



Volume 5, Number 5 - May 2024

## Notes from the Town Administrator

Please save the date for the next community meal and update on the town’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant! We will gather at Town Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday May 18, for a presentation on potential projects to help mitigate flooding in Conway center, followed by a discussion and voting on which projects to carry forward and a lunch. We hope to see you there.

This table provided by Town Clerk Laurie Lucier shows the voter turnout for the last decade:

Year	Registered Voters	Voter Turnout	Percentage
2023	1,451	271	18.7%
2022	1,460	360	25%
2021	1,450	92	6%
2020	1,176	462	39%
2019	1,119	291	26%
2018	1,058	207	19.5%
2017	1,020	155	15%
2016	973	405	41.6%
2015	925	216	23%
2014	886	214	24%

As you can see, turnout is higher in major election years. However, the numbers are still low given the actual number of registered voters in town. As we head into Annual Town Meeting, held this year on **Saturday, June 1, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Conway Grammar School gymnasium, I want to encourage all of you to exercise your right to vote and thereby help shape your town. Annual Town

Meeting is where the budget and other financial and legal matters of the town are decided by you, our voters. Quickly following on the heels of Annual Town Meetings are our local town elections, always held on the following Thursday. Although our votes always count, of course, to my mind it’s these local elections at which one can have the most influence, particularly on our local town governance and finances. So I encourage all of you to participate this year. Childcare will be available for Annual Town Meeting, and you can reserve your spot by emailing Principal Kristen Gordon at [kristen.gordon@frsu38.org](mailto:kristen.gordon@frsu38.org) a week in advance of town meeting.

Let’s get out and VOTE!

Véronique

## Candidates for Selectboard

### Robert Baker

I have been a resident of Conway since 1950, when my family moved here. My dad was on the fire department, and I have been the chief of the fire department since 1980. I was also highway superintendent from 1993 to 2013, I am a past EMT, and I served on the selectboard for three years from 2016 to 2018.



I feel that I can bring to the selectboard my background in knowing most of the residents of Conway and their concerns, and they all know that they can call me at any time with their questions regarding local issues. I personally think that we need to create

more opportunities for Conway's seniors. We need to find ways to hold down the tax rate, especially for seniors, many if not most of whom live on a fixed income.

I love this town where I have lived for most of my life, so please consider voting for me on election day, June 6. And come out for Town Meeting on the first of June to participate in the process of town government.

Thank you,  
Robert Baker

### **Elaine Campbell**

My name is Elaine Campbell, and I have lived in Conway for nearly 28 years. I live in one of the oldest houses in Conway with my partner, Jennifer Mullins, two children (Claire and Clayton), and a variety of creatures big and small. I have volunteered for various committees since moving to Conway, as I feel it is a great way to meet one's community members and contribute to the town. I was on the Conservation Commission for nearly nine years, and I am currently on the Conway Grammar School Committee. Both of my children benefitted from a great education at our local school. I grew up in a town very similar to Conway in southern New Hampshire and unfortunately witnessed it lose its character and small-town feel once it was discovered by Boston commuters. I work as a clinical psychologist running five community mental health centers. Living in Conway certainly contributes to being able to manage a work/life balance as I love to hike and explore all the amazing landscapes Conway has to offer, on foot, bike, and horseback.



I have considered running for selectboard before but did not feel I had the time to devote to it. My son is graduating from high school in June and my daughter attends the University of Vermont so, very shortly, I will have more time on my hands! The selectboard is such a vital part of charting the course for our town, and I feel that course should be influenced by a variety of voices, interests, and needs. Selectboard members need to be able to listen to all that feedback, then prioritize and make informed decisions. After all that work the town could then experience the wettest July on record . . . so priorities change! As a clinical psychologist I have learned to function under pressure, which I believe is a skill that will help me in this role. I enjoy meeting new people and learning what makes them tick. I would love to revitalize our town's committees by getting more people involved. People may think they don't have anything to offer, but everyone does! I hope I can contribute to moving Conway forward in a direction that benefits all of its citizens.

Respectfully,  
Elaine Campbell

### **Phil Kantor**

I am Philip Kantor, and I am requesting your vote for reelection to the Conway Selectboard. I have been a Conway resident since 2004, currently serving in my eleventh year on the School Committee and sixth year on the selectboard. I am the board's longest-serving member and bring institutional memory to our decision-making processes. I am Conway's representative on the Frontier Budget Committee and proud of my efforts to maintain educational excellence while minimizing increasing costs to the



town. Inasmuch as the schools represent two-thirds of the town budget, it is useful to have someone willing and able to impact the school budgetary process in beneficial ways. If reelected I will continue to focus on municipal excellence and cost-of-living issues so that people can afford to live here.

During my time in office we successfully emerged from a devastating pandemic during which I coordinated uniform policy responses between our schools and our town. I had a hand in making our new Highway Department facility a reality after 45 years, making many excellent new hires, increasing town volunteerism, and preserving our ARPA federal monies so that our public safety building project can move forward without taxpayer funding.

