



Volume 3, Number 3 - March 2022

## Zzzzip . . . Tick, Tick, Tick

by Sir Reginald Buttwinker

I gave my ten-year-old nephew, who was here on a recent visit, permission to go through the attic with the hope that he'd take some of the clutter. He came into the kitchen and plopped a heavy object on the table in front of me. "Unc, what *is* this?" It happened to be the Bakelite-encased phone that was *the* family telephone I used at his age in the late 1940s.



He picks up the receiver, holds it like a microphone, and speaks into the earpiece: "Attention, Walmart shoppers."

"It's a telephone," I tell him. "Don't you have a landline at home?"

"What's a landline?" His question answers mine. "How does it work?"

"You have a phone in your pocket?"

"Of course." (Doesn't every ten-year-old?!) And he pulls out of his pocket a screen larger than my TV.

"OK," I say. "Show me how you'd dial your mom."

"Dial?" He quizzically responds.

"Call, then."

"I'd ask Siri to call her, but I usually text."

"Is there another way?" I ask.

"Sure, I type in the number." He demonstrates this with his two thumbs flashing across his phone's screen. In less than a second her phone is ringing.

"OK. Disconnect or whatever you call it. That's what used to be called *dialing*. See these numbers on this telephone? They're in a circle, like a dial, thus the term *dialing*. So dial your mother's number on this phone." He studies it for a moment then, picking it up with both hands, tries pushing the numbers with his thumbs.

"Stop. Put it down. The first thing you need to do is pick up the receiver and hold it next to your ear . . . the other way. Now, put a finger in the hole that corresponds to the first number of the numbers you want to dial, I mean call. No, not your pinkie, try your index finger. . . . Now move your finger clockwise until it hits that hook thing, then remove your finger." A once-familiar "Zzzzip . . . tick, tick, tick" emanates from the phone as the dial returns to its start. "Huzzah! You've just successfully dialed the first number. Let's see how fast you can dial the rest of her number." He starts, his finger hovering impatiently over each number as he waits for the dial to return.

"Jeez, that took forever."

"Suppose your mom didn't answer."

"I'd leave a message."

"I'm afraid not. Answering machines or services didn't come into the picture until 1949 and didn't become universally available until the mid-1980s. What if it was an emergency?"

"I'd call . . . dial 9-1-1?"

"Not in the forties or fifties. You'd have to dial the operator, that's the zero, and ask her to connect you to the police, fire, etcetera and hope that whomever she connected you to wasn't dealing with another call." Another "Jeez." from my nephew.

"Did you have your own one of these in your room?"

I let a smile cross my face as I recalled removing our only phone from the hall telephone stand and stretching the cord to the only space available for privacy, the hall closet. If there were multiple teens in the house and a mother who loved to gossip with neighbors, blood could be shed over its possession. “Hollywood made great use of these phones: people desperately trying to get through to someone by begging the operator to keep trying the number; an intruder getting whacked over the head by a damsel in distress, stars in sumptuous bedrooms speaking on one of those glamorous white phones, or Jimmy Stewart jumping into a phone booth and frantically searching for enough change to call in a scoop. . . .”

“Scoop? Like ice cream?”

“You’re going to have to start reading more, dear nephew. This machine provided no games, pictures, weather reports, or videos. What it did provide, for better or worse, was a focused, improvisational, human interaction.” Suddenly, the phone began to ring! Impossible! Yet I instinctively reached for the receiver and lifted it to my ear. “Hello?” I said. As it rang again I saw my nephew take out his own phone.

“Hi, mom. What? Yikes. I forgot. I’ll face-time him on my way. Bye. I gotta go, Unc. See ya.” With that he turned and left, dialing . . . I mean calling someone as he went out the door. I sat there with the ancient receiver still to my ear. I muttered “Hello?” once more just in case then, sighing, I slowly returned the receiver to its cradle.

## 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 March 2. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email [patricialynch@earthlink.net](mailto:patricialynch@earthlink.net).

## Senior Calendar for March

**Congregate Meals** Celebrate a belated St. Patrick’s Day with the COA’s annual corned beef and cabbage meal on Thursday, March 24, at noon in Town Hall. Stay for conversation and companionship or take the meal as a grab and go. A donation of \$5.00 is suggested.

**“First Friday” Walk-in Wellness Clinics** Clinics are held on the first Friday of the month in 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 most 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 March 7. There is a \$20.00 fee. For information or to schedule an appointment, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010.

