



Volume 4, Number 11 - November 2023

From the Assessors' Office

Tax bills should have been received by the time you read this; unfortunately, issues with the data extract process for billing set us back more than two weeks. Please contact our office or come in if you have any questions about your bill. We will be glad to explain it and to help solve any issues that you might have. Applications for and additional information about abatements and exemptions are available online at the town website conwayma.gov and in the Town Hall lobby, or we will be glad to mail these to you.

Abatements: If you feel that the value of your property is wrong, the way to have it reviewed and, if appropriate, changed is by the abatement process. You have 30 days from the day on which the bills were mailed to file an abatement with the assessors, so it must be filed on or before the day that the tax is due. This is the only time during the year that you can apply, and we cannot extend the filing period. You must pay the tax in full, on time, as billed if filing for abatement. Any change to your value because of an abatement being granted will show up as a credit on the April 2024 bill.

Personal exemptions: A personal exemption reduces the amount of your tax bill due to a circumstance in your life. The amount of the exemption is \$1,000 plus the CPA surcharge that was on your tax bill. Exemptions are available for (1) the legally blind, (2) veterans with a certified disability rating of 10% or more, and (3) seniors over 60 years of age as of July 1, 2023 who meet both the income and asset limits. For FY2024, the whole assets limit is \$41,000 if single and \$56,375 if married. The income limit is \$25,625 for a single person or \$56,375 for married couples. For more information, you

can go to mass.gov/info-details/taxpayer-forms-and-guides. The deadline for filing is now Monday, April 1, 2024, and cannot be extended.

Community Preservation Surcharge exemption: This is a separate exemption to remove only the CPF surcharge from your bill. It is available to anyone who meets the income limit, which is set by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. These limits are for the entire household's combined income. Please contact our office for more details. There is no deadline for applying for this exemption. This year's limits for this exemption can be seen on the town webpage.

Vote Yes for the Senior Property Tax Work-off Program

One of the articles to be voted on at the Special Town Meeting on Saturday, December 9, is a proposed bylaw that will establish a program to enable older adults to volunteer to provide services to the town in exchange for a reduction in real-estate property taxes. This is a local-option program that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts set forth in the General Laws Chapter 59, § 5K. "Local option" means that although the program was adopted by the state, local governments must vote to establish it.

Under the terms of the law, participating taxpayers volunteer their services to the town in exchange for an actual abatement of their tax bills. Taxpayers, who must be over 60 years of age, are credited at an hourly rate up to the state's current minimum wage. The maximum reduction in property tax is set at \$1,500 for 100 hours of service. Massachusetts General Law is specific in identifying this as a tax relief program. The abatement is *not* counted as Massachusetts taxable income, employment, or wages. However, it is reportable as federal income, and volunteers will be issued a W2 form. Medicare will be deducted. On the plus side, it won't affect any exemption or abatement for which a person is eligible; the reduction is *in addition to* these. If you are eligible for a personal tax exemption based on age, you are eligible for this program. And if a senior is unable to physically perform a task, they can appoint a proxy to do the work for them, with the credit being applied to the senior's tax bill.

At least 240 municipalities have adopted this program into their bylaws, representing millions of dollars in tax relief for older adults. These communities are using senior volunteers in a wide variety of positions: clerical tasks for town departments, picking up trash, friendly callers and outreach wellness visitors for the COA, helpers at transfer station recycling sheds, shelving books at the library, leading exercise classes and walking groups, as instructors in tai chi and technology classes. . . . Wherever volunteers are needed, older adults can fill in.

Adopting this bylaw will be a win-win situation for both volunteers and the Town of Conway. Older adults will be able to use the skills they have acquired throughout their working lives in service to the town. The town will benefit by having a corps of volunteers to fill currently unmet needs. Vote *yes* to help make Conway an even more age-friendly community than it currently is!

Festival of the Hills Thank You

We couldn't have done it without you . . . and that amazing weather! As the Board of the Festival of the Hills, we want to thank you all so much for making it all happen, so well and so full of kindness and community. We want to thank our committee heads in particular. These are the folks who knew just what to do and got it done with help from many other volunteers. We want to thank the following:

- Advertising: Michelle Harris, who reached out to sponsors for those very important donations and ads!
- Art show: Aimee Anderson, who displayed our stunning local art in our library for so many to enjoy!
- Bake Sale: Gail Connelly, whom we missed a lot but who sent Charlene Galt to take on the responsibility and make it happen!
- Café Conway: Michelle Sanger, who did it just right again and sold delicious drinks and treats to so many!
- Candy: Rena Moore, who made hundreds (maybe thousands!) of delicious candies for us to spend our money on easily!
- Cider: Stacie Beck, who made sure we were drinking delicious local cider throughout the day!