My most significant accomplishment has been securing \$1.425 million in state funding following the devastating 2023 floods. Upon hearing that the state was awarding only \$10 million for damages to thirty communities – most larger than Conway and with monetary losses dwarfing ours – I conceived of and advocated for funding allocations based on flood damages as a percentage of municipal budget. I testified at hearings before state officials, and after Conway obtained 15% of the total funding, many state officials opined that but for my advocacy, the town would have received far less. One result of this success will hopefully be seen at June's Annual Town Meeting, at which voters will be able to rescind the \$1.5 million borrowing authority granted at the December 2023 Special Town Meeting, without the town having borrowed a penny.

Most recently I personally obtained funding to create our own on-demand Conway senior transportation service (at no cost to the town) through a grant from the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority. You'll be hearing more about this, but this pilot program, specific to Conway, advances our shared goal of improving seniors' ability to age in place.

Should I be blessed with your vote, one of my areas of focus will be to improve services for Conway's older adults. They represent 40% of our population, and we as a town ask much of them and have offered them too little for too long. Our community can and should be doing more for these folks. There is much more to be done, so I ask for your vote. Call me at 413-475-4305 if you'd like to talk about it. Thank you.

## Ron Hawkes: A Celebration of Life

Please join us for a celebration of life in loving memory of Ronald D. Hawkes, March 8, 1947- December 24, 2023, on Saturday, May 11, 2024, 11:00 a.m. in Conway. A fire truck processional will begin at the Conway Firehouse, 15 Ashfield Road, to Howland Cemetery, Shelburne Falls Road. A celebration in Ron's honor will follow at the Conway Sportsman's Club, 245 Elmer Road.



Phylis, Joy, Kim and Matthew

## Pre-Town Meeting Dessert Potluck

All Conway residents are invited to come to a pre-Town Meeting dessert potluck and discussion on Monday, May 20, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Conway Grammar School cafeteria, 24 Fournier Road. Please bring a dessert to share that can be served on a napkin, serving utensils (if needed), and your own reusable cup/mug/spoon. Beverages will be provided. Residents who have information about particular warrant articles are encouraged to bring handouts.

Like past pre-Town Meeting gatherings, the evening is an opportunity for discussion that is informal, nonpartisan, and without the time pressure often felt at Town Meeting. Residents are encouraged to come with questions about Town Meeting warrant articles, procedures, and definitions. There will be an opportunity to meet candidates for town office. The meeting's intent is to help people be well-informed voters and to have some time to think about what is being proposed, as a supplement to the democratic process of Town Meeting. Mary McClintock said, "These gatherings really help me have a better understanding of what we need to decide at Town Meeting. And the desserts are really tasty!"

For information: contact Jim Recore at [jimmyrecore0318@gmail.com](mailto:jimmyrecore0318@gmail.com), 413-768-9939, or Mary McClintock at [mmclinto@yahoo.com](mailto:mmclinto@yahoo.com), 369-0117.

## Proposed New Pickleball Courts

Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the country, and Conway has been progressive in fostering this interest for our residents and surrounding communities. The Parks and Recreation Committee started inviting folks to play on the town ballfield basketball courts back in April 2022, and currently more than 80 people are involved in organized play or on their own time. We have been filling four courts regularly this spring, and we anticipate interest to continue to grow. We provide nets and paddles with some basic beginner instructions. People have been extremely appreciative.

Because pickleball intrudes on the basketball and tennis players' outdoor space, we thought a new designated pickleball space would be appropriate. The lot behind the grammar school, adjacent to the highway garage, is the proposed location for a four-court pickleball area, entered through the school driveway and with its own parking. With the addition of two speed bumps and radar signage at the entrance, school and regional personnel are satisfied

that the additional traffic (mostly during non-school hours) would not cause any measurable change in school safety.

The four-court area will consist of approximately 60 x 120 feet of painted blacktop with perimeter fencing, benches, a portable seasonal restroom, and a small storage shed. The highway department will do the site work after hours, saving us money. A small amount of ongoing maintenance will be needed, including weed whacking and the portable restroom, at an estimated cost of under \$1,000 per year. The courts will need repainting about every ten years at an estimated \$10,000.

We propose using Community Preservation Funds for the project, estimated at no more than \$150,000, which the Community Preservation Committee supports. This money is available with a 2/3 Town Meeting vote. No additional taxation is needed for this project. Please vote yes at the Annual Town Meeting on June 1, and forward any questions to Jan Warner at [parksandrec@conwayma.gov](mailto:parksandrec@conwayma.gov).

## "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is holding the Spring 2024 "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day on Saturday, May 11, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The three drop-off sites are Erving Senior Center at 1 Care Drive off Rte 63 (note new site instead of Northfield Highway Garage), Mohawk Trail Regional School at 26 Ashfield Road (Rte 112 South), and Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane. Residents from any of the district's 21 member towns 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.

