



**Volume 3, Number 8 - August 2022**

## Neither Snow nor Rain nor Heat . . .

by Kathy Llamas

The end of May marked a quiet yet important event in the life of a man who had served this community for nearly a quarter of a century: Mark Gollehon, our rural route carrier, retired after 24 years of service. Those on his route remember him as a friendly, dog-loving fellow.

Originally from San Diego, Mark was attending Western New England University to pursue a master's degree in accounting. Needing a part-time job that didn't interfere with his evening class schedule, he took and scored high on the postal exam. He worked in the Amherst Post Office for two years, eventually in a full-time position. Mark inherited Conway's rural route in 1998 from Tony Jobst, who had in turn taken it over from Larry Fortier. Rural mail delivery has evolved over the years since Mark began our route.

For approximately his first ten years of service, rural carriers used their own vehicles – which meant sitting in the passenger seat in order to place mail in boxes on the right-hand side of the road while stretching his left arm and leg out to reach the steering wheel, brake, and accelerator. It was a relief when the postal service began supplying carriers with right-hand-drive vehicles. However, Mark muses, the incredible increase in e-commerce has made a significant impact on carriers' ability to deliver mail in a timely fashion. The most important aspects of the job never changed, he says. "The opportunity to build a relationship of trust with the community I serve is the key to what made my time at the post office exceptional." He continued, "I mean no slight to the

wonderful humans on my route – but I miss my dog friends greatly. There are so many good ones, and they know who they are!"

Mark says he liked the consistency of the work, enjoying working independently and setting up his own system. Each of his days brought adventures. With its stunning vistas, unexpected wildlife encounters, and people to chat with, Conway soon became a favorite place – and his new hometown! Mark thankfully mused that his schedule in Conway afforded him time to join his wife and dog for lunch.

When asked if any memories were highlights for him, he said that such moments were too numerous to pick just a few. "You can imagine that in more than 24 years of working with the postal service, that would seem an impossible task. Holidays were always very special times at the post office. Despite the 'crunch' everyone was under, the good feelings, the home-baked goods, and the thoughtfulness of the community fill me with wonderful memories."

Although Mark has been retired for only a short time, he has quite a few interests to explore. "I am enjoying that I no longer have the pressure of getting from A to B in a prescribed amount of time! I have been wanting to work on my tennis game." He looks forward to more time to play his guitar and work on his home. "Our house was built in 1862. For every one repair I make, two more repairs pop up. I am never at a loss for something to do!" Mark also mentioned that service on a town committee or board is something that he would like to engage in.



Mark announced his retirement on postcards to those on his route. “I received so many thoughtful notes and letters from people who took the time to share a memory or offer a thoughtful moment of thanks. I was very touched and it took me a bit by surprise. I would love to say thank you, each and every one, for their friendly hellos and conversations over the years!”

I asked him what the adjustment to being a retired member of the community has been like. He laughed as he admitted, “I noticed that when I see people, the first thing that comes to mind is their addresses! I also still find myself looking at mailboxes as I go down the road! Someday I am sure that will change.”

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

### Senior Calendar for August

**“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 August 8. There is a \$20.00 fee. For information or to schedule an appointment, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010.

**Senior Meals** Meals will be offered on the second and last Thursdays of the month. 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, transfer chairs, 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.

## COVID-19 Vaccination & Booster Clinics

Five upcoming clinics across the county will provide vaccination for anyone aged six months and older, boosters to those age five and older, and second boosters to those who are eligible. More about eligibility can be found at [mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine](https://mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine). Dates, times, and locations:

- Thursday, Aug. 4, 4:00-7:00 p.m., Mohawk Trail Regional School
- Tuesday, Aug. 24, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Federal Street Elementary School, Greenfield
- Tuesday, Aug. 24, 3:00-6:00 p.m., Sheffield Elementary School, Turner's Falls
- Thursday, Aug. 25, 3:00-6:00 p.m., Gill Elementary School
- Friday, Aug. 26, 3:30-6:30 p.m., Deerfield Elementary School