- Children's activities: Adria Elskus and Sheila Harrington, who made a lot of kids happy with the help of many teen and adult helpers from town as well as from the Greenfield Savings Bank!
- Crafts: Adria Elskus, who brought in local crafters to sell their beautiful items!
- Exhibitors: Phyllis Jeswald, who encouraged exhibitors of local interest to join us, teach us, and display their work!
- Festival website: Michele Turre, who kept the festival website up to date and added the critically important volunteer sign-up button!
- Food vendors: Sheila Harrington, who invited local food trucks to set up and feed us oh, so well!
- Fried dough: Teresa Brockriede, who made everyone's favorite fried dough!
- Green team: Jody Lally and Pixie Holbrook, who were committed to responsible control of the festival's waste and sent only a single bag of trash to the transfer station, the remainder going to compost or recycling!
- Info booth: Adria Elskus, who made sure the public's questions were answered!
- Logistics: Camille Balestri, who parked all those cars!
- Logsplitting: Nick Potter and Maggie Sawma, who entertained us with amazing competitors who split a whole lot of wood!
- Merchandise: Candida Canepa, who offered festival merchandise for sale to lots of loyal and happy customers!
- Music: Janet Ryan, who entertained us with local music enjoyed by all throughout the day.
- Parade: Kat Llamas, who pulled off another great parade! Where did she get all those stunning vintage cars?
- Program: Jack Harrison, who gets it all into print just perfectly!
- Publicity: Thad Bennett, who let people near and far know that something special was going to happen in Conway!
- Raffle: Phyllis Jeswald, who brings together lovely raffle items that get to go home with the happy persons with the right raffle tickets!
- Road race: John Reino, who encourages runners from all over

- Franklin County to run our beautiful roads!
- Setup/take down: Sue and Dave MacDonald, Jim Bosman, and Peter Jeswald, who get all those tents and signs set up just days before (and only one day before when it's raining!) and then get them all to disappear the very next day!
- Skillet toss: Jim and Stephanie Recore, who bravely and enthusiastically run our very special attraction that just can't be missed!
- Social media: Eliza Langhans, who helped us advertise and attract folks to our special event!
- Teens and tweens: Peter Jeswald, who helped young folks compete and laugh a lot!
- Trifold mailer: Louise Beckett, who formatted and sent the attractive mailer to all of Conway!
- Volunteers: The festival board, who got so many of you here to make it all happen! Thank you!

It takes a village to run the Festival of the Hills, and we thank you all!

Winners of the Festival of the Hills Raffle

We are grateful to the donors (in italics) without whose generosity the raffle would not have been possible. All winners are from Conway unless otherwise noted.

- \$200 Grand Prize, *Baker's Country Store, Conway Inn, Joanie Schwartz, Conway Fine Arts, D&S Scuba, Integrity Design and Construction, Jerry Sawma family, YUP Coffee Roasters*: Carole Perkins (Ashfield)
- Hand-woven blanket, *Lisa Hill*: Tera Tippet
- Handcrafted pottery, *Megan Hart*: Jim Krupa
- Jewelry Set, *Eileen Schneider*: Arcaro/Meyer family
- Stoneware vase, *Bob Green*: Jody DeMatteo
- Knitted scarves, *Susan Fentin*: Robin Yerkes
- Loppers, *Orchard Equipment & Supply*: Jeanne Thomas
- Felt scarf, *McFarland's Handwork*: Leslie Wickline (South Deerfield)
- Collage, *Debra Hoyle*: Kat Llamas

- CISA Products, *CISA*: Lisa McKenna (Greenfield Savings Bank, Conway)
- Framed B&W photograph, *Geoffrey Bluh*: Sue McFarland
- Forged bottle opener, *Bob Compton*: Chris Petersen (Northampton)
- Andy Jaffe CDs, *Andy Jaffe*: Steff Charest
- Maple syrup, *Howard and Jeanne Boyden*: Rachael Pepyne (Whately)
- Piano or voice lesson, *Janet Ryan*: Liv Blumer
- Child's sweater, *Nancy Winter*: Stein Feick
- Necklace and earrings, *Denise Dwelley*: Joan Gravel
- Handmade cards, *Robin Yerkes*: Kieran Lally
- Herbal body products, *Sara Coblyn/Sweet Roots Garden*: Emily Lucerno
- Goodies from Provisions, *Benson Hyde/Provisions*: Bill Blumer, Heather Lantz
- YUP Coffee, *YUP Coffee Roasters*: Tricia Vinchesi
- Hat/glove/scarf sets, *Dawn Dowd*: Emily Lucerno
- Cross-stitch, *Phylis Dacey*: Carolyn Thayer
- Children's books, *Peter Rosnick*: Chris Petersen (Northampton)

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who purchased tickets in support of the Festival of the Hills Scholarship!

