



Volume 3, Number 6 - June 2022

Candidates for Board of Assessors

In our previous issue, we introduced you to Christopher Waldo and Bob Baker, the two candidates hoping to garner your vote for .selectboard member. Conway has a second contested race this year, a seat on the Board of Assessors. The two candidates are Roxanne Parent and Troy Lucier, two people eager for your consideration and willing to work hard on behalf of our citizens. In fact, both candidates have been given links to an online course that is an introduction to the Board of Assessors and a DSL course that was offered on May 25. Both have mentioned their keen interest in furthering their knowledge and understanding so that, if elected, they will be better prepared for what they will encounter in their potential position.

Roxanne Parent was born in Conway and attended the Union 38 school system throughout her academic years. Conway has many qualities that have endeared it to her. The rural, quaint feel of her hometown makes it a warm and comfortable place. It has anchored her so that she has never had a real desire to live elsewhere. After high school, Roxanne – or Roxie as she is nicknamed – began working at Hallmark Studios. She soon discovered that she enjoyed and had finesse in the skill of photographic retouching, and she honed that skill over the years. Later, she began to work for potters in the area. Her growing



experience in the craft led her to open her own pottery studio, where she has worked for over twenty years.

Roxanne’s bid for a seat on the Board of Assessors stems from her experience a year ago when she first reviewed her property card. She found entries that were inaccurate, which led her to go online and educate herself about property assessment. The more she learned, the more her interest and curiosity grew. This is another reason why she became so eager to join the Board of Assessors.

Although she does not have a background in accounting, Roxanne professes a love of numbers. She also feels that her twenty years of experience running her own business have given her skills in working with people and problem-solving. One of the qualities that she would bring to the board, were she elected, is fairness. She feels her lifelong residence in Conway has given her a unique perspective and that she can not only bring consistency to the board but a fresh eye to the work of the assessors.

“Assessors work by grouping properties. It is opinion-driven and a judgment call. I want to bring a transparency to the office. I want to help build a consistency within the board,” she says. Although she sees the review of property cards as an individual responsibility, she would like to encourage every citizen to review theirs and ask for changes as warranted.

Troy Lucier moved to Conway in 2016. Prior to that, he and his wife, Laurie, lived in Greenfield for more than twenty years. Troy and Laurie wanted to move to a quieter area. They looked for a property that would suit their future retirement needs. When their realtor brought them to Conway, it had just what they were looking for. For Troy, “Conway is a very friendly place, with people willing to help and no need to lock their doors.”

Troy has never held office before, here or elsewhere. He was busy serving in the military and raising a family. However, he has always wanted to give back to his community, and this is one way he can do it!



Troy has been moved to seek an office in the town not only for the reason stated, but also because he has witnessed his wife's enjoyment of her position as the town clerk. He has watched the assessors' office struggle as they dealt with issues and felt that at times their treatment by the public was unfair.

Like Roxy, Troy has no background in accounting. He has, however, had extensive experience in the building trade and has worked in commercial construction and environmental remediation since his days in the U.S. Navy. At one time he also worked for Rice Oil as a heating and cooling technician. The work on his own property, he says, has vastly added to his knowledge base.

One of the strongest qualities that Troy feels he embodies is honesty. "In the service I learned that your word means everything." In addition, he said that he is very detail-oriented and likes both structure and organization, all of which he will bring to the table if elected. "I am the kind of person who will always tell you like it is, good or bad, because people deserve to know the truth. It is important to be focused on a task at hand and to strive to be helpful to all you meet."

"My job, were I elected," he says, "will be to look and report back." Rather than having a specific role on the board from the get-go, he is eager to learn on the job, to strengthen the role of the assessors, and to help wherever he can.

Annual Town Meeting and Town Election

Town Meeting Conway's annual Town Meeting will be on Saturday, June 4, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Conway Grammar

School. Conway's form of governance has been the open town meeting since colonial times, a form of government in which all registered voters of a town may vote on the town budget and bylaws. The annual Town Meeting now takes place each year on the first Saturday in June. The selectboard summons the meeting into existence by issuing the warrant, which is the list of items, or articles, to be voted on, with descriptions of each article. The moderator officiates the meeting by reading each article, explaining it, and making sure the rules of parliamentary procedure are followed. The Finance Committee makes recommendations on money articles. The town clerk records the results of the meeting. Town counsel makes legal recommendations on all articles to ensure town meeting is acting lawfully. There are times when a town meeting needs to be called to deal with issues that arise between the regularly scheduled meetings. These meetings, called special town meetings, follow the same rules as the annual Town Meeting.