Even though the clinics are taking place at elementary schools, all are welcome to attend. Register online or walk in for a no-cost vaccine. Please bring your ID and your insurance card and vaccination card if you have them. Online registration can happen through our digital poster on the town website, [townofconway.com](https://townofconway.com) or on <https://frcog.org/covid/> under the “vaccination” tab. Additionally, please note that these clinics will have *only* COVID vaccines: Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson will be available, even if their sign-up form also references shingles, flu, and tetanus vaccines.

## Prescription Advantage

Each year thousands of Medicare beneficiaries reach a gap in their Medicare prescription drug plan that is often referred to as the “donut hole.” If you reach that gap, you will see your prescription drug costs increase dramatically! Don’t let this happen to you. Prescription Advantage can help. Prescription Advantage is a state-sponsored program that supplements your Medicare drug plan to fill the gap.

For more information about Prescription Advantage, call MassOptions at 1-800-243-4636, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or visit [prescriptionadvantagemma.org](https://prescriptionadvantagemma.org).

## Farm to Home Food Program: \$50 Worth of Free, Fresh Food Monthly!

There are still open slots for Conway residents! Don't hesitate: Join LifePath's new Farm to Home Food Program and 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:boardofhealth@townofconway.com) or the Council on Aging by emailing the chair, [patricialynch@earthlink.net](mailto:patricialynch@earthlink.net).

## Festival of the Hills

### Conway Festival of the Hills: A Brief History

In the hills of western Massachusetts, on July 3 and 5, 1915, the people of Conway held a “Pageant of Patriotism in honor of Independence Day and the 100 years of peace between the United States and Great Britain.” That event so long ago was the inspiration for the revival of a Conway festival in 1962. The event, held to generate funds for Conway’s bicentennial in 1967, featured displays of works by local artists, round and square dancing, and smorgasbord dinners. In addition to highlighting local painters and craftspeople, the now-annual Conway event soon utilized the talents of Conway’s dancers, singers, musicians, and actors. The Hill Town Talent Show debuted in 1964 with skits, one-act plays, stand-up comics, and instrumental and vocal virtuosi. In the years since 1964, a 10K road race and parade have been added.

The Conway Festival of the Hills marked its 45th anniversary with its 2006 event. People lined Main Street, the town’s historic district, to watch the parade and enjoy food, fun, and music. In addition to arts, crafts, road race, parade, and music, there were the perennial log-splitting, pumpkin-stacking, and skillet-tossing contests, as well as demonstrations of wool spinning, oxen driving, bee keeping, and sustainable agriculture.

This year the festival will be held on Sunday, October 2nd with some pre-festival events held on Saturday, October 1st. Although 2022 marks the 60th anniversary of our inaugural event, this will technically be our 58th year, as 2017 was dedicated to Conway’s 250th anniversary and the 2020 and 2021 editions were canceled due to the pandemic.

Sparkling days and cool nights set the stage for Sunday’s main events: contests of strength and skill in log splitting and the skillet toss, a 10-kilometer/6.2-mile footrace through Conway’s hills and hollows, a duck race on the South River, and a classic New

England fall parade down Main Street. Arts and crafts exhibits, exciting local musicians, mouth-watering food such as fried dough offered by local vendors, an art show featuring expert local artisans, fun activities for kids and the young-at-heart, a raffle for chances at prizes, and merchandise and candy tables round out the attractions.

Mark your calendars for October 2, 2022: Conway Festival of the Hills! For more information, including volunteer opportunities, please visit the festival website, [www.festivalofthehills.com/](http://www.festivalofthehills.com/) or email [festivalofthehills@yahoo.com](mailto:festivalofthehills@yahoo.com).

