



Volume 2, Number 10 - October 2021

Notes from the Town Administrator

I am very pleased to announce that the town has received a Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) grant from the state in the amount of \$191,200, spread over two years. The purpose of this grant is to help the town make preparations for and guard against the potential for flooding in the center of town during major weather events.

I am also pleased to announce that the Town Hall will have new office hours for the public. Laurie Lucier has been appointed as the new assessors clerk as well as the temporary Board of Health clerk, in addition to her role as town clerk. She has moved her town clerk office to the Town Hall and will now be available to help residents with questions in all three departments. This means that both the Town Office as well as the Town Hall will be open five days a week, including some evening hours (after 5:00 p.m.) to better serve residents. Please check within this issue for both Town Hall and Town Office hours on the website www.townofconway.com.

Last, I am very interested in helping to promote both community and economic development in Conway, and I am hoping to gather a group of interested residents to discuss ways to create more community events, how best to support our current businesses, as well as what kinds of businesses could be supported and enticed to come to Conway. If you are interested in any of these subjects, please contact me at townadmin@townofconway.com or 369-4235 x 3.

Here's to a lovely fall and a Happy Halloween!

Véronique

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 October 6. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email patricialynch@earthlink.net.

Senior Calendar for October

"First Friday" Walk-in Wellness Clinics Clinics are held on the first Friday of the month in the Conway Town Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Regional public health nurses Lisa White, RN, and Meg Ryan, RN, staff the clinic. There are no out-of-pocket costs to residents for this service, which is provided through the town's membership in FRCOG Cooperative Public Health Service. For more information, call 413-665-1400 x 114.

Grab-and-Go Meals The COA offers fully prepared meals from LifePath Thursdays at noon for curbside pickup at Town Hall. Menus vary. For more information or to sign up for a meal, call Carolyn Thayer at 369-6948. LifePath suggests a voluntary donation of \$3.00 per meal ordered.

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. and Friday from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. on Zoom. 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. The next clinic will be on October 4. There is a \$20.00 fee. For information or to schedule an appointment, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010.

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 at the library. These are hybrid classes with an option for Zoom streaming. Class times: mat yoga 10:00-11:00 a.m. chair yoga 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Call Jody at 413-824-9435 for the Zoom links.

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.

Mosquito Bite Prevention

Summer is technically over, but mosquitoes are still with us. Mosquitoes are more than a nuisance; they can carry diseases, such as West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Here are some mosquito bite prevention measures:

- Wearing long pants and long sleeves provides the best protection.
- Light-colored clothing is less attractive to mosquitoes.
- 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 it is odorless and nontoxic to humans once it dries. Again, be sure you read and follow directions on the label. While safe to use on dogs, permethrin is toxic to cats.
- If you go outdoors between dusk and dawn, be sure you are well protected, as this is when disease-carrying mosquitoes are most likely to be out in search of a meal.
- Use screens on windows and doors. Repair holes in screens.
- 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.

For links to a variety of sources of information on mosquito bite prevention, go to the town website, townofconway.com.

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.

The Conway Cultural Council would like to thank all who responded to our survey, with special thanks to local singers Sophie Michaux, Adam Simon, and Lysander Jaffe and to OESCO, Boyden Brothers Maple Sugar House, and Kim Goddard from Shirkshire Farm for donations to the survey drawing basket.

Open Space and Recreation Public Forum

You are invited to the virtual Open Space and Recreation Public Forum on **Tuesday, October 19, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**, for a discussion of the plan, survey results, and draft goals, objectives, and action plan.

We want to know what you think! Your input is an essential part of the town's ongoing work to identify, prioritize, and develop projects that (1) meet the recreation needs of its residents, (2) protect our natural, scenic, historic, and recreation resources, (3) plan future land use, and (4) help make our community more resilient to a changing climate. Once approved by the state, the updated plan makes the community eligible for Department of Conservation Services grant funds for conservation and recreation projects for up to seven years.

Visit <https://townofconway.com/tell-us-what-you-think-about-open-space-and-recreation-in-conway/> to register. The public comment period runs from October 12 to October 26. Public drafts will be available during that period on this website and in hard copy at the Field Memorial Library. Please submit any feedback to tflanders@frcog.org.

