



Volume 4, Number 12 - December 2023

Notes from the Town Administrator

There will be a special town meeting on Saturday, December 9, at 1:00 p.m. at the Conway Grammar School. Childcare is available; you can reserve your spot by emailing our principal, Kristen Gordon, at kristen.gordon@frsu38.org up to three days before town meeting. There are nine articles on the warrant, which will be mailed to every household. Some are fairly routine, but one will be of interest to all, as Conway will have to borrow funds to be able to pay for the repairs to our town roads that have been done and are ongoing.

Our Highway Department has been working tirelessly to get us back to some semblance of normalcy, and 95% of their time since the floods has been spent on road repairs. This unforeseen work does not come without a price tag, and most of the costs have been for materials. As you all may know, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) did not believe that cost estimates met the threshold for requesting a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declaration. This means our only option for being made whole financially rests with our state legislators. As of this writing there are bills in both House and Senate for disaster relief funds to help the municipalities that had disasters this summer and fall, as well as a bill to create an emergency disaster relief fund for MEMA itself, which currently does not have any monies to allocate to municipalities that face disasters but do not meet federal guidelines for aid.

Our estimated damages for the two storms, for which states of emergency were declared on July 10 and 21 and are still in effect, are \$3.9 million. As the bills keep coming in, and the town has to

pay its vendors, the state approved our emergency deficit spending of up to \$3.9 million. Currently just over \$530,000 has been spent to fix our roads since July, and there is much more work to be done, which is estimated to cost the town \$1.5 million by June 30 of 2024. The town does not have this much in cash reserves, so we will need to borrow those funds to keep us afloat, which is why there is a \$1.5 million borrowing article on the warrant for special town meeting. There is a chance that the state will come through with some funds for Conway. We are hopeful that this will be the case and we can amend the article on the floor of town meeting. Please understand that the town has no choice but to continue to fix the roads, and therefore has no choice but to borrow funds to keep us going. Conway officials are doing all they can to advocate for funds from the state to lessen or remove this heavy financial burden on us.

I hope to see many of you on the ninth and wish everyone a joyful holiday season!

Véronique

Conway Aggregation News

by Bob Armstrong

Conway has municipal aggregation, a program that enables our town to aggregate the electrical load of participating residents and buy power on their behalf instead of from Eversource. All residents have the choice of having their power purchased by Eversource, by our aggregation, or by a private supply company. We are just finishing a three-year contract we signed with a power generator, Dynegy, and have benefitted from the very low rates we obtained just as the pandemic was starting. Our aggregation offers the choice of three products with various levels of additional renewable power: either no additional green power (the same as Eversource), 25% more green power than the law requires, or power that's 100% renewable. We currently pay a supply charge of about nine, ten, and thirteen cents per kilowatt hour for these three

products. Eversource is currently charging about 22 cents for power they buy on your behalf. Almost all Conway residents have selected the 25% additional green product, which matches the results of the survey we sent out when we formed the program.

Two big changes are about to happen. We have signed a new two-year contract with Dynegy that is a good deal but not the *great* deal we got three years ago. Our three products will each be about five cents higher than we have been enjoying, so about 14, 15, and 18 cents for these same products. Eversource has just announced their rate, which will also begin on January 1, 2024, of almost 16 cents per kilowatt hour. Most Conway residents are enrolled in the 25% green program that will still be less than with Eversource.

We are about to send out a postcard to everyone enrolled in our aggregation with the details of the new contracts and Eversource's pricing. If you have any questions about our aggregation, how these changes will impact you, how to enroll or opt out of our program, or any questions at all, please give me a call at 413-522-7617. Thanks for supporting our town program.

Age-Friendly Conway Backs Senior Volunteer Tax Breaks

The Age-Friendly Conway working group – which recently surveyed Festival of the Hills fairgoers about the needs of older residents in town – is supporting a proposal to offer modest property tax breaks to seniors of limited means in exchange for volunteer service to the town. This tax break doesn't affect any other tax breaks for which seniors might qualify. And if a senior isn't able to physically perform a task, they can appoint a proxy to do the work for them.

At least 240 other Massachusetts communities have adopted this program, using senior volunteers for a wide variety of useful tasks, such as clerical work, transfer station duties, leading exercise groups, or teaching tech classes. The town benefits in two ways: our seniors help us, and we help them.

To support this program, vote *yes* on Article 5 at the Special Town Meeting scheduled for December 9 at 1:00 p.m. at the Conway Grammar School. Please attend and support the proposed new bylaw. We're all getting older.

