



Volume 3, Number 9 - September 2022



October 2, 2022

Festival Volunteers Needed

The Festival of the Hills needs you! It's been three years since our last festival in 2019, and the wait is finally over. But wait – the festival can't happen without help. On Sunday, October 2, there will be a parade, live music, an art exhibit, children's and adults' road races, kids' games, raffles, exhibits, crafts, wood-splitting and skillet-toss contests, delicious food, homemade candy, freshly pressed apple cider, and fried dough – **IF** enough brave souls toe the line to offer their assistance. All it takes is a couple of hours of your time on the day of the festival to make it a success. If you're planning to be there anyway, will you help set up the parade route? Will you sit in the booth at the art exhibit? Will you monitor and referee the children's games? Will you help sell the delicious homemade baked goods, candy, and apple cider? Make sure to eat a hearty breakfast first! To sign up, visit www.festivalofthehills.com and click the volunteer button, or visit the Conway branch of Greenfield Savings Bank, Baker's Country Store, the Field Memorial Library, or OESCO and put your name down on the sign-up sheet. Thank you!

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.

Café Conway

Please consider donating to Café Conway, the baked goods tent at the Festival of the Hills, Sunday, October 2. We're located across from Town Hall. Donations can be dropped off anytime during the morning. Thank you in advance. All proceeds go to the Festival of the Hills Scholarship Fund.

Festival of the Hills Raffle

Another terrific raffle is in store for the 2022 Festival of the Hills. As always, the raffle will feature prizes donated by Conway's talented and generous artists, craftspeople, and businesses. In addition to the usual wonderful assortment of prizes, some new items will be added. Curious as to what they are? Check out the festival program booklet, as well as wherever tickets are sold, where you'll find the complete list of prizes and donors. Tickets will go on sale in September at Baker's Country Store, the Conway Inn, Greenfield Savings Bank, and Pekarski's.

Pollinate Conway!

Thanks to a small crew of dedicated residents, Conway has a new native plant pollinator garden in town. Pollinate Conway!, a recently formed volunteer group, installed a variety of native wildflowers above the granite wall on the Town Common across

from Field Memorial Library. As the garden demonstrates, many plant species that are native to the northeast are highly beneficial to local pollinators, such as native bees and butterflies. At the time of this writing, perennial butterfly weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, and annual partridge pea, *Chamaecrista fasciculata*, are abuzz with native bumblebees, *Bombus g.*, while yellow coneflower, *Rudbeckia fulgida*, and blue lobelia, *Lobelia siphilitica*, are beginning their floral displays. We selected plants that will flower in succession over a long season, from early spring into autumn, providing habitat, nectar, and pollen for the pollinators. Several species are host plants for caterpillars of native butterflies. For example, golden Alexanders, *Zizia aurea*, provide food for the larvae of black swallowtail butterflies, *Papilio polyxenes*, and the bright lemon-yellow flowers of this long-blooming species provide nectar for many short-tongued pollinators in early spring. In some years, this plant sends up more flowers later in the season – as late as November!

Pollinate Conway! created this garden with the help of volunteers who designed, installed, and care for it as well as the support of the Open Space Committee, which generously funded the plants and other supplies and has helped with the garden installation and care; the selectboard which approved the project; and the former Conway Garden Club, which funded the plant labels, helping to make this an educational opportunity. And with help from local artists, we are creating a Pollinate Conway! sign for the site.

Going forward, we plan to offer a map that illustrates the garden layout and identifies the plants. This is Pollinate Conway's first step toward beautifying our town and contributing to a healthier planet. We hope this little garden will inspire you to build native plant pollinator habitats at your homes and businesses in Conway. Even in small spaces, a few of the right plants make a big difference!

Contact us if you would like to get involved with Pollinate Conway!: Kendall Clark at k.clark11@comcast.net or Cayte McDonough at caytemcd@gmail.com.

Update on the 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! The cost for either eating in or taking out is the same: \$20 per adult, \$12 per child.

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. NOTE: Anyone who has contacted Helen Baker for reservations needs to contact her again to confirm and supply their contact information (phone number).

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.

Thank You from Dottie Harris

I want to thank my family, friends, and neighbors for the cards and for helping me celebrate my 80th birthday. It was heartwarming to see so many people. A special thanks to my two kids, Michelle and Walter; Donnie & Cyndie Rowell; Chrisy Campbell and her mother, Sandy; Scott Wolfram and Beth; and everyone else that helped.