Planning Board Needs New Members

The Planning Board is looking for some more volunteer members! This board is responsible for drafting, amending, and modifying zoning bylaws and granting special permits. This coming year we will be working on flood plain bylaws (required by the state in order for residents to qualify for flood insurance) and our master plan. Conway's current master plan was created in 2013; time for an update! The plan forecasts the long-term needs of the town with respect to housing, land use, economic development, environmental concerns, services and facilities, conservation, and recreation. The board will be hosting a series of focus groups to get as much input as possible from residents.

Current Planning Board members are Beth Girshman (chair), Jennifer Mullins (vice-chair), Susan Fentin, and Bill Moebius. Joe Strzegowski is serving as an associate member. Without enough members it is possible that projects requiring special attention may be delayed, planning for the future put off, and bylaws relevant to current needs of our town not developed.

Consider helping your town by joining the Planning Board. For more information, contact any of the current members or email planningboard@townofconway.com. You can also call Beth directly at 369-6079. We'll be happy to talk about this opportunity to be of service.

Update from the Field Memorial Library

The library's "Perspectives on the Pandemic" community-engagement project, funded by the American Library Association (ALA) through its "Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small & Rural Libraries" national program, continues with a concert. Local musicians Katie Clarke, Larry LeBlanc, and Dave Chalfant will promote healing from the pandemic through their music. Their focus is on old-time country, bluegrass, and Katie's original songs. The concert will be outdoors in front of the library so that all can join and still be socially distanced. Bring a chair and join us in time for their performance, which begins at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 2!

The library is sponsoring workshops funded through the Massachusetts and Conway Cultural Councils. "The Art of Listening: Exploring Ourselves through Poetry and Prose" will be offered on Saturday, October 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. "Exploring Creative Writing" will be offered on four Wednesdays this fall. Please find details on our website <https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org/>.

The library is pleased to announce that Sara Luttrell, in the last semester of her MLS program at Simmons-Mt. Holyoke, has joined our staff as assistant librarian. We are delighted to welcome Sara and

the professional preparation she brings through both teaching and library education and experience. Please drop by the library on Saturdays to say hello to Sara. At the same time, we bid adieu to Grace and Sylvia Cabral, who served FML so well as library assistants for the past four years. Thank you, Grace and Sylvia!

The process of FML joining CWMars continues, and we should soon be at the stage where we will have a training session for volunteers to learn how to apply and index barcodes to all our approximately 14,000 items. This process includes many steps, but we are well on our way. When we are ready, we will post on our website an announcement calling for volunteers.

With so many activities, ordering new books has taken a back seat of late, but now we are preparing a fall order, so please email the director with any suggestions you have for new books!

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
<https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org>
Phone 413-369-4646

UCC of Conway Bake Sale

UCC Conway will be having a baked goods sale on Friday, October 8, from 10:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Conway. We will be outside. Donations of baked goods are welcome.

Organ Celebration Series at Ashfield Congregational Church Continues!

Saturday, October 30, 2021, 2:00 p.m.* (Rain date Oct. 31)

Jerry Noble, Organ and Piano; Bob Sparkman, Clarinet; Kara Noble, Bass; and Tinky Weisblat, Soprano (with special songs for Halloween!)

Celebrating the restoration of the 1903 George Reed tracker organ by Czelusniak et Dugal, Inc. of Northampton. The series is supported by the First Congregational Church of Ashfield, an anonymous donor, and the Cultural Councils of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont-Hawley, Conway, Plainfield, and Shelburne.

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

Garden Club Notes

Common Evening Primrose: Attractive, Edible, and Medicinal

Common evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*) is known by a variety of common names: evening star, sundrop, fever plant, hogweed, weedy evening primrose, German rampion, and King's cure-all. Some of these names relate to its bright yellow, evening-opening blossoms; some to its medicinal properties; others to the fact that although many people admire the plant's beautiful and delicate appearance, just as many view it as an invasive weed.



