



Volume 3, Number 7 - July 2022

The Conway Electric Street Railway: 100 Years Since the Last Train Car Ran the Line

Come visit the Historical Society Museum this summer on Sundays, July 10 to August 28, 1:00-4:00 p.m. and see our permanent collection and a new exhibit.

In September of 1894, Alphonse Staelens of Conway drove the first spike into a rail tie near Conway Station, the start of what became, less than six months later, the five-mile-long Conway Electric Street Railway. It would forever end, its determined promoters argued, Conway's costly isolation.



Conway Electric Street Railway car at the DeWolfe Shoe Company on River Street, about 1897.

Indeed, when the line was up and running in the spring of 1895, after nearly fifty years of failed attempts to secure a railway branch through town, Conway finally had a relatively cost-effective and efficient means of shuttling goods to markets and transporting passengers from the center of Conway to a major train line, the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, at Conway Station.

The first passenger railway in Massachusetts to also carry freight, the Conway line shored up the town's struggling industries and halted for a time a steady decline in population. The sawmills, cotton mills, and other manufacturing businesses relied heavily on the railway to move both workers and goods. The railway made it possible for milk and butter from the Conway Creamery to be shipped to Springfield and Boston and for Conway's apple growers to send more than 10,000 barrels of apples to market each season.

Led by Dr. John B. Laidley, the driving force behind the railway, and a group of town businessmen, Conway extended the line in 1897 to run across the Deerfield River to connect with the Fitchburg division of the Boston & Maine Railroad. Two years later, they built a dam across the South River, just south of Conway Station, to furnish cheap electricity for the line, replacing a coal-powered boiler. By 1900 the new dam and powerhouse supplied the town with current for electric lighting.

Some called the Conway line the most crooked railway in America – not corrupt, mind you, but curved and steeply graded. One prospective investor quipped, "Ninety-five curves to a mile, and never a dividend," an apt characterization of both the line's twisting path and the bumpy financial ride taken by its backers.

The line always struggled to make money. Boston & Maine took it over in 1908 but failed to turn a profit. By the post-World War I years, most of Conway's industry had shut down, and the population was again in steep decline. With automobiles ascendant, railway patrons dwindled. An especially harsh winter in 1919-1920 buried the tracks in deep snow and dealt a final blow.

In 1922 Alphonse Staelens, who had driven the first spike, ran the last rail car – a work car – over the line before a scrap dealer from North Adams arrived to tear up the rails. Barely a trace of the line was left for the woods to cover over.

Peter Engelman, President, Conway Historical Society
chs@conwaymasshistory.org
conwaymasshistory.org/

Farm to Home Food Program

Join LifePath's new Farm to Home Food Program to receive free and fresh produce, meat, and dairy products on a monthly basis! Eligible participants will receive one delivery of free food with a value of approximately \$50 directly to their homes per month. Choices of healthy and fresh foods will come from Mass Food Delivery, located in South Deerfield, which sources its products from farms and producers throughout Massachusetts and the northeast. Participants will order from an online storefront system that allows them to choose the items contained in each delivery. The funding for this program is anticipated to provide monthly deliveries through March 2023.

Eligibility. This program is available to:

- Individuals who are 60 or older or adults with a disability.
- Individuals who are able to prepare their own meals or have someone who can assist them with meal preparation.
- Individuals who agree to be home to accept their monthly deliveries. Because of the perishable nature of food, this is required.
- Applicants must meet an income threshold of not more than \$34,400/year for an individual or \$48,958/year for households of two or more.
- Applicants who currently receive SNAP benefits, MassHealth, Brown Bag, SSI, or SSDI and otherwise meet the age or disability criteria,

Online Ordering. Participants can select their food items through an online store. There will also be predetermined boxes of conventional, vegetarian, or vegan options that will contain a variety of fresh foods based on seasonal availability for those who prefer a simpler ordering option. Volunteers will be available to partner with participants who have difficulty navigating the online ordering system or who lack a computer or internet access. Participants who have a smartphone can place orders through their phones.

Enrollment. In order to equitably distribute the food across the region, each town has been assigned a number of slots. **Conway has been allotted ten slots.** Depending on whether there is a greater need, that number can be extended.

Applicants can call 877-590-2540 and leave a message on our dedicated LifePath phone line. An enrollment specialist will contact you and assist with the enrollment process. Alternatively, the referral can be completed digitally by downloading this referral form and emailing it back to us at mjohnson@lifepathma.org or by printing a copy and returning it to us by fax or mail. All applicants will be notified once their referral form has been received.