Dottie Harris

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 September 7. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email patricialynch@earthlink.net.

Senior Calendar for September

"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. **NOTE** Flu vaccine will be available at the September 2 clinic.

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.** Because of the Labor Day holiday, the next clinic will be September 12. 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. **NOTE:** Weekly Grab-and-Go meals from LifePath will resume in October. 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.;

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.

From the Board of Health

COVID-19. Franklin County is now ranked in the medium community level, based on the number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Franklin County had, until recently, been in the low community level.

According to the CDC, recommendations for counties in the medium level are as follows:

- If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your health care provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. *Up to date* means that you have received all recommended primary and booster doses for your age and health condition.
- Get tested if you have symptoms and follow recommendations if you test positive.

There is much more up-to-date and detailed information on the FRCOG website: frcog.org/COVID.

Drought. Franklin County, as most of you are aware, is now at level 3, signifying critical drought conditions! Even though, for the most part, in Conway we each have our own well, minimizing overall water use and stopping all nonessential outdoor watering is still recommended.

Fall Is for Flu Vaccines

Flu vaccines are available at many pharmacies and community sites around the county. Larger clinics offering COVID and flu vaccines will be posted on the FRCOG website frcog.org as they are scheduled. FRCOG public health nurses can assist residents to access vaccinations (call 413-774-3167 x 156). The nurses will carry flu vaccine to Walk-in Wellness hours starting this month.

Here is a list of the Walk-in Wellness times:

- Ashfield: 1st Food Pantry Tuesday of the month, 3:00-5:00 p.m., First Congregational Church (Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov 1)
- Bernardston: 2nd Thursday from 9:30-11:20 a.m. at the Senior Center
- Charlemont: 3rd Tuesday from 4:00-5:30 p.m. (also Good Neighbors Food Distribution) and the 4th Wednesday from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon at the Federated Church
- Colrain: 3rd Wednesday from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Griswold Memorial Library
- Conway: 1st Friday from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at Town Hall
- Erving: 1st Tuesday from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Senior Center

- Gill: the 2nd Friday from 10:00 a.m.-1200 noon at Stoughton Place Community Room
- Northfield: 1st Wednesday from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Senior Center in Town Hall
- Shelburne Falls: 4th Tuesday from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon at the Senior Center

Updated CDC Guidance on COVID-19 from the Regional Department of Public Health

With many tools now available for reducing COVID-19 severity – availability of vaccine, boosters, and treatment – there is significantly less risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death compared to earlier in the pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has updated its guidance for people who know they have been exposed to COVID-19.

- **If you were exposed to COVID-19, regardless of your vaccination status:** CDC recommends that instead of quarantining, you wear a high-quality mask for ten days and get tested five full days after your last exposure (day 6).
- **If you have COVID-19, regardless of your vaccination status:** You should isolate from others for five days. If after five days you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication and your symptoms are improving, or you never had symptoms, you should test on day 6. If the test is negative, you may end isolation but should continue masking around others and in public. If the test is positive, you should continue to isolate.
- Individuals with moderate or severe illness or with a weakened immune system should isolate through day 10 and consult their doctor before ending isolation.
- The joint early childhood and K-12 guidance for students and staff has also been updated to reflect the updated CDC guidance on exposure and isolation in these settings

This guidance is further acknowledgment that, while COVID-19 is still with us, for a majority of people, COVID-19 no longer severely disrupts their lives.

LifePath's HomeShare Program

Home sharing is a creative option to address the lack of affordable and available local housing and to honor the desire of older adult homeowners to remain living in their homes. It is a responsive community program that values human connection and provides a better quality of life for all individuals.

LifePath HomeShare is a program in which two or more people may share a home and expenses to their mutual benefit. No two home-sharing arrangements are alike because the unique needs and interests of all participants involved are considered and valued.

- Home sharing is for individuals of all ages, incomes, and abilities.
- Home sharers must be 60 years or older or an adult with a disability.
- Home sharers offer a safe and sanitary private bedroom and shared communal areas in exchange for rent, help around the house, or a combination of the two.
- Home seekers could be anyone over the age of 18. This is a wonderful opportunity for students, part-time workers, or retirees.

Informational sessions are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

Virtual Session, Wednesday, September 14, 1:00–3:00 p.m. Visit <https://zoom.us/join>. Meeting ID: 833 5374 8554, Passcode: 274990

Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Monday, September 1, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 5th Street, Turners Falls, Thursday, September 22, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

To speak with someone about this program, please call LifePath's main line at 413-773-5555 and ask for the Information and Caregiver Resource Center – and if you ask for "ICRC" the staff member will know what you mean!

