



Volume 4, Number 5 - May 2023

Notes from the Town Administrator

On November 4, 2022, Conway was asked to shut down the second bridge off Rte 116 on North Poland Road because of an inspection by MassDOT that deemed it unsafe for travel. This experience was for me a lesson in what can be accomplished when a community pulls together toward a single goal.

The first to speak to me was Chief Baker, who had, by the next day, put together a list of all the houses and streets that would be impacted by no longer having access to the dry well that serviced the area; 98 households were impacted, and the detour was ten miles long on not-so-great roads, especially during winter months.



Francisca Heming cuts the ribbon on the temporary bridge on North Poland Road. Courtesy of Paul Franz, Photographer, *The Recorder*

Then Bill Burnett came to me and offered an easement through his property if that would help with getting a temporary replacement bridge built as quickly as possible. Ron Sweet suggested I write a letter to MassDOT

asking for a temporary bridge. By this time it was clear that emergency services as well as the school bus would be hugely affected, and we truly needed a new bridge as soon as possible. I penned a letter to MassDOT and had officials from town sign it:

ten in all, including fire, police, ambulance, highway, the selectboard, our Grammar School principal, and the Frontier superintendent. I even got help from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, which provided a map that clearly outlined the long detour. I sent the letter, along with Chief Baker’s information, to Francisca Heming of MassDOT.

It wasn’t long before Ms. Heming responded. With her leadership, along with help from Representative Natalie Blais and Senator Paul Mark, a plan was formed to get Conway back up and running as quickly as possible with a temporary bridge. Lo and behold, on February 16 the bridge was constructed and ready for use! Many, many people have commented on how quickly this was accomplished, and to me, it was a clear sign that when people work and pull together for a common goal, amazing things can happen.

We held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 28 to thank all those who had a hand in making this happen and keeping our community safe. You can see the thank you plaque on the town administrator page of the website, conwayma.gov. I want to express my personal thanks to all of you for all your incredible work on this project; Conway is an amazing community!

Happy travels! Véronique

Town Meeting Is Saturday, June 3

Democracy works in Conway when citizens gather to make decisions that affect our lives. It’s called Town Meeting. It happens on the first Saturday in June: this year, June 3, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Conway Grammar School, 24 Fournier Road. The Town Warrant – the discussion items, including the town budget and spending decisions – will be mailed to all voters this month. There will also be a “Warrant Lite” document that will help citizens know what a “yes” or “no” vote will mean for each item. Check the town website, conwayma.gov/, for an advance copy.

Free child care is available so that Conway parents can attend the meeting, advocate for things important to them, and know that their children are also having fun! Please preregister at Kristen.Gordon@frsu38.org or call the school at 413-369-4239. The registration deadline is May 15.

New to Conway? Register to vote by May 24 so that you can be part of the meeting and have voice and vote. For information contact Town Clerk Laurie Lucier at 369-4235 x 4 or by email at clerk@conwayma.gov or go to the town website.

If you want to know more about Town Meeting, go to the town website, click on ‘Departments’ and then on ‘TOWN MEETING.’

On social media? Know new neighbors? Make sure people know. Invite people to attend. Share in your social media platforms. Thank you!

Open Seats on Conway Planning Board

The Conway Planning Board has two open seats and is seeking residents to serve on this volunteer board, beginning July 2023. The Conway Planning Board has five citizen members, meets twice a month, and is responsible for special permitting, public hearings concerning permits and zoning bylaws, and long-range planning for the town. Past projects have included revision of bylaws affecting flood plain development, solar arrays, and cannabis facilities. The Planning Board works collaboratively, and their work is supported by an administrative assistant.

Questions and requests for further information may be directed to the Planning Board chair, Beth Girshman, planningboard@conwayma.gov.

UCC All-Church Gathering

Reverend Marianne has been visiting all over Conway these past few months, and we are thrilled to know her. Please plan on joining us for a discussion about the present and future of UCC of Conway

along with Marianne’s thoughts resulting from her visit to our entire congregation, one by one! All are invited on Saturday, May 20th from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Conway Firemen’s Auxiliary Scholarship

The Conway Firemen’s Auxiliary Scholarship of up to \$500 is awarded annually to one or two Conway residents who are graduating high school seniors. Awards will be made in May. Primary consideration will be given to students who are involved in community service, work, or extracurricular activities and are planning to further their education in college, trade school, or a certificate program. Secondary consideration will be given to grades and financial need. Submit completed applications to Conway Firemen’s Auxiliary, PO Box 46, Conway, MA 01341, by **Friday, May 5**. Applications are available on the town website, conwayma.gov/files/2021-Firemens-Auxiliary-Scholarship-App.pdf.