Questions? Contact Deb Luekens, Program Manager, at dluekens@lifepathma.org or leave a message on the Farm to Home Food Program's dedicated phone line at 877-590-2540. Conway residents can also contact either the Board of Health by emailing boardofhealth@townofconway.com or the Council on Aging by emailing the chair, patricialynch@earthlink.net.

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 August 3 (no July meeting). For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email patricialynch@earthlink.net.

Senior Calendar for July

"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. NOTE: **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.** The next clinic will be July 5. 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 and picnics in Memorial Park. For more information and to be added to our email or phone list for announcements, call Carolyn Thayer at 369-6948.

Walking Group Every Monday, weather permitting, the walking group takes to the streets of Conway—and occasional excursions out of town—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.; note time change for chair yoga: 11:15 a.m.-12:00 noon. 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.

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 tickencounter.org.

Prevention measures for mosquitoes:

1. 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.
2. Use screens on windows and doors. Repair holes in screens to keep mosquitoes outdoors.
3. 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.
4. 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

This month I am very eager to find out how residents get their news about what happens in town government. *Conway Currents* is the only method I know of that we can be assured has made it into every household, which is why I like to make sure to post items in this newsletter. The town is planning to redo the town website, and I am hopeful that this redo will make it much easier for residents to find the information they need. We all absorb our news in different manners, depending on our lifestyle and preferences. For instance, there's channels 12, 15 and 23, which broadcast town news updates as well as relevant programming. There's Franklin Community Access Television (FCAT) YouTube channel, which broadcasts all recorded town meetings. There's the town clerk's Facebook page, as well as flyers and posters put up at the town hall, town offices, post office, transfer station, and Baker's Country Store. There are the electronic signs that alert residents to upcoming highway construction as well as important events such as town meeting. There's the sandwich board in front of the town offices. When I first started as town administrator, I put on the website a "resident feedback form" so that folks in town could let me know what issues were of most concern to them. (I plan to keep that form on the new website.)

Last, but definitely not least, is our Emergency Contact System. This is the call the town can put out directly to residents in case of emergency. If something happens, this is the only real way we have to contact you. If you are not sure you have signed up, or if it's been a few years and you want to make sure we can reach you by text or by voice, please do visit the website and sign up. The link is on the home page. If you have any questions or trouble signing up, please contact me and I can set it up for you. If you have not signed up, then you are not in our system and we **cannot contact you** in case of emergency.

What I would like to know is what method of communication makes its way to you. If you could drop me a line at

townadmin@townofconway.com, give a call to 413-369-4235 x 3, or just drop in, I would appreciate knowing what works or doesn't work for you and if there are any other methods of communication for us to consider.

Thank you so much, and happy Fourth of July!

Véronique

Town Committee and Commission Openings

Would you like to become more involved in your local town government? Do you have a few hours a week or a month to share with the town? If so, please consider joining the many hardworking volunteers who help make this town the lovely place it is by adding your voice on one of the following committees:

Agricultural Commission, 3 members
Cable Advisory Committee, 1 member
Capital Improvements Planning Committee, 3 members
Community and Economic Development Committee, 1 member
Conservation Commission, 1 member
Energy Committee, 3 members
Finance Committee, 1 member
Open Space Committee, 1 member
Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee, 1 member
Personnel Committee, 3 members

Thanks to all of you who serve in Conway!

Update from the Field Memorial Library

The weather cooperated, and the June 11 "Stolen Moments" concert celebrating the pleasures of summer and performed by Sarah Clay & the StarCats delivered on their promise to "evoke warm sultry days cooled by rain, birds singing, flowers blooming, and boats bobbing on water." Special thanks to the Conway Police

Department for closing the small section of Elm Street so we could safely and enjoyably hold the concert on the lawn.

Sea Stories and Songs with Chanteys, Ballads, Folktales & More.

On Saturday, July 16, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Parents' Choice Award-winning singer and storyteller Davis Bates will present a program that celebrates the sea and New England maritime traditions and folklore. The FML Library Family String Band will accompany Davis on selected sea chanteys.

Story Book Walk. On Saturday, July 16, and the morning of Sunday, July 17, the Friends of the Library will host a Story Book Walk of *The ABCs of Yoga for Kids* in Memorial Park across from town hall. Stop by to view a beautifully illustrated, gentle introduction to simple yoga poses for children and try them out in the park!