### **Festival of the Hills Bake Sale**

The annual festival bake sale will be held on Saturday October 1, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the common in front of the library. We're looking for donations of baked goods: cookies, pies, cakes, breads, etc. Food needs to be wrapped and labeled for such things as nuts and GF. Food can be dropped off the morning of the bake sale at 8:00 a.m. No time to bake? Please stop by and buy some baked goods for your weekend or holiday company. Any questions? Call Gail Connelly, 369-4287.

### **Call for Artists!**

The Festival will include an Exhibition Art Show at the Field Memorial Library. Conway artists are cordially invited to exhibit up to five pieces. Visit [www.festivalofthehills.com](http://www.festivalofthehills.com) for information and an application. Inquiries may also be addressed to the art show coordinator at [302windyhill@gmail.com](mailto:302windyhill@gmail.com).

### **Festival of the Hills Parade**

Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages: The circus is about to begin! This year the theme of the parade is "Life Is a Circus"! We are looking to create a bike brigade as part of the event. Bikes should be festively decorated using ideas based on the theme. All participants are encouraged to dress up as circus performers or circus animals. We hope to do a short performance downtown

during the parade. If you would like to perform in some way, I would be eager to discuss it with you. Please contact Kat Llamas at 413-695-5626.

*All proceeds from the festival go to the Conway Festival of the Hills Student Scholarship Fund, which has supported hundreds of graduating Conway students over the past 50 years.*

## **Come Play Pickleball!**

The Conway pickleball court is ready for players! It's located on the basketball court next to the tennis court.

You may use the court any time you see it's not in use already. The equipment, including a net, paddles, and balls, is stored in the bench near the ball field shed. To get the combination to the locked bench, email [ConwayMAPickleball@gmail.com](mailto:ConwayMAPickleball@gmail.com). Please be courteous and return the equipment when you are finished and relock the bench, Be sure to email us your feedback and suggestions.

We have set up a couple of free-play time slots to encourage people to play and learn how to play. These are Tuesdays 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Free-play time is for players of all levels. Beginners are welcome. Pickleballers are a friendly group and love to teach others the game.

To participate in free-play time, use the sign-up genius found on the [Parks and Recreation Committee](#) page on the town website – so that you can see how many players may be coming. Bring a friend or two, pass the link along if you like, and HAVE FUN!

## **Conway Historical Society Update**

Come visit the Historical Society Museum this summer on Sundays through August 28, 1:00-4:00 p.m. and see our permanent collection and a new exhibit: *The Conway Electric Street Railway: 100 Years Since the Last Train Car Ran the Line*.

## KlezCummington 2022

**Saturday, August 13, 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.**

*Come anytime, leave anytime!*

**Where:** 88 Porter Hill Road, Cummington, MA. KlezCummington will be hosted on a beautiful 14-acre property that includes a barn, wood-fired bread oven, garden, orchard, fields, woods, and a quiet brook.

**What:** During the day there will be jam sessions, workshops, baking, a lunchtime concert, bagel deli, and other activities. Bring an instrument or come to hang out and enjoy the music and the woods! All ages are welcome. Join us in the evening for a potluck dinner, including bread baked in the cob oven! – and a concert/dance party with tunes from Mamaliga and Burikes. All food will be strictly vegetarian (no fish). We'll close shabbos with a havdole under the stars and bring in the night with a dance party to live klezmer music!

**Cost:** We are fortunate to have received grant funding to cover some of the cost of this event, including food, equipment, and artist honorariums. Donations – \$0-\$180 per person – are gladly accepted to help cover the remaining costs. We are appreciative of your generous contributions! No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Additional donations can be made to Venmo (@Klezcummington) or Paypal (rltzvia@gmail.com), and cash/check donations will be accepted onsite.

**Note:** All participants must be fully vaccinated. Kids/anyone unable to be vaccinated at this time, please wear a mask. At this moment, masks are optional for fully vaccinated people, but everyone should decide what feels most comfortable to them. Please stay home if you have been recently exposed to COVID or are feeling sick. We are closely monitoring local cases and will update guests about our COVID safety protocols as needed.

