



Volume 3, Number 10 - October 2022



### Saturday, October 1st

- 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Festival Bake Sale - Town Common, in front of the Library
- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Friends of the Field Memorial Library Fall Used Book Sale - Field Memorial Library
- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Visit the Historic Boyden Schoolhouse - by the Conway Grammar School
- 5:30 p.m. Fireman's Auxiliary Turkey Dinner - Conway Grammar School. *Seating sold out - take-outs available at 6:15. To Reserve: 369-4636 or 369-4971*



### Sunday, October 2nd

- 9:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m. Registration for Covered Bridge Classic 10k Road Race
- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Friends of the Field Memorial Library Fall Used Book Sale
- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Art Exhibit - Field Memorial Library
- 10:00 a.m. Covered Bridge Classic 10k Road Race - Field Memorial Library
- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Café Conway, Craft Fair, Information Booth, Children's Activities - Ballfield
- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. *The Conway Electric Street Railway Summer Exhibit - Conway Historical Society Museum, 50 Main Street.*
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Music: *Dan Kennedy* - Ballfield
- 11:30 a.m. Log Splitting contest - Ballfield
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Music: *Tom Savoy* - Ballfield
- 1:00 p.m. Parade Starts at OESCO
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Music: *Buddy McEarns Band* - Ballfield
- 2:00 p.m. Skillet Toss Contest - Ballfield
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Music: *Janet Ryan & Straight Up* - Ballfield
- 4:00 p.m. Festival Raffle Drawing - Town Hall

## Festival of the Hills Bake Sale

We're still looking for donations of baked goods: cookies, pies, cakes, breads, etc. for the annual festival bake sale, Saturday, October 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We'll be on the common in front of the library. 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.

All proceeds from the bake sale go to the Festival of the Hills scholarship fund for graduating high school seniors. Thank you for supporting the bake sale and the students! Questions? Call Gail Connelly, 369-4287.

## Conway Council on Aging

Council on Aging meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in Town Hall. Next meeting will be October 5. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email [patricialynch@earthlink.net](mailto:patricialynch@earthlink.net)

### Senior Calendar for October

**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.

**"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.

**Healthy Bones & Balance Classes** Classes meet on Tuesday from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. and Friday from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. on Zoom. Contact leader Gary Fentin at 369-0001 for information and the Zoom link.

**Monthly Foot Care** Foot clinics are usually held on the first Monday of the month in Town Hall **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. The next clinic will be October 16. There is a \$20.00 fee. For information or to schedule an appointment, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010.

**Senior Meals** Meals are held at Town Hall 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** The walking group meets at 9:30 a.m. in front of the library on Mondays. 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.

## Fall Vaccination Clinics for Flu and COVID

from the FRCOG Public Health Team

No-cost vaccination clinics offering both flu and COVID vaccine – including the updated Omicron-specific booster – are scheduled across the county during October. To check eligibility, see the schedule, and sign up online, go to [frcog.org/covid](http://frcog.org/covid). Please bring

your ID, insurance card, and vaccination card. You can receive both shots during the same visit. FRCOG public health nurses can assist residents to access vaccinations (call 413-774-3167 x 156).

Walk-in Wellness times:

- Ashfield: 1st Food Pantry Tuesday of the month, 3:00-5:00 p.m., First Congregational Church (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.-12:00 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

## 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](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/mosquito-borne-disease-prevention)

## Walk with Ease – The Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation Walk with Ease Program is an exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health. If you can be on your feet for ten minutes without increased pain, you can have success with Walk with Ease. The Walk with Ease Program is Arthritis Foundation-certified and doctor recommended. Walk with Ease will help you:

- Motivate yourself to get in great shape
- Walk safely and comfortably
- Improve your flexibility, strength, and stamina
- Reduce pain and feel great

Join us for this exciting six-week program offered by the Springfield College Department of Physical Therapy. Meet online weekly with your own team of health coaches at a time convenient for you. Although the program started in September, participants are welcome to begin the first week in October. Questions? Call the Springfield College PT Department at 413-748-3478 or enroll online at [springfield.edu/walk-with-ease/participate](http://springfield.edu/walk-with-ease/participate).

## Clean Water: Wells and Septic Systems

from the FRCOG Public Health Team

October marks the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Enacted in 1972, the act addresses water pollution and is credited with improvement in water quality nationwide. In our rural environment, wells and septic systems play an important role in a clean watershed. Inspection and testing of private wells and septic systems are generally done only when a property is being transferred. Many longtime homeowners may not know what they've been drinking over the last few decades without further water-quality testing.