Library Scholarship Deadline Extended

The Friends of the Field Memorial Library has extended the deadline for their scholarship. We want to encourage and support the continued education of a graduating Conway high school senior. The extended deadline is May 22, 2023.

To be eligible for this scholarship, currently \$500, the applicant must:

- Be a resident of Conway, MA
- Be a graduating high school senior, either from a school or home schooled
- Have maintained good academic standing throughout high school (grade point average)
- Have demonstrated good communication skills by submitting an application

For an application go to fieldmemoriallibrary.org/ or contact Thad Bennett at FieldMemLibraryScholarship@gmail.com.

Who Made the Gravestones In Conway's Old Burial Grounds?

On Tuesday May 16, 7:30 p.m., Bob Drinkwater will give a presentation at the Conway Historical Society, 50 Main Street in Conway, on some of the local stonecutters who carved gravestones for Conway cemeteries. Bob, a historical archaeologist with an M.A. in Anthropology from UMass Amherst, has been recording and photographing 18th- and early 19th-century gravestones in western Massachusetts and writing about the men who made them for much of the past fifty years .

More recently, Bob has focused on those who are under-represented in New England gravestone studies: African Americans, Native Americans, and European immigrants who settled during and following the industrial revolution. His book, *In Memory of Susan Freedom: Searching for Gravestones of African Americans in Western Massachusetts*, was published in 2020. In his presentation, Bob will share his research on Thomas Cole, a freedman after 22 years enslaved, who is buried in the Howland Cemetery. Free and open to the public: Refreshments will be served.

Once again, the Historical Society has two season passes to Historic Deerfield and is making them available to all Conway residents. Each pass will admit up to four people. To reserve contact Joseph Zadroga at 413-824-2719: best if you can give 24-48 hours notice.

The Canonballs Are Coming!

Conway's 5th annual Irish Road Bowling Tournament will take place on Saturday, June 10, so circle the date and start putting your team of four bowlers together. "Huh? What?" you say: just Google "Conway Irish Road Bowling," and you'll get the idea. Specific details will be in the June issue of *Conway Currents*.

Bulky Waste Recycling Day

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is holding the Spring 2023 "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day on Saturday, May 13, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The three dropoff sites are: Mohawk Trail Regional School at 26 Ashfield Road (Route 112 South), Northfield Highway Garage at 49 Caldwell Road, and Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane. Residents from any district town may bring bulky items, such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

Mattresses and box springs will not be accepted. In 2022 the Solid Waste District established five permanent dropoff locations across the county for mattress recycling. See this webpage for locations, pricing, and hours: franklincountywastedistrict.org/mattress-recycling. Call the district office at 413-772-2438 if you are unsure whether your mattress and box spring can be recycled.

There are charges for most items. Disposal fees (cash only) will be collected during check-in at each site. A complete list of prices for the most common items is at franklincountywastedistrict.org. The price list will also be provided to participating town halls and transfer stations. Residents and businesses do not need to preregister.

Electronics are accepted, but residents are also encouraged to recycle computer equipment and TVs at their town's transfer station or at Greenfield Transfer Station. Staples stores accept computer equipment (no TVs) free of charge: call your local store for details.

Clean, dry textiles and books will be accepted for free reuse or recycling. Textiles must be contained inside a sturdy plastic bag. Textiles are now banned from the trash. Textile recycling accepts

95% of all textiles, including clothing or linens that are torn, stained, with missing buttons or broken zippers. Damaged textiles can be sold to manufacturers that make insulation or shop rags. Acceptable items include clean and dry clothing, shoes, and accessories, plus curtains, sheets, towels, and stuffed animals in any condition except moldy or wet. Books can be in any condition except moldy or wet, and can be hardcover or paperback. No encyclopedias.

Bulky rigid plastics will be collected separately for a special recycling program; \$5.00 per load. Acceptable items are limited to 5-gallon pails, plastic lawn furniture, plastic trash barrels, recycling bins, laundry baskets, storage totes, and milk crates. Items must be empty.

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

Conway Grammar School Spring Fling!