Town Election The annual town election will be held at Town Hall on Thursday, June 9, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road. The offices and terms on the ballot this year are:

- 1 member, Selectboard for three years
- 1 member, Board of Assessors for three years
- 1 member, Board of Assessors for one year
- 1 member, Board of Health for three years
- 1 member, Board of Health for three years
- 1 member, Frontier Regional School Committee for three years
- 2 members, Local School Committee for three years each
- 1 member, Planning Board for two years
- 1 member, Planning Board for three years
- 3 constables for three years each
- 1 town clerk for three years
- 1 moderator for one year

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 June 1. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email patricialynch@earthlink.net.

Senior Calendar for June

"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 June 6. There is a \$20.00 fee. For information or to schedule an appointment, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010.

Senior Meals There will be no grab-and-go-meals from June through August. For these months you can expect ice cream and strawberry shortcake socials, picnics in Memorial Park, and on June 23 a BBQ at the Sportsman's Club. For more information, call Carolyn Thayer at 369-6948.

Walking Group Every Monday, weather permitting, the walking group takes to the streets of Conway for companionship, conversation, and exercise. Join the group at 9:30 a.m. in front of the library. 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.

GCC PCR Testing Site Reopens

The PCR testing site at Greenfield Community College has reopened after being closed for two months. Testing, which began May 18, is available at GCC's East Building on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Appointments are strongly encouraged but not required. Testing can be scheduled online at curative.com/sites/35435. There is no charge, but those who have health insurance must bring their insurance cards. All must bring identification.

Other local testing sites are in South Deerfield at the Senior Center (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 a.m.-noon) and Shelburne Falls at Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Community Room (Tuesday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and Thursday noon -4:00 p.m). For all clinics book online at curative.com/sites/35435. Walk-ins are welcome. Please bring ID and insurance card, if you have one.

The Greenfield Health Department will continue to offer free antigen testing at 20 Sanderson Street on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. In addition, the Biden administration has announced a third round of free COVID-19 rapid testing kits that households can order at COVIDTests.gov.

From the Board of Health

COVID-19 numbers are rising! Once again Franklin County is in the high category for the likelihood of community transmission. In Franklin County it is estimated that at least one in six people have had the COVID-19 virus, and about 1 in 500 people have died. Conway leads the way among FRCOG member towns for the past week in COVID numbers. From May 7 to 15, 13 Conway residents tested positive. Many more residents may have tested positive using a home rapid antigen test, but they are not required to report these results.

After all this doom and gloom, vaccinated individuals have, for the most part, tolerated getting the virus relatively well. Very few, overall, have landed in the hospital, and far fewer still have died. With current high levels for community transmission, all residents are encouraged to wear masks indoors in public places, especially those with preexisting health conditions, who are immunocompromised, or who are over 65. Stay healthy!

Mosquito and Tick Bite Prevention

Summer is upon us, which means we're also at the height of mosquito and tick season. Ticks and mosquitoes are more than a nuisance; they can carry diseases, such as Lyme disease and anaplasmosis in the case of ticks, and West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis in the case of mosquitoes. In recent years, more than 34% of local deer ticks tested positive for Lyme and more than 5% for anaplasmosis, the two tick-borne diseases occurring most frequently in the Franklin County region. Although only deer ticks (aka black-legged ticks) can transmit Lyme and anaplasmosis, other ticks should be avoided because they can transmit less-common diseases. Luckily, there are many things you can do to avoid tick and mosquito bites and stay healthy.

Prevention measures that work against both ticks and mosquitoes:

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

and ticks, and it is odorless and nontoxic to humans once it dries. Again, be sure you read and follow directions on the label.