Testing well water quality should be done using a Mass DEP-approved laboratory, a list of which can be found on the [mass.gov](http://mass.gov) website. These laboratories offer a variety of water-testing packages, looking at bacteria, mineral content, or the presence of chemicals such as PFAS. Changes to water's appearance, smell, or taste can be good reasons to consider a water-quality test.

For septic systems, experts recommend regular pumping. One useful resource is the EPA's "Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems: Long Version" (found on the internet), which includes what "regular" means for your type of system. Issues with septic systems can be harder to detect, and the following warrant further consideration:

- Inside the home, toilets backing up or not flushing or strong odor.
- Outside the home, squishy or foul-smelling ground around the system.

To receive approval for a short-term rental property status, well water quality should have been tested and septic systems pumped within the previous three years.

## From the Board of Assessors

Owing to the continuing increase in selling prices of properties in Conway, taxable values of all properties (except Chapter 61 and 61A land) were increased by 8% over last year's value. When you see your tax bill, you will find that this increase in the value has NOT given you an 8% increase in your tax owed because (1) the increase in the total town values and (2) at Town Meeting, we paid for all the articles except the operating budget from Free Cash and don't need to raise those amounts from taxes. This will all total out to another significant drop in the tax rate from last year's rate of \$17.95.

## 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.

## Conway Cultural Council Grant Funding

The period for proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs opened 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 benefitting 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](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org). The application process is relatively straightforward, but feel free to contact the Conway Cultural Council with any questions: [conwayculturalcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:conwayculturalcouncil@gmail.com).

## Halloween Rag Shag Parade

On Monday, October 31, the Conway Firemen's Auxiliary, with the support of local businesses, will host the traditional Halloween Rag Shag Parade for town residents. The parade will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the small common at the corner of Shelburne Falls Road and Main Street. Everyone will then follow the fire truck to Town Hall.

After the parade there will be a costume contest at the tennis court near the ball field (the path around Town Hall and the court will be lighted for safety). Costumes will be judged separately by school grade, and prizes will be awarded to all entries. Cider and donuts will be served. Don't miss all the fun!

A carved pumpkin contest will be part of the annual celebration. To enter the contest, drop off your carved pumpkin between 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. at the stone wall bordering the Town Common. Pumpkins must have the entrant's first and last names and age clearly marked on the underside. All pumpkins must be picked up by 8:00 p.m.

The auxiliary welcomes donations to help with the cost of prizes awarded for costumes and pumpkins. Donations can be sent to Conway Firemen's Auxiliary, PO Box 46, Conway, MA 01341.

## Notes from the Town Administrator

I am pleased to announce that the town now owns the domain name "conwayma.gov," and after several months working with Montague WebWorks, we are very close to announcing the launch of the new website. I would like to thank the website working group – Gerry LeBlanc, Erica Goleman, Roy Cohen, Louise Beckett, Adam Reed and Laurie Lucier – for all the work they have done on guiding the process, making the decision to hire Montague WebWorks, and helping to create the new site. One of the features I like best on our new website is a "carousel" of photographs that will rotate through all the pictures, located on the front page. We've been collecting photos of places in Conway, and if you have any to share, please do send them (with the permissions to use them, especially if any people are recognizable in them) to Adam at [assistant@townofconway.com](mailto:assistant@townofconway.com). All photographs have to be in landscape layout, as the cropping that happens in the program requires this. We plan to swap out photos in this carousel with the seasons, showing off the best of Conway; beautiful, restful, and full of charm!

There will be a special town meeting this year on Saturday, December 10. More information will follow, but please mark that date on your calendars as we hope to have as many of you as possible in attendance.

Happy Halloween to all!

Véronique

## Update from the Field Memorial Library

Many thanks to the Hey, Hey Club band for their September 3rd performance outside on the lawn in front of the library. The fine weather and cool tunes made for an exceptionally groovy afternoon at this well-attended event. Further thanks to the Conway and Massachusetts Cultural Councils, which, with funding from the legislature, make funds available for community cultural events that bring us together. Special thanks also to the Conway Police Department for making a safe space on the street in front of the lawn.

The library, the Union 38 Family Network, and the Friends of the Library bring another story walk in the park across from Town Hall on Saturday and Sunday, October 15 and 16. Join the Friends from 9:45 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, October 15, for a free kids' activity kit related to the book *Hello Goodbye Dog*, a sweet girl-and-her-dog story that introduces the idea of a therapy dog coming to class to help with reading.

The "Barcodathon" of the FML collection continues, and as of August 8 we have coded more than 8,100 items and are now well past the midway point! We are so grateful for our barcoding volunteers, and the finish line is now coming into view!