Conway Grammar School is hosting its first annual "Spring Fling" on Sunday, May 7, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and you're invited! This family-friendly event, located at the grammar school, will feature live global dance music by Daybreak Rumba Band and old-time fiddle jam with J. D. Golay and friends, as well as a delicious array of local food options including tamales, pizza, and baked goods. Come and visit Tom Ricardi and his birds of prey, hula hoop with "Alotta Hoopla," cozy up with the animals of Little Brook Farm, participate in an old-fashioned spelling bee at the historic schoolhouse, or just bring your outdoor blanket and enjoy spending time with your neighbors. Admission is free. Contact conwaygrammarpto@gmail.com for volunteer opportunities or inquiries.

Youth/Parent Day

Fun for kids of all ages! On Sunday, May 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., one of Conway's most popular family events – the 20th Youth/Parent Day – returns to the Conway Sportsman's Club, located on 100 acres at 245 Elmer Road – take Shelburne Falls Road to Newhall Road in Conway. The event is free and open to all Conway residents.

If you are new in town and want to meet your neighbors or just want to give your kids or grandkids a day to remember, this is the place to be! Here's a list of some of the activities and demonstrations celebrating the great outdoors:

- Tom Ricardi and his birds of prey
- Fishing in our trout pool: fishing gear provided; caught fish cleaned and packaged for kids
- Fly-tying demonstration
- Water safety demonstration by Dave MacDonald
- Birdhouse assembly by parents and kids to take home
- Casting bears', coyotes', and other animals' footprints to take home

Under the watchful eye of highly skilled instructors, kids (and maybe their parents) can learn how to use a bow. Older kids can experience shooting clay pigeons and learn about gun safety on our sporting clay range. Safety is the main feature for both lessons.

Best of all, no one goes home hungry. There'll be hot dogs, burgers, and beverages. This event is sponsored by the Conway Sportsman's Club and the Conway Police Department. For further information about the Conway Sportsman's Club and the many services we offer, go to conwaysportmansclub.org.

Conway Events Calendar

Do you have an idea for an event that would be fun or rewarding for everyone in Conway? Would you like to be part of making it happen? Conway's Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) wants to hear from you! Events bring us together, and good things happen when we work together. Many in Conway have said that when they've been lucky enough to be invited to a wedding or other event in town, they've met wonderful people here for the first time and made a new friend or have seen an old friend with whom they'd lost touch. Please email Geoffrey Baker Archambeau, CEDC secretary, with any event ideas that you'd like to get behind and see happen: geoffreybakermusic@gmail.com.

2023 Conway Festival of the Hills

Calling All Crafters! Spring is in full swing and planning is going strong for Conway's Festival of the Hills and its Craft Fair on **Sunday, October 1**, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.! This is our 59th festival, and people come from all over to be part of this charming hilltown celebration.

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

If you are a crafter interested in participating in this year's festival, please obtain a crafter application form by visiting the FOH website, festivalofthehills.com/ – under “Events” click “Craft Fair”, or by contacting the Craft Fair Coordinator, Adria Elskus, at 413-325-4883 or conwaycrafters@yahoo.com.

All crafts must be handmade by the exhibitor. No manufactured, imported, or made-from-kits goods are permitted. Applications

must be postmarked by August 14 and will be juried for craft balance and replied to by August 28. Crafters must provide their own canopy tent, tables, chairs, and other means of display. The fee for a crafter space (12' x 12') on the ball field is \$50.00, which supports the FOH Scholarship Fund for graduating seniors from the town of Conway.

Festival Planning Meeting: Wednesday May 3, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. To get the Zoom link, email festivalofthehills@yahoo.com.

The FOH Un-Tag Sale Is Coming!

On Saturday, May 20, the Festival of the Hills Un-Tag Sale will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (rain date Sunday, May 21). This year it will be in one location: the Pumpkin Hollow green on Whately Road.

What is an “Un-Tag Sale”? Generous townspeople have purged their belongings and are offering all items without a price. It is up to the generosity of the buyer to name the price and give. No set prices. No tags. Only the more valuable items will have a minimum price.

We now need sellers. Lots of them! Aren't you eager to get stuff out of those closets, garages, and attics? Aren't you ready to see friends and neighbors gathered outside for some rewarding fun? Please contact Pixie Holbrook at pjholbrook1@gmail.com to let us know that you want to join us. We will all be in Pumpkin Hollow together. We ask that you bring your own tables. We will provide you with a festival donation jar. Please let us know by May 1 so that we can plan the setup on the green.

