



Volume 3, Number 5 - May 2022

Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity Building Affordable Home in Conway

Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity is pleased to announce that applications are available for a three-bedroom, single-family home to be built in Conway, MA. The application deadline is Wednesday, May 11, 2022. Eligible applicants will have incomes up to 60% of area median income, which is adjusted for family size.

People interested in submitting an application are invited to attend a Zoom information session to learn more on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

During the information session, potential applicants will learn about Habitat's selection criteria and how to prepare a complete application. The selection criteria include housing need, ability to make mortgage payments of \$600-\$1,200/month, and willingness to partner with Habitat, such as participating in the construction of the home and other Habitat projects. More at www.pvhabitat.org/apply/.

All homes will be built to ENERGY STAR standards and are designed for visitation by someone in a wheelchair. All Habitat-built homes are restricted to income-eligible buyers in perpetuity.

Since 1989, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity has built decent, affordable homes with 48 low-income families in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. We build our homes with volunteer labor and donations of material, supplies, land, and services. At the onset of homebuilding, a family is selected and enters into a long-term partnership with Pioneer Valley Habitat. Future homeowners

contribute 250 hours of labor during the construction of their home alongside volunteers from the community. Upon completion, the home is sold to the family with an affordable mortgage. Habitat is a hand up, not a handout. The organization has a perpetual legacy in that all mortgage funds received are reinvested in building more homes. We are a housing organization helping to bring stability to families, bringing more stability into our neighborhoods and communities.

Contact: Megan McDonough, Executive Director
Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, 413-517-8326
megan@pvhabitat.org or www.pvhabitat.org

Help Build This House!

You've likely seen the excavator at the Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity property on South Deerfield Road, signaling that walls are about to go up on the simple, sturdy, three-bedroom home planned for that site. Would you like to be a part of working with a future homeowner family and dozens of community volunteers to build this home? Would you like to add to your fledgling construction skill set or share your years of experience? If swinging a hammer is not your thing, maybe you'd like to provide hospitality for the hardworking crew. Volunteers of all ability levels are welcome! To get ready to be a Habitat volunteer, sign up to attend a one-hour online orientation on Wednesday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m. or Saturday, May 21, at 9:00 a.m. To sign up, go to www.pvhabitat.org/ways-to-volunteer. We look forward to seeing you at the construction site!

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.

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 May 4. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email patricialynch@earthlink.net.

Senior Calendar for May

"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.

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 May 2. There is a \$20.00 fee. For information or to schedule an appointment, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010.

Senior 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. NOTE: There will be no grab-and-go-meals from June through August. For those months you can expect ice cream and strawberry shortcake socials, picnics in Memorial Park, and an outing at the Sportsman's Club.

Walking Group Spring is finally here, and beginning this month the walking group will again be taking to the streets of Conway for

companionship, conversation, and exercise. Join the group at 9:30 a.m. in front of the library every Monday, weather permitting. For more information, call Phylis Dacey at 369-4326.

Yoga for Seniors Led by Jody Fontaine on Wednesdays in person at the library and on Zoom. 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 information or 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.

Second COVID-19 Booster Dose Available

The CDC recommends that certain immunocompromised individuals and all individuals over the age of 50 get an additional booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine four months after receiving a first booster of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. Those eligible include:

- Individuals 50 years of age and older at least four months after getting a first booster.
- Individuals 18 and older with certain medical conditions may get a second Moderna booster at least four months after a first booster.
- Individuals 12 and older with certain medical conditions may get a second Pfizer booster at least four months after the first booster.

Separately and in addition, per the CDC, individuals 18 and older who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at least four months ago may now receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

Residents may access booster doses from more than 1,000 locations, with appointments readily available for booking across the commonwealth. The commonwealth has the capacity to administer over 150,000 boosters weekly. If you are eligible, here are the steps to find a convenient location:

- Visit vaxfinder.mass.gov for a full list of locations.
- For individuals who are unable to use Vaxfinder or have difficulty accessing the internet, the COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line – Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – is available for assistance by calling **2-1-1** and following the prompts. This service is available in English and Spanish and has translators available in approximately 100 additional languages.
- Individuals with questions about the booster or their eligibility should contact their healthcare provider.