From the Conway Firemen's Auxiliary

Looking for a way to do some community service but don't have a lot of free time? The Conway Firemen's Auxiliary is a small organization in town looking for someone like you. We meet only six or eight times a year for an hour in the evening. Annually we put on a turkey dinner the weekend of the Festival of the Hills, arrange the Halloween Rag Shag Parade with refreshments, and collect scholarship applications in the spring. Currently our members range in age from 19 to 87. When disaster hits and the firefighters are called on, we are behind the scenes providing them with water, Gatorade, and often sandwiches. You don't have to have any

connection to the fire department to join. Come and talk to our members at the next meeting at the fire house on November 14 at 6:30 p.m., and you can decide if this something in which you would be interested!

Thank you to everyone who attended, ordered takeouts for, or made a donation to the annual Firemen's Auxiliary Turkey Dinner, which is a fund raiser for our scholarships. We served 224 meals! It was a huge success, and we have received many positive reviews. We hope to see you again next year.

Halloween Rag Shag Parade

On Tuesday, October 31, the Conway Firemen's Auxiliary will host the traditional Halloween Rag Shag Parade for local residents. The parade will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the small common at the juncture of Shelburne Falls Road and Route 116, in front of the former Masonic Hall Building. Everyone will then follow a fire truck to the Town Common opposite the library. The auxiliary will hand out candy and serve refreshments of cider and donuts at the common from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Don't miss all the fun!

There will be no judging of costumes this year, nor will there be a pumpkin-carving contest.

Open Space Committee News

Our town of Conway made national headlines this summer when the National Weather Service reported that in July a total of 21.42 inches of rain fell on Conway, giving our town the distinctive title of "the wettest place in the U.S. and Canada." The Open Space Committee would like to report some heartening news in the face of this summer's storms and the damage that came with them.

The 2016 Flood Mitigation Project at the South River Meadow is working – and the new trees are doing great! Some historical context: In 2013 the Conway All Town Meeting approved Community Preservation Funds as a match for a Mass DEP grant-

funded floodplain restoration and bank stabilization project implemented at the town property known as the South River Meadow. The meadow is located off Shelburne Falls Road near the town center.

The DEP-approved design involved two features: On the Shelburne Falls Road side of the river, a 1½-acre area of the 4½-acre agricultural field beside the river was lowered three feet to create a retention basin and reconnect the river to its natural floodplain. On the Elm Street side, the bank that was eroded dangerously close to a home during tropical storm Irene was reinforced with weirs made of boulders sticking out into the watercourse, and between the weirs, large tree stumps were driven into the riverbank.

Project data collected: Since the work was completed in 2016, high water events have brought the river into the retention basin at least 14 times, including during July's storms. When water flows into the basin, it relieves the speed and volume of water headed downstream, and because the water is no longer forced into a narrow channel along that stretch of the river, the high-water level is diminished during floods immediately upstream.

The good news: It is notable that during the latest series of storms that did so much damage to Conway's roads and agricultural fields, the reinforced riverbank on the Elm Street side of the river experienced no erosion. Natural materials methods such as those employed along this stretch not only prevented erosion but improved the habitat for aquatic life by helping the river to form pools instead of broad stretches of shallow water too warm for fish and other organisms. During these storms, the retention basin at the South River Meadow flooded, taking in water just as it was designed to do!

But wait, there's more good news: The 2022 tree-planting effort at the South River Meadow, funded by the New England Forestry Foundation, fared quite well in the storms. A few saplings washed away, but nearly all the 70-plus trees and shrubs held up just fine. Thanks again to the many Conway conservation enthusiasts who

volunteered their time and elbow grease last year to get the trees in the ground.

Conway Mall Update

The Conway Mall will close its doors for the fall season on **November 12**. The Mall will take donations through **November 7** for the mavens to begin preparations to clear out as much as possible for the winter months of rest.