**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.

## Age-Friendly Community Survey

The Age-Friendly Communities Initiative led by LifePath is launching a regional survey in Franklin County and the North Quabbin in collaboration with FRCOG and participating Councils on Aging and senior centers. Through this survey, we are trying to understand what needs to improve for our region to become a great place for people to grow older. The information collected through this process will be used to create an Age-Friendly Action Plan and to apply for grants to improve conditions for older people in our towns.

This survey is for residents over 50 years of age, as well as caregivers of older adults. Please help us by completing the survey. In an effort to make it accessible to as many people as possible, we are accepting both online and print submissions until March 11.

To fill out the survey online visit the following address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/age-friendly-survey>. To request that a printed copy be mailed to you and for any other inquiries, please contact Nour Elkhattaby Strauch, Age-Friendly Program Manager at LifePath – [nelkhattabystrauch@lifepathma.org](mailto:nelkhattabystrauch@lifepathma.org), 413-829-9274 or Meg Ryan, RN, Regional Public Health Nurse at FRCOG – [mryan@frcog.org](mailto:mryan@frcog.org), 413-774-3167 x 158.

## Senior Snowshoe Hikes

Hilltown Land Trust is pleased to once again be partnering with All Out Adventures in offering a series of senior snowshoe treks this winter. Join us Wednesday mornings for one- to three-mile snowshoe walks along beautiful, snow-covered trails through the DAR State Forest in Goshen. There will be two treks per day, departing at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, divided into multiple groups by ability level and interest. In the event of insufficient snow cover, groups will hike together instead. Please arrive 15 minutes before the hike to sign in and get geared up. Beginners are encouraged to attend!

Snowshoes, poles, and traction aids will be provided free of charge. There is no cost to attend, although a donation of \$5.00-\$20.00 in support of All Out Adventures programming is appreciated. Masks, social distancing, and passing a COVID-19 symptom screen are required.

Please check All Out Adventures activities calendar for more dates and locations. Preregistration through All Out Adventures by email, [info@alloutadventures.org](mailto:info@alloutadventures.org), or phone, 413-584-2052.

## Remaining Senior Snowshoe Hike Dates:

Wednesday, March 9; Wednesday, March 16

*Questions?* Email Sarah: [sarah@hilltownlandtrust.org](mailto:sarah@hilltownlandtrust.org)

## How to Access Your COVID-19 Digital Vaccine Card

The Baker-Polito Administration has provided a tool that gives residents a new way to access their COVID-19 digital vaccine card and vaccination history. The new tool, called "My Vax Records," allows people who received their vaccination in Massachusetts to access their own vaccination history and generate a COVID-19 digital vaccine card that contains the same information as a paper CDC card. The COVID-19 digital vaccine cards produced by the system utilize the SMART Health Card platform and generate a QR code that can be used to verify vaccination. This will provide residents with another tool to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination should it be requested by businesses, local governments, or other entities.

**How It Works:** The new tool is easy to use: a person enters their name, date of birth, and mobile phone number or email associated with their vaccine record. After creating a four-digit PIN, the user receives a link to their vaccine record that will open upon re-entry of the PIN.

The electronic record shows the same information as a paper CDC vaccine card: name, date of birth, dates of vaccinations, and vaccine manufacturer. It also includes a QR code that makes these same details readable by a QR scanner, including smartphone apps. Once the SMART Health Card is received, users are able to save the QR code to their phone, such as the Apple Wallet, screenshot the information and save it to their phone's photos, or print out a copy for a paper record. The system follows national standards for

security and privacy. Learn more about the tool and view frequently asked questions at [www.mass.gov/myvaxrecord](http://www.mass.gov/myvaxrecord).

My Vax Records is just one way residents can obtain their COVID vaccination record. Pharmacies that administered the COVID vaccine and many health care providers are also making SMART Health Cards available or are providing additional options.

## 30th Annual LifePath Walkathon

LifePath's 30th Annual Walkathon will be held Saturday, May 7, 2022. We are planning an in-person event to take place at LifePath's headquarters, located at 101 Munson Street in Greenfield. At this time we are still developing what the event will look like. Our goal is to create a festive environment. If you have connections to performers, resources, or other highlights, please contact [giving@lifepathma.org](mailto:giving@lifepathma.org) with your ideas. Here's how you can participate in this year's event:

**Businesses** Sponsorship is the backbone of this event! This year's opportunities include sponsorship levels starting at \$250 and an option to be with us on event day. You'll be recognized as a company that cares about community members and their quality of life as they age.