Feeling the Crunch? Get Free Groceries!

Stop by 15 Thayer Street, South Deerfield, on the third Saturday of every month between 10:00 a.m. and noon to receive a free bag of groceries. For more information, contact Rev. Robert Koerber, 413-665-2129.

Closing the Carbon Gap: September 7

The Conway Forest and Trails Committee is sponsoring a talk, *Proforestation: Closing the Carbon Gap in Time*, by renowned environmentalist William Moomaw. Conway residents will be making decisions regarding their town-owned forests, Fournier and Town Farm, in the near future. The town forests have Forest Stewardship Plans formulated in 2020, which have recently been updated for "Climate Resiliency." The town is looking at participating in the Carbon Offset Market along with private landowners. The talk will take place on Wednesday, September 7, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. via Zoom (information below or use the link on the town website). A question-and-answer period will follow. The talk is open to the public.

Bill Moomaw received his Ph.D. in chemistry at MIT and has applied it to addressing global environmental problems including stratospheric ozone depletion, air and water pollution, and climate change. He was a lead author of five major reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including the 2007 report that won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6586796584?pwd=V05VK1V4MktSdFU4NGVBWndDb0pFQT09>

Meeting ID: 658 679 6584, Passcode: conwaysb. Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6586796584>

Mosquito-Borne Disease Prevention

Mosquito-Borne Disease Prevention

Mosquitoes can spread diseases that make you sick. In Massachusetts, mosquitoes can give you eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEE) or West Nile virus (WNV). Only a small number of mosquitoes are infected at any given time, so being bitten by a mosquito does not mean you will get sick. However, the best way to avoid both of these illnesses is to prevent mosquito bites.

There are simple steps that you can take to protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites and the illnesses they can cause. Protect yourself from illness by doing simple things:

- Use insect repellents any time you are outdoors
- Wear long-sleeved clothing
- Schedule outdoor activities to avoid the hours from dusk to dawn during peak mosquito season
- Repair damaged window and door screens
- Remove standing water from the areas around your home

For links to booklets, fact sheets, and videos, go to www.mass.gov/info-details/mosquito-borne-disease-prevention

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. Mail-in registration forms are available at town transfer stations and in local newspapers.

For more information visit franklincountywastedistrict.org or contact the district at 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.

An Evening of Waltzes and Tall Tales

Presented by Conway Fine Arts and Michael Haley. On Saturday, September 17, at 7:00 p.m. at a barn near you, experience storytelling and live music woven together with actors and musicians. For more information, visit www.ConwayFineArts.com.

Update from the Field Memorial Library

Our **121+10** event on July 23 celebrating the life of Marshall Field and the building of the library was well attended and a fun way to learn about the special story of our library. Screening the video documentary brought to life Marshall Field's story. The film is available from a link on our fieldmemoriallibrary.org website.

Celebrating our history also created the opportunity to highlight the first change in the library's operations in 121 years: from analog, handwritten records to digitally based and easily searchable ones. This is what joining CWMars and barcoding our collection will make possible. To recognize this change, the FML is now hosting an exhibit of images juxtaposing our handwritten and barcoded records as well as quotations that reflect on how our digital life offers access to incalculable resources but also brings the risk of misinformation and false information. These quotations underscore the American Libraries Association's and the Field library's mission to expose misinformation and identify false information.

The library, the Union 38 Family Network, and the Friends of the FML bring a story walk of the children's classic *Corduroy* to the park across from town hall on Saturday and Sunday, September 17 and 18. Join the Friends from 9:45 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday for a free kids' activity kit.

The "Barcodathon" of the FML collection continues, and as of August 8 we have coded more than 6,800 items and are now well past the midway point! We are grateful for our barcoding volunteers!

The library will be closed Monday, September 5, for Labor Day and Saturday, October 1, to transform the library into an art gallery as

part of Conway's Festival of the Hills festivities. The art exhibit will be open on Sunday, October 2. Check our website for hours.

Please order all items for Inter-Library Loan through the FML. If ordered through your card at another library, they arrive at the FML without any identifying information, so we cannot tell who ordered the item; we must send it back. This will change when our membership in CWMars is fully operational.