Prevention measures for ticks:

- Know your ticks. This time of year, the ticks to look out for are the nymphs – the smaller, immature form – of the black-legged tick, also known as the deer tick. Only black-legged ticks carry Lyme, and the nymphs are tiny: about the size of a poppy seed. By fall, black-legged ticks grow to about the size of a sesame seed. Dog ticks, which are about the size of a small watermelon seed, are also common in our area, but they are less likely to carry disease. Want help identifying a tick? The free Tick Spotters service through the University of Rhode Island offers tick identification. Send in a photo of a tick, and they will respond in about 24 hours.
- Know where ticks hang out. Ticks especially like tall grasses, the edges of woods, and wooded areas. Shady yards can also be tick habitat. Consistently sunny spots with short grass, like a recently mowed lawn or park area, are less likely to have ticks.
- When you come indoors, do a head-to-toe tick check for yourself and your kids, including in and around ears, head and neck, under arms, around the waist, between the legs, at the backs of knees, and don't forget the belly button. It takes at least 24 hours after a tick is attached for it to transmit Lyme and most other diseases, so a daily tick check is a great preventive measure.
- Put clothes, blankets, and towels that you brought outdoors with you in the dryer on high heat for at least ten minutes to kill any ticks that might have hitched a ride.

If you find a tick attached, use fine-pointed tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the head as possible and pull it straight out. Wipe the area with alcohol or wash with soap and water. Continue to check for several weeks; if you develop flu-like symptoms or a rash, see a doctor. If you need to test the tick for tick-borne

diseases, save the tick in a small plastic bag. Log on to www.tickreport.com and follow the mailing instructions. Find more prevention information at mass.gov and <http://www.tickencounter.org>.

Prevention measures for mosquitoes:

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

Notes from the Town Administrator

I am pleased to announce the return of the composting program at the transfer station, along with a new program to collect our fats, oils, and grease.

Composting will be the same as before, with 64-gallon carts lined with compostable bags, which will be hauled away weekly to Martin's Farm in Greenfield. Please go to the town website, townofconway.com, and click on "Composting Is Back at the Transfer Station" for a link to information on what may be put into the compost carts.

Residents are now also able to properly dispose of their vegetable and animal fats in a 55-gallon drum, which will be located next to the compost carts. Western Mass Rendering is the company recycling our fats and grease. This is an excellent way to keep fats and oils out of our septic systems while helping to recycle and create new

products, such as biofuel. It is important **NOT** to put any motor or other automotive oil into this container; doing so will cost the town money. If you have some automotive oils to dispose of or are uncertain, please see our helpful transfer station attendants.

The town is also planning to update the town's website sometime this year. If you have particular issues or ideas you wish us to incorporate, please contact me. We want to make the new website as user friendly as possible.

Thank you for helping reduce Conway's trash tonnage while creating lovely compost!!!

Update from the Field Memorial Library

It's been a busy spring at the library, with many projects and events sprouting and scheduled for harvest. Upcoming programs supported in part by grants from the Conway Cultural Council, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, include the following:

Stolen Moments, a narrated, themed concert celebrating the pleasures of summer on Saturday, June 11, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the library. Performed by Sarah Clay & the StarCats, the songs will "evoke warm sultry days cooled by rain, birds singing, flowers blooming, and boats bobbing on water." Award-winning vocalist/flutist Sarah Clay leads her trio, with guitarist Draa Hobbs and bassist Steve Bulmer, playing retro-pop and jazz from the 1930s to the present.

The Stolen Moments performance will be preceded by a ***Story Book Walk*** all day in Memorial Park across from Town Hall. Friends of the FML will greet children and hand out a craft project and informational materials, making possible a tour through the tale of *The Very Lazy Ladybug*.

Mushrooms of the Northeast, a presentation on Saturday, June 18, at 12:30 p.m. by naturalist John Root. His presentation includes habitats, seasons of availability, and – especially for all us amateurs – identifying characteristics of both edible and poisonous species.

Sea Stories and Songs with chanteys, ballads, folktales, and more. Parents' Choice Award-winning singer and storyteller Davis Bates will present a program that celebrates the sea and New England maritime traditions and folklore on Saturday, July 16, 2:00-4:00 p.m. This performance will be preceded by a ***Story Book Walk*** in Memorial Park of *The ABCs of Yoga for Kids*.