KlezCummington will take place entirely outside or inside the barn with windows, doors, and ventilation. Please register for KlezCummington at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). Contact us: [info@klezcummington.com](mailto:info@klezcummington.com).

## Get Published and Feed Your Family

by Sir Reginald Buttwinker

I'm offering a large or small kielbasa (depending on the timely arrival of my monthly government stipend) to the individual who submits the best ten-line (or fewer) poem under the title "The House Was Silent as a Tomb." Email your opus directly to me at [verybratty@aol.com](mailto:verybratty@aol.com) before August 15. The winning poem will be published in the September issue of *Conway Currents*. Hurry before inflation reduces the prize to a pig-in-a-blanket.

## Gardening Beyond the Catalog

*Asters for Fall Color*

by Patricia Ann Lynch

The months of August and September signal the decline of most blooming plants – but not for asters, which begin flowering in response to fall's shortening days. Native to North America, New World asters comprise about ninety different perennial species (many with dozens of named cultivars) with daisy-like blossoms in shades of blue, purple, lavender, pink, or white. They range from one to four feet in height; are long lived, fast growing, and pest resistant; need little care; and – in addition to adding vivid color to your garden – provide late-season nectar for a variety of pollinators: many types of bees (including bumblebees and honeybees), flies, and butterflies (Monarchs among them). In addition, cardinals, chickadees, finches, nuthatches, and many other seed-eaters feast on their tasty seed heads.

The New England aster (*Symphotrichum novae angliae*, formerly *Aster novae angliae*) is one of the most common – and most

beautiful – options, with broad growth that adds natural greenery to any space. Asters grow and flower best in full sun and prefer moist but well-drained and loamy soil. At this time of year, full-grown, blooming asters can be found in garden centers. Plant them several feet apart at least six weeks before frost is expected to allow the plants to become established.

To maintain the plants' vigor and to prevent them from dying out in the center, dig up and divide the root clumps every three years or so. Discard the woody center and replant the outer portions at the same depth as before.

Asters are members of the *Asteraceae*, or daisy, family. The name *aster* comes from the Greek word for “star,” a reference to the plant’s flowers, which have a central disk composed of many small flowers, called florets, surrounded by rays of petals extending outward. Another name for wild asters is Michaelmas daisy. According to Merriam-Webster, this name – first used in 1785 – was applied because bloom begins around the time of Michaelmas, celebrated on September 29 in the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches to honor St. Michael the Archangel.

## Volunteers Needed to Control Stiltgrass

For the past ten years the Open Space Committee has been working to control invasive stiltgrass along Conway's roadsides and to inform Conway citizens about this destructive invasive species. We've managed to keep stiltgrass fairly well under control so far, but new patches pop up every year, and stubborn infestations need repeated attention. Controlling stiltgrass takes persistence. The seed bank for this annual grass is very long-lived and any plants that mature create prolific amounts of seeds that sprout in future years.

Volunteers are needed for work in sensitive habitats and in problem areas. Volunteer crews will be string trimming and hand

pulling stiltgrass throughout the month of August and into September. To sign up for a few hours or to help out on a more regular basis, leave a message for Michele at 369-4034 or email [mturre@gmail.com](mailto:mturre@gmail.com).

## Mosquito and Tick Bite Prevention

Summer is at its height, 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 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.

## Update from the Field Memorial Library

*Sea Stories and Songs with Chanteys, Ballads, Folktales, & More* with singer-storyteller Davis Bates was a rousing experience at the FML as attendees were transported to a time when sailing ships were the major means of ocean transportation. It was also our first indoor event in the COVID era, and with the audience masked but the performers unmasked, all evidenced comfort with the arrangement. We also had overhead fans and an air purifier going, which provided both circulation and cleaning of the air.

