: This 10-K Race begins at Conway's historic Burkeville Covered Bridge, just west of the town center. Registration and the finish line are at the Field Memorial Library in the town center. Plan to complete your registration at least 20 minutes before the start of the race to leave time to comfortably travel the one mile to the starting line.

Racers begin at the covered bridge and briefly head east along Route 116. They turn up Ives Road, turn onto Delabarre Avenue and over Baptist Hill, head down Cemetery Hill Road, and cross the South River onto Reed's Bridge Road. After crossing the bridge, racers turn left and head north on Reed's Bridge Road through hilly terrain, loop over the Truce Road hill, and rejoin Reed's Bridge Road, then follow Elm Street to the finish line at Field Memorial Library. Much of the route along Reed's Bridge Road is a scenic, unpaved, gravel road.

All proceeds benefit the Festival of the Hills Scholarship Fund.

Field Memorial Library Scholarship Awarded

The Friends of the Field Memorial Library held a celebratory event on Saturday, July 31, at which they presented their \$500 2021 scholarship to Ms. Brooke Flanders. Thad Bennett, coordinator for the scholarship effort, emceed the event, which included Brooke's parents and grandparents and members of the Friends. Bennett congratulated Brooke and noted that she will be studying to become a nurse at Endicott College starting this fall.

Her winning essay, responding to the application questions about "how the Black Lives Matter/racial justice movement has affected you and might influence your studies and activities in your college career," observed that "the issues of racial justice and injustice are very relevant" for her studies. "The nursing field interacts with anyone and everyone. Therefore we need to be aware of these issues that people may be dealing with and this movement has helped do so."

To finish off the ceremony, Friends member Grace Larson presented Brooke with a bouquet of red roses, and fellow member Linda McDaniel spoke of the importance of the library and the upcoming book sale (September 25), which helps fund the scholarship.

For information and to support your local library go to <https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org/> or visit the Field Memorial Library at 1 Elm Street in Conway or by mail to Friends of the Field Memorial Library, PO Box 189, Conway, MA 01341.

Always wanted to try writing poetry?

The Friends of the Field Memorial Library is offering a friendly poetry workshop on Saturday, October 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The workshop, "The Art of Listening: Exploring Ourselves Through Poetry," is open to high school teens (14 years old and up) as well as adults. New writers/poets are especially welcome! The workshop will build on each participant's experience so that

younger and older writers can energize and inspire each other as well as use the genre of their choice to write, share, and discuss their work.

The workshop leader, Christian McEwen, is a writer, educator, cultural activist, and an adjunct faculty member of Williams College's Center for Environmental Studies. She grew up in the Borders of Scotland, attended King's College, Cambridge, and UC Berkeley, and now lives in Williamsburg. Since leaving New York City twenty years ago, she has continued to teach, create, and write, including her book *World Enough & Time: On Creativity and Slowing Down* (2011), now in its seventh printing. You can learn more about Christian at <https://www.christianmcewen.com>.

Workshop numbers are limited, and COVID-19 precautions may apply. Participants will be invited – not required – to share their work with the community on October 23. Registration is open from September 1 to October 1 or later as needed to fill spots. Registration is first-come/first-registered. There is a \$10.00 fee to register. Go to <https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org/> for an electronic application or email Karen at keldred01341@yahoo.com for information and/or to register. The Friends of the Field Memorial Library give thanks for partial funding support from the Conway Cultural Council, part of the Mass Cultural Council.

The Conway Fire Department: Past and Future

Bob Baker, Conway's fire chief of forty years, will present a program on Conway's Fire Department on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 7:30 p.m., at the Conway Historical Society Museum, 50 Main Street. Bob will talk about the Fire Department during his many years of service, describing the equipment used when he first volunteered and the improvements that happened over time. He will conclude with what the department will look like in the future. Refreshments will be served. Masks are encouraged.

Ashfield Congregational Church Organ Celebration Series Begins!