The mall will resume its spring schedule on **April 6, 2024**, including accepting donations. Over the winter we will be revising our guidelines for accepting donations. You can expect to see these published in the March 2024 issue of *Conway Currents*.

If you have any time available to help us staff the mall next year, please reach out to me. While we prefer someone who is available for a consistent window, we appreciate all offers. Feel free to call if you have any questions. I can be reached at 413- 695-5626.

Thank you so much for supporting the Conway Mall this year as helpers, donors, and shoppers.

Conway Historical Society

On Tuesday, November 14th, at 7:30 p.m., the Conway Historical Society presents *Maple Sugaring in Conway: the Boyden & Burnett Farms* at the Historical Society Museum, 50 Main Street. The two farming families, the Boydens and Burnetts, came to Conway in the mid-18th century and have produced maple syrup for many years. Howard Boyden and Bill Burnett, both 8th generation Conway farmers, will talk about their experiences and accomplishments in the maple sugaring industry and discuss how the collection of sap and processing of syrup has changed over time. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For weather/updates: www.conwaymasshistory.org

Historic Deerfield Passes: Two passes are available to Conway residents, and each pass admits up to four people. To reserve, call or text Joe Zadroga at 413-824-2719. It's best if you can give 24-48 hours' notice. Passes should be picked up either the day before or the day of your planned visit, and must be returned immediately following your use so that others may enjoy them! For more information on Historic Deerfield, including hours, see historic-deerfield.org. Note: Historic Deerfield closes for the season November 26.

Announcing the Ryan Scholarship

The Friends of the Field Memorial Library is excited to announce the Ryan Scholarship, honoring Conway's Ryan Walsh Martel (November 11, 1980 – March 4, 2022). The scholarship is, in part, a response to Conway being named "the wettest place in America for the month of July." The scholarship, reflecting Ryan's passion about energy policy and reducing the impact of climate change for the sake of future generations, will be awarded to the Conway high school graduating senior who presents the best plan, through education or work, that reflects Ryan's passion.

Ryan Walsh Martel grew up in Conway and attended Conway Grammar School, Frontier Regional for middle-school, Deerfield Academy, Bowdoin College, and Georgetown University. He had an active career in environmental regulatory policy on state, national, and international levels until his death from brain cancer in 2022. Mary Walsh Martel, Ryan's mother, commented, "The library was always a center of educational life for Ryan and his friends growing up. Having the Friends of the Field Memorial Library sponsor this scholarship helps us all remember the important role libraries play in our small towns." For more, read the *Greenfield Recorder* article at recorder.com/New-scholarship-established-in-Conway-with-hopes-to-inspire-climate-awareness-52430919.

Initial donations of over \$13,000 have already been received, exceeding our November 11 (Ryan's birthday) goal. Now we are shooting for a big goal of \$41,000 (Ryan's age in 2022). The Ryan Scholarship Committee, made up of friends and supporters who

knew Ryan and admired his work, has arranged for St. John's Episcopal Church in Ashfield to be the tax-exempt fiscal agent for this effort. Donation checks should be made out to "St. John's Episcopal Church" with "Ryan" in the memo line and sent to the Ryan Scholarship, c/o Walsh-Martel, 324 South Shirkshire Road, Conway, MA 01341. Or donate online at [The Ryan at GoFundMe](#) or scan the QR code. For more information contact Thad Bennett, Coordinator, The Ryan Scholarship, theyanscholarship@gmail.com.



Notes from an Old House

by Julia Carroll

There were a lot of doors in this old house. Granted, there were also a lot of rooms. Even so, within the first six months of living here, my wife and I realized there were more doors than doorways, and a third of them we'd just pulled out of an attic. This latest discovery brought the total to somewhere near forty – I forget whether the final count was 37 or 38 – and while some were in use, hanging in doorframes where they belonged, over half were not. They were busy being . . . everywhere else: one pile leaning in a corner, removed by us to make it easier to extract items left behind by the previous owners (piano, anyone?); another stack placed against the upstairs banister. The attic collection was by far the most colorful, and once we'd pulled them all down we were presented with something of a history of our house as told through doors.

I don't know much about doors, but one of my favorite books does. *Restoring Your Historic House* by Scott Hanson (2019) has excellent photos and descriptions of house architecture from the past several centuries. Flipping through it, I found every era of door fashion since the late 1700s represented, and our attic had them all: thin, four-paneled doors that are our home's originals, most of which are thankfully still intact; heavier, thicker wooden doors that would probably have been used as exterior entries, but which I tend to

associate with the craftsman bungalow style; doors with glass panels halfway down, and some with glass reaching down to the floor; mid-20th century louvered doors and slightly later hollow-core ones. Then there were the oddballs: a five-foot tall barn door; a charming five-paneled door, the kind popular in the U.S. around 1900; a mysterious little door, too small to walk through but too large to be a cabinet front. We think it may have been used somewhere around the original fireplace.