FOH Update: The library will be closed Saturday, October 1, so that the inside can be transformed into an art gallery as part of Conway's Festival of the Hills festivities. The art exhibit will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 2. The Friends of the Library will sponsor a book sale in the back courtyard area 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. both Saturday, October 1, and Sunday, October 2. Books, puzzles, DVDs, and more will be available.

The Friends of the Library wish to express their gratitude for the generous response to their donation appeal in support of the

library. Look for the difference your dollars will make to programs and offerings in the coming months!

The FML is continuing our exhibit of images juxtaposing our handwritten and barcoded records illustrating our transition from analog to digital records. The exhibit includes quotations that reflect on how our digital life offers access to incalculable resources but also brings the risk of misinformation, manipulation, and false information. These quotations underscore the ALA's and the Field library's mission to expose misinformation and identify false information.

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, and we must send them back. This will change when our membership in CWMars is fully operational.

The library is chock full of new titles, classics, and hidden treasures, especially now that we have been updating the collection as part of the barcoding effort. Stop by and discover something only you can find.

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

## In Search of Swallows

by David Fisher

Since May or June, the barn swallows have been darting in and out of our barns constantly, buzzing by our ears and through the horses' legs with such nonchalance it stopped even being a game. Nests were built, chicks were hatched, fledglings fledged, another round of chicks were hatched. Then, all of a sudden, a couple of weeks ago, the barns fell silent. Since the last round of swallows

fledged from their nests, they have all disappeared, and we have been missing them and wondering where they've gone.

Well, Maggie's birthday seemed like as good a time as any to find out, and with an invitation from friends to visit and paddle near the mouth of the Connecticut River where it meets Long Island Sound, we went sleuthing. We had heard we might find them there on their way south for the winter and we took to the water in search.

Alas, after hours of paddling up and down the river we saw nary a swallow. Cormorants - plenty, herons - a few, ospreys - heaps, but swallows, not a one. The afternoon came and the afternoon went, no swallows. We had a lovely evening picnic on an uninhabited island, no swallows. We took to the water once more as the sun was setting and still no swallows. But then, as if some inaudible siren had lifted its voice, the swallows were drawn from the land. By ones, tens, then hundreds, then thousands, until half the sky was filled with a million birds or more.

After much congregating at great heights, the huge cloud of birds suddenly sprung a leak, and a thick stream of swallows poured out of the sky, descending at full speed in a spiraling funnel shape, disappearing into the marshy grasses below, as though a trap door in the earth had opened to swallow them all. This went on for some time until finally the last of them had emptied out of the sky. How so many birds could completely disappear into such a small patch of grass is entirely beyond me, but in their descent, I'm quite certain I saw a few swallows tip their wings at us. Surely these were the ones raised on Natural Roots moths and mosquitos.

Sad as it was to say goodbye as we paddled away over misty, still water by the light of the quarter moon, we knew we would see our swallows again next spring when they return to our barns to lay and hatch in the same nests they've inhabited for so many summers.

## Unheard Melodies

by Nicole Braden-Johnson

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

## Along the Roadside

There in the brush and bramble along the roadside,  
A complex ecosystem harbors myriad lives and stories:  
A battle to the death between wasp and spider;  
A dozen tadpoles flitting around a transient rainwater creek;  
And the ancient snapping turtle warily eyes the oncoming traffic.

He is not just wary of the careless speeding wheels,  
But also of the growing piles of human debris,  
And wonders how they came to be.  
Whose crumpled aluminum can rusts in the gutter?  
Does someone miss the mouse-eaten baseball mitt?  
How does a person lose just one sock?

If there is a kind of beauty in the ugliness,  
Perhaps it is that Nature will take this trash,  
Dissolve it back into herself in time,  
And bring it back to the world as something new.

## A Look into Conway History

### *Strike Up the Band!*

by Patricia Ann Lynch

In the 1800s, before electricity provided us with a variety of ways to listen to music anywhere at any time, if people wanted music they had to attend live performances or make music themselves. Brass bands composed of local residents – farmers, merchants, teachers, and others – provided musical accompaniment for celebrations and other activities of the time. The most numerous instrument in a brass band was, and still is, the cornet; about a third of the players use one. A cornet's warm tone enables it to blend in easily with the tone of tubas, tenor horns, trombones, and euphoniums.



Although brass bands consist of a variety of brass instruments, in the 1800s they were universally called “cornet bands,” and Conway had one of its own. The Conway Cornet Band was organized in 1876 under the leadership of John R. Holcomb. According to *History of Conway 1767-1967*, “The Fourth of July, 1876, was appropriately celebrated by the town of Conway. There was a salute with cannon at sunrise. A parade of antiques and horribles (people wearing

grotesque or comical costumes) was followed at 10 A. M. by a procession to Arms' grove . . . The order of march was as follows: President of the day, Carlos Batchelder; invited guests; Conway Band; fire company; Sunday schools; citizens.” The band presented a concert later in the day.