Vote Yes on Article 5 for Senior Tax Relief

Article 5, 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. If the bylaw is adopted, the Conway Selectboard will *sort out and decided upon those details later*. 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!

Annual Holiday Giving Tree

The Friends of the Field Memorial Library invite Conway residents to join us for our third year of support for the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry and provide items to local families that are struggling. The tree is in the library through December 18 and is located in the beautiful, Italianate rotunda. It is 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, colorful gift bags are 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.

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.

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. For more information go to ashfield.org/2391/Hilltown-Churches-Food-Pantry. For the library, go to fieldmemoriallibrary.org.

Please – be generous. Instead of a tie, tell him you donated to help others. Instead of one more perfume, tell her you helped someone bake Christmas cookies. And please: No more holiday sweaters! Buy and give great books for kids! No dumb gifts this year. Give the gift of helping others!

A Christmas Carol Radio Play

O come all ye Conwayans and neighbors to a reading of the classic *A Christmas Carol* on Friday, December 8, 7:00 p.m., at the Conway firehouse on Rte. 116. Become the studio audience, listen to the sound effects, marvel at the commercials, and enjoy the holiday music at station WXMAS. Enjoy seven professional actors portraying thirty characters and bringing the Christmas spirit back to all.

Details: Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Because it is a dramatic reading, it may not hold the attention of very young children. A \$10 donation is recommended, with all proceeds going to the Conway Firemen's Auxiliary Scholarship Fund and the Daniel J. Haley Scholarship Fund.

Come and celebrate with your friends and neighbors. Huzzah! Text Sir Reginald Buttinker, 413-537-9149, with questions.

Home Heating Assistance

From the FRCOG Public Health Team

Staying warm in the winter is important! With rising costs, heating your home can be stressful. That's when homeowners and renters can use fuel assistance. Because it can take six to eight weeks to process a no-cost application, it's best to start now!

You are eligible for fuel assistance if your household income is not more than 60% of the estimated state median income. For a single-person household, that's \$45,392; it's \$59,359 for two people, \$73,326 for three, and \$87,294 for four. These numbers and more information on who can get help is available on the Community Action website, communityaction.us/fuel-assistance. Locally, Community Action is the agency that processes applications; the program itself is called LIHEAP in Massachusetts. If you have not used fuel assistance in the last two years, you'll need to first apply and then have an intake.

Apply over the phone 413-774-2310 or online. An application checklist and a list of necessary documents are available online, or you can call the phone number and an automated message will guide you to the list of documents. Community Action wants its participants to know this:

- From November 15 to March 15, there is a moratorium in place that prevents your gas or electricity from being shut off if that is what heats your home.
- Fuel assistance can pay only for deliveries and heat usage from November 1 to April 30.
- This is an assistance program; you are still responsible for paying your bills.

Separate from fuel assistance, Community Action has other programs for renters and homeowners, including free energy-efficient and weatherization assessments, and programs for homeowners to fund repairs to or replacements of heating systems. They also have an Older Adult Modification Program to help eligible homeowners age in place.

If your income exceeds the income guidelines, the [Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund](#) could still help you heat your home this winter.

Annual Town Tree Lighting and Carol Sing

The annual lighting of the Conway town tree will happen on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Please come celebrate the start of the holiday season on the Town Common. We'll sing some traditional carols and have hot chocolate and cookies. The tree lighting happens no matter what the weather is, so please dress accordingly.

39th Annual Winter Solstice Storytelling Celebration

Join us at the First Congregational Church of Ashfield, 429 Main Street, on December 16 at 6:30 p.m. for an evening of storytelling and music to drive the cold winter away on the (almost) longest night of the year. Performers include special guests Larry Spotted Crow Mann and One Part Luck, as well as David Arfa, Christy Grecsek, Sonny Crawford and Emily Gopen, Yosl Kurland and Aaron Bousel, Rob Peck, Sarah Pirtle, John Porcino, ReBekka Tippens, Tim Van Egmond, and Rochelle Wildfong.

For reservations and Zoom information, please email dancing_story@yahoo.com or call 413-624-5140. Suggested donation of \$12.00-\$20.00 for adults and \$5.00-\$10.00 for children. Contributions will benefit the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, the Ohketeau Cultural Center, and the U.N. High Commission for Refugees. You are welcome to bring nonperishable food items for the Survival Center, as well as a treat to share at intermission.