Sunday, September 19, 2021, 3:00 p.m. (rain date September 18*)
Grant Moss, Organ

This series celebrates the restoration of the 1903 George Reed tracker organ by Czelusniak et Dugal, Inc., Northampton. The series is supported by the First Congregational Church of Ashfield and the cultural councils of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont-Hawley, Conway, Plainfield, and Shelburne. For more information please go to the church website: ashfielducc.org.

*Attendees may choose to bring a blanket or lawn chair for outdoor listening.

Festival of the Hills 2022!

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to the Festival of the Hills in October 2022! Sparkling days and cool nights set the stage for Sunday's main events : contests of strength and skill in log-splitting and skillet-toss, a 10-kilometer/6.2-mile footrace through Conway's hills and hollows, a duck race on the South River, and a classic New England fall parade down Main Street. Arts and crafts exhibits, exciting local musicians, mouth-watering food such as fried dough offered by local vendors, an art show featuring expert local artisans, fun activities for kids and the young-at-heart, a raffle for chances at prizes, and merchandise and candy tables round out Saturday's and Sunday's attractions.

Although there will be a 10K race and bake sale in 2021, all other festival events will not resume until next year due to pandemic precautions. This year's race will be held on October 3 at 10:00 a.m., with the bake sale operating throughout the race. Visit the Festival of the Hills website for more information and to register: www.festivalofthehills.com.

Our highly-anticipated 2022 event will require at least 120 volunteers to run effectively. We hope that you will consider donating your time to the festival, which has generated over \$155,000 in scholarship aid given to more than 200 Conway high school seniors since 2000. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt organization since 2019, the Festival of the Hills exists only through volunteer support. This status allows our scholarships to help high school seniors with a variety of opportunities, including those outside attending an accredited university, such as the trades.

Starting in 1962, Conway has annually welcomed visitors to experience our warmth and *joie de vivre* over the weekend before Columbus Day. Although 2022 marks the 60th anniversary of our inaugural event, this will technically be our 58th year, as 2017 was dedicated to Conway's 250th anniversary and the 2020 and 2021 editions were canceled because of the pandemic. Modeled after the 1915 celebration of 100 years of peace between the United States and Great Britain, the first festival included dinners, round and square dancing, and displays by local artists, expanding over the next two years to highlight the varied artistic talent Conway hosts with the addition of the Hill Towns Talent Show. The ensuing years of growth cemented the Festival of the Hills as an enduring occasion that we look forward to continuing.

We will be sharing highlights of various festival events and volunteer opportunities over the coming months in *Conway Currents*, as well as on our website and social media pages. We hope that you will enjoy these stories and highlights and that they will give you a better sense of what the possibilities are for volunteering. And, if you just can't wait to join in, come to a planning meeting! Meetings are held monthly at Conway Town Hall, and you can write to festivalofthehills@yahoo.com for the next meeting date and time.

Meet Me at the Station

by Kathy Llamas

Oh, my stars! The Conway Mall had a well-attended Grand Opening on August 8. There were about 40 guests throughout the day, and a wide variety of donations flowed in. However, the opening would not have gone so smoothly without the many volunteers who prepped, painted, and beautified the space: Celia and Susannah Van Driesche cleaned, Joe Llamas and Tim Fisk painted, Doreen Xiaoli made the wonderful signs, thanks to Barbara Llamas for donating the lemonade and Devon Whitney-Deal for her delicious muffins – and what would both the mall and I do without Denise Dwelley, who brings a passionate energy to all she does? Now that we are underway, the many who have offered to volunteer can expect to hear from me soon. If you would like to add yourself to the list, please call me at 413-695-5626.

Speaking of stars . . . if you have items that are too big to store in our building but would still like to donate or are in need of a particular item, stop by and add your name and items to the Wish List under the stars. We would love to help!

Donations of clothing and shoes of all sizes, accessories, books, children's toys and crafts, CDs and household goods are very appreciated. The mall cannot accept any electronics. However, you can add a photo and description of such items to the Wish List, and perhaps you will find a taker!