David Wharton, Director, Field Memorial Library
dwharton@fieldmemoriallibrary.org 413-769-4666
<https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org>

FML Fall Book Sale October 1 and 2

The Friends of the Field Memorial Library annual Fall Book Sale will be held on Saturday, October 1, and Sunday, October 2, at the Field Memorial Library, 1 Elm Street, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The sale coincides with Conway's Festival of the Hills on Sunday. There will be a large selection of books and puzzles. Proceeds benefit the library's educational and cultural programs.

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

Check the library website, <https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org>, for more information.

Big Band Music at FML

Kansas City was jumpin' in the '30s and '40s with big band swing sounds flowing from the Hey Hey Club. Duke Ellington's and Count Basie's bands were just two of the many that made the Hey Hey Club the happening place.

On Saturday, September 3, starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Field Memorial Library, Conway's own version of the club and its music

will fill the street with big band music. "This was the music that my parents jumped and jived to. This is music that is so much a part of America's history," notes Peter Farber, whose band, The Hey Hey Club, will perform in front of the library. The Hey Hey Club will recreate this big band sound much as it was written. As well, their repertoire includes music from *The American Songbook*, including Cole Porter.

Where: Field Memorial Library, 1 Elm Street **When:** Saturday, September 3, 2:00 p.m. **Details:** The band will perform outdoors. Bring chairs. The road in front of the library will be closed to traffic. No rain date has been announced, so hope for good weather!

Conway Historical Society

Tuesday, September 13, at 7:30 p.m. the Historical Society presents *Edward and Orra White Hitchcock: The Untold Story* at the museum, 50 Main Street. Bob McMaster, retired Professor of Biology and author of *All the Light Here Comes from Above: The Life and Legacy of Edward Hitchcock*, will present an illustrated talk on the influential geologist, paleontologist, preacher and Amherst College president Edward Hitchcock (1793-1864) and his artist wife Orra White (1796-1863). McMaster will pay special attention to the couple's years in Conway and will include little-known details about their marriage and family uncovered during his research. This talk is free and open to the Public. Refreshments will be served.

The Society also reminds Conway residents that it has two museum passes for Historic Deerfield. Each pass allows admission for up to 4 persons - why not bring your out-of-town visitors or your family for a day at Historic Deerfield? Call Joe Zadroga @ 369-4375 to reserve a pass.

And the Conway Historical Society Museum will be open from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. on October 2 for the Festival of the Hills. *The Conway Electric Street Railway: 100 Years Since the Last Train Car Ran the Line* remains on display. The Boyden Schoolhouse will also be open 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. for the Festival.

Conway Cultural Council Grant Funding

The period for proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs opens on September 1 and ends on October 17. We invite schools and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in our community. These grants can support a variety of projects benefiting the people of Conway, such as exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, performances, workshops, and lectures. In the past, preference has been given to applicants from Conway and/or programs that take place in Conway and/or benefit Conway residents.

The Conway Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural-funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. Previously funded projects have included such things as nature programs, art/music programs for students, historical presentations, art and writing workshops for teens and adults, and musical and theatrical performances and workshops. Events may be live or virtual.

For complete information on the Conway Cultural Council as well as specifics on guidelines and the application process, see www.massculturalcouncil.org. The application process is relatively straightforward, but feel free to contact the Conway Cultural Council with any questions: conwayculturalcouncil@gmail.com.

Meet Me at the Station

by Kathy Llamas

The Conway Mall has been receiving strong and steady donations, which often have a turnaround time of minutes! We love getting to visit with those who have the time and are always grateful for each item gifted. We would be very grateful if you bring items in already

cleaned. There is no water on-site, and with eager hands wanting to scoop up something that catches their fancy, we hope to keep items safe for all, young and old.

You may notice a new Mall Maven if you pop in on Wednesday. Please say hello to our newest member, Abby Selva. She will be heading off to the university this fall but hopes to continue to volunteer when her schedule permits. From the moment she started, she has been a great fit! I know that the mall is thankful for all she does – and we are blessed to have her.

We are getting ready to change over to the fall season in the weeks ahead. As we are a small facility with no storage area for nonseasonal clothing and goods, please don't drop off any more bathing suits or beach items.

The mall has gotten numerous shoe, boot, and footwear donations – and quite a number of pairs look unworn! Also, check out the light jackets for our toddler shoppers and clothing options for all sizes.

Oftentimes we've moved things outside to more easily catch your eye. However, you may have noticed that there is no longer a table outside the building. No, we haven't taken it away from the eager Conwayans who love to peruse the items on the table. It broke and we have yet to find a new-to-us replacement. As soon as we can, we will replace it.

Until next time . . .