If the weather is looking dicey, go to Facebook – [39th Annual Winter Solstice Celebration facebook.com](#) – to find out whether the event has been postponed until Sunday, December 17, at 3:00 p.m. – same place.

Senior Holiday Gathering

The Council on Aging will be holding its annual December holiday meal at the Whately Inn on Thursday, December 7, at noon. The buffet-style meal will be served at 12:30. The per-person cost will be \$22.00. Tips and tax will be paid for by the COA. We need 25-30

people to reserve spaces to make this event happen. For reservations call Carolyn Thayer at 413-559-0282.

Thanksgiving Dinner Thank You

On Thursday, November 9, more than thirty Conway seniors enjoyed an abundant pre-Thanksgiving feast at the Conway Sportsman's Club. The COA sends a big thank you to the Sportsman's Club for letting us use their facility. The meal could not have happened without the use of their great kitchen. A shout-out to Police Chief Don Bates, who helped with serving and other chores. A huge thank you from Carolyn Thayer, Patsy Kocot, and Hank Horstmann to all who helped, came, ate, and enjoyed.

The Festival of the Hills

It's time for change. The very dedicated Festival of the Hills Board members, who have taken on this role for years, have all decided it's time for them to leave the board, opening four positions for new members. We so appreciate how much the board members have done for so long! These past folks will be available to new board members to answer any questions they have, and one is willing to meet with the new board at their first three meetings in March, April, and May to get things going. The good news is that three people have stepped up to be new board members. We need one or two more. Know anyone? You, perhaps?

The board will need to start meeting in March, then monthly until September. Meeting virtually worked well for us. We recommend weekly meetings in September, since the festival takes place the first weekend in October. The board's role is to manage the Big Picture: any changes or additions. A new board means a chance to see and do things differently as well as keeping in place all the good things that have worked previously. Got some new ideas? A hay bale maze for little ones? A roaming magician? New food booths? The festival board also has responsibility for distributing scholarship money to

those graduating high school seniors who have applied. This is a simple and meaningful role in which we participate in May.

Most of the long list of activity coordinators are already in place, with many folks having done this very well for years. Only a few new coordinators are needed, such as for crafts and children's activities.

Yes, this news puts the festival in jeopardy . . . but we can do this again, right, Conway? If you are ready to step up or have other questions, please send your reply to Pixie Holbrook, former board member of the Festival of the Hills, at pjholbrook1@gmail.com.

Age-Friendly Conway Survey

Do you have thoughts about how we can make Conway a better place for older residents, especially those who want to stay here as they age? Your ideas can help.

Age-Friendly Conway is a town working group that hopes to make it easier to stay connected to people important to us, to stay healthy and active, even at the oldest ages, and to get support when we can no longer fully look after ourselves. While Conway already seems age friendly to many, there's more to be done, and we want to find those ways in which our town can become a better place for all of us as we age.

If you are age 55 or over, please take a very few minutes to fill out a survey online that will give us the information we need. This is the same survey some of you filled out at our tent during the Festival of the Hills. The survey will be available through December 31. Use the link, surveymonkeys.com/r/8PFYMFPP, or the QR code:



If you have ideas for making Conway more age friendly, you can also let us know directly. Contact Robin Yerkes at 413-575-7816 or robin@yerkes.com or George Forcier at 413-775-3235 or forcier1@comcast.net.

From the Archives of Conway Historical Society

Horse-drawn carriages outside the Baptist Church in 1904 on what today is appropriately called Baptist Hill. Baptist Hill Road bends to the left around the church and blends into Pine Hill Road. The site of the church is now a side yard of the home of John Crowley and Laurie Block, visible on the left side of the photo.



Courtesy of the Conway Historical Society, Gift of Grace Larson

According to the early history of Conway, *Conway 1767-1967* edited by Deane Lee, the first Baptist meetinghouse was built about 1790 near where St. Mark's Catholic Church sits today and was moved in 1810 to Baptist Hill. Oxen drew the building to a point about midway along Delabarre Avenue where it had to be taken apart, moved in sections and then reconstructed at the new location. In 1840 the meetinghouse was replaced by the one in the photograph on the same site. The new building had a spire, belfry, high-backed pews with doors and an elevated pulpit.

In 1851 the church membership had reached 155, which was probably its peak, according to Lee. Shrinking numbers of Baptists and Methodists merged into the Federated Church in 1914, with Easter service that year the last public service held in the Baptist meetinghouse. The church was razed in 1937.