**Community Organizations** We depend on each other each day, and when we stand together, we change the lives of more people. Because of this, we want to celebrate our partnerships. We're looking for you to join us on event day. Help us tell the story of why this collaborative community is a great place to grow older together.

**Teams and Individual Fundraisers** We can't say it enough: you are the heart and soul of the Walkathon. It's time to gather your team members, call on your donors, and do what you do: craft and send email messages, make phone calls, and WALK! Asking and

giving may again be done through an online personal fundraising link, through the website, or by using donation sheets. Share your activity on social media (Facebook! Instagram! Twitter!) to secure more support. Our hope is to have the majority of teams return and secure new teams from schools, social organizations, businesses, and more. (Know someone looking for a great project that will keep them moving?) We are so grateful for your spirit, effort, enthusiasm and generosity.

**Donors** We know that so many of you look forward to connecting with your favorite team and supporting their fundraising effort. When they reach out, please show them love with your continued generosity or first-time donation.

The needs LifePath tries to meet are continually changing, and we feel fortunate to have this source of funding to answer those needs. Unrestricted funds give LifePath the flexibility to make independence an option in every way possible. Receiving funding in this way offers LifePath the flexibility to take care of older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers when and where it is needed across our programs and services.

While providing an unrestricted donation offers LifePath the greatest flexibility to allocate resources to the most in-need programs, donors are welcome to specify a program if they wish. Those funds would then be "restricted" and spent only on costs related to the specified program.

Checks in support of the effort are always welcome! Checks made out to LifePath with "Walkathon" in the memo line can be mailed to LifePath at 101 Munson Street, Suite 201, Greenfield, MA 01301. If you have questions, contact Carol Foote, Outreach and Development Director, at 413-829-9199 or [giving@lifepathma.org](mailto:giving@lifepathma.org).

## From the Planning Board

The Conway Planning Board has received a special permit application for construction of a wireless facility at 1365 Ashfield

Road. Vertex Tower Assets of Wrentham has filed plans for a 156-foot mono-pine cell tower. Vertex was previously granted a special permit to construct a wireless facility off Deerfield Road, although construction on that project has not yet begun.

The proposed tower will need both Planning Board approval and a zoning variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Existing town bylaw limits tower height to 120 feet. Dates have not yet been set for visibility demonstrations, also referred to as "balloon test" or for required public hearings. Dates will be published on the town website, [townofconway.com](http://townofconway.com), and are also available by contacting the Planning Board at [planningboard@townofconway.com](mailto:planningboard@townofconway.com).

All documents in the special permit application are available through the town website. Legal notices of a public hearing will be mailed to all abutters. Contact the Planning Board for more information.

## Safe Disposal of Wall-Mounted Thermostats & Fluorescent Lightbulbs

Have you upgraded to a new programmable thermostat or to LED lightbulbs for your home or business? Great! But be careful – never put old wall-mounted thermostats or fluorescent lightbulbs in the trash or recycling. They contain mercury. Mercury is hazardous to human health, wildlife, and the environment. Handle these items carefully to avoid breakage and bring to one of many local free or low-cost collection sites.

**Thermostats and Other Mercury-Containing Items** Old wall-mounted thermostats contain a significant amount of liquid mercury. These thermostats are safe to use on the wall, but once removed, careful disposal is important. Free disposal is available at many local sites. Handle items carefully, place in a sealed plastic bag, and hand to a staff member at one of the sites listed below. Keep thermostats intact; do not remove ampoules.

Seventeen municipal transfer stations in Franklin County, including Conway, accept mercury-bearing items such as old wall-mounted thermostats, thermometers, switches, gauges, and blood-pressure monitors.

Additional drop-off locations for mercury thermostats, such as plumbing/HVAC contractors, and plumbing supply stores, are listed at [www.thermostat-recycle.org](http://www.thermostat-recycle.org). All locations accept mercury thermostats for free.

**Lightbulbs** Fluorescent lightbulbs contain mercury and should never be put in the recycling or trash. This includes screw-in spiral compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), as well as straight-tube lightbulbs and green-tipped low-mercury tubes. Examine the printing on the base of the bulb; if it says “Hg” or “Contains Mercury,” it is a mercury bulb.