Recollecting that snowy day we climbed up into the attic to remove whatever items we could to put into our zillionth dumpster, I remember being unsure what we were going to drag out of there. With our flashlights we could



see that there were a few doors stacked up, but we didn't know there would be over a dozen, and we certainly didn't expect them to be as interesting as they were. Although quite a few were too far gone for repair, those in the accompanying photo we kept and intend to restore. If all goes well, they'll rejoin their peers as important members of our house, living on if not as doors, then as functional art. There's too much history in these doors to let them go.

A Conway Story

by Cheryl Case

So, back in 2015 I was going through that phase of brand-new car love. I would glance out the window in the morning to see my gorgeous blue Subaru in the driveway. I'd carefully wipe off any drips of gas when I refilled the tank. A person who has had this experience is lucky in life. My car is a hatchback, so I could pop the

dog into the way-back, take her for a swim in the South River, and pop her back in there wet and muddy. A true Conway pleasure.

One day in 2015 I was in the river with the dog and was, most unfortunately as it turned out, wearing shorts with wide-open pockets where I had cleverly stowed my keys. The keys splashed into the river and were very much Gone. After the walk home, I still loved my car, but I had to use the only spare key for the next eight years, and I needed a new PO box key and house key.

Fast forward to August 2023 and another true Conway pleasure: I was at the post office to pick up the mail, and Kevin, with his usual efficiency and good humor, casually handed me my long-lost keys.

A Conway person with the keenest eyes on our planet had been out walking the river and found my keys. The PO box key made it possible to identify the owner and return them to me after they had spent eight years in the river. Remarkably, the house key and PO box key still worked. When my partner took apart the car key, removed the mud, and replaced the battery, it also worked as if it were brand-new all over again. Thanks, Conway stranger and Kevin! You've brought many chuckles to my friends and family in the past month. And I now clip my keys to my clothing when I go to the river!

Update from the Field Memorial Library

The FML has experienced a dramatic increase in circulation since December 7, 2022, the day we went “live” on CWMars (CWM) after three years of preparation. This was close to the middle of our reporting year, allowing a comparison of the two segments. From July 1, 2022, to December 5, 2022, when circulation was managed the same way as it had been for 122 years, the FML circulated 925 items, typical for us. However, from December 7, 2022, when CWM went operational, to June 30, 2023, the FML circulated 2,247 items: a 143% increase in circulation! The weekly net addition in volume since joining CWM is roughly 70 to 100 more items. These numbers are dramatic and significant.

Another way to view circulation at the FML since joining CWM is by the day. From July 1, 2022 to December 5, 2022 (pre-CWM), the FML circulated 925 items over the 61 days we were open, an average of 15.1 items/day) From December 7, 2022, to June 30, 2023 (post-CWM), was 83 days when we averaged 27 items/day: an increase of 180%!! In a classic case of “be careful what you wish for,” the FML must now find ways to meet the surge in demand from the community generated by the vast increase in access to digital resources that CWM affords. The weekly net addition in the volume of circulation since joining CWM is about 70 to 100 more items per week. More staff time is needed to meet these needs as each piece of the increased circulation must be handled and processed individually.

Conwayans rely on digital resources as their normal way of getting information and for a wide range of needs that the library can and should provide. Will the successor(s) to Marshall Field come forward to fund our new need for staff? Please help us to fund this most important, historic, and unique resource supporting our town. Checks made out to the Field Memorial Library may be sent to the director at PO Box 189, Conway, MA 01341.

Meanwhile, we are happy to report that we had a most excellent concert at the FML on a beautiful September afternoon. Musicians Katie Clarke and Larry LeBlanc cast their magic spell; the Friends of the FML supported the event with tents, chairs, and refreshments; and the Conway Police Department closed our patch of Elm Street so that approximately 70 attendees could sit comfortably outside. We also had over 400 visitors when the FML turned into an art gallery for the Festival of the Hills on October 1: a stunning achievement thanks to many volunteers and area artists. Last, but certainly not least, the Friends of the FML held another of their fantastic book sales, which provide a wide spectrum of reading resources to area residents at super-low prices while still adding to funds available for programs and other activities at the library. Thank you, Friends!