Poetry Contest Winners

Tonight, Cyndie Ouimette and Jodi McIntyre are savoring the artisanal kielbasas that they garnered as winners in Sir Reginald Buttinker's poetry contest. I was totally overwhelmed by the number of submissions: 10,392 to be exact! I deduced two things from this surreal number of entries:

- a. The kielbasa availability crisis was bigger than I thought.
- b. That Conway's population of 1,900-ish souls was comprised of poets desperate for attention.

As I tried to wade through the mountains of poems, I discovered that Cyndie Ouimette had submitted the same poem 3,476 times! Maureen Chase, for some reason known only to her, submitted a receipt for kielbasa fritters; Danielle Mazur's, Neysa Tapanes's, and Will Thayer's poems were all eaten by the three chimpanzees I rented to help me sort through the stacks. I managed to salvage two poems before the unruly primates got their hands on them: Cyndie Ouimette's 7,341st submission and a tear-stained and kibble-smudged beauty by Jodi McIntyre. Here they are:

The House Was Silent as a Tomb #7,341
by Cyndie Ouimette

No more, no more,
she sang to herself; fit the plank to the floor,
cleaned the dirt from her nails, the dust from her hair,
and thought to herself, he just didn't care.
Now he'd sleep with the others,
her sleep she'd resume,
The house was silent as a tomb.
No more, no more, he ain't gonna snore no more.



The House Was Silent as a Tomb
by Jodi McIntyre

No more tic, tic, tic of toenails across my floor.
No jingle of tags on collar as you follow me about.
Thoughts of you break my heart,
gone too soon.
My four legged family member,
friend and companion.
You listened without judgment and unconditional love.
Always up for adventure or gentle caress.
No longer by my side but forever in my heart
Until we meet again at the Rainbow Bridge.

Bon appétit!
Sir Reginald Buttwinker

Notes from the Town Administrator

As we wrap up vacations and begin to settle into our postsummer routines, I would like to make a special plea for volunteers to two very important committees in town; Capital Improvements Planning and Personnel. Both of these committees are vital to the proper functioning of the town. Capital Improvements deals with long-range planning for our vehicles and buildings and sets a schedule of when to replace or update as needed, including estimated costs. The town has a capital stabilization fund set aside specifically for this purpose, and keeping to a set schedule of maintaining our resources ensures that the town is not actually losing assets. The Personnel Committee plays an integral role with our employees, and as our employees are in fact our number one asset, is of huge importance to the town. In fact, our employees are outstanding in both their expertise and dedication to the town, and we are lucky to have such amazing staff members. Participation in local government by residents is probably a lot more important than most folks realize, especially in a small town such as ours, so as you review your fall schedule and the year ahead, please consider adding a few hours and your voice to help the town with these committees. Currently Capital Improvements has three vacancies on a five-member committee, and the Personnel Committee has all three committee slots open. And if neither of these is your cup of tea, please do check out the other committee openings on the website at townofconway.com.

A very heartfelt thank you to all who help make Conway such a wonderful place to live!

Véronique

Currents Advertisements & Notices

Seeking Candidates for Animal Control Officer - The Conway Selectboard seeks candidates to fill the position of Animal Control Officer. Applicants should have knowledge and experience with handling dogs under various conditions. A suitable candidate will have knowledge of MGL Chapter 140, sections 136A – 174F; previous experience in animal control; experience in working with local and state

officials; and excellent verbal and written communication skills. Interested individuals without prior experience who will attend annual training will be considered. If you are interested in applying, please contact Véronique Blanchard, Town Administrator, at townadmin@townofconway.com or 413-369-4235 x 3.

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!

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. Fall raspberries - while they last - and mums for fall planting. Open labor day weekend 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Check us out on Facebook: facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store for today's specials or call 413-369-4936.

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.



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 - 17th-century English oak furniture, Queen Anne and Georgian jewelry, paintings, accessories, and carpets. In the black barn in Pumpkin Hollow. Open by appointment or chance. Arrange a visit by email jmaggs@jmaggs.com or phone 413-369-4256.



Debra Hoyle Studio and Gallery - 46 Main Street invites you to visit by appointment or when passing by and see the 'OPEN' sign. Come by just to browse and chat - no obligation! And thanks to all neighbors and friends who have been so supportive since the February opening. New works are in progress and there are still a few pieces on display. *The shows keep rolling*. . . Debra's work can be seen in the Black Reading Room of the Meekins Library in Williamsburg until September 29. This is a lovely antique room which really complements her collages and paintings. *Please check the library open hours before heading over*. On October 2 is the Festival of the Hills art exhibit at the Field Memorial Library, showcasing the many talented artists and artisans who live here in Conway! Debra will be exhibiting three pieces in this show. Stay tuned for future details about Debra's upcoming exhibit at the Hosmer Gallery, Forbes Library, 20 West Street, Northampton in 2023.