Home Depot offers free recycling for CFLs. Lowe's accepts all sizes and shapes of fluorescents free of charge, including CFL, circular, and straight lamps. Every transfer station in Franklin County accepts fluorescent lightbulbs of all sizes; some may charge small fees of \$0.50 - \$1.00 each. Handle fluorescent bulbs carefully and hand to attendant. Access permits might be required.

LED, or “light emitting diode” bulbs do not contain mercury and can be put in the trash. Wrap up to avoid accidental injuries or recycled at one of the places listed above (if accepted there). Incandescent or halogen lightbulbs must go in the trash; no recycling is available. To avoid breakage and accidental injuries, wrap incandescent, halogen, or LED lightbulbs in used paper or plastic before placing them in the trash.

**What to Do If a Mercury-Containing Item Breaks** Fluorescent bulbs contain mercury vapor. If a fluorescent bulb breaks, the vapor can be harmful to human health and the environment. If you break a fluorescent bulb, get people and pets out of the area for 15 minutes. Ventilate: open doors or windows. After 15 minutes, put on gloves and scoop up the pieces with two pieces of cardboard.

Use moist paper towels to clean up small pieces. Do not use a broom or vacuum. Put all pieces and paper towels in a plastic bag or closable container, seal it, and bring to one of the collection sites above.

If a mercury ampoule breaks or liquid mercury is spilled, ventilate the area for 15 minutes. Evacuate people and pets. Do not use a vacuum cleaner or broom to clean up. Put on old clothes that can be discarded if contaminated with mercury. Wearing disposable gloves, collect droplets of mercury using two stiff pieces of paper or cardboard. Small drops can be picked up on tape. Place these items and the broken thermostat in a doubled plastic bag and seal tightly. Remove any contaminated clothing, bag, and dispose of. Remove and dispose of gloves. Contact the Franklin County Solid Waste District for disposal information.

For more information on any of these programs or to learn more about recycling, composting, and hazardous waste disposal, contact the district office at [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org), (413) 772-2438, or visit [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org). MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The district is an equal opportunity provider.

## Wanted: Young Creative Writers

The Friends of the Field Memorial Library in Conway are offering an exciting creative writing series for local 4th- to 6th-graders. The workshop, "Exploring Creative Writing" will be held over four Wednesdays this spring on March 30 and April 6, 13, and 27. 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 the evening of May 4 at the library.

The workshop, open to young people in Conway in grades 4 through 6 (public, private, or home schooled), has a 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 in Conway. She has more than 38 years of teaching experience in public and private schools, most of which was spent teaching grades 4 through 6.

Registration is open now to March 21: first-come-first-registered. There is a \$5.00 fee at registration for snacks/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 [jgnb@comcast.net](mailto:jgnb@comcast.net). The Friends of the Field Memorial Library give thanks for funding support from the Conway Cultural Council, part of the Mass Cultural Council.

## Friends of the Field Memorial Library Scholarship: Deadline May 1, 2022

The Friends of the Field Memorial Library wish to encourage and support the continued education of a graduating Conway high school senior. Applications are now being accepted. To be eligible for this scholarship, currently \$500, the applicant must:

- be a resident of Conway, MA
- be a graduating high school senior, school or homeschooled
- have maintained good academic standing throughout high school (grade point average)
- have demonstrated good communication skills through the presentation of information for this application
- submit an essay on “Climate Change and Global Warming”

For an application contact your high school guidance office, go to <https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org/>, or contact Thad Bennett at [fieldmemlibraryscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:fieldmemlibraryscholarship@gmail.com)

## Conway Festival of the Hills Scholarship

Although there was no festival in 2021, we will still be awarding scholarships! Applications for Conway Festival of the Hills Scholarships are currently available on the town website, [www.townofconway.com](http://www.townofconway.com) under "Forms and Downloads."

Scholarship applications (hard copy only) must be postmarked by **Friday, April 29** and mailed to Conway Festival of the Hills Scholarship, PO Box 431, Conway, MA 01341. Please note that no applications received after that date will be considered.

Festival of the Hills Scholarships are available to all graduating high school seniors from Conway who submit complete applications, regardless of school attended or postgraduate plans. Primary consideration is given to a student's community service, extracurricular activities, and academic achievement. Financial need, work history, and Festival of the Hills service are also considered.