David Whittier, Director, Field Memorial Library
director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org
Phone: 413-369-4646 fieldmemoriallibrary.org

Notes from the Town Administrator

Looking ahead, there will be a special Town Meeting on Saturday, December 9 at 1:00 p.m. at the Conway Grammar School. Please mark your calendars.

The town recently applied for and was granted \$279,000 for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program grant from the state. The purpose of the grant is to find ways to alleviate flooding in the center of Conway. Data will be collected over the next few months about the flow of water in Pumpkin Hollow Brook and the South River, which will then be used to make decisions about how best to keep floodwaters from places like Main Street and Academy Hill Road. Education and information will be a big part of the grant process and has already begun with the townwide meal held in the ballfield on October 21. Next will be a guided river walk with Nicolas Miller, a fluvial geomorphologist, who has worked on the South River for years and understands it well. The river walk will be November 18 with a rain date of the 19th. More information about this event will be posted on the website. Nicolas will also be giving a talk at the Conway Historical Society in January.

The purpose of all these events is to explain past remedial work that has been done on the South River, the reasons why the data being collected this year need to occur, and to allow residents to ask questions about the process as we move forward. At the end of the grant cycle, in late spring 2024, several solutions will be put forward, and residents will have the opportunity to help the town decide which solution works best for Conway. I hope many of you will participate in this project!

May we all have a lovely and relaxing Thanksgiving.

Véronique

Open Seat on Sustainability Committee

The Conway selectboard recently agreed to incorporate the former Energy Committee into a new Sustainability Committee. This committee is working on energy- and climate-related matters,

especially as they pertain to obtaining grants to further climate resilience in Conway, and there is one seat still open on the committee. If you are interested in joining, please email Véronique Blanchard at townadmin@conwayma.gov. Thank you!

Quilt Raffle

The Conway Swimming Pool Committee is selling raffle tickets to raise money for a pavilion at the Conway Swimming Pool. Visit the [Field Memorial Library](#) to see the quilt and purchase tickets.

Sportsman's Club News

The clay pigeons are all nestled together and sleeping until the spring, the archery targets will be brought into the pavilion for winter practice, people will be searching for misplaced tip-ups and augers, the wood is stacked next to the clubhouse stove, and the Conway hunters and archers are preparing for the upcoming hunting season. The only news from the Sportsman's Club will be the stories that come out of the woods during the season.

Holiday Giving Tree

The Friends of the Field Memorial Library in Conway announces their annual Holiday Giving Tree. No dumb gifts this year. Give the gift of helping others!

We invite Conway residents to start thinking about supporting the Holiday Giving Tree, which again will support the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry and provide items to local families that are struggling. The food pantry is requesting that we especially supply them with the following:

- Books for ages 2 to 18.
- Gift cards that parents could use for children's gifts. They prefer Walmart cards and hope to provide \$100 per child for holiday gifts.
- Food items that could help make cookies and sweets for the

holidays, such as flour, sugar, vanilla flavoring, almond flavoring, sprinkles, Hershey's Kisses, jams, coconut, candied fruit, marzipan filling, and so on. These are usually too expensive for people to buy on their own.

- Basic toiletries but with a seasonal "flavor" and maybe a bit special.

The tree will be in the library from November 27 through December 18 and is located in the beautiful Italianate rotunda. It will be decorated with envelopes in which you can leave gift cards, donations, notes of support, and the like for the people who use the food pantry. In addition, there will be colorful gift bags available in which you can place donated items and/or take to fill and bring back. The library is open to receive donations each Monday from 3:00-6:00 p.m., Wednesday from 2:00-7:00 p.m., and Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

NOTE: Since the food pantry will distribute most holiday items on Tuesday, December 12, we will try to get the early donations to them in time to distribute during these pre-holiday weeks. Later donations will be brought to the food pantry after December 18. For more information go to ashfield.org/2391/Hilltown-Churches-Food-Pantry. For the library, go to fieldmemoriallibrary.org/

Senior Thanksgiving Dinner

Celebrate an early Thanksgiving holiday with the Council on Aging at the Conway Sportsman's Club on Elmer Road. The COA is holding a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings at the club on Thursday, November 9. The meal will be served at 12:30 p.m., but come early to socialize with your friends and neighbors. Those who attended last year's dinner will attest to the variety, quality, and quantity of food – and the pies galore! Suggested donation \$10.00. To reserve a place, call Carolyn Thayer at 369-6948.