Image courtesy of Craig Warner

We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!

The Conway Swimming Pool Committee is extremely grateful for the support and donations received from current and past residents as well as from friends near and far. Without your support and the support of the Conway Conservation Commission, the pool would certainly not be ready for opening in 2024. At this time we fully expect to have a beautiful and fully operating pool ready for the 2024 swimming season. The beach has been repaired, walkways reinforced, drainage systems renovated, and a pavilion is being constructed by skilled resident volunteers. The Conway Swimming Pool is unique in that it is solely operated with the labor and contributions of volunteers and available to all Conway residents and their guests.

Many thanks to all. See you at the pool in 2024!

Veterans Memorial Park Needs Your Vote

In spring 2023 the volunteer-based group *Pollinate Conway!* proposed to the Conway Selectboard a plan for planting native trees and shrubs at Veterans Memorial Park, town-owned land across the street from Town Hall. At that time, several large evergreen trees that provided screening had recently been removed from the site due to safety concerns. Aside from regular lawn mowing, other plants at the site appeared neglected. The selectboard unanimously approved the proposed plan.

Over the past year, *Pollinate Conway!* rallied groups of Conway residents to make much-needed improvements at the park. We pulled up and removed truckloads of invasive plants. Over the spring and summer, 20 volunteers applied sheet mulch (layers of cardboard and wood chips) over the intended planting area to smother poison ivy and other weeds. It took a small army to move and spread the approximately 30 cubic yards of wood chips donated by neighbors.

Recently Conway's Community Preservation Committee voted to recommend funding this planting project. At the upcoming Special Town Meeting on December 9, we have the opportunity to vote on using Community Preservation Act funds to revive the ecological health of this site. The funds would be used to remove diseased trees and to install native plants, including small trees and numerous shrubs. By choosing plants that are indigenous to Conway, we are preserving Conway's unique character while restoring habitat for birds, butterflies, and other beneficial native wildlife. For park visitors wanting to learn more, there will be plant labels and signage to help educate our community.

Please come to the December 9 Town Meeting, and vote *yes* to fund Habitat Restoration of Veterans Memorial Park with Native Plants. Voting *yes* will NOT affect your tax bill. Community Preservation Act funds already exist for projects like this.

Although the park is a small parcel, adding a diversity of native plants can make a big difference ecologically. Combined with the pollinator garden recently installed on the Town Common, this project expands support to our local birds and insects. And people will find it more pleasant to visit too.

Come Play Pickleball in Conway!

Our outdoor equipment is stored until spring, but our indoor court is now available and is in the Town Hall gym. We have set up open-play time slots to encourage people to play and learn how to play. Open-play time is for players of all levels. Beginners are welcome. Pickleballers are a friendly group and love to teach others the game, so just give us a heads up and let us know you are new and we will help you along. We also have some advanced-level play times. To participate in any play time, we ask that you use the sign-up genius below so that you can see how many players may be coming and any other announcements. Bring a friend or two and pass the link along if you like, and have fun!

You can find a slot and sign up on the town calendar at conwayma.gov, which will then direct you to the sign-up genius app or use the QR code: Email me at ConwayMAPickleball@gmail.com. At this time, the indoor court will not be available for private party reservations.



Update from the Field Memorial Library

It is with mixed feelings that I report that I will be retiring as director of the Field Memorial Library as of December 31, 2023. It has been my pleasure to serve the Conway community at the library, and I have thoroughly enjoyed interacting with so many kind, friendly, and informed citizens of Conway. As is typical for a library, those who come in have a wide variety of interests and meeting those interests with library resources is a great pleasure. I am grateful that the trustees have entrusted me to manage the library since July 1,

2019, and before that, to help as library assistant since September 2017. However, given that life goes on, so must I.

I will miss working under the dome, but I am glad to feel that I am leaving FML in good condition going forward. With our CWMars system in place and operating fully, our collection rich and diverse, recent improvements to exterior lighting adding safety in ways consistent with the building and its history, and new programs in the works for 2024, I feel that the FML is ready for its next 122 years! It has been my pleasure to serve and get to know some of the Conway community and to leave thinking the library is ready for new challenges and opportunities, as well as remaining our cultural landmark.