COVID-19 Vaccine & Booster Clinic

The Town of Conway will host a COVID-19 vaccine and booster clinic on May 6 at the Town Hall from 3:00-6:00 p.m. All three vaccine types (Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson) will be available.

Who is eligible?

- Anyone over the age of five who has not yet been vaccinated.
- Those with certain medical conditions.
- **First booster shots:** Anyone over the age of 12 at least five months after their last Pfizer or Moderna dose or two months after their last Johnson & Johnson dose.
- **Second booster shots:** Those over the age of 50 who received their first booster more than four months ago.

Preregistration for the clinic is encouraged; however, walk-ins will also be welcome. Preregistration will help the vaccinators know which vaccine you prefer. For more information and to preregister for the clinic: <https://frcog.org/vaccines>.

Please bring your vaccination card and your health insurance information to your appointment. Those without insurance will not be turned away, and there is no cost to any attendees.

The COVID-19 vaccination and booster clinics are cosponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Behavioral Health Network, and participating local governments, with support from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Why Do I Need Prescription Advantage?

“Why do I need Prescription Advantage?” – is a question often asked. Many say, “I don’t need it: I already have a Medicare Part D plan” or “I have coverage from my former employer.” Even with Part D or other coverage, there are many reasons to join a Prescription Advantage plan (which are offered by a variety of organizations) including:

- It does not replace your existing coverage; it supplements it;
- It can lower your copays if you reach that coverage gap, also known as the “donut hole.”
- It allows you to change your Medicare plan outside of Medicare’s open enrollment.
- At certain income levels it’s free!

Prescription Advantage also provides benefits for individuals age 65 and older who are not eligible for Medicare, as well as those under age 65 with a qualified disability. Find out how Prescription

Advantage can help you by calling 1-800-243-4636 or visiting www.prescriptionadvantagemma.org. Prescription Advantage is administered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

Pre-Town Meeting Dessert Potluck & Discussion

All Conway residents are invited to come to a pre-Town Meeting dessert potluck and discussion on Monday, May 23, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Conway Grammar School. Please bring a dessert to share that can be served on a napkin, serving utensils (if needed), and your own reusable cup/mug/spoon. Beverages will be provided. Residents who have information about particular warrant articles are encouraged to bring handouts. Free child care is available by preregistration. Preregister for child care at Kristen.Gordon@frsu38.org or call the school at 413-369 4239. Child care registration deadline is May 18.

Like past pre-Town Meeting gatherings, the evening is an opportunity for discussion that is informal, nonpartisan, and without the time pressure often felt at Town Meeting. Residents are encouraged to come with questions about Town Meeting warrant articles, procedures, and definitions. There will be an opportunity to meet candidates for town office. The intent of the meeting is to help people be well-informed voters and to have some time to think about what is being proposed, as a supplement to the democratic process of Town Meeting. Mary McClintock said, "These gatherings really help me have a better understanding of what we need to decide at Town Meeting. And the desserts are really yummy!"

For information contact Ruth Parnall at parnall@crocker.com, 413-489-3097, or Jim Recore at jimmyrecore0318@gmail.com, 413-768-9939.

Notes from the Town Administrator

Annual Town Meeting will be here in just over a month, and I want to encourage everyone to attend on Saturday, June 4, at 1:00 p.m. at the Conway Grammar School.

By the time you get this edition of *Conway Currents*, I hope to have up on the town website the town budget for all to be able to view, by department code. This means that you will have the background information on what is budgeted in each line and in each department, and that will give you the detail behind the number listed for each department code in Article 2 on the town warrant. I am providing this information in this form for transparency's sake and to help provide answers to any questions you might have ahead of Town Meeting. I am also happy to answer any questions you might have about the budgeting process, as I know it can be confusing. The town annual report as well as the town warrant should be mailed to you within one to two weeks before Town Meeting, and the warrant will also be posted at the post office, Baker's Country Store, Town Hall, and Town Office.

Given all that goes on in the world, I am grateful as always that I live in a society where this form of government and democracy is conducted at its most basic level: open town meeting. Please come add your voice, and happy spring!