*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 express gratitude to all who have responded to their fund-raising appeal. Thank you!

The library has a wealth of book resources in all the main areas: children's picture books, juvenile literature and nonfiction, young adult, and a spectrum of adult fiction and nonfiction that can carry you through the summer and beyond. Please stop by and browse or contact us with any requests.

Our "barcodathon" of the FML collection continues, and as of July 20 we have coded more than 5,700 items. We are grateful for our barcoding stalwarts!

The library will be closed Saturday, August 27.

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

## A Look into Conway History *Conway During the Revolution*

by Patricia Ann Lynch

Conway formally joined the American Revolution in 1774, when town leaders contacted the Boston Committee of Correspondence (the emergency provisional government) and assured its members 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. . . ." The committee shortly directed the selectmen to provide "two barrels of powder and lead and flints answerable for a town stock of ammunition." Conway prepared to go to war.

And when the call came, they answered it. According to Deane Lee's *History of Conway 1767-1967*, "Three days after the battle of Lexington [April 19, 1775] a group of local 'Minute Men' left Conway." *History of Conway (Massachusetts) 1767-1917* reports that Conway "stood resolutely by this pledge through the war. The number of men they furnished is not known. It was as many as was



called for. The names are not all preserved. . . ." Deane Lee says, "One hundred nine Conway men are listed as veterans of the Revolution, although many of them served for very short terms."

What *is* known is that, as the website [historyofmassachusetts.org](http://historyofmassachusetts.org) states, "In almost every year of the Revolutionary War, Massachusetts soldiers made up the majority of the soldiers in the Continental Army."

When word came in 1777 that British General John Burgoyne was marching from Canada with the purpose of splitting New England away from the rest of the continent and ending the rebellion, ". . . every able-bodied man is said to have gone out to meet" him. Burgoyne lost two small battles fought near Saratoga, New York, and surrendered his entire army of 6,200 men on October 17. His surrender, historians say, marked a turning point of the war.

While things were going well on the battlefield, back home in Conway, "Women and children were left to gather a poor harvest." Why the harvest was poor that year, Deane Lee fails to say, but given the vagaries of New England weather, it's easy to guess. As in other wars, women fought their own battles on the home front.

## Firearms Safety Class

The Conway Police Department will be conducting a firearms safety class on Sunday, August 14, 2022. Classes may be used for certification to obtain a firearms license, to clarify many of the changes to the Massachusetts Gun Laws, or to gain additional knowledge and confidence in your handling of firearms. Electronic weapons are now legal in Massachusetts provided you have a valid License to Carry (LTC). This is a one-day class. Registration prior to the class is required, and seating is limited. For additional information or to register, contact Chief Ouimette at 369-4710.

## Help Build This House

Did you notice that there are now a driveway and a foundation slab at the Habitat construction site 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 work with a future homeowner family and dozens of community volunteers to build this home? Or add 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. Fully vaccinated volunteers (18+) of all ability levels are welcome!

To become a Habitat volunteer, sign up for a one-hour online orientation. To sign up, go to [www.pvhabitat.org/ways-to-volunteer](http://www.pvhabitat.org/ways-to-volunteer). We look forward to seeing you at the construction site!

## Notes from the Town Administrator

This month I bid a very fond farewell to my assistant, Louise Beckett, who is retiring to pursue her many other passions. She has done an exemplary job for the town and will be sorely missed, although she will still be involved with this newsletter and, of course, with the Conway Historical Society. I would also like to welcome my new assistant, Adam Reed, whom many of you may already know, his family having lived in Conway for generations. Adam's skills, knowledge of the town and its residents, as well as his experience as a teacher will be most valuable, and I look forward to working with him.