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](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org). The price list will also be provided to participating town halls and transfer stations. Residents and businesses do not need to preregister for the collection. Mattresses and box springs will not be accepted at this event. There are six regional mattress recycling locations across Franklin County. These sites are open various hours year-round. See this webpage for locations, pricing, and hours: [franklincountywastedistrict.org/mattress-recycling](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org/mattress-recycling). If you are unsure whether your mattress and box spring can be recycled, call the district office at 413-772-2438. Electronics are accepted at the event, but residents are also encouraged to recycle computer equipment and televisions at their town's transfer station or at Greenfield Transfer Station. Staples stores accept computer equipment (no TVs) free of charge; call store for details. Clean, dry textiles contained inside a sturdy plastic bag and books will be accepted free of charge for reuse or recycling. Textiles are now banned from the trash in Massachusetts. Textile recycling accepts 95% of all textiles and shoes, 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. Books (hardcover or paperback) can be in any condition (except moldy or wet). No encyclopedias. Bulky rigid plastics will be collected separately for a special recycling program; \$5.00 per load of acceptable items. This special recycling program accepts only these items: five-gallon pails, plastic lawn furniture, plastic trash barrels, recycling bins, laundry baskets, storage totes, and milk crates.

Consider reuse. Before sending items for disposal or recycling, see whether someone else can use them. Various charities and nonprofits accept donations of working electronics, including local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores. Always call ahead to ask if

they can accept your item. You can also offer items for reuse on a local "Buy Nothing" Facebook group, Freecycle group, or local town groups such as NextDoor.

For more information, see [franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org) or contact the district office at [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto: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.

## Notes from the Conway Mall

The Conway Mall is open for business! The Mall is still under renovation but welcomes shoppers to visit. Mall hours: Wednesday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Sunday 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

We gladly accept donations of *seasonal* clothing in good condition for women, men, children, and infants. We also accept – if clean and in good order – books (but no encyclopedias, please), housewares and linens, toys, puzzles and games, music CDs, seasonal sport equipment, shoes, and pet supplies (except for food). All donations are to be dropped off at the white shed attached to the Mall shed.

**NOTE:** We are **not** currently taking seasonal items (e.g., Christmas- or Easter-related items), winter wear, ski gear or skiwear, ice skates, cassettes, or VHS tapes. We **never** take paint or hazardous materials, electronics, or food (human or pet).

The Mall needs volunteer attendants for all hours of operation. Whether you can give a few random hours or a block of time on a regular basis, all are welcome and much appreciated. Open hours may be subject to change, depending on volunteer availability.

## Tick Removal and Identification

from the FRCOG Public Health Team

Last month you read about a few ways to prevent tick bites. This month's article describes how to handle removing a tick when it is attached to your skin. You may not feel the bite as you do with other bug bites. Here's what to do:

- Remove the tick with fine-tipped tweezers.
- Grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible and pull upward with a steady, even force. If the tick breaks in half, try to remove its mouth from the skin.
- If you can't, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
- Clean the bite area and your hands thoroughly.
- Continue to check the bite area for several weeks; if you develop flulike symptoms or a rash, see a doctor.

You may want to save the tick by putting it into a sealed bag or other container. Your doctor may ask to see the tick, or you may want to submit it for testing, to see if it has pathogens that carry diseases.

To test a tick, log on to [tickreport.com](http://tickreport.com) and follow the mailing instructions. Conway residents may pay \$15.00 (previously \$50.00) to test a tick for diseases, thanks to a program from the Board of Health and the Cooperative Public Health Service.

You can identify ticks and their risk level for free, thanks to the experts at Tick Encounter, a program through the University of Rhode Island. Use a smartphone to submit a picture of the tick to [tickencounter.org](http://tickencounter.org).

## Conway Historical Society News

The Conway Historical Society presents its May program, *French Flintlock Musket: A Game-Changer in the Struggle for Independence, 1777-1782*, on Tuesday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Historical Society Museum, 50 Main Street. Our speaker, Richard Colton, former president of the Montague Historical Society and chair of the Montague Historical Commission, received his master's in history in 2000 and immediately commenced work as historian at Springfield Armory National Historic Site. A U.S. Navy veteran, United States Naval Academy class of 1969, Colton began work at UMass-Amherst from 1977 to 2000, during which time he developed historical programming for the National Park Service, published some, and studied early firearms production in New England. Now retired, he is a collections and public history consultant to museums in the region. Our topic is a French Army flintlock musket provided by the French for the American struggle and protected in the Conway Historical Society's collections.

**Historic Deerfield passes:** The society again has two season passes to Historic Deerfield and makes them available to all Conway residents. Each pass admits up to four people. To reserve, contact Joe Zadroga at 413-824-2719; it's best if you can give 24-48 hours notice. Note: 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](http://historic-deerfield.org).

## Field Memorial Library Update

The Friends of the FML will host a story walk on the weekend of May 17. The walk will be set up at 2:00 p.m. on Friday and stay up until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. You can walk from one sign to the next to read the story. Come join us to read and walk at Veterans

Memorial Park across from Town Hall. May's walk will feature *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle. Activity kits will be available in a plastic container, first come, first served. Just help yourselves. More story walks will happen on the third weekend of each month. We are able to do this with the generous support of the Union 38 Family Networks.

The FML will host an Earthwork program for youths eight years and older on Thursday, May 8, at 3:00 p.m. "The Call of the Wild" is a two-hour, hands-on experience in learning outdoor and survival skills. The program will start indoors with a basic discussion of a few popular outdoor-themed books and then move outside. Just a few skills that could be learned: how to build a survival shelter, as Brian did in *Hatchet*; how to make a wild game trap, as Katniss did in *The Hunger Games*; how to make trail markers if lost in the wilderness, as Hansel did in "Hansel and Gretel"; how to use plant fibers to make a rope; and more! Frank Grindrod is the guide for this experience, which pairs books with outdoor skills. Student enrollment limit: fifteen.