On Saturday, July 23, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., the **121 (years) + 10 (days) Birthday Celebration** of the FML will feature discussion of Jonathan Boschen's documentary and the first major change in the operation of the library in 121 years: joining CWMars. We'll consider life in Conway, past and present, from the library's 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.

Swing Music of Ellington and Count Basie along with American Songbook's Cole Porter. Saturday, September 3, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The Hey Hey Club will be performing. More information will be available on our website as we get closer to the event.

Barcoding our collection continues, and as of May 20 we have coded approximately 2,800 items. We are grateful to our volunteers and encourage others who have time and interest to email me with your contact information. Most sessions are 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. We are now scheduling July and August.

Special thanks to Natural Roots farmer David Fisher, who joined us outside under the blooming lilacs to talk about his farm and how

it relates to the Essex Farm described in *The Dirty Life*, a memoir by Kristen Kimball. Farming in Conway has a long history, to which Marshall Field and the library are forever linked. We hope to develop more programs that celebrate this heritage and encourage those interested to contact the director with information, resources, and suggestions.

David Whittier, Director, Field Memorial Library
director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org 413-369-4646
<https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org>

A Look into Conway History

Revolution and Conway: What About the Tories?
by Patricia Ann Lynch

Tory 2: an American upholding the cause of the British Crown against the supporters of colonial independence during the American Revolution: loyalist – Merriam-Webster

Revolution was in the air at the time Conway established its independence from Deerfield. In response to oppressive British policies like the Sugar Act (which imposed duties on sugar and molasses imported into the colonies) and the Stamp Act (which taxed paper and printed materials), colonists set up emergency provisional governments known as Committees of Correspondence. In 1772, Samuel Adams and other leading patriots formed the Boston Committee of Correspondence. By 1774 it had become apparent to the people of Conway that a revolution against the British Crown was inevitable. According to *History of Conway (Massachusetts) 1767-1917*, town leaders contacted the Boston committee and assured them that they would join with them and make "all Lawful and Salutary Measures for the Recovery of those Inestimable Priviledges [*sic*] Wrested from us, and firmly to secure those that remain . . ."

Even in Conway not all colonists were opposed to British rule. According to *Encyclopedia Britannica*, loyalists, or Tories, made

up about a third of the colonial population. Throughout the colonies, severe legal measures were taken against Tories: removal from office, disenfranchisement, heavy taxation or confiscation of property. Harassment and personal attacks, including "tarring and feathering," were not uncommon. More than 100,000 loyalists reportedly fled the country.

"What about the Tories?" was the question Conway's leaders needed to answer. A committee of thirteen men was appointed to keep watch over any residents who might try to oppose the revolutionary effort and, if necessary, impose "a Certain Competency of Punishment to be Inflicted on them not Exceeding the punishment of Contempt and Neglect."

In 1776, fear of invasion by British forces was such that at a town meeting held on August 24 members resolved "to proceed to some measure to Secure the Enemical persons Called Tories amongst us." But these "Enemical persons" weren't strangers; they were their friends and neighbors. Unlike harsh measures taken elsewhere, this was Conway's response: "A sharp eye only was kept on them at critical times, and their guns were taken away. After the war, Captain Arms, by much persistence, got his gun again in his own keeping."

Notes from the Bluebird Boxes

by Katie Clarke Waddell

South River Meadow in downtown Conway is a refuge and haven for humans and wildlife as well as a nice place for people to walk their dogs in all four seasons. I have been monitoring the bluebird boxes there this season on behalf of the Open Space Committee and making sure that they are in good shape and available to bluebirds and swallows as opposed to unwanted, invasive species. I am very happy to report that one nest has five healthy-looking bluebird nestlings just about to fledge as of this writing!

Bluebird boxes are a wonderful way for us to provide safety and shelter for these special birds, as well as to enjoy the beauty and miracles of spring. Please don't open the park boxes. Be assured they are being well tended and cared for this season. Bluebirds often raise two to three sets of chicks per year, so we are just getting started! To find out more about becoming a bluebird landlord in your own backyard, check out this great national resource: michiganbluebirds.org

Gardening Beyond the Catalog

by Patricia Ann Lynch

June Is National Pollinator Month

What better way to celebrate National Pollinator Month than by establishing or adding to a garden abloom with pollinator-friendly native plants that will attract bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and other pollinators. At the very least, you might add a few pollinator-attractive plants to your landscape.