Last year we raised just over \$4,000 to give to our graduating seniors for their postgraduation plans. Please help spread the word to family and friends near and far. See you at the Un-Tag Sale!

Upcoming Forest and Trails Work Parties

The Town of Conway owns two forested properties: the Fournier Property near the grammar school and the Town Farm Property off Cricket Hill Road. One stated objective of the Stewardship Plans developed to guide the care of these properties is removing invasive species that have become numerous in some areas on both properties. Asiatic bittersweet, honeysuckle, barberry, and multiflora rose are some of the most commonly found perennial invasive species. They threaten healthy native plant communities that offer important ecological benefits, such as sustaining biological richness, native plant diversity, and forest resilience.

The Forest and Trails Committee is monitoring and removing invasive species, and we are asking interested members of the public to join us in these efforts. If you are interested in invasive species removal; in planting native ground covers, shrubs, and understory trees; or in trail maintenance, please let us know by sending your email address to Cynthia Lawton-Singer at lagd2101@gmail.com so that we can keep you informed when these work dates are being planned.

Our next work parties are on Saturday, May 13 (rain date Saturday, May 27), and Saturday, June 17 (rain date Sunday, June 18), 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. We will meet at Conway Grammar School in front of the playground area.

The Conway Inn

by Steve Thomas

The Conway Inn was built around 1850 as an inn and stagecoach stop along the road between Albany and Boston. It was one of the first inns in Franklin County and included a stable, 12 guest rooms on the second floor, a dining room, and a large dance floor. In 1867 the proprietor cooked the Conway Centennial dinner for 1,000 folks, and served it in a tent behind Town Hall!

In 1948 the Conway Inn experienced a fire that severely damaged the building, leaving only two of its walls standing. The year after the fire, the inn was rebuilt on a more modest scale and with significantly reduced offerings for its clients. It was 25 more years before it was acquired by its present owners, Frank and Barbara Llamas.

The inn no longer offers guest rooms or full-course dinners but still has a bar, a small kitchen, and two side rooms containing pool tables and a juke box and is open 364 days a year (closed Christmas day). Made-from-scratch pizzas are available on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday late afternoons and evenings.

On the second Friday of each month, a group of musicians assembles around a pool table at 7:00 p.m. and plays a broad array of traditional bluegrass and folk songs.



And recently, starting 'Second Friday' takes advantage of the weather on a recent Friday evening. Staff photo

on the third Thursday of the month, a second group has begun to play traditional Celtic and folk music. In the summertime, these groups play in the picnic grove behind the inn. But what really makes the Conway Inn a special place to visit is Barbara Llamas herself. She is the sole bartender, who warmly greets and seems to enjoy interacting with whoever comes in the door. Barb takes every holiday VERY seriously, what with a 12-foot tall inflatable

cat on the porch for Halloween, a huge snowman at Christmastime, and seasonal decorations for just about every other holiday inside. Her Christmas tree on the porch serves successively Valentine's Day, Saint Paddy's and miscellaneous other holidays up through Cinco de Mayo, always appropriately decorated.



Third Thursday group in a recent session. Staff Photo

Rather than attempting to summarize people's impressions of Barb and the Conway Inn, we have instead chosen to paraphrase a few of their comments:

“Rather than just being a bar, this is Barb's living room, where you can come get a drink or pizza, and enjoy the robust interactions of the diverse spectrum of clients who attend.” “Before I moved here from out of state, a friend suggested that it would probably take me about 10 years to become socially integrated into a small New England town. Thanks to the Conway Inn and Joe's music group (which I joined), it took me less than one year.” “Barb is willing to do almost anything helpful to anyone without any thoughts of personal return.” “It takes a village to raise a child, but perhaps it takes a good pub to help glue a community together.”

Enough said.

Fishing Derby

More than 60 parents and kids attended the Conway Sportsman's Club's No-Ice Fishing Derby, held at the Conway pool on April 14. The bobbers bobbed, the casters cast, the bait squiggled and

wiggled like Salomé, but to no avail – not a nibble! The only bites came from the kids at the snack table. But it was a marvelously successful day, watching kids and parents share a beautiful day in our rural paradise. Many thanks to our Conway Sportsman's Club and Jimmy Recore.