Véronique

Notice: Conway Street Closure

Repair work has begun on Conway Street in Buckland. The contractors have determined that for the sake of efficiency and safety, Conway Street to the Conway Town Line will be closed to through traffic every day from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday until further notice. Detour routes have been established and are well marked. This project will last the entire construction season, and we ask for everyone's patience while we complete extremely important and long-overdue improvements. Exceptions will be made for local traffic and emergency vehicles.

One lane will remain open for vehicle traffic. Detour signs have been put in place, and police officers will be in place to provide assistance when it is necessary to close the road to through traffic. We will work to provide regular updates on the Buckland town website. Use the following link:

<https://www.town.buckland.ma.us/home/news/construction-updates-town-buckland>.

Conway Firemen's Auxiliary Scholarship

The Conway Firemen's Auxiliary scholarship is awarded annually to a Conway resident who is a graduating high school senior. Primary consideration will be given to students who have been involved in community service and/or extracurricular activities and who plan to further their education in either college, trade school, or a certificate program. Grades and financial need will also be considered.

Applications are available on the town website under Scholarships and at the Frontier Regional High School and Franklin Technical School guidance offices. Send your completed application to Conway Firemen's Auxiliary, PO Box 46, Conway, MA 01341, by **Friday, May 7, 2022**. For additional information contact Heidi Flanders, president, at 413-369-4219.

Calling All Crafters!

We're excited to announce that the 58th Conway Festival of the Hills (FOH) will be held this year on Sunday, October 2, 2022!

Among the many events at the festival is a crafts show where as many as 20 crafters set up booths on the ball field to showcase and sell their creations, from jewelry to wood carving to fiber arts to pottery and more! If you are interested in participating in this year's craft show, please obtain an application by visiting the FOH website, <https://festivalofthehills.com> - under Events, click Craft Fair, or by contacting the craft show coordinator, Adria Elskus, at conwaycrafters@yahoo.com or 413-325-4883.

All crafts must be handmade by the exhibitor. No manufactured, imported, or "made from kits" goods allowed. Applications must be postmarked by August 1, 2022, and will be juried for craft balance and replied to by August 15. Crafters must provide their own canopy tent, tables, chairs, and other means of display. The fee for a crafter space (12' x 12') on the ball field is \$50, which supports the FOH Scholarship Fund for graduating seniors from the town of Conway.

Grammar School Fun Run

Our run club at Conway Grammar School has been back on the road again this school year. We are quite happy to also return to the Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk! This year it will be held on Sunday, May 1. We will start and finish at the ball field and run through town on the same course as in past years with a lot of support along the way. We anticipate about 90 runners (parents and their children) from the school community. As in the past, the route will be well marked, and we will have volunteers stationed along the way and specifically at each crossing or intersection. Signs will also be posted for the duration of the race.

Register Kids for Area Swimming Lessons!

If you are the parent of young children, it's time to make sure they are ready for pool season. Believe it or not, we may have some warm and very hot days ahead of us, and the Conway Pool will be a popular destination. The Pool Committee is encouraging parents of young children to enroll their kids in swimming lessons. Here are just two of the area options:

Area YMCAs offer 30-minute weekly lessons that start the week beginning April 25 and run seven weeks through the week ending June 11. Cost is \$45 for members and \$150 for nonmembers. Spaces are limited, so sign up fast for this option!

Northampton Parks and Recreation Department offers private and semi-private lessons at the Aquatic and Family Center at JFK Middle School. Nonresidents pay \$35 per private lesson, but prices are reduced to \$30 each for two participants and \$25 each for three participants. Again, the early duck is more likely to land in this class. For more information, call 413-587-1046.

Efforts by the Pool Committee to provide low-cost lessons at the pool have resulted in numerous logistical challenges. If someone in the community is motivated to find a Red Cross-certified swim instructor and organize swimming lessons in the future, please contact Bill at 413-369-4295 or come to a Pool Committee meeting, held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Conway

Grammar School library or at the pool itself, depending on the weather. See you at the pool!