121 (years) + 10 (days) Birthday Celebration. On Saturday, July 23, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., the library will sponsor an event featuring a presentation and discussion of Jonathan Boschen's documentary about Marshall Field and the founding of the library *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. Displays will showcase artifacts visualizing the shift at the library – the transition from analog to digital – that joining CWMars represents.

Swing Music of Ellington and Count Basie along with American Songbook's Cole Porter. On 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.

The Friends of the Field Memorial Library have announced Valdemar Anderson as the recipient of their 2022 scholarship. Congratulations, Val, and good luck next year!

Our "barcodathon" of the FML collection continues, and as of June 20 we had coded more than 4,600 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 for July and August.

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

Gardening Beyond the Catalog

by Patricia Ann Lynch

Cardinal Flower

Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), with its showy, vibrant blossoms – variously described as scarlet, crimson, or vermilion – clustered along a tall raceme, is a beautiful addition to the ornamental garden – and a popular source of nectar for hummingbirds and swallowtail butterflies, which can easily reach into the tube-shaped blossoms. They then carry off the pollen that accumulates on themselves to other blossoms and continue to fulfill their role as pollinators.



Native to the Americas, cardinal flower was introduced into Europe in the mid-1620s, where it acquired its common name, probably because its bright red flowers are the same color as the vestments worn by Roman Catholic cardinals. In the wild, this lobelia species is found in wet places, along the banks of streams, and in swamps. It grows best in moist, rich, organic soil and partial

shade. Easily grown from seed, it is self-seeding and can be divided by culling the young plants that form around the older, mature plants each year. The evergreen basal leaves store energy for future plants. Although considered a perennial, plants may be short lived.

Although all parts of the plant are toxic, indigenous peoples traditionally used the leaves, roots, and flowers of lobelia to treat a wide variety of ailments. The Cherokee applied crushed plants and roots topically to treat headaches and sores, as well as infusions made from the root as a remedy for digestive problems, worms, typhoid, and rheumatism and infusions of the leaves for colds and fevers. The Delaware also used an infusion of the roots for typhoid, and the Iroquois used it for pain. (Note: the plant contains toxic alkaloids and should not be consumed in any form.)

Summer Outdoor Food Safety From the FRCOG Public Health Team

Ah, summer! An excellent time for barbecues, picnics, hiking, and boating. There are many outdoor eating opportunities with family and friends – and the last guest you want to invite is food-borne illness. Clean your hands, utensils, and surfaces with soap and water, then follow these tips to keep food safe:

- Separate raw meat and poultry – and the plates and utensils that touch them – from other foods. Avoid cross-contamination with raw meats by using clean knives and cutting boards for produce and other foods.
- Keep hot food in crockpots or ovens and serve small amounts more frequently.
- Be chill: Avoid leaving food at room temperature for longer than two hours (or one hour if the temperature is over 90°F. Instead, keep food in an insulated cooler with ice or ice packs (ice above and below food is best).

- When in doubt, toss it out. All foods left without temperature control for an hour or more that have reached room temperature should not be served to you or your guests.

Symptoms of food poisoning from unsafe food may take hours to days to develop, depending on the type of germ. The most common symptoms of food poisoning include upset stomach, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever. See a doctor if you have severe symptoms, including but not limited to a fever over 102°F, bloody diarrhea, frequent vomiting that prevents keeping liquids down, and signs of dehydration, including a very dry mouth or throat or little/no urination. If you've been diagnosed with food-borne illness, please contact your local health department.

Mask Advisory and Guidance

Effective July 1, 2022, the Department of Public Health advises that individuals should wear a mask or face covering when indoors (and are not in your own home) if you have a weakened immune system, if you are at increased risk for severe disease because of your age or an underlying medical condition, or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system or is at increased risk for severe disease.

Remember, all information regarding COVID-19 (i.e. testing sites, vaccine availability) can be found at the FRCOG website frcog.org. Simply scroll down the home page and choose the heading "COVID resources."

Conway Festival of the Hills: Last Call for Crafters!

Summer is here and planning is going strong for Conway's Festival of the Hills and its craft fair! This is our 58th festival, and people come from all over to be part of this charming hill town 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 contacting the Craft Fair 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 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.