Contact [frank@earthworkprograms.com](mailto:frank@earthworkprograms.com) or at 413-522-0338 to reserve a space in this program. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Conway Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Library Staff Notes: The Field Memorial Library just got its first shipment of new library books for the year 2024! Celebrate by coming in and browsing our shelves to see what titles we have added to our collection.

## Festival of the Hills Coordinators Needed

The Festival of the Hills is very much in need of five activity coordinators. These activities cannot be held without that key person. We need a coordinator for each of these: children's activities, crafters, exhibitors, information booth, and food

vendors. A job description is available for each position to make the role easier for a new person to take on. We are happy to forward the job description for any of these tasks to anyone who wants to consider the position but who isn't quite ready to commit. A person experienced at what is involved in a particular role will be available to help you better understand its duties. Once you commit, our volunteer coordinator will help get the volunteers you need for that day.

Are you new to town and want to become involved? Are you recently retired and eager to use your time in a new way? Do you have a close friend who would happily join you in doing any one of these important and playful activities? Please give it your thoughts and email Pixie Holbrook at [pjholbrook@comcast.net](mailto:pjholbrook@comcast.net) – thanks!

## Free iPads for Conway Seniors

Last year the Conway Council on Aging and the South County Senior Center (SCSC) partnered to apply for and were awarded a hybrid programming grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs in the amount of \$119,953.94. The focus of this grant is to enhance digital literacy and access for older adults. Residents of Conway who are age 60+ are eligible to apply for the opportunity to win one of 25 ninth-generation WIFI and cellular-capable iPads via a lottery. Those chosen must participate in two free one-hour training classes. The location will be in Conway. Free transportation will be provided if needed. Once you complete the training, the iPad is yours to keep.

Applications are available through the Conway Council on Aging, Conway town administrator, and the SCSC. To request an application, call or email the COA chair, Pat Lynch, at 369-4284 or [patricialynch@earthlink.net](mailto:patricialynch@earthlink.net); Town Administrator Véronique Blanchard at 369-4235 x 5 or [townadmin@conwayma.gov](mailto:townadmin@conwayma.gov); or stop by the town office. Mail applications to the SCSC, PO Box 225,

Sunderland, MA 01375. Lottery applications must be received by noon on Friday, **May 24**. We will accept them delivered by hand on May 24 from 9:30 a.m. until noon at the 29 Sugarloaf Street, South Deerfield, location. The lottery will be held on May 31 and winners will be notified by June 6. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Jennifer Remillard at 413-665-2141 or Chris Goudreau at 413-768-1066.

## Fishing Derby a Success

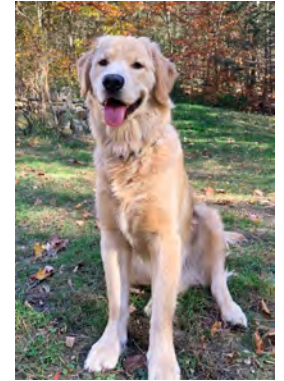
The day was cloudy, damp, and cold in a complete reversal from the 68-degree sunfest of the previous day. Yet in spite of that, twenty kids, some as young as three, with guidance from their parents, cast their worms upon the waters in the annual Conway Sportsman's Club fishing derby. The winners of the derby were Wyatt Burt, Reid Jackman, Viktor Stosz, and June Starrow.



## Dog-of-the-Year Contest Winners

There were twenty entries in the town clerk's second annual Dog-of-the-Year Contest. Judging was done by local Girl Scout Troup 65100: Ari, Aurora, Avery, Olive, and Serena. The winners (left to

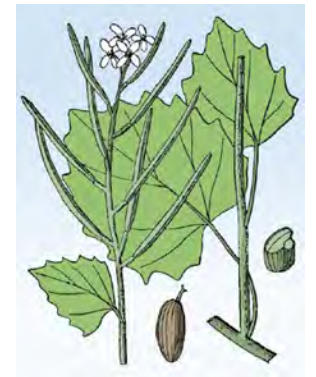
right) First Place: Moo-Moo Lilly; Second Place: Olive Karson-Betsch; Third Place: Trance Swan; Honorable Mentions: Lucky (aka Luxe) Levenson-Manwell and Olaf Burke.



Don't forget to license your dog! For information contact Town Clerk Laurie Lucier at the Conway Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road, call 413-369-4235 x 4, or email [clerk@conwayma.gov](mailto:clerk@conwayma.gov). Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:00-5:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Closed Fridays.

## South River Meadow Garlic Pull Party!

The Conway Open Space Committee is organizing a garlic mustard pull at the South River Meadow in Conway center on Sunday, May 19, at 10:00 a.m. Bring along a large trash bag and spend a little time pulling out and bagging this easy-to-remove invasive. Thanks to our volunteers' efforts last year, there's less of the stuff in the meadow, but it still needs followup to keep it at bay. Of course, this is also the time to pull garlic mustard if you find any on your own property and while out walking in your neighborhood. Watch for it along the roadsides too!