Questions? Please contact Phyllis Jeswald: [pjeswald1@gmail.com](mailto:pjeswald1@gmail.com) or 413-369-4410.

## UCC Scholarship

The United Congregational Church of Conway is awarding a scholarship to a graduating high school senior in 2022. This scholarship is not limited to just those continuing on to college; it includes those who may be pursuing a more nontraditional career path, work-study, or training. Recipients will be chosen strictly on the basis of character, not on academic record or financial need.

Completed applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2022, and mailed to UCC Conway, Attn: Scholarship Committee, PO Box 214, Conway, MA 01341. Students may obtain applications by contacting Tina Burnett at 369-8035 or [16xcmom@gmail.com](mailto:16xcmom@gmail.com).

## UCC Conway Update

As the building continues to move forward with lots of activity on-site, the search for a pastor continues as well. To accommodate changes in our worship, we will be moving the time of our service from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. starting on March 6. We will continue to meet via Zoom with the hope of soon moving back to the grammar school until the church building is complete.

## The Festival of the Hills Un-tag Sale Returns!

Do you have any items lying around your home that could use a second chance at life? Gather them up and get ready for the Un-tag Sale! It was such a success last year that we have decided to do it again this spring to raise money for the Festival of the Hills scholarship fund and allow us all to get out and do some spring cleaning after the long winter. This year's Un-tag Sale will be held on Saturday, May 21, with a rain date of Sunday, May 22. You'll set up at the end of your driveway if you live near the center of town, or we will be setting up another location where those farther out can bring their items. All signage and advertising will be provided by the festival. No prices: all items will be sold for donations as set by the buyer, with all proceeds going to the Festival of the Hills scholarship fund. More reminders and details will come as we get closer to the event date, but feel free to reach out to Pixie Holbrook [pjholbrook1@gmail.com](mailto:pjholbrook1@gmail.com) in the meantime with any questions.

## Update from the Field Memorial Library

The Libraries in the Woods group, a collaboration among more than 25 libraries in the Franklin County area, has chosen the book *The Dirty Life* by Kristen Kimball as their spring 2022 communities read. The author's nonfiction account of embracing a partner and building a life in nonmechanized farming in upstate

New York is bracing for its determination and stamina. Her description of the gigantic task of starting a farm both as lifestyle and to make a living has much relevance to Conway, with its history of farming and respect for nature and conservation. Stop by the library to borrow a copy and visit our website to see the numerous local events sparked by the book that are scheduled by the LITW libraries during April and May.

Nature is a theme this month, as the Friends of the FML group is sponsoring a scholarship for a Conway resident graduating from high school in spring 2022 focusing on "Climate Change and Global Warming." It seems likely that these issues are already affecting or probably will affect graduating seniors going forward – but how? Residents can apply by submitting an essay of one or two pages on how they think and/or feel that climate change is affecting them now or may in the future. Applicants may choose to discuss any aspect of climate change/global warming they find meaningful, even fictional ones. Reference to at least one book, either nonfiction or fiction, is required. Web links and book title resources to help prepare an essay are on the library website.

Our journey into the digital space of CWMars continues. We have completed templates for 21 categories of resources at the library. These make up the digital links that map to physical locations in the library. Each one of these 21 templates has its own set of multiple settings, suggesting the complexity of this aspect of the work. We are happy to report that working out the procedures for handling items and training volunteers are the next steps.

The library Friends group is sponsoring an in-person workshop on *Exploring Creative Writing*, now scheduled for 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. on March 30 and April 6, 13, and 27. Details are on the FML website and elsewhere in this issue.

Our new resources of fiction, nonfiction, and children's books are well stocked and awaiting you at the library, open Monday 3:00-



6:00 p.m., Wednesday 2:00-7:00 p.m., and Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

David Whittier, Director, Field Memorial Library

[director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org](mailto:director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org)

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

## A Look into Conway History

by Patricia Ann Lynch

### *Indigenous People of Our Area*

Humans first appeared in the archeological record in New England just as the glaciers were retreating at the end of the last ice age, about 12,000 years ago. Anthropologists refer to these first-known inhabitants of North America – the predecessors of the many indigenous cultures the first European settlers encountered – as *Paleoindians*. As the population grew and became widespread, groups formed distinct tribes and bands wherever they settled, each with its own identity.