The Conway Cornet Band continued to entertain the town's citizens for about 15 years. They performed not only at Fourth of July celebrations but also for special events, such as an 1883 performance of the play *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

For a while Conway had no band, but *History of Conway* tells us, “In 1907 another organization was formed taking the name of the Conway Brass Band. It made its first public appearance on the Fourth of July of that year. Music has since been furnished for all public occasions, and open-air concerts have been given at frequent intervals during the summer, to the great enjoyment of the townspeople. Mr. Fred Holcomb has been its only leader.” One such occasion was *Captain Racket*, a comedy in three acts performed under the auspices of the Conway Brass Band in April of 1913 (estimated). As with the cornet band, this band's activities continued for about 15 years.

Although many New England towns still have brass bands, and musicians of many different types live in Conway, the traditional brass band has yet to be revived. Will a Conway brass band ever strike up again on the Fourth of July?

## Deer Tales

by Sir Reginald Buttwinker

A knock on my door several weeks ago revealed two does, who inquired, before I slammed the door in their faces, if we intended to plant any more hostas. I thought that was a one-off incident until I found out that another doe, this one with two fawns, who'd been seen panhandling in front of the library had petitioned the selectboard to change the crosswalk that runs from Town Hall to



the library into a deer crosswalk and paint it green. “Like the confusing lines on 5 & 10,” she demanded. She also wanted the town to include a flashing “Run Bambi, Run!” indicator at the crosswalk. The board argued, to no avail, that the deer don’t cross the road where there ARE “deer crossing” signs. “Can’t you guys read?!” exclaimed a frustrated Phil Kantor. The mother deer shooed her fawns from the room and then laced into the selectboard, questioning them as to why all the deer-crossing images were of bucks, not does. So, dear citizens, look for the flashing sign and a deer crosswalk in the near future.

There’s also a gang of bucks hanging around the cemetery, high on cider apples, causing mayhem with the local dog population. When I confronted them and told them that hunting season is rapidly approaching, they laughed in my face and told me that they all go south and make a bundle working as Santa’s reindeer at various Walmart stores until the season is over. So now you see them, soon you won’t. But if you’re at Walmart over the holidays, you might recognize a fellow Conwyan just tryin’ to get by.

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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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## Town of Conway Employment Opportunity

**Highway Department Equipment Operator/laborer** The Town of Conway is accepting applications for a Highway Department Equipment Operator/Laborer. This is a full-time, permanent position with benefits. Massachusetts CDL Class B driver's license, Hoisters License 2A and DOT health card required prior to work. Close proximity to town required. Must pass Town-provided physical and drug test prior to hiring; subject to random drug testing. Applications available at [townofconway.com/employment-volunteer/](http://townofconway.com/employment-volunteer/); applications accepted immediately; position open until filled. E-mail application to [highway@townofconway.com](mailto:highway@townofconway.com) or mail to Highway Superintendent, P.O. Box 240, Conway, MA 01341. The Town of Conway is an equal opportunity employer.

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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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**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. Freshly baked cakes, muffins, pies, and cookies - put in your order today for one of Helen’s famous pies! Pine Hill Orchards cider and apples have arrived! Mums, Indian corn, pumpkins, winter squash are in as well. **Order your Diemand Thanksgiving turkey - Deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>.** Check us out on Facebook: [facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store](https://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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**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](mailto:jmaggs@jmaggs.com) or phone 369-4256. This month we're exhibiting at the Fall Fox Valley Antiques Show – online only on



Tuesday and Wednesday, October 18 & 19.

Here's a link to this very fine show:

<https://www.foxvalleyantiquesshow.com/> Type or paste it into your browser on the 18th or 19th and shop the show. It's free.

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**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. Contact: Lilian Jackman,

**WILDER HILL**  
*gardens*

351 South Shirkshire Road, Conway, MA. 413-625-9446.  
[wilderhillgardens.com](http://wilderhillgardens.com). Email [lilianjackman@gmail.com](mailto:lilianjackman@gmail.com)

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**It's October** - Fall is officially here and it's time for fall cleanup. The Groundskeeper II Rake is perfect for leaves, sticks, mulch and



more. Its light weight and durable design are easy on the back and almost impossible to destroy. For hard-to-reach places, try our small and versatile Shrub Rake. Get a head start on winter pruning with the latest in design tools. The outrageously popular German-engineered Lowe Anvil Pruners are giving other pruners a run for their money! Not sure what tools will work best? Call or stop by to talk with Gemma, Rebecca or Tim. Cider Days is coming so be sure to visit us at Clarkdale's on November 5th to taste our freshly-made cider using presses made in Slovenia! Shop where the pros shop and thanks for buying locally! OESCO, Inc. Orchard Equipment. M-F: 7-5; 369-4335.