Heirloom Music Festival

Conway Fine Arts, codirected by Mikayla Reine and Geoffrey Baker, is excited to announce our first annual hilltown music festival. Heirloom Music Festival will take place on June 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Plainfield Congregational Church, 1 Church Lane; June 4 at 6:00 p.m. at the Theater in the Round at Three Sisters Sanctuary, 188 Cape Street in Goshen; and June 5 at 4:00 p.m. at Ashfield Congregational Church, 429 Main Street. This year's theme is "Beethoven's Blues," featuring the blues in classical music, performed by a string quartet with composer and guitarist Kenny Butler. There is a suggested donation of \$20 at the door for each concert. The festival is supported in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For more information, please contact Geoffrey Baker at 215-760-0729 or geoffreybakermusic@gmail.com.

Birds of Our Meadows Presentation

Join ornithologist Mara Silver on Sunday, May 15, at 4:00 p.m. at Conway Town Hall for a presentation on the beautiful birds of our area and how you can make your property more inviting to them and help them thrive. An engaging presenter, Mara will share fun facts and photos.

Mara Silver has been working on swallow conservation projects for 30 years. She's developed techniques to attract and enhance breeding success at cliff, barn, and bank swallow nesting sites. Mara holds an M.S. in wildlife and fisheries conservation from UMass – Amherst. See www.swallowconservation.org for more information. Event sponsored by the Conway Open Space Committee. All are welcome.

The Story of Anna & the Pendant

On Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. the Conway Historical Society, 50 Main Street, Conway will screen a short video by Brad Martin, metal detector enthusiast, who recently found a silver

pendant in Vermont that belonged to Anna Adams Leonard (1794-1872) of Conway. How did a pendant worn by a young Conway woman, who later settled in the Michigan Territory, end up near the top of a Vermont mountain? Who was Anna Adams Leonard? Society members will share their research and answer questions about metal detecting and how to track a life through historical records. Refreshments provided; Free and open to the public.

2022 Garlic Mustard Pulls

Come help pull out invasive mustard garlic at the South River Meadow in Conway center on Saturday, May 21, 10:00 a.m. - noon and Sunday, June 5, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.. Contribute to the town's habitat restoration efforts while you learn how to identify and control this highly invasive plant that threatens native vegetation and insects. Thanks to our volunteers' efforts in previous years, abundance continues to diminish, but follow-up is needed to keep garlic mustard at bay. Park below the entrance to the meadow on Shelburne Falls Road, just north of the Masonic Hall building. Wear long pants and sleeves, bug repellent: ticks and black flies are out! – gloves, and closed-toe shoes.

Questions? Contact Michele at mturre@gmail.com or 369-4034. This event is organized and led by members of the Conway Open Space Committee.

Wanted: Native Plant Garden & Pollinator Enthusiasts

Attention gardeners, wildlife enthusiasts, neighbors! Do you want to see our downtown transformed into a pollinator haven and beautified with native flowers and trees? A few of your Conway neighbors who recently formed a new group – Pollinate Conway! – are developing plans for New England native plant gardens in several town-owned downtown locations. While the Open Space Committee is providing some initial funding for this effort, our success depends on getting additional volunteer help to install and maintain these sites. If you want to learn more about native plants, support native pollinators, and improve our town, this is the perfect opportunity! We also welcome additional financial support.

Conway residents Cayte McDonough, former native plant nursery manager at Nasami Farm; Cynthia Lawton-Singer, professional garden designer; and Kendall Clark, master gardener, have been volunteering time to develop plans for multiple sites. We look forward to hearing from you and building a team to move this native plant initiative forward. If you are interested in being involved or contributing in some capacity, please email Cayte at caytemcd@gmail.com or Kendall at k.clark11@comcast.net, or text Cynthia at 413-230-7185. Together we can bring our pride of place to Conway's town center!

The Un-tag Sale Is Coming!

On Saturday, May 14, the Festival of the Hills Un-tag Sale will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at various sites within a mile of the town center - Rain date Sunday, May 15. A map with addresses will be provided on the festival website festivalofthehills.com, Facebook page, and the town's website townofconway.com. You can also pick up a map at 28 Main Street next to the Town Office at the start of the event.