### Pulling tips:

- Pull out as much of the tap root as you can get.
- Bag the whole plant immediately, so that the seeds don't escape.
- Don't leave pulled plants onsite. Seeds can mature even as pulled plants wilt.
- Wear gloves, closed-toe shoes, long pants, and sleeves: mayflies and ticks are out.
- You can eat young, tender leaves. It's popular for making pesto!

Plants can be identified by their clusters of tiny white flowers blooming atop tall stalks. Crush the leaves for the telltale scent of garlic. This site has good photos for identification:

[kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/garlic-mustard.aspx](http://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/garlic-mustard.aspx). Questions?

Contact [MacMcCoydZi@gmail.com](mailto:MacMcCoydZi@gmail.com)

## The Un-tag Sale Is May 18

Participants needed! Our very successful Un-tag Sale to raise money for the Festival of the Hills Scholarship Fund is happening on Saturday, May 18 (rain date Sunday, May 19). Care to join us? Did you purge this winter and can't wait to clear out the house, attic, basement, or garage? Remember, no need to tag the item with a price. They are your donation to our graduating seniors and their postgraduation plans. The buyers will know this and will be encouraged to be generous. Likewise, we recommend that you set a minimum price for more valuable items.

Like last year, we will be at one location, the Pumpkin Hollow Green. We will do all the advertising both in print and online. We will produce local flyers and signs advertising the event. You must provide your own tables. If you have six items or fewer, you can bring them to the Festival of the Hills Table that morning.

There will be a new plan for organizing the Un-Tag Sale this year. We will set you up in a horseshoe design with entry and exit signs at the beginning and end. You won't have to manage the money collection yourselves. The shoppers will receive a 3 x 5 card and pen when they enter. As they come to your table, you will write down what they are buying and the agreed-upon price. When they finish, they will exit where the cashiers are. Payment will be based on what is seen on that card. Make sense?

The deadline for letting us know about your participation is Sunday, April 28. This will allow us to plan the layout on the green. Contact Pixie Holbrook at [pjholbrook@comcast.net](mailto:pjholbrook@comcast.net) to let us know that you would like to participate or if you have any questions. Only *you* can make this happen. Please join us!

## Conway Sportsman's Club Events

On May 11, following an 11:00 a.m. memorial service at Howland Cemetery for Ron Hawkes, there will be a Celebration of Life for friends and family at the Sportsman's Club pavilion from noon until 5:00 p.m. On May 18, following an 11:00 a.m. memorial service at Howland Cemetery for long-time Conway residents Dick and Gladys Ouimette, there will be a Celebration of Life for friends and family at the Sportsman's Club pavilion from noon until 5:00 p.m. Other May events: Thursday, May 2, 6:00 p.m., the club's monthly meeting; Sunday, May 5, 7:00-11:00 a.m., archery shoot.

Mark your calendars! The ever-popular Youth Day returns to the Sportsman's Club on Sunday, June 2, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Kids of all ages enjoy learning to fish in our indoor fish pool, making a variety of molds of animal tracks, building their own birdhouses, and playing games. In addition there will be demonstrations by experts about our local environment, professional instruction on the safety and use of archery equipment, and, for older youths (and their parents), professional instruction in firearm safety and a try at shooting sporting clays. Food and drinks will be available.

For more information about the Conway Sportsman's Club including directions, facilities, upcoming events calendar, membership, and classes, go to [conwaysportsmansclub.org](http://conwaysportsmansclub.org).

## CGS Spring Fling Update

The Conway Grammar School community has been busy preparing for this year's event on May 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.! We've added to our already impressive lineup of offerings. In addition to the many other exhibitors and musicians, Janet Ryan's piano and voice students will offer a special performance; Jocelyn Demouth, owner of Checkerspot Farm, will present a talk on "Cool Bugs and Native Plants"; and Hannah Harvester will provide some lessons in observational art. Come enjoy the best of what Conway has to offer in music, food, and fun!

Please consider baking a little something for the bake sale or go all in by submitting a delicious pie to our esteemed judges for the first ever CGS Pie Contest! First place will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate to The Baker's Pin kitchen store. Deliver your baked treats or pies to the front of Conway Grammar School by 10:00 a.m. the morning of the fifth.

Visit our website to learn more about all the new and returning activities the Spring Fling has to offer! While you're there, preregister for the event, and you'll receive a free raffle ticket for each member of your family attending. Our raffle baskets this year abound with local treats and services. There is genuinely something for everyone!



If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please email us at [conwaygrammarpto@gmail.com](mailto:conwaygrammarpto@gmail.com) or use the QR Code. We look forward to seeing you in May at Conway Grammar School!

## Senior Prom

The town's Age-Friendly Conway Committee and the Friends of the Field Memorial Library invite all of Conway's older adults (60+) to a Senior Prom: a fun gathering for Conway's older adults.

The prom will be "Under the Dome" at the Field Memorial Library, 1 Elm Street, on **Saturday, June 1, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Music, food, and beverages will be provided. In addition there will be an exhibit of artwork from your senior neighbors. Conway artists 60 ears old or over are invited to submit artwork for this exhibit. Two small pieces or one large piece from each artist would probably best suit this venue. Interested artists should contact Aimee at [302windyhill@gmail.com](mailto:302windyhill@gmail.com). The plan would be to collect all work on the Friday before the prom for ease of setup on Saturday.