In other news, the FML Friends group is busy as usual, welcoming donations to the Holiday Giving Tree to benefit the Hilltowns Food Pantry in Ashfield. On Saturday, December 16, at 1:30 p.m. the Friends of the Conway Swimming Pool will announce in the library the winner of the beautiful quilt created by Michelle Sanger to help fund the building of a pavilion at the pool. Until then you can still pick up a raffle ticket in the library.

Thanks to all, especially our library trustees and our Friends group, who make the library a thriving part of the Conway fabric of life in a small town with strong links to all of Massachusetts and beyond, but especially to western Mass. Please drop by in December and say hello. All best, David.

David Whittier, Director, Field Memorial Library
director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org 369-4646
<https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org>

Strength and Balance Program for Seniors

Do you want to get stronger? Improve your balance? Spend fun quality time working out with a community of Conway seniors without leaving your house? Then join us at Healthy Bones and Balance (HBB), a strength and fitness program for Conway seniors

that is conducted via Zoom every Tuesday and Friday at 9:00 a.m. The Tuesday class is 45 minutes long, and the Friday class is 30 minutes.

In every class we do a warmup followed by exercises for upper body strength, lower body strength, core, and balance. We have been going strong (and getting stronger) with eight to ten regular participants since April 2020. We may be getting older, but we do not have to get weaker.

If you are interested in joining us or trying us out, call our leader, Gary Fentin of Roaring Brook Road, Conway at 369-0001 or email him at gary@gsfentin.com. Gary is an RSVP-certified HBB instructor and a twenty-three year resident of Conway. No prior experience with strength training or use of Zoom is required. Upon request Gary will provide an introductory session to review the mechanics of Zoom and the classes. RSVP provides dumbbells that can be loaned to you for use in the program. Join us!

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 December 6. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email patricialynch@earthlink.net.

Senior Calendar for December

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).

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 December 4. 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 413-559-0282. On Thursday, December 7, the COA is holding its annual December holiday meal at the Whately Inn. The per-person cost is \$22.00, with tax and tips paid for by the COA. Call Carolyn for reservations.

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.

Pay by checking account or credit card through the town's website

<https://conwayma.gov/> > How do I . . .? > Pay for > Newsletter Advertising; or send a check to made out to **Town of Conway** with **Conway Currents** in the memo section, to PO Box 240, Conway, MA 01341. Please send the text of your advertisement to Louise by email at lmbeckett@crocker.com. **Deadline is the 15th of the preceding month.**

The Town of Conway would like to hire a local, licensed carpenter to do some repair work to the transfer station attendants' shed and the Conway Mall. If you are interested, please contact Véronique Blanchard at 413-369-4235 x 3 or townadmin@conwayma.gov - Thank you!

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. - each month! Look for the blue flag on the porch. **Special Event: December 9, 7 - 10 p.m. Ernest Whisperholler and the Mill River Rounders: Early jazz, old time, and bluegrass at the Conway Inn!**



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. **Closing Christmas eve 1 p.m.; Closed Christmas day; Closing New Year's eve 1 p.m. Open New Year's day 7-3.** Find a variety of homemade desserts and baked goods and a large selection of last-minute items. For the holidays we have wreaths, pointsettias, kissing balls and cemetery boxes. Try a hot cocoa bomb! Check us out on Facebook: facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store for today's specials or call 413-369-4936. **Help wanted** for 1-6 p.m. Must be 17. Apply during store hours.

Boyden Bros. - Maple Holiday Hours: Weekends 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday Dec. 2nd through Saturday December 23rd. Visit our sugarhouse on Route 116 in Conway for maple syrup, candy, cream, granulated sugar, gift boxes and pancake mixes, all available to

purchase and/or ship for the holidays (or any time of the year!). We will have a limited number of fresh cut Christmas trees at the sugarhouse, beginning Dec. 2nd. Please contact us for more information or for other times, at 413-369-4665 or email boydenmaple@gmail.com.

Hart Pottery Holiday Studio Sale - December 9th & 10th, 10 - 4; Handcrafted porcelain and stoneware by Megan Hart with floral and animal imagery. Homemade cookies and cider! Seconds available. 192 Academy Hill Road; hartpottery@gmail.com; 413-522-6707

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.

Deb Hoyle Studio/Gallery - Exhibits this Fall and Winter at: *Hosmer Gallery*, Forbes Library, 20 West St., Northampton, December 2-28 *Opening reception December 8 3:30- 5:30*. Make us your first stop on Northampton's Arts Night Out! Deb exhibits with two other local artists: Gillian Haven and Cyndy Chamberland. *Southern Vermont Arts Center's* members' exhibit November 18-March 3, with numerous artists from all over New England participating. Paintings, collages, and sketches available at the Conway studio, 46 Main Street, Conway. Please stop by or call to arrange a visit and remember to support our local artists and craftspeople this holiday season! 413-325-5579, greenlady33@comcast.net or on Instagram: [debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors](https://www.instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors).