The foremost tribe in our area was the Pocumtuck (also spelled Pocomtuc), who lived along the Connecticut and Deerfield rivers. Their main village (with the same name) was near present-day Deerfield, and they were also called Deerfield Indians. They spoke a dialect of the Algonquian language family. According to Margaret Bruchac's "Revisiting Pocumtuck History in Deerfield," published in *Historical Journal of Massachusetts*, "The word *Pocumtuck* derives from an Algonquian locative word that variously translates to indicate a place beside a 'narrow, swift river,' or a 'short, shallow, sandy river.' This flexible translation accurately characterizes the Deerfield River, which ranges from a rocky channel of swift rapids at its upper reach to a sandy meandering stream in Deerfield."

The Pocumtuck led a lifestyle similar to that of other Eastern Woodlands tribes. They grew crops of maize, beans, and squash,

hunted game for food and clothing, and fished in the rivers and streams. They also traded along the Connecticut River, which served as a major inland transportation route.

The first English colonists, who arrived in Western Massachusetts in 1636, used the same paths indigenous people had created throughout the area. Commerce by horse and wagon turned what had been mere footpaths and trails into roads that eventually became highways. Although trade between settlers and local tribes benefitted both – European cloth and metal for furs and agricultural products – it also brought European diseases to which the native population had no resistance. The Pocumtuck population was decimated by smallpox epidemics.

Inevitably, settlers' encroachment on tribal lands led to conflict and open warfare. In 1675 the Pocumtuck allied with the Wampanoag, Nipmuc, and Narragansett in what is known as King Philip's War, a fourteen-month, bloody, last-ditch effort to stop English encroachment on their lands. The killing of "King Philip" – Metacom, the Wampanoag chief and leader of the rebellion, who had taken the English name *Philip* – in 1676 effectively ended the war.

Following the war, the greater part of the indigenous population left Western Massachusetts. Many Pocumtuck fled to a village on the Hudson River. As European settlement increased, most went farther north, eventually merging with Abenaki tribes in Quebec. Small bands remained in Massachusetts as late as the 19th century, but by then they had lost their tribal identity, in part by intermarriage with settlers and other tribes. As a tribe, the Pocumtuck became extinct.

Mount Greylock in the Berkshires is named after Pocumtuck Chief Wawanotewat, known as Grey Lock (1670-©1750). A famous warrior, he continued to lead Abenaki bands into Massachusetts long after the tribe had left the area.

## Sixth-Grade Seed Sale

Spring is coming and it's almost time to start seedlings! Conway Grammar School's sixth grade is teaming up with High Mowing Organic Seeds to fundraise and finance their end-of-year field trip. This is a perfect time to get your seeds for the upcoming planting season and support a great group of kids.

Deadline for submitting your orders is Friday, March 4. Order sheets are available on the bulletin board at Baker's Country Store, Field Memorial Library, and the Conway Inn, or contact your local sixth-grader! All checks must be made payable to Town of Conway.

## From the Board of Health

At our regular meeting, held on February 14, 2022, in light of improving COVID numbers countywide, the Board of Health passed a repeal of our townwide mask mandate effective February 28, 2022. In its place we are recommending a mask advisory. This is a recommendation to wear a mask in public indoor places. Any place of business may still require masks, and more important, anyone who prefers to wear a mask at any time is encouraged to do so.

The Board of Health also voted to reassess the school mask mandate at our regular BOH meetings every two weeks. We are working in conjunction with other School Union 38 Boards of Health. We all feel that it is important to regularly reassess the situation. Our next regular meeting will be on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

## Unheard Melodies

by Nicole Braden-Johnson

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

## Helios

Sunlight seeps through the windowpane  
Warming my winter-weary bones,  
Just as once upon a time, this same burning sun  
Seeped through the ocean tide to warm  
The insides of our microscopic mother cell  
Who multiplied into the long line of organisms before myself  
Born into the changing of the seasons  
To live and to die by the subtle variations of warmth and  
light;

And so, somewhere deeply embedded within my skin,  
Along the near-endless, coiling nucleic acid chains  
Lies the millennia-long imprint of the sun  
And his untiring passages across this same sky;  
This imprint will pass through my body to my children  
And my children's children to the end of human time,  
Whether we extinguish our light in a nuclear flash,  
Or die alongside our shrinking dwarf star,  
Or spread ourselves across the sky to the warmth of other  
suns.