A biennial, evening primrose won't blossom in its first year, producing only a rosette of leaves at ground level. In its second year, the rosette sends up a tall, stiff flower stem that can reach a height of five feet. True to its name, the plant's four-petaled blossoms begin opening in the evening, bloom through the night,

and close during the day. As with other night-blooming plants, its chief pollinators are night-flying insects – moths in particular (especially sphinx moths) – although in the evening and on cloudy mornings when the flowers stay open, bumblebees and honeybees feast on the rich nectar and collect pollen, and hummingbirds visit as well. The plant's seeds are an important winter food source for birds, including goldfinches.

Native Americans – among them the Cherokee, Iroquois, and Ojibwe – first discovered the medicinal properties of this native of eastern and central North America and used the plant to treat wounds and such skin problems as sunburn and eczema. European settlers depended on it for issues like asthma and whooping cough. The seeds are rich in amino acids and a polyunsaturated fatty acid, making evening primrose oil widely sold as an herbal supplement or oil used for skin disorders.

Almost all parts of evening primrose are edible. Before the plant flowers, the leaves can be eaten raw in salads, cooked like spinach, and used in soups. The buds and flowers may be used as a garnish for salads. The taproots of first-year plants may be eaten raw or boiled.

Evening primrose is usually grown from seed (collected or purchased). Seeds are best sown on top of the soil in early spring or late fall and then watered well. Choose a spot with full sun and soil that has been previously cultivated. Seedlings can be thinned and planted a foot apart. Once established, the plant will self-seed, so be careful not to let it take over!

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

Correction: On the 1967 map of Conway in the September issue, Broomshire appeared incorrectly as Brookshire.

From Conway's Kitchens

From the kitchen of Pat Lynch: a salad that uses summer's bounty.

Broccoli Primavera

1 bunch broccoli, trimmed and cut into small florets
2 medium carrots, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch dice
1 medium yellow squash, cut in half lengthwise and then into 1/4-inch dice
1 red bell pepper, cored and cut into 1/4-inch dice
1 cup cooked peas
Grated zest of 1 lemon
2 Tbs chopped Italian parsley (optional)
3/4 cup mustard vinaigrette (or your own dressing)

- In boiling water, blanch carrots 1 minute and broccoli and squash 30 seconds each, draining and refreshing under cold water. Pat vegetables dry.
- In a bowl, combine broccoli, carrots, squash, red pepper, peas, lemon zest, and parsley. Just before serving, toss gently with vinaigrette.

Mustard Vinaigrette

1 Tbs Dijon mustard
3 Tbs white wine vinegar or tarragon vinegar
1 tsp dried or 1 Tbs fresh tarragon
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp freshly ground black pepper
1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
2 Tbs safflower oil

Place mustard in a bowl. Whisk in vinegar, tarragon, salt, and pepper. Slowly drizzle in oils, whisking constantly, until dressing becomes creamy. Makes ¾ cup.

Conway Resident Mike Haley

Michael Haley – actor, motion picture assistant director and producer, and the man who brought Irish Road Bowling (aka Irish Cannonball Croquet) and the Chesbro Challenge to Conway as well as writing for *Conway Currents* under the *nom de plume* Sir Reginald Buttwinker – was born in Pittsfield, MA, in 1942. He first became interested in theater while a student at UMass-Amherst, following a brief foray into electrical engineering at Berkshire Community College, where, ". . . after my 15th electrical shock . . . I said, 'This doesn't seem to be working for me.'" His UMass experiences led to a forty-year career in film. During those years he worked with such noted directors as Sidney Lumet and Penny Marshall and had a long association with Mike Nichols. His film credits include *Groundhog Day*, *Analyze This*, *A League of Their Own* (in which he played the sympathetic umpire), *Charlie Wilson's War*, *Primary Colors*, and *Closer*. Among his awards are an Emmy as co-executive producer of *Angels in America*.

Mike met his wife, Joan – who in the 1960s and 1970s worked for a who's who of film producers and deserves a *Currents* profile of her own – while working on *Godfather II*, but they didn't cross paths again until 1979, after Mike had moved back to western Massachusetts and was living in Sunderland. In 1989 they bought the Colonial on Baptist Hill that is still their home. Of this move, Mike said, "What better way to frost the cake of my life?" After having lived all over the country, he chose Conway: "I can walk down any of the roads in Conway and feel gratitude." As he told a *Greenfield Recorder* reporter in 2019, "Conway's heaven to me. I've been every place, but you can't beat this place, as far as I'm concerned."