This is a wonderful chance for Conway's older adults to gather together, meet your neighbors in a new way, enjoy social time together, and participate in a raffle and prizes. The prom will provide transportation for those who need it (advance reservations required) and is free for all Conway seniors. Wondering about attire? Come as you are. Be comfortable. Feel free to be festive.

Look for a mailer to come to your home or PO box during May with information about transportation and other directions. If you want more information now, contact Robin Yerkes at [rbyerkes@gmail.com](mailto:rbyerkes@gmail.com), 413-575-7816, or 369-4170.

The senior prom is made possible by the financial support of Mass in Motion, a statewide movement that promotes opportunities for healthful eating and active living, and the Mass in Motion Franklin County initiative led by partners LifePath and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments; as well as the support of the trustees and Friends of the Field Memorial Library and by the Age-Friendly Conway Committee.

## Swimming Pool News

The pavilion at the pool is nearly finished! We think you'll love this addition to the pool. Many, many thanks to Steve Thomas, Mark Ladd, David McDonald, and Troy Lucier.

While we cannot offer swimming lessons at the pool without lifeguards, our neighboring towns have generously offered to include Conway residents. Contact the Tri-Town Beach Commission, [whately.org/tri-town-beach-commission](http://whately.org/tri-town-beach-commission) for swimming lessons and water aerobics classes. Contact [ricki@cheesemaking.com](mailto:ricki@cheesemaking.com) to register for swimming lessons at Ashfield Lake.

Our community swimming pool is unique in that we are 100% funded by the generous donations of current and former Conway residents and managed, maintained, and run by a group of Conway volunteers. We are in need of more volunteer help from our community! There are many ways in which you can contribute:

- Join us for one of our workdays to help improve the pool. The next workday will be Saturday, May 25, at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the pool.
- Attend a monthly committee meeting. Our next meeting is May 14 at 6:30 p.m. Meet at the new pavilion at the pool. Rain location is Conway Grammar School library.
- Sign up for regular maintenance tasks at the pool. Contact us at [conwaypoolvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:conwaypoolvolunteers@gmail.com). We're happy to answer your questions and put your specific abilities and availability to good use.

On Saturday, July 27, the Pool Committee, along with the Conway Parks and Recreation Committee, will be hosting a party at the pool for town residents of all ages to thank you for your generous contributions to the 2023 repair fund. Mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing you at the pool this summer.

## Scholarships

**Conway Firemen's Auxiliary Scholarship** The Conway Firemen's Auxiliary annually awards up to two scholarships of up to \$500 each. Awards are given out in May. Applicants must be a Conway resident and a senior in high school. Primary consideration will be given to students who are involved in community service, work, or extracurricular activities, and who are planning to further their education in either college, trade school, or a certificate program. Secondary circumstances the Auxiliary will consider are grades and family financial situation. The deadline for applications is the **first Friday in May**. Applications are available through the town website - <https://conwayma.gov/p/59/Scholarships>. Submit completed applications to: Conway Firemen's Auxiliary, P.O. Box 46, Conway, MA 01341.

**The Ryan Scholarship** The Friends of the Field Memorial Library reminds high school students of the **May 31 deadline** for applications for the Ryan Scholarship. The scholarship is, in part, a response to Conway being "the wettest place in America for the month of July" in 2023. The 2024 scholarship will be in the \$2,000 to \$3,000 range. Apply now using the QR Code or go to [fieldmemoriallibrary.org/the-ryan-scholarship](http://fieldmemoriallibrary.org/the-ryan-scholarship).



## 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 meetings will be May 1 and June 5. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email [patricialynch@earthlink.net](mailto:patricialynch@earthlink.net). Conway residents are eligible to access hybrid programs offered by the South County Senior Center; see listing below.

## Senior Calendar for May

**"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 6, but it is fully booked; next after that is June 3. 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 Pat Kocot at 369-4248 or 413-775-3629.

**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.

**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.

## Senior Services

**Durable Medical Equipment Loans** The COA has items of

durable medical equipment available for loan, including wheelchairs, transfer chairs, walkers, crutches, canes, tub and shower chairs, commodes, and raised toilet seats. Call Hank Horstmann at 413-522-9240 to borrow equipment **NOTE**: Please, when loaned equipment is no longer needed, call Hank in order to return it.

**SHINE Counseling** The SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) Program provides free health insurance information and counseling to all Massachusetts residents with Medicare and their caregivers. People who have Medicare or who are about to become eligible for Medicare can meet with a counselor to learn about benefits and options available. A counselor will review programs that help people with limited income to pay health care costs.. SHINE counseling is available by calling LifePath at 773-5555 or by contacting Meg Ryan, one of Conway's public health nurses, at 774-3167 x 158.

**Transportation for Medical Appointments & Shopping** The Shelburne Falls Senior Center provides curb-to-curb van transportation within Franklin County for seniors 60 and over for in-county medical appointments and grocery shopping. Call the center at 625-2502 to make an appointment at least 48 hours in advance or for information about reservations and fees. An application with a copy of a photo ID is needed to be pre-approved for ridership. For rides to out-of-county medical appointments, call the FRTA at 774-2262 x 163 for information and reservations.