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# Currents Advertisements & Notices

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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](mailto: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](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com). **Deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.** If you want to discuss your ad or have any questions, please call or email.

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## Employment Opportunities With the Town of Conway

### Administrative Assistant – Boards, Commissions

The Town of Conway is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant, reporting to the Town Administrator and serving the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals, with further work possible. The position averages 5 hours per week. The successful candidate will have good written and verbal skills to effectively communicate with other municipal employees and the general public, and demonstrated clerical skills, including familiarity with computers and MS Office programs. The successful applicant will post meetings, take minutes and perform bill tracking and record keeping. Compensation rate is \$18/hr. Candidates should submit a letter of interest and résumé, along with the Town's general job application to: **Administrative Assistant: Boards/Committees, Attn: Selectboard, PO Box 240, Conway, MA 01341**. Position open until filled. The Town of Conway is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### Clerk/Administrative Assistant – Highway Department

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).

Applications will be accepted immediately; position open till filled. **E-mail application to [highway@townofconway.com](mailto:highway@townofconway.com) or mail to Highway Superintendent, P.O. Box 240, Conway, MA 01341.**

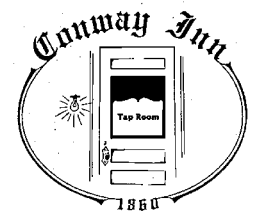
To view the job descriptions and the general job application, go to <https://townofconway.com/employment-volunteer/> The Town of Conway is an equal opportunity employer.

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**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](mailto:sarah.newman@cbcommunityrealtors.com) - Thank you!

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**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 for takeout. With the lifting of the mask mandate, we will once again have our live music jams, 2nd Friday of each month! Look for the music flag or call to check.



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**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](http://www.naturalroots.com). Natural Roots, 888 Shelburne Falls Rd., Conway, MA 01341, 413-369-4269, [farmers@naturalroots.com](mailto:farmers@naturalroots.com).

**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 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Sunday 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call 369-4936. Find a variety of homemade desserts and baked goods and a

**BAKER'S  
COUNTRY  
STORE**

large selection of last-minute items. **Get your Girl Scout cookies here!** 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](https://facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store) for today's specials.

**Support your local church** - by shopping for Rada Cutlery! All cutlery is made in the USA and includes a lifetime guarantee. Not just cutlery but knife sharpeners, cookbooks & giftbooks, non-scratch cooking utensils, baking pans, cutting boards, gadgets, nifty tools and quick mixes. Choose from many options, sure to help you in performing any kitchen task and creating all your favorite recipes! And your purchases will support the United Congregational Church! Paper catalogs available by request. To order, call Muriel Antes at 369-4350 or Tina Burnett at 369-8035, or use this simple link: [bit.ly/3mTpO18](https://bit.ly/3mTpO18).

**Jan and John Maggs Antiques** - Unlike typical antiques shops, our stock is very limited: English furniture and jewelry from 1600 to 1700, and accessories and paintings, all arranged in room settings.

You can see the kinds of things we sell at [jmaggs.com](http://jmaggs.com). To arrange an in-person visit, please call 369-4256 or



email [jmaggs@jmaggs.com](mailto:jmaggs@jmaggs.com). While the pandemic has kept us from doing shows, the internet has allowed us to expand our marketing to the entire world. On our website, you'll find information about events coming up in the not-too-distant future, including the Spring Fox Valley Antiques Show on March 19 & 20 - a virtual show, free to attend in the comfort of your home - and our Spring Opening in Conway on May 7 & 8, following a buying trip to England - online only on Saturday and open to the public on Sunday.

**Wilder Hill Gardens** - your local plant nursery. Open for the season mid-April, weekends 9-5, other times by chance or appointment. Our annual Spring Dig Sale is on Mother's Day weekend, May 7-8. Enjoy touring the demonstration gardens, buy plants directly from the field, directly from the grower. Hardy perennial flowers, native and flowering shrubs, trees, annuals and herb plants, all grown without pesticides/herbicides. Consultations, expert pruning and tutorials, landscape design and installation. Contact: Lilian Jackman, 351 South Shirkshire Road, Conway, MA. 413-625-9446. [wilderhillgardens.com](http://wilderhillgardens.com). Email [lilianjackman@gmail.com](mailto:lilianjackman@gmail.com)

**It's March** - and it may be time to start doing something with those logs. We import from Tajfun, Slovenia the best winches and firewood processors in the world! Invest in making your own firewood with enough left to sell. We have all of the supporting equipment, right down to gloves. For the garden, you may need a hoe and we have plenty of choices! Pick up a how-to book: *Grow Your Soil; Essential Pruning; Grow Christmas Trees* and a Tractor Mac book for the kiddos. It'll be a great day! Shop where the pros shop and thanks for buying locally! OESCO, Inc., Orchard Equipment. M-F: 7-5; 413-369-4335.