Although this is our second year, you still might ask, "What is an 'Un-tag Sale'?" Generous townfolks have purged their belongings and are offering all items without a price. It is up to the generosity of the buyer to name the price and give. No prices. No tags. Only the more valuable items will have a minimum price. It's also a chance to see your Conway friends out and about. Oh, cash and checks only, please.

This year the Conway Inn has generously offered their parking lot for those who live beyond the one-mile limit. The center of town might be very busy that Saturday morning . . . we hope! Then an easy car ride – at most a mile away – will take you to other sites where individuals have set up alone or with others. How fun and easy is that?

Last year we raised just over \$5,000 to give to our graduating seniors for their postgraduation plans. Please help spread the word to family and friends near and far. See you at the Un-tag Sale on Saturday, May 14!

Thank You from the Family of John Harris

The Harris family – Dottie, Michelle, and Walter – would like to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the first responders of Conway – Chris Hermann, Adam Baker, and Sebastian Meyer – who came on the morning of Saturday, April 2, and helped us get through what would turn out to be a very sad day.

What a blessing to live in a town where the people who arrive to help during a crisis are people we have watched grow up, raise their own families, and volunteer their services to protect our little town. It is an incomparable comfort to have familiar faces asking us the most difficult questions imaginable. These folks are performing a complex professional service on people whom they have personally known their whole lives, and I cannot imagine that is easy for them either.

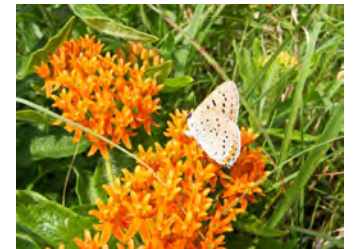
I would also like to share my gratitude for all the townspeople who have sent cards, made phone calls, and stopped by to share in the sorrow, the funny stories, and the John-isms that many of us have a list of! The outpouring of support is cherished by all of us.

Michelle Harris

Gardening Beyond the Catalog

Butterfly Weed: Pollinator Paradise
by Patricia Ann Lynch

Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is a brilliant, orange-blooming beauty that should be a staple in every pollinator garden. A type of milkweed, this showy native wildflower is appropriately named. Its nectar- and pollen-rich flowers attract hummingbirds, bees, and hordes of butterflies, including Monarchs, for which it is an important nectar source, and its leaves provide vital food for developing Monarch caterpillars.



Butterfly weed is easy to grow in poor, dry soil with full sun (but tolerates partial shade), is cold hardy, and requires little maintenance. Deer and rabbits leave it alone, a definite plus. Typically planted in late spring when the soil has warmed up or grown from seeds sown

directly onto the ground, it reaches a height of one to three feet but is slow to establish and may take as long as three years to bloom. Be patient, and you'll be rewarded with bright blossoms from May into September!

This species lacks the milky sap of other milkweeds, but it does produce the characteristic seed pods that release silky-plumed seeds to be dispersed by the wind. If you don't want volunteer plants appearing everywhere next spring, remove the seed pods before they mature.

The genus name *Asclepias* is derived from *Asklepios*, the name of the Greek god of medicine. Early settlers and indigenous people boiled the plant's taproot and used it to treat diarrhea and various respiratory illnesses. Parts of the plant are also edible. Young seed pods can be cooked like any other vegetable, and the flowers can be added to salads and other dishes.

Update from the Field Memorial Library

Barcoding our collection is well under way, and as of this writing, we have coded approximately 1,300 items. We are so grateful to our volunteers and encourage others who may have some time and interest to email me with their contact information. Most sessions are scheduled for Mondays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and Thursdays for two hours between 12:30 and 4:00 p.m., depending on the day.

On Wednesday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the library, the FML will feature Conway's Natural Roots farm, which operates like the farm in *The Dirty Life* by Kristen Kimball, the subject of this year's Libraries in the Woods community reads project. Farmer David Fisher will join us to talk about his farm and how it relates to the Essex Farm described in *The Dirty Life* memoir. Check the website to confirm.