With best wishes for a happy and healthy rest of summer,

Véronique

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Franklin County Solid Waste District is planning to hold the 2022 annual household hazardous waste collection on **Saturday**,

**September 24**, at GCC's Main Campus and the Orange Transfer Station. **Residents and businesses must preregister by September 16.** Online preregistration for the 2022 collection will begin in mid-August at [franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org). Mail-in registration forms will be available in late August at town transfer stations and in local newspapers.

Participants will be assigned an appointment time; time and instructions will be provided by mail after registration is processed. The collection is free for residents of most of the district's 21 member towns. Businesses may participate but must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call 413-772-2438.

This collection provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, and other household chemicals. A more complete list of acceptable items is at [franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org).

Batteries and mercury-containing items such as fluorescent lightbulbs, thermometers, and thermostats will not be accepted. Never put these items in trash or recycling. Handle carefully; bring them to a municipal transfer station or a Regional Hazardous Waste "Super Site" and hand to attendant. Fluorescent lightbulbs are accepted at Lowe's (all types) and Home Depot (CFLs only).

For more information visit [franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org) or contact the district at [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org), 413-772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired 711 or 1-800-439-2370, TTY/TDD. The district is an equal opportunity provider.

## Charlemont Forum Speaker Series: U.S.-China Relations in Difficult Times

Looking at the current bilateral tensions between the United States and China even as they coexist politically and economically will be the focus of the Charlemont Forum's second event on Thursday, August 11, at 7:00 p.m. We will be offering this presentation both in person at the Charlemont Federated Church and on the Zoom platform. For those attending the live presentation, we ask that the church's current COVID policies be adhered to. For more information please see our Facebook page, Charlemont Forum, or our new website: [CharlemontForum.org](http://CharlemontForum.org).

Speaking to the issue, Sara Newland, assistant professor at Smith College, will bring her perspective and expertise on China and Taiwan as that subnational diplomacy might draw the United States into a confrontation with China. Newland, a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, argues that China's larger geopolitical ambitions in the region could well change how the U.S. and China currently conduct their economic relationship.

"The U.S.-China relationship is at its lowest point in decades," Newland points out. "Domestic political calculations within each country coupled with a changing international environment, have produced dangerous levels of tension in arguably the most important bi-lateral relationship in the contemporary world" These changes in great power politics may well touch the lives of citizens on the ground," she adds. "Even in western Massachusetts."

She goes on to explain that historically, beginning with Nixon, we have experienced fairly consistent policies of US-China engagement. Those policies changed fairly abruptly with Trump's presidency, and there has been a surprising amount of continuity between Trump's and Biden's China policies (with a couple of notable exceptions).

“It’s important for Americans to understand the prospects for and obstacles to sustaining cooperation in the coming years,” says Newland. If the US-China relationship continues to deteriorate, it could touch every aspect of our lives, from our security to the products we see on the grocery store shelves.”

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.

## Sports Shorts

by Dizzy Dunkwell

A packed field of twelve teams were rolling for glory in Conway’s fourth annual Irish Road Bowling Classic. This writer favored the Blue Mooners, who had recently acquired free agent Ken Ouimette and the Forearm-Fire Arm, Ron Hawkes, but it was not to be as Captain Joan Haley couldn’t find the range until the controversial “Kielbasa Incident” during the second-place bowl-off against the Wing Nuts. Mary Lyon, the Herculan-Hurler for the Purple Ball Snatchers, is out for the season, having lost her leg from a bullet bowl fired by a Baltos player. Jack Harrison of the Red Menace is still searching with his metal detector for the lost limb. But it was the young, unranked Ball Busters who took home the cheap first-place trophies, led by Clayton Conklin and his elastic-arm cohorts, Theo Balkema and Will Ladley.

\$1,270 was raised for Ukraine and the Sportsman’s Club scholarship fund. A very special thanks to: Scorer Dan Fitzgibbon, Field Judges Trish Vinchesi and Cindy Ouimette, Grounds Crew Ron Hawkes and Ken Ouimette, Dana and Kathy Goodfield for registration, Uber Drivers Bud Ware and Bob Baker, and to all who so generously participated in what we hope will be a continuing Conway tradition.