Five-Minute Interview: Likening the Transfer Station to a train yard is an apt analogy. And if so, then attendant Lee Gray would be the master conductor. Lee deftly keeps the “trains entering the yard” rolling along and helps to avoid jams on the tracks. Lee has been a long-time member of the Conway community. He has lived here for more than forty years with his wife Denice while raising their three children: Joshua, Leanna, and Mindi. When not at the Transfer Station, Lee enjoys life on the farm with his animals, fishing, and hunting deer and small game. Lee enjoys the

time he spends giving service to others and reflecting on his memories of these times. Among his many favorite stories is how Mary Merriam would always bring him a baked treat every week. If she forgot to, she always made a special return trip with goody in hand to show her appreciation!

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Franklin County Solid Waste District is planning to hold the 2021 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, **September 25**, at GCC's Main Campus and the Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses must preregister by September 17.

Preregister online at

www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html. For more information, see the complete notice on the town website, townofconway.com.

Conway Community Swimming Pool Water Testing

The Conway Community Swimming Pool is beloved in our town. Every summer the cool water and beautiful setting provide a respite cherished by many residents. Fast water flow through the pool not only keeps the water cool, it also keeps the concentration (or "load") of coliform bacteria in the water low, making it safe for us to swim there. However, when there is a hard rain, especially one that persists for hours or days, bacteria are carried from the surrounding landscape into the pool in such great numbers that levels of coliform bacteria rise above health standards and the pool must be closed.

If the gate is closed with a sign "Closed due to high bacterial counts," do not remove the sign, do not open the gate. Only authorized members of the pool committee may open or close the gate.

Please respect pool closures. Let's all work to keep Conway residents safe!

The Conway Pool Committee

Festival of the Hills Bake Sale

The Festival of the Hills will be holding our traditional bake sale on Sunday, October 3, 2021, in conjunction with the Covered Bridge Classic Road Race. Please consider donating your specialty baked item. Items (cookies, cupcakes, etc.) need to be individually wrapped and dropped off at the sale by 8:00 a.m. near Town Hall. The sale will begin at 8:30 a.m. and run until 12:00 noon. Please stop by and enjoy some home-baked goodies. All proceeds will benefit the Conway Festival of the Hills Scholarship Fund.

Conway Firemen's Auxiliary Turkey Dinner

The annual turkey dinner will be held on September 25th at the Conway Grammar School. 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!

Whately Congregational Church Annual BBQ

Whately Congregational Church will hold its 27th annual chicken barbecue on Monday, September 6, 2021, Labor Day 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.. Takeout only. \$12.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children. For tickets and reservations - while they last! - call 665-2653 Chicken, fresh corn, baked potato, roll, and brownie.