## South County Senior Center Hybrid Program

**Knitting Circle** Project for both novice and advanced knitters to create full-size or lap blankets. Time and dates: 2:00-3:30 p.m., May 10 and 23; June 14 and 28. Classes are held both online and in person at the South County Senior Center, 22 Amherst Road, Sunderland: Link will be provided upon registration at 413-665-2141.

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## Currents Advertisements & Notices

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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](mailto: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, PO Box 240, Conway, MA 01341**. Please send the text of your advertisement to Louise by email at [lmbeckett@crocker.com](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com). **Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month**. If you want to discuss your ad or have any questions, please call or email [lmbeckett@crocker.com](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com).

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**Morning open meditations at Conway Fine Arts** - Please join us for morning meditations on Tuesdays and Fridays at 7:30 at our studio at 86 Main Street. Led by our neighbor Alex Pazmandy, sittings will last about 30 minutes and are guided, with breathwork. Bring a cushion if it makes you more comfortable, though our carpeting also works well, and join us for an inspiring way to start your day. If driving, please park on Main Street - not the parking lot at 86 Main.

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**Personal Care Aide (PCA)/Caregiver needed** - in center of Conway. They say it takes a village to raise a child. Well it takes a village to keep an elderly person out of a nursing home as well. We have had very little luck finding people willing to travel to Conway despite our location on route 116. Do you have an hour or two a week to help prepare meals, do some dishes, mop the floor or vacuum? Flexible schedule is possible from one hour a week to multiple hours. We are currently working with LifePath but transitioning to MA Health shortly. What we need: Assist with ADL's daily and some shopping, cooking and companionship; Provide medication reminders; Pass a CORI check. \$19/hr.; 1 hr to 40 hours per week. Please contact David, 413-768-8751.

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**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.



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**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 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 7 a.m.-3 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. We'll have pansies and other flowers to plant in 6-packs, and pots by the 1st of May. Don't forget a hanging basket in time for Mother's Day!

Check us out on Facebook: [facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store](https://facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store) for today's specials or call 413-369-4936.

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**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](http://www.naturalroots.com). Natural Roots, 888 Shelburne Falls Rd., Conway, MA 01341, 413-369-4269, [farmers@naturalroots.com](mailto:farmers@naturalroots.com).

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**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](https://airbnb.com) House Above The Hollow.

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**Small Parcel Of Land To Sell?** - Longtime Conway resident is looking to purchase 1-1.5 acres in Conway on which to build a modest home. Don't have land to sell? Maybe you know someone who does! Give a call or email: 413-210-1700 or [erock42x@gmail.com](mailto:erock42x@gmail.com)

**Your Home Town Realtor** - Sarah Newman with Coldwell Banker Community Realtors. A Conway resident since 2002, I provide local, attentive and trustworthy service for home/land buyers and sellers throughout Franklin and Hampshire counties. To learn more about me, my services and brokerage company, please go to my website at [Sarahnewmanrealtor.com](http://Sarahnewmanrealtor.com). Here you will also find past client reviews and recommendations. Contact me directly at 413-548-6525 or [sarah.newman@cbcommunityrealtors.com](mailto:sarah.newman@cbcommunityrealtors.com) with any real estate questions you may have. I'd love to hear from you!

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**Hart Pottery** - *Beginning to Intermediate Wheel Throwing* Wednesday evenings 6:00-8:00 p.m. beginning May 1 for 6 weeks at my home studio in Conway. All materials and firings included. *Wheel Throwing in Porcelain* Monday evenings 6:00-8:00 p.m. beginning May 6 (no class memorial day) for 6 weeks. A wonderful unique experience in clay! For registration and more information, contact Megan Hart [hartpottery@gmail.com](mailto:hartpottery@gmail.com) 413-522-6707.

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**Hannah Harvester Fine Art** - has been in hibernation and is emerging this spring with a killer announcement: portraits and house portraits are now available by donation. That's right: Your portrait or child's portrait (in pastel, charcoal, pencil or oil), or your home and garden's portrait are now name-your-price. Why? Because I want to paint more and I don't want cost to be a barrier to anyone. How does it work? Details and many work samples are on my website, [hannahharvester.com](http://hannahharvester.com), but basically, we'll talk, I'll make a piece of art, and afterwards you will pay me an amount that feels generous to you but doesn't hurt you. Goup drawing and painting classes are coming later this summer, but private/small group lessons are available by request. Spring has sprung and I say, let's use those extra daylight hours well: Let's make some art!