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## Currents Advertisements & Notices

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Rates for ads up to 150 words are: one month \$7.75, three months \$15.75; six months \$25.75, twelve months \$44.75. For cost of longer ads or to include images (limited), call or email Louise at 413-559-1180 or [lmbeckett@crocker.com](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com).

Pay by checking account or credit card through the town’s website: <https://townofconway.com/> > [View or Pay a Bill](#) > [Pay Newsletter Advertising](#) or send a check to **Conway Currents, PO Box 240, Conway, MA 01341**. Please send the text of your advertisement to Louise by email at [lmbeckett@crocker.com](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com). **Deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.** If you want to discuss your ad or have any questions, please call or email [lmbeckett@crocker.com](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com).

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**Culomba Concert** - Wednesday, August 24, 7:30 p.m. West Whately Chapel, 153 Conway Road. Tickets: \$18.00 Culomba is a vocal ensemble specializing in close harmony singing from around the world. Based in western Massachusetts, Culomba draws from a deep well of repertoire, including American folk traditions, music of Georgia, Corsica, the Balkans, and Ukraine, early European polyphony, and original compositions. Culomba’s singers have studied with masters of these traditions, and each brings their specialized knowledge to this unique ensemble. This performance features Sophie Michaux, Adam Simon, Lysander Jaffe, Lexi Ugelow, and Daniel Fridley. More information and video/audio samples at [culomba.com](http://culomba.com).

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**Debra Hoyle Studio and Gallery** - has some good news this month! Debra’s mixed media piece *Sunset at the River* has been selected to be part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Show at Gallery A3 in Amherst, MA! The show runs from August 5-27. Please join us for the opening reception on August 4 from 5-8 p.m. There are some wonderful art works on display by artists from New England and New York. **Debra’s solo show** at the Meekins Library in Williamsburg, MA begins August 1 and runs through September 30, with an opening reception on Sunday August 7 from 1-3 p.m. in the Black Reading Room. *Be sure to check the hours of operation for both of these venues.* **To see brand new stuff** visit my Instagram page at <https://instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors> or stop by if you see the ‘OPEN’ sign up or the door open! 413-325-5579; [greenlady33@comcast.net](mailto:greenlady33@comcast.net)

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**Your Home Town Realtor** - As a Conway resident for over 20 years, I provide local, attentive and trustworthy service for both buyers and sellers in our community. Previous experience as a licensed residential architect is valuable for my clients. Please contact me for a free, no obligation consultation! Sarah Newman, Realtor with Coldwell Banker Community Realtors. Call or text: 413-548-6525 or email [sarah.newman@cbcommunityrealtors.com](mailto:sarah.newman@cbcommunityrealtors.com) - Thank you!

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**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](mailto: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!

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**Boats for sale** - (2) 15' "TYNE" fiberglass kayaks, narrow, long, somewhat tippy, very fast. \$250/each. 12' "CANADIEN" fiberglass lapstrake dory, square stern for small outboard motor, rows beautifully, weighs about 85lbs. Includes canvas bow dodger for inclement weather. \$600; 369-4035.

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**The Conway Inn** - Open for pizza, chicken wings, and breadsticks, Friday and Saturday, 4 - 10 p.m.; Sunday 5 - 8 p.m. Call 413-369-4428 for takeout. Live music jams, second Friday of each month! 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

**BAKER'S  
COUNTRY  
STORE**

baked cakes, muffins, pies, and cookies. Local blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, corn, and hothouse tomatoes are in, as well as native cukes, summer squash and zucchini. Check us out on Facebook: [facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store](https://www.facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store) for today's specials or call 413-369-4936.