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 November 1. For

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

Senior Calendar for November

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 **NOTE:** Please, when loaned equipment is no longer needed, call Hank in order to return it.

"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). **Note:** COVID vaccine will be available at the November 3 clinic. Call to reserve a dose.

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.

Mah Jongg A Mah Jongg group meets at Town Hall at 10:00 a.m. every Wednesday. This group plays the Wright-Patterson style of Mah Jongg, which was created by the Officer's Wives Club at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the early 1920s. For more information, contact Phylis Dacey at 369-4326.

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 November 6. 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. Meals may be eaten in or picked up at noon. For more information or to be added to our email or phone list for announcements, call Carolyn Thayer at 369-6948. On Thursday, November 9, the COA is holding a traditional Thanksgiving dinner at the Conway Sportsman's Club. Call Carolyn for reservations.

Walking Group 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.

Currents Advertisements & Notices

Rates for ads up to 150 words are: one month \$8.50, three months \$16.50; six months \$26.50, twelve months \$45.50. For cost of longer ads or to include images (limited), call or email Louise at 413-559-1180 or lmbeckett@crocker.com.

Get your holiday shopping done early - and support your local church by shopping for Rada Cutlery and Big Y gift cards. All cutlery is made in the USA and includes a lifetime guarantee. This fine cutlery is in high demand - the stylish design makes it attractive but still retains quality that will last a lifetime. Choose from many options, sure to help you in performing any kitchen task and creating all your favorite recipes, and your purchases will support the United Congregational Church! To order, use this simple link: bit.ly/3mTpO18. Paper catalogs available by request by contacting Tina Burnett at 369-8035 or 16xcmom@gmail.com. Tea at Two has RADA items available for ordering and viewing, as well as baby bibs and ornaments. Big Y gift cards are available for purchase at the church on Sunday's or by contacting Tina.

Wilder Hill Gardens - Annual Wreath Making Workshop, Saturday/Sunday, December 2-3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Drop in anytime this weekend to learn

WILDER HILL
gardens

the traditional art of hand weaving fresh greenery into holiday decorations for indoors or outside. You will have a one of a kind wreath made from the exceptionally fresh greens of unusual varieties harvested from our fields. All materials provided. \$25/wreath, \$20/swag. Wilder Hill Press open house is Saturday/Sunday, December 2-3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Shop for original prints, books and ceramics. Copies of *Violeta: One Dog's Journey*, a tale of migration, friendship, and farming for 6-12 years will be available. Lilian Jackman, 351 South Shirkshire Road, Conway, MA. lilianjackman@gmail.com; 413-772-9065; wilderhillgardens.com

Jan and John Maggs Antiques - specializing in 17th-century English oak furniture, Queen Anne and Georgian jewelry, paintings, carpets, and small accessories. Our big news this month is our Fall Opening on November 4 & 5. The shop will be full of recent purchases, on view for the first time. We'll be open from noon until 4:00 on Saturday and from 10:00 until 4:00 on Sunday, displaying some exceptional early furniture, jewelry, paintings, and smalls. Our shop is open by chance or appointment. Visit us online at www.jmaggs.com or stop in whenever you see the blue doors on the front of the barn. Alternately, arrange an in-person visit by calling us at 369-4256 or emailing jmaggs@jmaggs.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. **Open Thanksgiving 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Order Thanksgiving pies until November 22. Order wreaths and cemetery boxes - 369-4936. Find a variety of homemade desserts and baked goods - freshly baked cakes, muffins, pies, and cookies - and a large selection of last-minute items. We have flavored iced and hot coffee, fruit smoothies, gluten-free bread and bagels, and ice cream cones! Check us out on Facebook: facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store for today's specials. **Help wanted** for 1-6 p.m. Must be 17 or older. Apply during store hours.

BAKER'S
COUNTRY
STORE

Natural Roots Farm - We are a horse-powered CSA farm located along the South River right here in Conway. Enjoy this beautiful, bountiful farm and the vibrant community that we feed. 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.

November - means it's time to start thinking about snow cleanup and the upcoming holidays.