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**Jan & John Maggs Antiques and Art** - 17th-century English oak furniture, Queen Anne and Georgian jewelry, artwork, carpets, small accessories, and more. There's plenty to see in our showrooms, and we're always happy to show visitors around and answer questions about the things we



sell. Whether you've seen something on our website that interests you or are simply curious about our new barn and its contents, we hope you'll email [jmaggs@jmaggs.com](mailto:jmaggs@jmaggs.com) or call 413-369-4256 to arrange a visit. And feel free to knock whenever you see the blue doors on the front of the barn. We'll be open on May 4 & 5 for our annual Spring Opening, featuring inventory recently acquired locally and during our recent buying trip to England. We'll be open 1 - 4 on Saturday and 9 - 4 on Sunday, or visit us online at <https://jmaggs.com/>

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**Wilder Hill Gardens** - 351 South Shirkshire Road, Conway. Annual Mother's Day Weekend Sale Saturday/Sunday, May 11-12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Healthy, hardy flowering and fruiting shrubs, native plants, shade perennials and annual flowers. Wilder Hill Press Shop will be open too, for original prints, handmade books, and ceramics. **2024 Workshops:** *Learn How To Prune Workshop*,

*WILDER HILL  
gardens*

Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m.-12p.m. \$60 fee includes handouts. Learn the 'secrets' of pruning your shrubs and trees for health and beauty. *Using Native Plants in the Home*

*Landscape Workshop*, Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Learn how to use beautiful native plants in your own yard to provide food and habitat for pollinators, beneficial insects, and birds. \$60 fee includes handouts and a free native plant! Consultations, landscape design and installation services. 413-772-9065; [lilianjackman@gmail.com](mailto:lilianjackman@gmail.com); [wilderhillgardens.com](http://wilderhillgardens.com)

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**Summer string lessons** - at Conway Fine Arts. Don't put that bow down - keep your violin, viola, or cello from Conway Grammar School over the summer and keep improving! Now enrolling group classes at our 86 Main Street studio of 3-5 students each: only \$20 student/ lesson. Openings for private lessons for 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. For more information, contact Geoffrey at [conwayfinearts@gmail.com](mailto:conwayfinearts@gmail.com) or 413-369-6068. Visit [www.conwayfinearts.com](http://www.conwayfinearts.com) for more information.

**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>

**Jiyanna Rose Healing Arts** - Your home, plant & personal ally. Home Ally: Caretake your home during absence or for extra support. Meet & monitor maintenance & installation teams, receive deliveries, organize, stage and complete finishing touches. Plant Ally: Awesome natural body care products & services personalized to you, how-to sessions, garden tours. Personal Ally: Compassionate support, companionship, advocacy, logistics management & records organizing, from new babies to end of life. Reliable, knowledgeable & excellent communications. To learn more about me, please visit my new website at [www.Jiyanna.com](http://www.Jiyanna.com).

**Archives, Collections, and Media Management** - I offer design, management, and consultation for personal, ancestral, artistic, and community-oriented audiovisual archives. I also offer a range of media management and post-production support for documentaries, oral history projects, and digital storytelling projects. I am experienced in digitizing analogue materials, reformatting digital materials, and working with born digital materials. Beyond archiving, my professional background includes oral history and digital storytelling (video production, post-production, audio engineering, web design, and photography), which I put to use within archival, retouching, reformatting, and editing processes. I am particularly interested in projects involving marginalized voices and perspectives. Please send a brief outline of your project and how I might be able to support you to

[tendingcenter@pm.me](mailto:tendingcenter@pm.me). More info: [www.tending.center](http://www.tending.center)

**Garden Maintenance** - Spring cleanup; Weeding; Planting; Mulching: \$35.00/hr.; Local References. Call Jenny Burtis at 413-768-1011 or email: [jennyburtis@gmail.com](mailto:jennyburtis@gmail.com) - Conway resident.

**May is here** - and it's time to start planting!

The very popular and versatile Cobrahead weeds, cultivates, scalps, edges, digs, plants - the list goes on - making this a true multipurpose garden tool. Dig, weed, and divide with the GrowTech Hori-Hori Knife. Garden work is a breeze with its beveled, serrated edge and engraved depth measurements. We are freshly stocked up on many of our WW Manufacturing tools perfect for the season's yard work; DuraRakes, Sod Pullers, Spades, and more! Protect your hands while in the garden and yard with a pair of gloves from our large selection including gloves made from bamboo, nitrile, or nylon-blend. Need help picking the right tools for the job? Call or stop by and talk with Gemma, Rebecca or Tim. Shop where the pros shop and thanks for buying locally! OESCO, Inc. (Orchard) M-F: 7-5; 369-4335.



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# Unheard Melodies

by Nicole Braden-Johnson

## Boys of the Sun and the Moon

“What thoughts I have of you tonight, Walt Whitman, for I walked down the sidestreets under the trees with a headache self-conscious looking at the full moon.”

Allen Ginsberg, “A Supermarket in California”

Around our footsteps he orbits  
In an invisible yet very clear perimeter  
In doing so our little pochemuchka\* upturns  
Rocks, seaweed mounds, and crab shells,  
Asking questions of each:  
Who killed the jellyfish?  
What makes the waves?  
Are the oceans as deep as the mountains?  
(Someday I will touch your books  
And dream of our odysseys on this beach.)

The sunny-haired one soars down the line  
Where the ocean meets the land,  
Never once turning back even to look,  
Never swaying off course except to jump in glee.  
Our little zaichik\*\* finally halts to face the water  
In his zest for life, he challenges the ocean itself.  
Pouncing on each frothing tendril like a kitten  
Again and again he storms at the curling waves.  
Then, a goal known only to himself accomplished,  
His eyes seek mine and his hand slips into mine  
And he returns victorious to the family orbit.

\* Russian diminutive for someone who perpetually asks “why.”

\*\* Russian term of endearment meaning “little hare.”

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

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To place an ad or a notice, contact Louise at [lmbeckett@crocker.com](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

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