Coneflowers, or echinacea – long-blooming, hardy, and drought-resistant plants native to central and eastern North America – are an excellent choice. The most popular type, and the most commonly seen in gardens, is purple echinacea (*Echinacea purpurea*), which has a fibrous root system instead of the long taproot and woody crown of other native species. This enables it to thrive in a variety of soil types. Seeds are best started in containers indoors until sprouts appear and then set out after the last frost or directly sown in the garden about two weeks before then. However, mature plants can readily be found in garden centers, and many cultivars exist. Coneflowers will tolerate partial shade but do best when they receive at least six to eight hours of full sun. They will continue to bloom from summer until frost.

The plant's daisy-like purplish-pink blossoms are actually a collection of many tiny, fertile flowers that form the central cone. Rich in nectar, these flowers draw a variety of bees, butterflies,

moths, and other pollinating insects and are attractive to hummingbirds as well. Finches and other birds eat and scatter the seeds.

Like many native wildflowers, coneflowers have a long history of medicinal use by indigenous people. The Cheyenne, Dakota, Fox, Kiowa, Omaha, Pawnee, Ponca, Teton Sioux, and Winnebago all used forms of the plant – infusions of greens and roots, ground or smashed roots, juice – as antidotes for poisons and venom; poultices for burns, wounds, and pain; to soothe coughs and sore throats; and as treatments for intestinal cramps, bowel pain, and arthritis. Although as stated in a National Institutes of Health article, "*Echinacea purpurea* (Asteraceae) is a perennial medicinal herb with important immunostimulatory and anti-inflammatory properties, especially the alleviation of cold symptoms," the Food and Drug Administration has not approved commercially sold echinacea products as safe and effective for any health purpose.

Another Successful Un-tag Sale

The Un-tag Sale was a wonderful success! We ended up with eight sites and 23 participants who gave so generously. Folks came from in town and out of town, filling their arms with goodies. The profit? \$3,580! There's another way to define "profit" too. It was the chance to see each other and enjoy each other's company while giving to our graduating seniors for their futures. Thank you, Conway!

Garlic Mustard Pull



South River Meadow, Conway: Sunday, June 5, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Come help pull out invasive garlic mustard at the South River Meadow in Conway center. 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.

Nutty Quiz

by Sir Reginald Buttlinger

1. Nuts found on an airplane that are inedible
2. Nuts found in a trunk
3. Nuts that give birth
4. Nuts worth money
5. Nuts used in construction
6. Nuts used for food storage
7. Nuts to use in your shooter
8. Nuts that are always sad
9. Nuts that can carry a load
10. Nuts that use Tinder

Heirloom Music Festival 2022: June 3, 4, 5

Conway Fine Arts, artistic director Geoffrey Baker, is excited to announce our first annual hilltown music festival. This year's theme is "Beethoven's Blues," exploring the blues in quintets, quartets, trios, and duos by Beethoven, Schubert, Kodaly, Rebecca Clarke, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, and composer/blues guitarist Kenny Butler. Performers include violinists Michelle Liechti, Allyson Michal, and Veronika Schreiber; violists Geoffrey Baker

and Mikayla Reine; cellist Ignacy Gaydamovich; and Kenny Butler on guitar. 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 (Rte 112) in Goshen (rain location: the Institute for the Musical Arts 165 Cape Street); and June 5 at 4:00 p.m. at Ashfield Congregational Church, 429 Main Street. Admission is \$20/\$10 students and at-need on Saturday and Sunday and \$20 suggested donation on Friday. Admission on Saturday evening at Three Sisters Sanctuary includes full access to the beautiful grounds; if attending, please consider a carpool, as parking at the sanctuary is limited to 50 vehicles. Advance tickets may be purchased on Venmo using @ConwayFineArts; please leave a message with your name and the number in your party. For more information contact Geoffrey Baker at 215-760-0729 or geoffreybakermusic@gmail.com. Heirloom Music Festival 2022 is made possible by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and support from generous donors to the arts.

4th Annual Irish Road Bowling

Irish Road Bowling returns Saturday, July 9, noon until ? – Rain or shine. All proceeds to benefit feeding Ukrainian refugees.