What: Conway Festival of the Hills

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

Where: Ball field, Conway, Massachusetts

Meet Me at the Station

by Kathy Llamas

Our beloved Conway has lots of nooks and crannies where people can meet. If you want to hear the latest news, stop by Baker's. Bob and the folks at the center table always have their fingers on the town's pulse. If you want to eat some pizza or other goodies and enjoy a drink while having a great conversation in a homey atmosphere, head to the Conway Inn. Join a committee, take part in town government or in one of the many volunteer organizations.

However you choose to get involved, you will find like-minded people who will soon feel like family.

The Conway Mall has been open for nearly a year now. I have learned so much during this time. Initially I thought the mall's sole purpose was to redistribute goods that are still functional. Oh, dear readers, how off the mark I was!

To me, the mall is the heart of Conway. Often when people bring in a donation, they share its story. For example, there are housewares from family members who passed. The donors can't use it, but as they share memories of the item I sense a hopefulness that it will live on to collect more stories through others who will love the item as much as they did.

Recently, a donation came in that I put outside to give it greater exposure. A woman soon pulled up and looked at the item in awe. She began by sharing that in her childhood her father had handmade a similar gift. Her face was so beautiful as her memory roamed through thoughts she hadn't visited for some time.

The mall has an almost magical quality. I often tell people that when they need something, the mall has a way of getting it to you. A person came in hoping to find a crockpot since theirs was broken. Within five minutes, a donation of a crockpot came in! A coincidence? Perhaps. The more time I spend at the mall, the more it takes on a person-like quality for me. We become a partner in bringing things and people together.

Such a small fraction of all the mall provides, but if you are looking to be a part of all this yourself, please call me to volunteer! I can be reached at 413-695-5626.

Yipee-Kai-Ukraine

My heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to our short story-reading to help Ukrainians through World Central Kitchen. You raised over \$2,000! I also want to thank those who contributed homemade baked goods and the Conwayans and out-of-towners who braved the feh weather to see the show. A special thanks to Ken Ouimette, Tobiah Streeter, and Barbara Llamas for their help.

Thank you,
Sir Reginald Buttwinker

Festival of the Hills Scholarship Recipients

We are pleased to announce that the following Conway seniors were recipients of 2021 (awarded in 2022) Conway Festival of the Hills scholarships: Tyler Baranowski, Joseph Farrell, Odin Moore, Iain Spearance, and Bruton Strange. A total of \$4,600 was awarded to these five students representing four schools: Frontier, Williston, Smith Academy, and Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion School.

Festival of the Hills scholarships are available to all graduating high school seniors from Conway who submit complete applications. Consideration is given to a student's community/school involvement, academic standing, financial need, work history, and Festival of the Hills service.

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.

Movable Talent and Culture Feast!

We need your help! Be part of an exciting new event on a Saturday afternoon in October (date to be confirmed). The Conway Cultural Council is planning a multi-venue, COVID-safe event at which audiences will move around town to see a variety of 15- to 30-minute offerings over a three-hour span. What set of songs and musical pieces have you been dying to share with an appreciative audience? Is there a monologue, reading, or short theater scene you could share? Can you dance or teach a dance step that audience members could join in on? Have you secretly wanted to give a Ted Talk about your passion for butterflies, origami, medicinal plants, birds of Conway? We are seeking a wide range of offerings by Conway residents of all ages and abilities: actors, musicians, dancers, comedians, and storytellers, as well as creative demonstrations.

Please send your idea to sophiepmichaux@gmail.com by **August 10** so we can coordinate all the offerings. Include your name, contact information, what you would like to do, how long it would last (between 15 and 30 minutes), and your minimum technical needs (i.e., piano, electricity, sound system – things that you would be unable to provide yourself). The council will review all the ideas and coordinate a mix of feasible and varied offerings and get back to you about the timing and structure.

HUZZAH! It's Road Bowling Time

Sunday, July 10, Rain or Shine

There's still time to sign up for Conway's 4th annual road bowling chaos. I've made a couple of adjustments since my last

announcement: Teams will be made up of two or three players (instead of teams of four). This will give players more throws. Also, registration at the Conway Inn now begins at **noon**. Entry fee is \$20.00/player. All proceeds go to charity.

Spots are going fast. Once you have a two- or three-person team, text me as soon as possible at 413-537-9149 with names and contact numbers. If you want to bowl and can't find a partner(s), text me anyway, and I'll assign you to a team. Age range for players is 12 to 80. The course runs 0.5 miles.