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**Join Natural Roots CSA** - for delicious, fresh vegetables grown right here in Conway. We have several CSA share options, including part-time and low-income shares, main season (June through October) and winter shares. Our farm store is also open to the public year-round during daylight hours. We offer eggs from our own pastured hens as

well as other local items like beef, chicken, pork, dairy, bread & baked goods, honey & maple products, coffee & tea, ice cream, snacks, beverages and more! Support a horse-powered farm in Conway and enjoy this beautiful, bountiful farm and the vibrant community that we feed. [www.naturalroots.com](http://www.naturalroots.com). Natural Roots, 888 Shelburne Falls Rd., Conway, MA 01341, 413-369-4269, [farmers@naturalroots.com](mailto:farmers@naturalroots.com).

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**OESCO** - has the tools you need for your lawn and 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.



**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](mailto:jwjwholey@gmail.com) or by phone at 413-369-4638.

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**Quail Eggs for Sale** - Fresh quail eggs from our small backyard flock. They taste just like chicken eggs but are even more nutritious. \$3 for half a dozen and \$5 for a dozen. Call 369-0326 or email Lynn at [lynnpodosek@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnpodosek@yahoo.com).

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**Wilder Hill Gardens** - your local plant nursery. Open for the season, weekends 8-5, other times by chance or appointment. **Organic Blueberries!** - **Pick your own.** Enjoy touring the demonstration gardens, buy plants directly from the field, directly from the grower. Hardy perennial flowers, native and flowering shrubs, trees, annuals and herb plants, all grown without pesticides/herbicides. Consultations, expert pruning and tutorials, landscape design and installation. Contact: Lilian Jackman, 351 South Shirkshire Road, Conway, MA. 413-625-9446. [wilderhillgardens.com](http://wilderhillgardens.com). Email [lilianjackman@gmail.com](mailto:lilianjackman@gmail.com)

**WILDER HILL  
gardens**

**Sweet Roots Gardens** - We just moved to Mathews Road and are excited to welcome you to our gardens! We offer on-site, zoom and in-school programs in gardening, yoga and mindfulness for kids and adults. We also create and sell herbal body products (lotions, bath bombs and body sprays) with organic herbs grown in our gardens. Sign up for our Summer Kids CSA for kids up to age 7 and their grown ups; 8/2, 8/16 & 8/23 from 10-11 a.m. Gardening, crafts, yoga, veggie picking and FUN! Adult yoga classes on Zoom Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9:30 and in our gardens on alternating Saturday mornings at 9:30. Email [saracoblyn@gmail.com](mailto:saracoblyn@gmail.com) to sign up or for more info. Open to collaboration inquiries with schools and other organizations. We look forward to meeting our neighbors!

**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](mailto:jmaggs@jmaggs.com) or phone 369-4256, or stop in whenever you see the blue doors on the barn.



## Town Committee and Commission Openings

Would you like to become more involved in your local town government? If you have a few hours a week or a month to share with the town, 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 & Economic Development Committee**, 1 member; **Conservation Commission**, 1 member; **Energy Committee**, 3 members; **Finance Committee**, 1 member; **Open Space Committee**, 1 member; **Parks & Recreation Committee**, 1 member; **Personnel Committee**, 3 members. *Thanks to all of you who serve in Conway!*

## Unheard Melodies

by Nicole Braden-Johnson

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

## After the Drive-in

Sweet cargo falls asleep on the backseat  
As the radio murmurs and the car hums  
Across the highway, shared for a moment  
With penumbral strangers on their own paths.

The off-ramp is a barely divergent curve  
Into town adorned with the twinkling  
Lights of traffic and storefronts  
That beckon before the closing of the night.

Just one stoplight and the streetlights  
Are replaced by treelines and silver-eyed wildlife  
Watching us through the moon-dappled night  
Until the headlights settle on our front door.

This road and all roads lead me back to you.  
This word and all words lead me back to you.



*Evening Sky over Main Street, July 21*

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, Véronique Blanchard

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