We have rescheduled our event with Jonathan Boschen, producer of the documentary on Marshall Field and the construction of the library, to Saturday, July 23, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. This will be the 121+ 10 celebration of the opening of the library – that is 121 years + 10 days. In addition to Jonathan's talk about the documentary, the

event also provides an opportunity to explore the change that joining CWMars represents. We plan to consider life in Conway, past and present, from the library perspective as we shift from handwritten signatures and the card catalog to a web-searchable database of our collection and actual library cards – all based on barcodes. We hope you will help us to consider the first major change in the operation of the library in 121 years!

Upcoming performance events include Sarah Clay and the Star Cats on June 11, "Sea Stories and Songs" with Davis Bates on July 16, 121 + 10 birthday of the FML July 23, and the Hey Hey Club performing the swing music of Duke Ellington and Count Basie along with *The Great American Songbook's* Cole Porter on September 3. More information will be available on the website.

New Fiction

While Justice Sleeps by Stacy Abrams

The Office of Historical Corrections by Danielle Evans

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles

New Nonfiction

Nature's Best Hope by Douglas W. Tallamy

Pastoral Song: A Farmer's Journey by James Rebanks

The Tao of Vegetable Gardening by Carol Deppe

Children's Room Please visit our website for a photo of some new titles in their natural habitat.

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

Friends of the Field Memorial Library Spring Book Sale

The sale takes place on Saturday, May 14, at the library from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be a large selection of books. Proceeds benefit the library's educational and cultural programs.

We are now accepting book donations and especially welcome donations of children's books, local history, puzzles, and recent books of all genres. Donations can be brought to the library during open hours: Monday 3:00-6:00 p.m., Wednesday 2:00-7:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

A Look into Conway History

Conway Is Settled and Separated

by Patricia Ann Lynch

The area that was to become Conway was granted to the Proprietors of Pocumtuck (Deerfield's landowners) in May 1712, but it was fifty years – not until 1762 – before the land was divided into plots and settlement could begin. The proprietors drew lots for the 140 plots (more than 100 of which were 150 acres in size) in proportion to the land they already owned in Deerfield. A boundary dispute further delayed settlement of South West District, as Conway was first known.

According to *History of Conway (Massachusetts) 1767-1917*, "There was much controversy with Huntstown, now Ashfield, concerning the western boundary. Twice the Deerfield and Conway men got the worst of the matter in law, and were compelled to draw in their lines. They never felt easy as to the way this business was settled, and unquestionably we ought to believe that they were wronged. The owners on the west side who suffered loss received compensation in other lands."

Conway 1767-1967, edited by Deane Lee, says, "Another reason for delay in settling South West was that the Deerfield men, or Proprietors of Pocumtuck, already had more land than they could use. They were not as eager to give value to their land in South West by establishing a settlement as were the proprietors of some of the surrounding areas." Few of them chose to settle there. The available lots were sold, and rapid settlement followed.

By 1767 the district's population had grown to the point that residents decided to present a petition to the Deerfield town meeting on January 12 that read, in part, "... for too many reasons herein to be mentioned, humbly request of you that you would by a vote give your full Consent and declare yourselves willing that the said South West Division should be set off from ye said Township of Deerfield and made into a distinct

Township or District . . ." The petition was granted, the people of South West applied to the General Court for separation, and the court voted to incorporate South West as a "district by the name of Conway." When Governor Francis Bernard signed the act on June 17, 1767, Conway officially became a town.

Meet Me at the Station

by Kathy Llamas

The Conway Mall reopened for the season on April 2 with a robust influx of donations from residents eager to do the COVID-19 winter clean-out. While we all very much appreciate the generous donations that are steadily coming in, I would again like to remind everyone of what we can accept at our small facility.

What we **can** take: clothing that is seasonally appropriate and in good, wearable condition; accessories; small household goods; bedding and blankets; children's toys that are clean and in good condition; books for children and adults but **no** textbooks or out-of-date reference books; DVDs; craft supplies; yarn and fabric; and shoes.

What we **cannot** take: perishable food items; any electronics, old computers, and/or computer accessories; VHS tapes; moldy items of any kind; out-of-season clothing; clothing with worn-out elastic, excessive stains or rips, or that is unwashed; or footwear designed for winter activities. If clothing is not in a condition you would wear yourself, please put it directly into the Salvation Army bin at the Transfer Station. The Salvation Army can make rags out of such items. Making such deposits yourself frees our volunteers to concentrate their efforts on what the mall can use.