And to Mike, the center of the community is Baker's Country Store. "Going to Baker's every morning is the most invigorating, life-enhancing thing. It's a gift: the camaraderie. . . ." His short play, *Betty Baker's Buttermilk Biscuit Barn*, created for the town's 250th Anniversary Celebration and presented by Haley and the

Silverthorne Theater Company, is a comedic representation of daily life in a small-town diner.

Mike had no big plans following retirement from the film industry in 2010 (Joan had retired in 1995). He felt his work was done. The film industry had changed, and so had he. After completing his last film, he saw opportunities for expansion of his interests, for pursuing his heart's desire. And part of that became making Conway "the wacky game capital of the world." "People who live here have their own talent. . . . if you talk to people in the right way, they're willing to take a chance." And from that beginning came the Chesbro Challenge, Irish Road Bowling, and Mike's version of the card game Crazy Eights, played at the Conway firehouse until 2019, after which COVID-19 ended these opportunities for community fun and any others Mike's fertile – and wacky – imagination may have produced.



Mike's plans for future Conway fun depend, of course, on COVID and its variants. Irish Road Bowling had a riotous revival this summer, and Mike wants not only to bring back the Chesbro Challenge and Crazy Eights, but also to produce a spooky Halloween radio play version of *Sleepy Hollow* he rewrote for Conway with Conway characters. (He says he had the most fun making up all the sound effects.) Conway residents can also look forward to an adult "indoor olympics," another way Mike hopes to see people happy, "doing things they wouldn't ordinarily do."

Coming Together for Conway: An Interview with Gail Connelly

While we'll have to wait another year for the return of the Festival of the Hills, Conway is still having two events! The festival will be holding our traditional bake sale on Sunday, October 3, 2021, in conjunction with the Covered Bridge Classic Road Race. Come run the race, cheer, and enjoy home-baked goods and beverages with your neighbors and friends. The sale will begin at 8:30 a.m. and run until 12:00 noon. All proceeds will benefit the Conway Festival of the Hills Scholarship Fund.

In anticipation of next year's festival, we sat down with longtime Conway resident Gail Connelly to hear about her volunteer efforts over the years with the festival and bake sale, and to discuss the importance and fun of helping our community. Gail has lived in Conway for 35 years and has volunteered for most of that time. If you don't already know her, you've probably seen her at the festival bake sale or at a firemen's auxiliary or Council on Aging event.

If there is one thing Gail would like everyone to take away from her volunteer experience, it's that if everyone gave just one hour of their time, we would have more than enough help to make the festival the special occasion it is. Gail credits her friend Trish for encouraging her to donate that first hour of her time. Gail's interest in volunteering was instilled by her parents, who gave their time while she was growing up to the area's grange as well as to scout meetings and trips.

Gail believes that part of what makes Conway a nice place to live is us – the people of Conway – and volunteering at town events is one of the best ways to get to know everyone. Gail calls the annual Festival of the Hills an American tradition, with its offerings of music, food, and fun things to do, and it's a great opportunity for kids to run around and play while parents have a chance to enjoy

all the festival has to offer. She looks forward to introducing her great-granddaughter to festival fun next year.

Each year's bake sale is made possible through generous donations of homemade pies and other baked goods. Please consider donating your own specialties (cookies, cupcakes, etc.), individually wrapped and dropped off at the booth near Town Hall by 8:00 a.m. Come say hello to Gail on October 3!

Please also consider donating what you would have spent at the canceled 2021 festival to make sure we have scholarship funds available for the graduating class of 2022. Donations are now the main source of funding for those scholarships. To learn more about the festival and volunteering or to donate to the scholarship fund, please visit our website, www.festivalofthehills.com.