Put together a team of three to four bowlers. If you want to bowl but can't get a team together, we'll assign you to a team. There are only 36 teams, so be certain that you and your team will be available on that day. Fee \$20.00 per bowler.

Once you have a team together or want to join a team, text Mike Haley, 413-537-9149, and leave your name, your teammates' names, and the best ways to reach y'all. I will get back to you with your team color(s). Repeat teams can request a color. Trophies, bizarre prizes, 50/50 raffle, and a helluva good time to support a worthy cause.

YIPPEE-KAI-YO-KAI-YAY!

Fundraiser for Ukrainian Refugees

WHAT? An unusual presentation of three classic short stories of the old and new West. A combination of professional actors and Conwayans will be reading "A Yellow Dog" by Bret Harte and "The Mud Below" and "A Bloody Stallion" by Annie Proulx.

WHEN? Saturday, June 18, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

WHERE? Conway Sportsman's Club pavilion on Elmer Road off Newhall Road – a three-minute drive from Conway center going toward Shelburne Falls. Plenty of parking, spacious seating (bring your own folding chair if you wish). Snacks, water, and soft drinks will be available for purchase. Masks are optional.

WHO? All proceeds – donations at the door and food and drink sales – will go to the World Central Kitchen. This organization serves over 800,000 meals daily to Ukrainian refugees outside and inside Ukraine, from Kyiv to Odessa and as close as they can get to the front lines. All donations are tax-deductible.

WHY? For the suffering Ukrainians, it's obvious. For yourselves, come and relax for a bit and let our readers help you weave the images so brilliantly presented by these two famous writers.

If you'd like to volunteer to make or bake some snacks, know how to set up a power point slide presentation, or want just to help out, please contact Mike Haley at 413-537-9149.

The Festival of the Hills is back!

When: Sunday, October 2, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Where: Ball field, Conway, Massachusetts

Call for Artists! October 2 will see the return of our historic Conway fair. The event will include an Exhibition Art Show at the

Field Memorial Library. Conway artists are cordially invited to exhibit up to five pieces. Watch this space for information and updates over the summer as we get closer to the event. Inquiries may be addressed to Aimee at 302windyhill@gmail.com.

Calling All Crafters! Summer is coming and that means it's time to start thinking about craft fairs! Conway's Festival of the Hills on Sunday, October 2 this year, hosts a very popular craft fair. This year marks our 58th festival, and people come from all over to be part of this charming hilltown celebration.

The festival is on the town's ball field right off Main Street. Along with crafters it features food vendors, children's activities, log-splitting contest, exhibits, book-signing table, parade, 10K road race, duck race, fortune teller, raffle, candy table, Café Conway with local baked goods, exhibit of Conway artists, live music all day, and a skillet toss (a signature piece of our festival).

If you are a crafter interested in participating in this year's festival, please obtain a crafter application form by visiting the FOH website, <https://festivalofthehills.com/> - under Events, click Craft Fair, or contact the Craft Fair Coordinator, Adria Elskus conwaycrafters@yahoo.com 413-325-4883 (cell).

All crafts must be handmade by the exhibitor. No manufactured, imported, or "made from kits" goods are permitted. Applications must be postmarked by August 1 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 \$50.00, which supports the FOH Scholarship Fund for graduating seniors from the town of Conway.

Firemen's Auxiliary Turkey Dinner

The Conway Firemen's Auxiliary annual turkey dinner will be held on Saturday, October 1 at the Conway Grammar School. This will be a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixings, dessert included.

This year there will be just one sitting, at 5:30 p.m. Pickup time for takeouts begins at 6:15 p.m. No early birds, please! Space in the cafeteria is limited and the number of takeouts will also be limited, so reserve early by calling 369-4936 or 369-4087.

Proceeds from the dinner help fund the annual Firemen's Auxiliary Scholarship, awarded to graduating Conway seniors each May. Donations to the fund are always welcome and may be made to Conway Firemen's Auxiliary, PO Box 46, Conway, MA 01341.

Swimming Pool News

There will a work bee at the Conway Swimming Pool on **June 5** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come with gloves, pruners, weed trimmers, rake, or a hoe. Help prepare the pool for a **June 10** opening. See you there.