The Village Movement: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The Village Movement is a national grassroots movement that coordinates critical services for older adults. Local villages connect members to a wide array of practical support services and social connections that enable older adults to age in their own homes and communities. Villages build a sense of community and offer resources, services, programs, and activities, including social and educational programs, health and wellness activities, and volunteer assistance with such things as transportation, grocery shopping, completing official documents, minor household or seasonal chores, and technology coaching.

The Conway Board of Health and Council on Aging are working together toward Conway's becoming part of the Village Movement. In order to possibly become a member town in an existing village, we need a core group of volunteers willing to serve in various capacities. Would you like to become part of this endeavor? Please contact Laurie Lucier, Clerk, Board of Health, 413-369-4235 x 8.

Make Conway Pollinator Friendly

At Town Meeting on June 3, Conway voters can show support for pollinators by passing a *nonbinding* resolution to designate Conway as a pollinator-friendly community and to prioritize native plantings in landscaping and restoration efforts. Proposed by *Pollinate Conway!*, a volunteer organization, this resolution aims to raise awareness about the serious threats to native pollinators, educate our community about the issues, and inspire our neighbors

to take steps that support pollinators, potentially helping to reverse the steep declines in insect populations.

Looking at this through the lens of human self-interest, we need pollinators to pollinate our crops. We rely on pollinators and their services for one of every three bites of food we eat. And who doesn't want the children and grandchildren of Conway to experience the beauty and wonder of a diversity of birds, butterflies, and caterpillars?

As a nonbinding resolution, this does not require anyone to change their current practices; rather, it presents ideals and goals that we aspire to. Each Conway landowner has unique circumstances. We have the right to make choices about how we use our land and to make changes at our own pace, if at all. The resolution suggests practices to consider that support pollinators, their habitats, and local ecosystems. By passing this resolution, Conway would join towns across the state from North Adams to Cape Cod declaring their communities as pollinator friendly and taking positive steps to support pollinators. We would join a growing movement that supports the health of our town and our planet for humans, for pollinators, and for other living beings.

To read the resolution and for more information about it, see the *Pollinate Conway!* link on the Open Space Committee page on Conway's website, conwayma.gov.

Library Book Sale Donations Needed

Bring us your books for us to sell! The Field Memorial Library is now accepting book donations for books in good condition. We especially welcome donations of children's books, local history, puzzles, and recent books of all genres. The spring book sale, scheduled for May 20, helps fund the work of the Friends of the Library, including our high school scholarship, musical events, extra library needs, and so on. Donations can be brought to the

library at 1 Elm Street 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. Donations should be delivered by May 13. Check the library website fieldmemoriallibrary.org/ for more information. Thank you!

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. The next meeting will be May 3. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email patricialynch@earthlink.net.

Senior Calendar for May

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 413-774-3167 x 156 (Lisa) or x 158 (Meg).

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 on May 1. Clinic hours are 9:00

a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is a \$20.00 fee. For information or to schedule an appointment, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010.

Senior Meals In most months 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 Spring is here at last, and once again the walking group has been enjoying the group's conversation and companionship while indulging in healthful exercise. Join the group on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in front of the library, weather permitting. For more information, contact 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 link.

The deadline for submission of articles and advertisements to *Conway Currents* is now 11:59 p.m. on the 15th of the month to allow for editing, layout and printing so that we meet our distribution mail date of the 1st of each month. Early submissions appreciated!

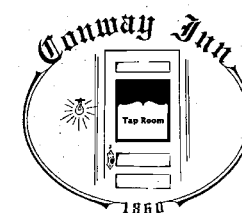
Currents Advertisements & Notices

Rates for ads up to 150 words: one month \$8.50, three months \$16.50; six months \$26.50; twelve months \$45.50. For longer ads or images (limited), email Louise at lmbeckett@crocker.com.

Pay by checking account or credit card through the town's website <https://conwayma.gov/> 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.

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 7 p.m.-ish, and third Thursday - starts around 6 p.m. - 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: 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 – freshly baked cakes, muffins, pies, and cookies – and a large selection of last-minute items. Now serving flavored iced and hot coffees, fruit smoothies, gluten-free bread and bagels and ice cream cones! Broccoli, cauliflower and other cold weather plants are



in as are pansies in 6-packs. Check us out on Facebook: facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store for today's specials.