Trophies, assorted weird prizes, and the drawing for the 50/50 raffle take place at the inn when we're done. If you want pizza etc. while you wait crying in your beer and wondering what went wrong, you can pre-order when you register, and the inn will have it ready when you return. We'll have our infamous Knights of the Uber shuttle service for refreshment replenishment and to escort those heeding nature's call to les toilettes.

I want to thank the Sportsman's Club for keeping us on track and OESCO for ball refurbishment.

Charlemont Forum Speaker Series

Addressing the complexities of gender identity issues in the 21st century will be the focus of the Charlemont Forum's initial 2022 speaker's series season on July 21 at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Genny Beemyn will speak on the topic "Touchstones in Gender Identity Issues: How To Increase Our Understanding of Gender, Fight Discrimination, and Create Opportunities for Public Awareness."

Dr. Beemyn is a transgender educator, author, and the director of the Stonewall Center at the University of Massachusetts. Beemyn identifies these issues as increasing a clearer public understanding of gender, fighting discrimination, and creating opportunities for public awareness.

"The last decade has seen a generational shift in how gender is lived and viewed," says Beemyn. "Refuting the common assumption that gender can be reduced to female and male, many members of Gen Z identify as nonbinary and are challenging society to recognize more than two genders. This presentation will discuss the development of these changes, why they are important, and how people can be supportive of this movement.

"I hope the audience will develop a better understanding of how younger people are fueling changes in the conception of gender today," Beemyn adds, "and how they can support these changes." The Charlemont Forum's format of audience-speaker exchange will provide an opportunity for respectful dialogue on the issue.

The presentation will be held in person at the Federated Church in Charlemont and will also be broadcast on our Zoom platform. For those attending the live presentation, we request that the church's current COVID-19 policies be adhered to. For information please see the forum's Facebook page.

This program is supported by the Cultural Councils of Amherst, Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont/Hawley, Colrain, Conway, Goshen, Heath, Leyden, Plainfield, Rowe, and Shelburne, which are all supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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.**

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.

Rural Woman - Seeks Reasonable Quiet Dwelling (not on a main road). I have good references, dependable income, am responsible, quiet, clean, single, no kids, smoke, drink or TV, very conscientious with wood/pellet stove. Can do horse/animal massage/care. Please email at equineauntie@yahoo.com. Also in the market to (preferably) buy a small one person move-in ready dwelling; have an agent to assist. 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 weather permits. 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! Local strawberries, hothouse tomatoes, and snap peas are in, and we also have native cukes,



summer squash and zucchini. All plants are now \$25% off! Check us out on Facebook: facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store for today's specials or call 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.

Jan and John Maggs Antiques - a local source for quality antique furniture, jewelry, and accessories since 1988, specializing in English oak furniture from the 1600's, Queen Anne and Georgian jewelry, as well as paintings, accessories, and carpets. Our shop is in our black barn in Pumpkin Hollow, and we will be open on Sundays during the summer months. 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 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

Debra Hoyle Studio and Gallery - at 46 Main St. welcomes visitors by appointment and whenever the 'OPEN' sign is up and the door is open! Open studio days will be random and unscheduled during the summer months. Please stop by to say hello and feel free to 'just look around'. In July 10% of all purchases at the gallery will be donated to the Community Action Pioneer Valley Fuel Assistance program. *Upcoming solo exhibit this summer at the Meekins Library in Williamsburg, MA August 1-September 30. Reception 1-3 on Saturday, August 7.*

greenlady33@comcast.net;

<https://www.instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors>; 413-325-5579

Wholey Cow Farm - Selling raw cows milk, free range chicken and duck eggs, ethically raised meat, Jane's goat milk soap, and a multitude of other local products. Visit our farm store on Wholey Road or contact us at jwjwholey@gmail.com or by phone at 413-369-4638.

It's July! - and it's time to make color adjustments for next year's garden. Use a Wilcox SS Trowel or for larger plants, one of our many shovels in assorted sizes and shapes. Pick your blueberries before the birds get them! Our Smart Netting is a great means to fend off birds, or try our Bird Tape. Prune suckers off fruit trees with a feel-great-in-your-hand new pruner! Our SS scissors offer superior cutting performance and are so good, a pair will likely end up in your kitchen! We have many awesome styles of rakes, too.



Bragging? You bet! Shop where the pros shop and thanks for buying locally!

OESCO, Inc., Orchard Equipment. M-F: 7-5; 413-369-4335.

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.

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