A Look into Conway History

Sixteen Schools for Sixteen Districts

One of the first actions the newly incorporated town of Conway took after its first town meeting on August 24, 1767, was a vote to "hire a Dame to keep school 5 months." Money was appropriated for school expenses, but for several years classes were held in private homes in various parts of town. It wasn't until 1773 that construction of a school building began on the common in Pumpkin Hollow. Completed in 1774, Pumpkin Hollow School served the entire town. "Here, whenever it was in session," according to *History of Conway 1767-1917*, "the older children came from all parts, boys and girls, young men and women. It thus became, by force of circumstances, a town high school. The branches taught were reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic." For more than a hundred years an elm tree, planted on the town's centennial, marked the site of the original school, "a living memorial." The tree was cut down in 1963, most likely a victim of Dutch elm disease.

In 1783 the town began to make provision for schoolhouses in each of its districts. As the population increased, so did the number of districts and the number of district schools. By 1830 the town had twelve schoolhouses.

It's difficult to pin down exactly where some schools were located within their districts. Both *History of Conway 1767-1917* and Deane Lee's *Conway: 1767-1967* frequently identify locations in relation to early residents' homes. In addition, schools were often moved at least once. For example: "In North Shirkshire the school was for many years just south of the Shirkshire Cemetery. After 1871, it was located on the common near the Adler farm. later the building was moved a short distance toward the southeast where it is now the Holcomb home."

There were no grades as such, children of all ages being taught together in these mostly small, one-room schools. An example can be found in the Boyden Schoolhouse, built in 1881, which was moved from its original location near a bend of Roaring Brook Road to a site next to Conway Grammar School in 2000, where it is used as a museum and historical classroom by the Conway Historical Society. The school, which housed about twenty students, closed in 1922.

Most of these schools remained in use well into the 20th century. Hardscrabble School, though, along with its poorly populated district, was gone before 1858. Near the end of the 19th century a graded system was introduced, and in 1902 a school to house all the elementary grades was constructed on Schoolhouse Road in Burkeville. This began the decline and eventual end of the district school system. Pumpkin Hollow School was used only for the upper grades, and it closed in 1902. The longest survivor was Poland School, which held out until 1944. The 1902 Conway Grammar School building served the town until 1990, when it was replaced by the present school on Fournier Road.

UCC of Conway Celebrates a Milestone

For everything there is a season, a time, and UCC of Conway can celebrate a milestone. Now, in September, we finally have action on the church site. It has been a long haul, with hours of meetings, plans revised and revisited, permitting sought and granted, discussions, questions asked and answered, as well as many consultations with the architect, structural engineer, and general contractor. The Building Committee has stayed the course during our "perfect storm," and they should be commended for the many hours of work over the last four years.

We look forward to a new, completed building in 2022. As you drive by, look for changes at 44 Whately Road. Thanks to all who have supported us in this endeavor.

Catching Up On Words & Phrases

by Sir Reginald Buttwinker

I'm a "geezer" (70-79), my friend Mike is an "old geezer" (80-89), and I even know a couple of "What the . . . ?" (90-99). We're totally out of synch with current words and phrases. So, for all of my fellow geezers, etc., here are some definitions to help us along.

Artisanal: Someone who wears rubber gloves while making your meatball grinder.

Qr Code: A poorly made crossword puzzle for your iPhone. Ask your grandchildren for help or you'll go absolutely nuts trying to figure it out.

Essential Worker: ANYONE who's available.

Body Shame: The reason you don't look in the mirror.

Service Animal: An iguana that gets you a window seat.

Gig Economy: Musician passing the hat.

Opening Statement: The thing you say before inserting your foot in your mouth.

Shading: Something your neighbor should do at bedtime.

Gaslighting: What you do after a ham-and-bean supper.

Sofa Surfer: You know who you are.

Probiotic: More digestible than amateur biotic.

Pasta: Spaghetti that costs more.

G.O.A.T.: If you've been called one by a teen, say, "Thank you." If you've been called one by your wife, just say, "I know."

Dope: It used to be your little brother. Now it's a good thing to say about someone or something. CAUTION: Many adults have not caught up with its new meaning. Just sayin'.

MEME: I thought it was pronounced "Me. Me," a term I used to use during my potty training years. For clarification, here's the real definition: "A unit of cultural information spread by imitation." . . . Huh?

Gone to the Dogs!