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

Wilder Hill Gardens - your local plant nursery. Open weekends 8-5, other times by chance or appointment. Buy healthy plants 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. Scheduling now for September projects.



Contact: Lilian Jackman, 351 South Shirkshire Road, Conway, MA. 413-625-9446.

wilderhillgardens.com. Email lilianjackman@gmail.com

OESCO - It's September and that means cider season is coming! As you'd expect, OESCO is your source for all things cider: how-to books, cookbooks, and cider production necessities. Making Cider? We have glass carboys, food-grade hose and used charred oak bourbon whiskey barrels. If your fruit trees need tending to or the fruit is ready to pick, our orchard tripod ladders, in a variety of lengths, are perfect for the job. Fruit pickers, picking buckets and stem clippers, oh my! We have those

too. Get ready for harvest with all the essential tools you need - it will be here before you know it. Need help? We have great resources right at your fingertips; stop by and talk with Gemma, Rebecca or Tim. Shop where the pros shop and thanks for buying locally! OESCO, Inc.

Orchard Equipment. M-F: 7-5; 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 or by phone at 413-369-4638.

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.

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 to sign up or for more info. Open to collaboration inquiries with schools and other organizations. We look forward to meeting our neighbors!

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!

A reminder that the deadline for articles and ads in the newsletter is the **20th of the preceding month**. Please send your content, comments and suggestions by email to conwaycurrents@gmail.com. Send your advertising requests to Louise at lmbeckett@crocker.com. Thank you!

Pickleball!

Two sessions of Pickleball instruction will be given **free** to Conway players. Our very own residents Jay and Mary Lou are certified instructors and would like to share their knowledge with you.

If you have never played before or if you have never had any formal instruction, this class is for you. Jay and Mary Lou will teach you some beginner level skills, scoring and offer strategic pointers. Please come for a fun and informative time. The class will be limited to the first 8 players to sign up and players must attend the first class before participating in the second session.

Sessions will be Thursday September 15th and Thursday September 22nd from 5pm to 7pm at the Town Ballfield. Paddles and nets will be provided.

To sign up, please follow this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baca92aa5fbc16-ballfield>

Email ConwayMAPickleball@gmail.com with any questions.

Unheard Melodies

by Nicole Braden-Johnson

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



Bardwell's Ferry Bridge

It extends its yawning limbs across the valley;
Crimson metal twisting in the morning warmth,
While river mist slips through the heavy beams
Depositing fresh dew on gleaming arches.

Time passes indifferent to the clock,
But tracing the movement of the light
And the intermittent drum and rumble
Of solitary cars across the platform.

Every now and then a person stops
To catch a bridge-view glance of the olive hue
Of the forest's rippling leaves that shimmer
Against the river's tumbling current.

The passersby are quickly chased away
By the urging of some impatient honk
to get home, to work, to eat, or to a screen's
mesmerizing dream of other people's lives.

As the cool of sunset contracts the frame around the joints,
Alone again the red bridge sighs.

Fall Workshops at Wilder Hill Press - Materials included with all workshops. Enrollment limited, preregistration required. Info, at: wilderhillpress.com and wilderhillgardens.com; Lilian Jackman: 413-625-9446; Lilianjackman@gmail.com.

Introduction to Printmaking, Saturday 9/17, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$150 - Learn the basics of relief printmaking in this intensive workshop at Wilder Hill Press amid the beautiful gardens of Wilder Hill. We will use non-toxic techniques Aqua inks to explore color, contrast, registration, paper choice and proper framing of original prints.

Advanced Techniques in Printmaking, Saturday 9/23, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$150; Add Sunday, 9/24, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$120 - In this workshop we will introduce a second plate in addition to the "key block" to create gorgeous, painterly effects. Add a second day to further expand and refine your skills as a printer.

Bookmaking with Cyanotype Prints, Saturday, 10/1, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sunday, 10/2, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$180 - Learn two important, fun skills in one workshop. Using the historic process of cyanotype printing we will produce gorgeous Prussian blue images from negatives and plant material. Then we will use your images to create two significant book types, a codex and an accordion book.