"Nutty Quiz" Answers

1. Wing nut, 2. Chestnut, 3. Nuthatch, 4. CASHews, 5. Walnuts, 6. PeCANS, 7. PEAnuts, 8. Pine nuts, 9. Lug nuts, 10. Date nuts

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"

Summer Pleiades

Sun-kissed fingers pull the bubbled, brown crust from
Sticky marshmallow sticks freshly gathered from the forest
floor.

Smoke wafts through the yard as the air mellows.
Susurrations grow of black flies and the season's first
mosquitos.

Smiling and recounting the day's adventures, the golden-haired
boy

Sweetly pretends he doesn't hate roasted marshmallows –
Since even now, he knows it's the idea of it that matters most.

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, second Friday of each month! 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

**BAKER'S
COUNTRY
STORE**

flowers to plant for your summer garden. Check us out on Facebook: facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store or call 413-369-4936 for today's specials.

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

Jan and John Maggs Antiques - a local source for quality antique furniture, jewelry, and accessories since 1988, specializing in pieces from the 1600's. Our shop is in our black barn in Pumpkin Hollow, and we plan to be open on Sundays throughout the summer, beginning on June 12. If you'd like to visit at another time, we're happy to open by appointment or chance. Arrange a visit by email jmaggs@jmaggs.com or phone 413-369-4256. Or stop in whenever you see the blue doors on the barn.



Wilder Hill Gardens - your local plant nursery. Open for the season, weekends 8-5, other times by chance or appointment. 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. Email lilianjackman@gmail.com

**WILDER HILL
gardens**

It's June – There is an official “second garden harvest” if planted by mid-June and we sure have the tools to help get the job done. Get your root veggies planted using a Wilcox trowel, made in the USA and fabulous! We have rubber band ties to train trees or vines. Planting young trees? Use Duckbill kits to cable and anchor them in place. We have a good selection of gloves, even some for the little ones. Upgrade to better tools! Shop where the pros shop and thanks for buying locally! **OESCO, Inc. (Orchard) M-F: 7-5; 369-4335.**



Debra Hoyle Studio Gallery - will be hosting both scheduled and unscheduled open studios this spring and summer! Be on the lookout for the OPEN STUDIO sign out front on weekends. Planned open studios are on July 2 from 11-2, August 13 from 11-2, and September 4 from 11-2. If those dates are busy times for you give Debra a call or text to set up a studio visit. The bulletin board on the studio door awaits your business cards and announcements, so feel free to post anytime! 413-325-5579 on Instagram: debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors

Upcoming art show at the Meekins Library in Williamsburg during the months of August and September! More details to follow.

Help Wanted - Helper needed to spread compost and mulch in my perennial garden. Call Carol at 413-345-8977 - mornings are best.

FREE - (1) Sears Craftsman 10" radial arm saw, works fine, (2) Equestrian items including 2 saddles, various bits of tack, harnesses, riding gear, (3) Italian chest of drawers with glass fronts, 18" x 48" x 48" high. 413-369-4035

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.



Steve Thomas, *Potato Diggers*, Fall 2021 Neighborhood “Field Hand” kids and their potato-digging hound Hobie helping harvest fingerling potatoes at the Evergreen Organics garden in Pumpkin Hollow, Conway. They (but not Hobie!) get to take home 10% of what they dig.

Tours at Wildside Gardens

A can-do Approach to Our Uncertain Future

Conway residents and friends are invited to join us on **Sunday June 19** for walking tours of our many gardens and our beautiful off-grid cottages, one built in 2007 and the other under construction.

We will offer four tours throughout the day at 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Email to sign up at info@wildsidegardens.org, or leave a message at 413-369-4616.



Tours are free, but donations are welcome! This event is the Wildside team's way of saying *thank you* for the warm support so many friends and neighbors gave us during our recent covid-related financial crisis.

Many say that Wildside is a magical place, and so it is – magic with a serious practical purpose, demonstrating ways to survive and thrive better in the likely difficult times ahead.
www.wildsidegardens.org.

Presort-STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 701
Greenfield, MA 01301

ECRLOT
BOXHOLDER
Conway, MA 01341

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