**Blazing Star Herbal School** - Conway, MA offers in-person, 10-month Beginner/Intermediate Herbal Apprenticeships and Botanical Art In-Studio programs both beginning in April 2022. Holistic health lifestyle consults and more. Openings for our 2022

season; Free monthly newsletter. Blazing Star Herbal School is dedicated to teaching traditional herbal medicine in a way that supports a more sustainable future for all members of the green world and shows respect for the integrity of nature. We offer a unique perspective on herbalism, weaving social and political aspects of health and healing through the study of medicinal herbs and food practices. We inspire students to find their own healing path by creating a personal relationship with the plant world. The school also serves as a local and national resource for education and networking. [www.blazingstarherbalschool.typepad.com](http://www.blazingstarherbalschool.typepad.com) or email Tony(a) Lemos. [blazingstarclinic@gmail.com](mailto:blazingstarclinic@gmail.com) for more info.

**Community Space in Greenhouse Available** - We are putting up a greenhouse on March 27 to grow plants for our homestead and work/organizational needs, but anticipate extra room for community members seeking space for their seedlings. If you are you willing to pitch in with some watering and coordination, we're excited to share space with you! Please email Leslie Chaison at [lesliechaison@comcast.net](mailto:lesliechaison@comcast.net). Thank you!

**Work At Hart Farm** - Join our small crew for the 2022 season at a woman-run, low-till farm in Conway. \$16/hr + veggies, eggs and flowers. All positions run from May-October with some flexibility on start date. Apply for one, two or all positions. Please send a letter of interest, resume and 3 references to [conwayhartfarm@gmail.com](mailto:conwayhartfarm@gmail.com) We are seeking: 1. A Field Crew member. Tuesday-Thursdays 8am-5pm. Planting, cultivating, harvesting; 2. A CSA Delivery Driver. Fridays 10am-5pm. Packing CSA boxes, delivering in Franklin/Hampshire counties; 3. A Farmers' Market Salesperson. Saturdays 6am-2pm. Vending at the Greenfield Farmers' Market.

**Fresh, local farm food** - delivered right to your door! Hart Farm CSA boxes are filled with veggies, fruits, flowers, eggs, bread, cheese, meat and more. Choose from 3 different box types and then choose your delivery dates. Delivery throughout West Franklin/Hampshire Counties every Friday, April 29th-December 2nd. Pay with card/check/SNAP. We provide an accessible, convenient and flexible schedule farm box program to the

community that we love. You can expect high quality, freshly picked, delicious produce infused with good vibes and delivered with a smile. More info at [www.conwayhartfarm.com](http://www.conwayhartfarm.com), [conwayhartfarm@gmail.com](mailto:conwayhartfarm@gmail.com), 413-453-9098.

**ROCKPAPERSCISSORS** - studio and gallery has a new location with the same address at 46 Main Street. Yes, that's the same address as Conway Healing Arts (*still open!*) but on the opposite side of Ouimette Plumbing and Heating. RPS is the art studio of Deb Hoyle, long time Conway resident and proprietor of Conway Healing Arts for the past 29 years. Deb is busy settling into the new space and getting ready to make some more art. When warmer weather arrives look for open studios and other events! If you see the OPEN STUDIO TODAY! sign outside please stop by to say hello. RPS is also open by appointment. And if you are a local artist, craftsperson, or business owner be sure to drop off some cards, brochures, or announcements for our display table. We'll also have a community bulletin board on the door at RPS Studio and Gallery. Visit on Instagram at: [debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors](https://www.instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors) [greenlady33@comcast.net](mailto:greenlady33@comcast.net) 413-325-5579.

*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.

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](mailto:conwaycurrents@gmail.com). Send your advertising requests to Louise at [lmbeckett@crocker.com](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com). Thank you!



*Winter Fun at the Conway Ballfield, Joe Zadroga, 2022. How many of us remember past fun-filled winters sliding down the hill in the snow?*

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