Join Natural Roots Farm - Delicious, organically grown vegetables right here on our horse-powered farm along the South River in Conway. Enjoy this beautiful, bountiful farm and the vibrant community that we feed: Sign up for a vegetable CSA share today! We have several CSA share options, including flexible part-time shares, low-income shares, and winter shares. CSA pick-up and retail vegetable shopping is available during our main season, June through October on Tuesdays and Fridays from 3-6:30pm. Our farm store is open to the public year-round, self-serve during daylight hours. We offer eggs from our own pastured hens as well as other local items including beef, chicken, pork, dairy, baked goods, honey, maple products, coffee, tea, ice cream, snacks, beverages and more! Details on our website: www.naturalroots.com. Natural Roots, 888 Shelburne Falls Rd., Conway, MA 01341, 413-369-4269, farmers@naturalroots.com.

Jan and John Maggs Antiques -

specializing in 17th-century English oak furniture, Queen Anne and Georgian jewelry, paintings, carpets, and small accessories in our new barn in Pumpkin Hollow. New Summer Hours: most Sundays 10:00 – 4:00.



Also open by chance or appointment. Feel free to stop in whenever you see the blue doors. You can also visit our shop online at www.jmaggs.com, or you can arrange a visit by calling 369-4256 or emailing jmaggs@jmaggs.com. Our Spring Opening will be held on the weekend of Saturday-Sunday, May 6 - 7. The first two hours will be online only, but we'll open our doors for in-person shopping at noon on Saturday. We'll also be open on Sunday, the 7th. from 10:00 until 4:00, and the shop will be filled with our freshest purchases.

Wilder Hill Gardens - is now open weekends Sat./Sun. 9-6! Our annual Mother's Day Weekend Sale is Saturday and Sunday May 13-14. The Pruning Demystified Workshop is Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m.-12. Learn the secrets of successful pruning for healthy, attractive woody plants in this hands-on workshop. We propagate and grow our own flowering and evergreen shrubs, small fruits, trees, perennial flowers, annuals, herbs and cut flowers. Varieties are selected for foliage, flowers, habit and ease of cultivation, ensuring

*WILDER HILL
gardens*

that you'll have plants especially suited for Conway's climate. Wilder Hill Press Gallery will be open too with original prints, books and ceramics on display. Stop by any weekend for gardening advice from an

experienced landscape designer, and view the stone stupas, gallery, and display gardens. Lilian Jackman, 351 South Shirkshire Road, 413-625-9446. lilianjackman@gmail.com; wilderhillgardens.com.

It's May - and with warmer weather, the ground has thawed out, which means it's time to start planting summer crops and bulbs! Our Surudo-Kote long handled trowel, with its forged handle and extra reach, will slice through soil and roots without the need to get low to the ground. If you like to get your hands dirty, check out the Cobrahead: it weeds, cultivates, digs, plants and harvests with ease.

Finish cleaning up dead stems and stalks with a pair of Swiss-made FELCO pruners or snips and clean out the leftover leaves from last fall with the Groundskeeper II Rake. Need help picking the right tools for the job? Call or stop by and talk with Gemma, Rebecca or Tim! They're always happy to help. Shop where the pros shop and thanks for buying locally!



OESCO, Inc. (Orchard) M-F: 7-5; 369-4335.

Revelry 33 Exhibit - at Northampton Center for the Arts, 33 Hawley Street is extended to the end of May, including work by Debra Hoyle. Deb will also exhibit collages this spring-fall at Blake & Co, 47 Main Street, Orleans, MA, and May-July at Southern Vermont Art Center, Manchester, VT. Consider making time to visit these beautiful venues to enjoy her art as well as the work of other artists and artisans! Here in Conway, stop by to visit Deb's studio/gallery at 46 Main Street. Watch for the 'OPEN' sign and come in or call/text to set up a time. There are plenty of finished paintings and collages available and works in progress! 413-325-5579.

[instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors](https://www.instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors). Have older hard cover books or ephemera that you're clearing out of your attic or basement? Deb is looking for non collectible vintage books to incorporate into her collages. Contact her at the above phone number.