Unheard Melodies

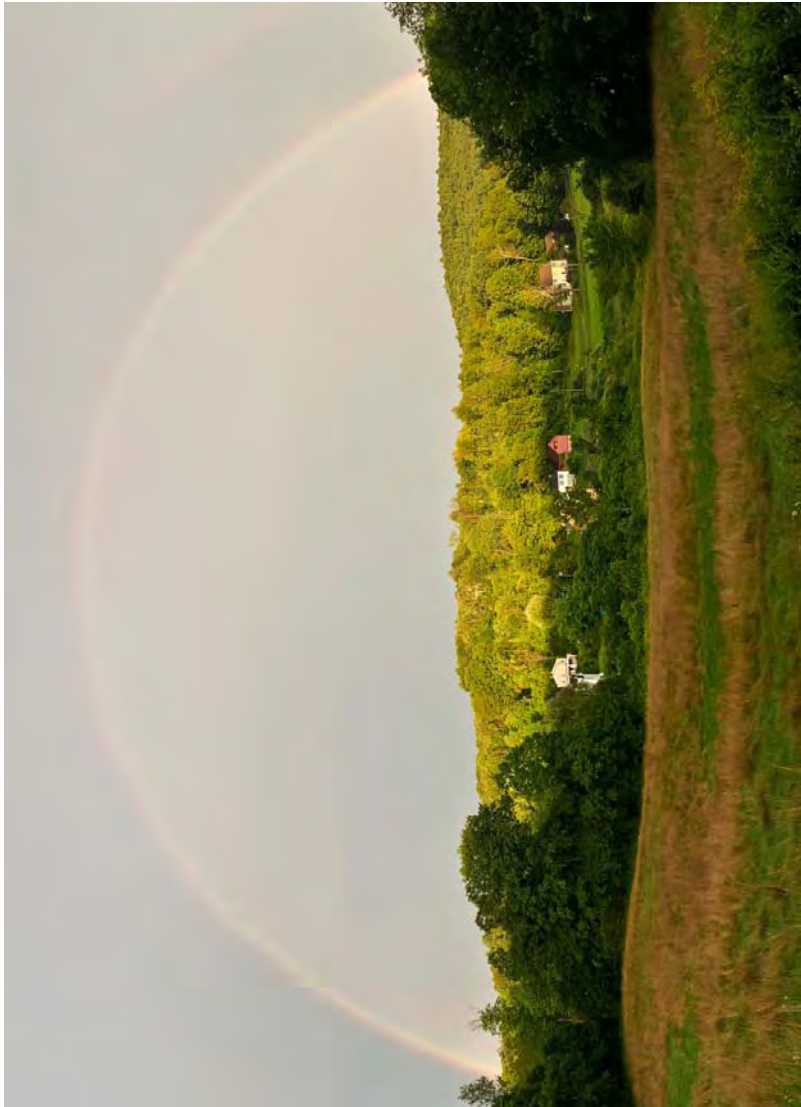
by Nicole Braden-Johnson

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

These Days

On cool nights, Fall's encroaching arm begins to chisel
At the blooming kaleidoscope of deciduous trees.
The squirrels scurry and scatter around shallow treasures
In a hurry to stave off Winter's famine.
The boisterous dandelion increasingly trades her sunny
bonnet
For an ermine shawl in preparation for her botanic
hibernation.
And still warm days fill with the din of hungry robins,
grosbeaks, and blue jays.
And still the sun kisses children's cheeks.
And still the days are cozy and lazy and sweet.

These moments feel slippery.
Like holding water in your hands,
drinking quickly before it drips away.
But deep in the dirt the pulse
Of a thousand tiny tendrils seeking water
Holds the entire earth together.



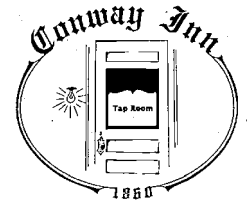
After the Storm: A Perfect Double Rainbow over Pumpkin Hollow
Mark Gollehon, August, 2021

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.

Pay 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. **Deadline is the 20th of the preceding month.** If you want to discuss your ad or have any questions, please call or email. Thanks for your support of *Conway Currents*!

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 supporting your local businesses!



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!

Baker's Country Store - open seven days a week for all-day take-out breakfast and lunch. Hours: Monday-Friday 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Call 369-4936. Local fruits and veggies, including fresh corn, berries, peaches and apples! 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.com/Bakers-Country-Store for today's specials. **Help Wanted** - for 5:30 a.m. opening hours. Inquire at the store during regular hours.

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

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".

Transportation Services for Elders - Driving services for doctor appointments, shopping, supermarket visits are available at very reasonable rates. Over 6 years experience assisting community elders. Please call John at 413-369-6099 or email at johnpitz17@gmail.com.

Viola and violin lessons with Geoffrey Baker - Hearing string players of all ages and ability at my Main Street, Conway studio. Experience the fulfillment of playing Bach, Mozart, the Beatles, Bruno Mars, Fire on the Mountain, or anything you like with a bow and four strings. My teaching philosophy: you are an athlete as well as an artist when you play an instrument and playing live music is for your entire life, so why not improve now or pick up where you left off? I have worked with teens in large classes, children in small groups, and coached adults in chamber music. It's never too late to begin! My learning foundation combines technique, expression, and theory to give you the tools to grow. I know from experience that teaching is about reaching people. Learn more at <http://www.geoffreybakermusic.com>. Geoffrey Baker 215-760-0729; geoffreybakermusic@gmail.com

Town of Conway
P. O. Box 240
Conway, MA 01341