A Mohegan Sun Casino Bus Trip on **Sunday, October 17, 2021** is planned to benefit the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter in Turners Falls. \$35.00 per person. Adults only; must be 18 to attend.



Includes soft drinks, games with prizes, raffles, and more. BYOB (21+ to drink).

100% of the proceeds go to the dogs!

Pickup locations: 52 Main Road, Gill @ 8:00 a.m.; Dunkin' Park & Ride, South Deerfield @ 8:20 a.m.; Sheldon Park, Northampton @ 8:45 a.m. Depart Mohegan Sun @ 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Travel Kuz, Greenfield Savings Bank, and Dillon Chevrolet. For additional information or reservations call Pam at 413-768-9401.

Rag Shag Parade & Carved Pumpkin Contest

On Sunday, October 31, the Conway Firemen's Auxiliary will host for town residents the Annual Rag Shag Parade. The parade will begin at 7:00 p.m. Everyone will meet at the common on the corner of Shelburne Falls Road and Main Street and follow the fire truck to the library.

We are also holding a Carved Pumpkin Contest. To enter, drop off your carved pumpkin between 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. at the Field Memorial Library common. Pumpkins will be exhibited along the stone wall in front of the library. Pumpkins must have the entrant's first and last names and age clearly marked on the underside. All pumpkins must be picked up by 10:00 p.m.

Meet Me at the Station

by Kathy Llamas

Things at the Transfer Station have been rather busy these days. The station is looking for a few more "conductors" (transfer station attendants). Currently, the station has found its crews running a bit short. If you would like to be considered, please let the Board of Health know at boardofhealth@townofconway.com and we can provide you with an application.

The Conway Mall has added a few more elves, who have helped restore order to the shed, and their assistance has been much appreciated. I understand that Marcie and Lennie have donated their time and talents to the Mall Maven Crew! I do not have their last names yet, but their work could not go unnoticed!

A steady stream of donations has been coming in, and we are very grateful. The Mall accepts donations of clothing, shoes, books, children's toys, and home goods. We can also take scarves, gloves, mittens, purses, jewelry, CDs and DVDs, fabric, and yarn. Donations should be clean and free of rips or major staining. We are not able to accept any item that is moldy, nor can we take bulky items such as luggage, furniture, or the like. There is, however, a Wish Wall on which you can offer bulkier items; notices of specific needs can also be added.

See you all at the next station!

Festival of the Hills 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.

Swimming Pool News

The Swimming Pool Committee will hold an end-of-the-season community clean-up session on Oct. 17 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Bring gloves, hand pruners, and – if you are willing – a string-trimmer.

In late October we'll be sending our annual fund-raising letter. Please keep in mind that all of our operating expenses are paid by donations only. If by chance you don't receive a letter, donations can be made through our Pay Pal account on our website, www.conwayswimmingpool.org. We thank you in advance.

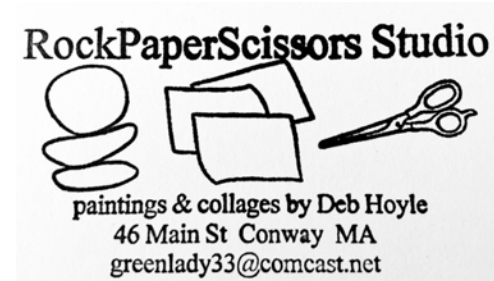
Town of Conway Clerk/Administrative Assistant

The Town of Conway is seeking a Clerk/Administrative Assistant to support the Highway Department (includes buildings and grounds). The successful candidate will have good written, verbal, and other clerical skills, be able to communicate effectively with other municipal employees and the general public, and be familiar with Word, Excel, internet, and e-mail applications in a Windows environment. 8 hours per week, \$18/hour (unbenefitted).

Get the application form here (scroll down past volunteer positions). Applications will be accepted immediately; position open till filled. E-mail application to highway@townofconway.com or mail to Highway Superintendent, P.O. Box 240, Conway, MA 01341. The Town of Conway is an equal opportunity employer.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors, the organizing committee or town officials and should not be construed as such. Although we work to produce accurate and typographically correct copy, we and our advertisers cannot be responsible for errors or the accuracy of materials submitted to us.