Conway Quilts - Quilt repair, restoration and cleaning – bringing new life to old quilts. Contact Carol Baldwin at 413-345-8977 – hummerzinger@gmail.com

Handmade one of a kind jewelry - made out of pounded metals, semi-precious stones and glass. I also repurpose materials I come across that need a new life! Reasonably-priced gifts for special gifting: Come see me at my Conway home on Manning Road. Please call ahead 413-387-9296. Denise Dwelley Designs

Personal Care Aide (PCA)/ Caregiver - needed in center of Conway. Assist with activities of daily living and some shopping, transportation and companionship; Provide medication reminders. Must have a valid driver's license. 15 -20 hrs./week; \$17/hour. Please contact David at 413-768-8751 if interested.

Tea at Two Gift Shop - 85 Whately Road, Conway. Handcrafted goods - jewelry, pottery, woodenware, baby items and more. See RADA cutlery and the line of Stream2Sea products: sunscreen, body and bath essentials - all ecologically friendly. Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons or by appointment. Call 413-834-2339.

Home organizing - room design, and small repairs. I'd love to help you stage your home for sale, spruce up for an event, or prepare for the next chapter of your life's journey. I'll see you through with efficiency, privacy and "the heart of a midwife." Jiyanna Vagedes, Home Consultations, Main Poland Road; 413-387-8934

Blazing Star Herbal School - Conway, MA offers in-person, 10-month Beginner/Intermediate Herbal Apprenticeships and Botanical Art In-Studio programs, both beginning in May 2023, holistic health lifestyle consults and more. For openings for our 2023 season see <https://linktr.ee/TonyaLemosArts> or contact Tony(a) Lemos blazingstarclinic@gmail.com for more info. Blazing Star Herbal School is dedicated to teaching traditional herbal medicine in a way that supports a more sustainable future for all members of the green world and shows respect for the integrity of nature. We offer a unique perspective on herbalism, weaving social and political aspects of health and healing through the study of medicinal herbs and food practices. We inspire students to find their own healing path by creating a personal relationship with the plant world. The school also serves as a local and national resource for education and networking.

Fresh, local farm food delivered right to your door! - Hart Farm CSA boxes are filled with veggies, fruits, flowers, eggs, bread, cheese, meat and more. Choose from 3 different box types and then choose your delivery dates. Delivery throughout West Franklin/Hampshire Counties every Friday, April 28th-December 1st. Pay with card/check/SNAP. We provide an accessible, convenient and flexible schedule farm box program to the community that we love. You can expect high quality, freshly picked, delicious produce infused with good vibes and delivered with a smile. More info at www.conwayhartfarm.com, conwayhartfarm@gmail.com, 413-453-9098.

I want to buy your record collection! - Hi, I live in Conway and I am a record enthusiast who wants to fill out my record collection. I love all genres including 60's, 70's, 80's rock, new wave, jazz, country and reggae and just about everything else. I am more than willing to pay for excellent records. I also love any kind of music paraphernalia. If you want to sell your collection, large or small, call me at 1-413-522-4919 billbrad@gmail.com (Bill).

Pastel Painting Sundays



Outdoors in Conway in May and June, Sundays: May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2-6 p.m., \$75/session. Soft pastel is a wonderful medium for working outdoors, and for beginning color work. So let's meet in gorgeous Conway, MA on Sunday afternoons to be outside and practice transferring the wonderful sights of nature onto paper. Each afternoon will begin with a demo, followed by a good couple hours or more for painting, and ending with a critique. Best for those with some experience with drawing and/or painting, but beginners are welcome. In case of rain we will meet indoors in the art studio at 46 Delabarre. Register at hannahharvester.com, or email hannahharvesterfineart@gmail.com

Unheard Melodies

by Nicole Braden-Johnson

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

A Supermarket In America

"In my hungry fatigue, and shopping for images, I went into the neon fruit supermarket, dreaming of your enumerations! / What peaches and what penumbras!" (From "A Supermarket in California" by Alan Ginsberg)

The American supermarket is a fascination,
A divine marketing inspiration,
A gauzy maze filled with capitalist wonder,
A place we yawn at with privileged disregard.

The worry about the surplus and the waste
Can make my teeth ache and skin itch.
There is so much here that others will never taste,
While we safely (over)fill the fridge.

Seeking snacks, I once stood as a fresh European import
In awe in the endless aisle of chips of every sort,
Crisply wrapped in shining polypropylene and resin,
In bags larger than my entire abdomen.

These days I am less bamboozled visiting
The windowless, timeless grocery store.
I try to be gratefully responsible about having too much,
And find joy choosing my way through the produce.

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

ECRLOT
BOXHOLDER
Conway, MA 01341

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