The many donations of children's clothing from our community enabled the Conway Mall to take several bundles to the South Deerfield Ukrainian Church. The clothes were then sent to Ukrainian refugee centers to help those who left belongings behind in their flight from invading forces.

If you would like to volunteer as a member of the mall crew, please contact me at 413-695-5626 or at conwaycurrents@gmail.com. The mall is open when the transfer station is open and closes 30 minutes before the station's closing time.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

The 15th annual Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide was included in the *Greenfield Recorder*, *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, and *Athol Daily News* on Wednesday, April 20. This valuable resource is a handy reference to answer the common question "What do I do with . . .?" Over the spring, copies will be distributed to transfer stations, town halls, libraries, and town events when possible. You can also get the guide at this link: <https://view.publitas.com/p222-4389/rrr-2022/page/1>. Please find, read, and share!

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 lmbeckett@crocker.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!

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. Live music jams, 7 p.m. second Friday of each month! With the warm weather approaching, we



hope to have the jams outdoors when possible. Look for the blue flag on the porch.

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. 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! Find a hanging basket or flowers to plant for your summer garden. Check us out on Facebook: facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store for today's specials. **May 1: Hot potroast dinner with mashed potatoes, gravy, veggie and dessert. Dine in at 2 p.m. or takeout between 2 and 5 p.m. \$19.95 plus tax. Call to reserve - 413-369-4936.**

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, farmers@naturalroots.com.

Wilder Hill Gardens - your local plant nursery. Open for the season, 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 or lilianjackman@gmail.com



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, conwayhartfarm@gmail.com, 413-453-9098.

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 or email Tony(a) Lemos. blazingstarclinic@gmail.com for more info.

Jan and John Maggs Antiques - specializing in 17th-century English oak furniture, Queen Anne and Georgian jewelry, paintings, carpets, and small accessories. We're open these days by chance or appointment. You can visit our shop online at jmaggs.com, and you can arrange an in-person visit by calling us at 369-4256 or emailing jmaggs@jmaggs.com. On the weekend of May 14th and 15th we will hold our Spring Opening in which we'll offer our latest acquisitions, including things found on our recent buying trip to England. We'll be open online only on Saturday the 14th and in person in the shop on Sunday the 15th. This will be our second in-person opening since the beginning of the pandemic, and we're looking forward to seeing many old friends.



It's May - and it **may** be time to start doing something with those logs. We import from Tajfun (Europe) 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; Make vinegars; 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.

Debra Hoyle Studio Gallery - 46 Main Street will host its first open studio on **Saturday, May 28** from 11-2. Stop by to check out the latest paintings and collages by Deb during your holiday weekend! She'll be busily making art as usual but is happy to pause and chat. This location is accessible and there is a comfortable seating area. If you'd like to visit before Memorial Day weekend or anytime please contact her at 413-325-5579 or greenlady33@comcast.net. Keep your eyes open for more Saturday open studios this summer and fall! There'll be a sign out if Deb is there. View works in progress and finished pieces on Instagram: [debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors](https://www.instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors) ALSO-Anyone with business cards, announcements, or items for sale is welcome to post these on the *community bulletin board* located on the door.

Stop the presses!

Sorry, that's just what *Conway Currents* can't do! In order to meet our press date, we cannot accept submissions received later than 5:00 p.m. on the 20th of the month.

Unheard Melodies

by Nicole Braden-Johnson

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

Pulchritudinous

"Sometimes I think someone upstairs saved me from being ordinary." – Michel Petrucciani, French jazz pianist (1962-1999)

Perched precariously on the piano bench,
Is a short, square, spectacled, sparsely haired man.
Beneath the skin, his many-fractured bones ache,
And in his mind, he knows he is inching toward the grave.

The monster looms before him,
With its rows of ebony and ivory teeth.
At four years old, he took a hammer to the incredible beast –
Now bare-handed he tackles it with the same zest.

And from deep within all this pain and fear,
The ever-constricting mortal coil,
Spills forth all the feeling of life – the good, the hopeful,
The pulchritudinous.

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