Open Studio: ROCKPAPERSCISSORS



The studio of Deb Hoyle at 46 Main Street will be open on Saturday, October 9 from 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Deb has been producing paintings and collages since the 2020 pandemic. Stop by to say hello and enjoy Deb's many layered,

textured, whimsical art work. If abstract art is new to you arrive with an open mind and a curious eye! Deb has a degree in art history and has been doing artwork for many years, mostly in watercolor, oil, and pastel. Her current collage venture is new thanks to the time allowed by the pandemic during which she had to close her bodywork practice for a year. Now she divides her time between both endeavors.

This event is a fundraiser for the Festival of the Hills Scholarship Fund and 10% of sales that day will be donated. Masks will be required and there will be both masks and hand sanitizer available. Concurrently Deb also has a month-long exhibit opening on October 2 at the Field Memorial Library as part of the Pandemic Possibilities project. Sales from this show will also benefit the FOH Scholarship Fund.

The deadline for articles and ads in the newsletter is the 20th of the preceding month. Please send your content, comments and suggestions by email to Kathy Llamas at conwaycurrents@gmail.com. Send your advertising requests to Louise at lmbeckett@crocker.com. Thank you!

Office Hours, Town Office and Town Hall

Phone; 413-369-4235 - extensions follow each position's title

Assessor ext. 5 Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill assessors@townofconway.com	T 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.* Th 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. *please call first, thank you.
Assistant to the Town Administrator ext. 0 Town Office, 32 Main Street assistant@townofconway.com	M-F 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Tax Collector ext. 1 Town Office, 32 Main Street taxcollector@townofconway.com	M, W, Th 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Town Administrator ext. 3 Town Office, 32 Main Street townadmin@townofconway.com	MW 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Lunch 12:00 -1:00 p.m. T,Th,F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Lunch 1-2 p.m.
Town Clerk, Assessors Clerk, Board of Health, ext. 4 Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill clerk@townofconway.com	M 2:00 - 6:30 p.m. T 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. W 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Th 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. F 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Treasurer/Payroll/Benefits ext. 2 Town Office, 32 Main Street treasurer@townofconway.com	M, W, Th 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please note that Laurie Lucier, Town Clerk is now also the Assessors' Clerk and temporarily serving as the Clerk to the Board of Health. Her office has moved to the Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill.

Unheard Melodies

by Nicole Braden-Johnson

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

My Sons' Heritage

Seeing him sit on her lap, even to the unschooled eye,
The force of genetics through generations becomes visible.
In the gentle curve of the brow, the Fibonacci spiral of the earlobe
to canal,
The slope from arched cheekbone to temple,
The structure of the body reveals itself as predetermined, ancestral.
And just as ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny in the womb,
Today the face mirrors a loving grandmother, yesterday a kind aunt,
The day before the bemused delight of a late great-grandfather,
Tomorrow all this and more.
The child comes formed as a new constellation
Of an ancient and universal foundation.
On feet with predetermined strength and length of stride,
He steps into the world, which shapes him with the fortuity
Of smooth pebbles and downy moss
Of sharp sticks and potholes.
The parent watches with a worried, proud eye,
As he stumbles and learns to walk,
Under the weight of inherited sadness, or coldness, or general
malaise,
Buoyed by hereditary determination, intelligence, and love.



South River Sunrise, Carol Baldwin, 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. **Bluegrass is Back!** Weather permitting, the jam on Friday, October 8 will be held outside in the backyard of the Inn - 7-ish. Dress warmly! Thanks again for supporting your local businesses.



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. We have pumpkins, including mini's, winter squash, cabbage, Indian corn, and beautiful fall mums! 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.

Help Wanted - for morning 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 & backed 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

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

Wilder Hill Gardens is Open! - Your local plant nursery. Healthy, hardy shrubs, trees, perennial flowers, small fruits, herb plants. PYO organic Asian pears until hard frost! Landscape design, expert pruning. End of Season Sale: 50% off select shrubs. 351 South Shirkshire Road, Conway MA. 413 625-9446. Wilderhillgardens.com. Email lilianjackman@gmail.com

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!

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

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