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**Debra Hoyle Studio and Gallery** - 46 Main Street. Stop by during The Festival of the Hills October 2, 11-3. Many collages and paintings are available for your home or as a gift for someone special. Ten percent of all sales in October will be donated to the Community Action Pioneer Valley Fuel Assistance program. Purchases paid via cash, check, or SQUARE. Be sure to enjoy the art exhibit at Field Memorial Library on October 2 where artwork by Deb and other Conway artists will be on display. If you can't make it on open studio day and would like to take a peek some other time please contact Debra at 413-325-5579. *Feel like trying something new? Collage Workshop November 5 1-4! \$125., No experience needed; call or text with inquiries or to sign up. Space is limited.*136

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**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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**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. Gardening, crafts, yoga, veggie picking and FUN! Family Yoga Thursday, September 22nd (rain date Friday 9/23) Celebrate the equinox with yoga on the mountain! 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 - come visit our stand at the Festival of the Hills where we'll be selling our herbal products, crafts and offering a kids craft.

**Handyperson wanted** - Conway's Field Memorial Library is looking for a handy person. We need someone who can do small jobs periodically for the library. Tasks may include carpentry, painting, refinishing, and small-scale renovation projects. This position could be perfect for someone with good skills who is looking for flexible work on their own schedule. Compensation is negotiable. If interested, please address inquiries to the library trustees at [foothills94@comcast.net](mailto:foothills94@comcast.net) and [hrboyden@gmail.com](mailto:hrboyden@gmail.com).

**Hi Neighbors** - We are having a yard sale on Saturday, Oct 8, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 527 South Shirkshire Road. We welcome others who might also like to participate either at our place, at your own station or anywhere else in the neighborhood. We have lots of stuff, having gone through our entire property, i.e. barn, garage, attic, basement, main house. Antiques, furniture, farm and garden supplies, wool-dyeing supplies, kitchen stuff - including a crock pot and ice cream machine! - books, clothes, knick-knacks, etc. . . Hoping for good weather; if it rains, no yard sale on that day but will re-post once rescheduled. Linnie Dugas/Claudia Benoit

**Post-Festival Wind-Down: 4-6 p.m.** - Weather permitting, come to the Conway Inn-yard for entertainment featuring the "2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Mostly Bluegrass Etiquette Jam" - a group that's been performing regularly at the Inn for over twenty years. Relax; have a libation; have a pizza, breadsticks or chicken wings! 10% of all proceeds go to the Festival of the Hills Scholarship Fund: Look for the tip jar at the jam!



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## 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 **11:59 p.m. on the 20th of the month.**

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### A Note of Gratitude from Your Selectboard Chair by Philip Kantor

This past summer's wall-raising celebration for the new home Habitat for Humanity is building in Conway brought to fruition a remarkable achievement for Conway town government and our community as a whole. It is the tangible evidence of our ability as a community to do great and wonderful things when we are all working toward a common goal.

Last year a small parcel of land on Route 116 – across from the Grammar School and several driveways up the hill from Boyden's Sugar House – was donated to the fine folks at Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity. To get from that point to where we are right now, with four walls and a roof all framed out and an eager family of four helping with construction and waiting to move in has been quite literally an all-hands-on-deck community effort. And seeing this all come together has been one of the great pleasures of my public service for this town.

I'd like to thank, in no particular order, our Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Community Preservation Committee, Selectboard, Town Clerk, Town Administrator, Town Treasurer, and Town Attorney, all of whom had a vital and necessary role in bringing this project to fruition. And a special thanks to all of us, as a Town Meeting body, for the June 2022 vote to appropriate from CPA the \$45,000 required to make the whole thing happen.

I urge everyone to take a couple of minutes to view the Habitat for Humanity-produced YouTube video called “Conway Wall Raising,” now posted on the Town of Conway website at <https://townofconway.com/about-conway/>.

Moments like these are why we do what we do every day as a community and as a government. This should serve as a reminder that when we work together we can accomplish great things.

And when you get meet the owners of this new home – Herlinda, Roberto, and their two children – please join me in welcoming them to their new home.



Selectboard Chair Phil Kantor with Conway's Habitat For Humanity family at the 'wall-raising' earlier this year.