Protect your hands when working in the cold with a pair of gloves from our large selection; we have plenty of styles and sizes to choose from, like our Thermal Lined or Frost Breaker Gloves. We even have gloves for the kiddos! The Seymour 24" Snow Pusher and 18" Snow Scoop make cleanup a breeze as they glide through the snow. Perhaps it's time to start planning your holiday meals. *The Harvest Baker*, and *The Pumpkin Cookbook* are perfect for fall and will get you in the cooking spirit. It's never too early to think about the perfect gift and OESCO gift cards fit the bill. Available now! Stop by or give us a call. Shop where the pros shop and thanks for buying locally! OESCO, Inc. (Orchard) M-F: 7-5; 369-4335



Debra Hoyle Studio and Gallery - 46 Main Street: Showing paintings and collages by appointment or by chance. Accessible; browsers welcome. Deb is inspired by our landscape, the river, and the beauty of natural elements. Her work reflects a love of design, color, texture, shapes, and words. Most works available, including framed and unframed sketches at reasonable prices. This season Deb exhibits a selection of pieces at the Southern Vermont Arts Center semi-annual members' show. If you're out exploring southern Vermont, consider stopping at the beautiful SVAC galleries in Manchester, VT. Members' show is located in the Yester House galleries, and there is a wide variety of fine arts on display November 18, 2023-March 3, 2024. www.svac.org Deb has a solo show for the month of December at Hosmer Gallery, Forbes Library, 20 West Street, Northampton. Contact: <http://instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors>; 413-325-5579

Conway artist Hannah Harvester - warmly invites you to her Holiday Open Studio, December 16 & 17, 1-5pm, at 46 Delabarre Ave. Come for tasty treats, surprise musical guests, and original art. Been before? Come to see HH's newest pieces, hot off the easel. Never been? Hannah's work hangs in ten Conway homes . . . come see what the fuss is all about! Hannah will be showing and selling new pastel and oil paintings, many of Conway scenes, as well as original hand-printed holiday cards. Can't make it? Visit HannahHarvester.com for all your Conway-themed art needs. Open studio attendees have access to framed work that's unavailable online.

Viola and violin lessons at Conway Fine Arts - Openings available for individual and group viola and violin lessons at Conway Fine Arts' new location at 86 Main Street. Teaching children and adults of all levels, beginner to advanced. Study music with Geoffrey Archambeau, a professional classical violist and violinist with decades of experience performing and teaching. Improve how you play, listen, and hear music. For more information, contact Geoffrey by email at conwayfinearts@gmail.com or by phone at 215-760-0729.

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).

Qigong Class for All - Qi ("Chi") is energy, vital force. Part of traditional Chinese medicine Qigong is about mastering your own energy. When you have sufficient and balanced Qi, you have no fire; you are at peace. When you have too much, Qigong practice can balance its excess. Qigong coordinates body movements, dynamic and static postures, breathing exercises and meditation. Acupressure protocols are used to alleviate blockages. Qigong is energy cultivation: it's about aligning body, mind and spirit in one, to help bring clarity, awareness, balance, longevity, peace and fun. Just bring a mat and water! Class led by Alexandre Pazmandy, LMT- Every Saturday 10-11 a.m., 86 Main Street, \$25; Walk-ins welcome. 413-362-5173 - <https://ap.massagetherapy.com>

Need Live Music? - Katie Clarke and Larry LeBlanc are your Conway connection for old-time country, bluegrass, folk, Irish and original tunes. Private events, weddings, house parties, memorials, etc -we've got you covered. We've got guitars, mandolins, banjos, vocal gymnastics, even accordions! We can customize material according to your needs. Call Katie at 413-695-7193 or email me at kclarkewaddell@gmail.com

Looking to sell or buy a home? - Conway native Laura (Kuzdeba) Dziura is here to help you navigate today's real estate market, while providing exceptional support along the way. Buying and selling throughout the Pioneer Valley - contact Laura today: laurad@delaprealstate.com or 413-695-3743.

For rent - One bedroom log cabin on 1.5 wooded acres. Oct. 1 - June 1. 5 minutes drive to Shelburne Falls. 2 miles to Natural Roots CSA Farm Store. Newly furnished. \$1,600 plus utilities & plowing. Forced hot air heat. Washer dryer in basement. High speed Internet. No pets. There are a few plants that need watering. Check www.airbnb.com or www.vrbo.com for Cozy Country Retreat Cabin located in Conway, MA for photos. 207-632-6698.

House Above The Hollow - Need accommodations for visiting family or friends? House Above The Hollow is a charming one-bedroom apartment in a lovely Greek Revival home overlooking historic Pumpkin Hollow. For more info visit airbnb.com House Above The Hollow.



Early jazz, old time, and bluegrass at the Conway Inn, December 9, 7 - 10 p.m. Unknown world famous local acts Ernest Whisperholler and the Mill River Rounders. Can a washtub bass cause holistic rejuvenation? Find out through trial and error on December 9!

Town of Conway
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