Jan and John Maggs Antiques - 17th-century English oak furniture, Queen Anne and Georgian jewelry, paintings, carpets, and small accessories. It's time for our annual December Gift Fest, with nearly 100 small pieces appropriate to the season at modest prices. All are listed on our website and on display in our Pumpkin Hollow antiques shop. We'll be open on weekends this month, as well as by chance or appointment. Visit us online at www.jmaggs.com, stop in when you see blue doors on the barn, or, if you prefer to make arrangements, call 413-369-4256 or email jmaggs@jmaggs.com. We hope you'll stop in, either to shop or just to say hello.



Conway artist Hannah Harvester - warmly invites you to her Holiday Open Studio, December 16 & 17, 1-5 p.m. at 46 Delabarre Ave. Come for tasty treats, surprise musical guests, and original art. Been before? Come 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.

Wilder Hill Gardens - Locally grown trees, shrubs, native plants, flowering perennials, herb plants, cut flowers. Landscape design and installation. Thanks to all who stopped by the nursery this 2023 season to trade gardening tales, bravely plunge into the world of sustainable landscape design, Morris Dance and support local agriculture. I'm wishing a warm, congenial winter season to everyone in our beautiful Conway. Stay tuned for the Spring 2024 nursery opening and class schedule, including the popular Pruning 101 Workshop and the new Using Native Plants In The Home Landscape. Lilian Jackman, 351 South Shirkshire Road, Conway, MA. 413-772-9065; wilderhillgardens.com; lilianjackman@gmail.com

*WILDER HILL
gardens*

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

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.

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.

Get ready - for Winter pruning with the best assortment of pruners around. From hand-held and long-arm to lightweight and heavy duty, we have pruners that will fit your hands and your pruning needs! Our large variety of German-made LOWE anvil pruners and Swiss-made FELCO pruners are among some of the professional quality shears we are proud to carry. We carry holsters and replacement parts as well. Still finishing up your holiday shopping list? Stop in for the Tractor Mac series for the little ones on your list. OESCO gift cards are always available and perfect for the green thumb, farmer, or orchardist you're shopping for. If you need



assistance, give us a call, or stop by to talk to Gemma, Rebecca, or Tim. Happy Holidays from OESCO! Shop where the pros shop and thanks for buying locally. OESCO, Inc. M-F: 7-5; 369-4335

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@delaprealestate.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 the historic Pumpkin Hollow. For more info visit airbnb.com House Above The Hollow.

'Ballet and Bach' at Hawks & Reed - December 17, 4:00 p.m. at The Perch at Hawks & Reed Performing Arts, 289 Main Street, Greenfield, Conway Fine Arts presents 'Ballet and Bach: JS Bach's Suite 3 in C and Suite 5 in C minor', an exciting combination of sight and sound performed on viola by Geoffrey Archambeau. Mikayla Archambeau's original dance choreography tells the story of our hilltown's resilience and an artist's progress. A professional ballet dancer formerly with the corps of the Kansas City Ballet, Mikayla is currently the director of Amherst Ballet. For more details, visit our website: conwayfinearts.com. Sponsored in part by the Conway, Goshen, and Greenfield Cultural Councils. Free will admission.

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>

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 or billbrad@gmail.com (Bill).

Jiyanna Rose Healing Arts - Jiyanna.com;

JiyannaRose@gmail.com – Primarily inhabiting the axis between earthly details and the wonders of spirit, I help you lay your path to connect these in your life. **Home Base Ally** - Home organizing, tending and big picture planning. Point person for your home's care during temporary and extended homeowner absence or if you are too busy to track it all. Minimum of weekly checks of home and grounds. Oversee/meet maintenance, vendor, & installation teams. Perfect for elders, snowbirds and busy people. Excellent communication, knowledge of the field, affordable, reliable.

Plant/Natural World Ally - Introductory herbal/natural body care product making parties: facial and body creams, hydrosols, flower essences, herbal infused oils, and plant spirit workshops. Also tours & meditations of our Botanical Sanctuary. Contact through AbbottHollow.com jiyannarose@gmail.com

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