



Volume 6, Number 5 - May 2025

Save the Date for Town Meeting!



On Saturday, June 7, at 10:00 a.m. Conway's registered voters will gather, as they have since Colonial times, to participate in the purest form of democracy in the country, our open town meeting. This is an opportunity for neighbors to come together to promote their vision of the future of our town where every participant gets to cast a vote of equal weight with every other vote cast on issues related to our school, infrastructure, town policies, and current and long-term expenditures that will affect our tax rate.

All registered voters are welcome. If you have not registered to vote, please do so by May 28 by contacting Town Clerk Laurie Lucier at 369-4235 x 4 or clerk@conwayma.gov. Care will be provided for children of all ages. Please contact Conway Grammar School Principal Kristen Gordon no later than one week prior to town meeting at kristen.gordon@frsu38.org.

Whether you are a new or a longtime resident, please attend Conway's open town meeting and witness democracy in action. Questions? Contact Town Administrator Véronique Blanchard at 369-4235 x 3 or townadmin@conwayma.gov.

Dog-of-the-Year Contest Winners

There were twenty-one entries in the town clerk's third annual Dog-of-the-Year Contest. Judging was done by Ashfield Cub Scout Pack 18. In first place was Shorty Van Driesche, second place was won by Charlie Clairemont, in third place was Orla Vinchesi, and Brady Makosiej won Honorable Mention.



1st Place: Shorty



2nd Place: Charlie



3rd Place: Orla (left)



Honorable Mention: Brady

Don't forget to license your dog!
For information contact Town Clerk Laurie Lucier, Conway Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road. Call 413-369-4235 x 4

or email 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 Friday.

Call for Artists!

The second annual Senior Social (formerly called the “Senior Prom”) at the Field Memorial Library is coming up on June 14! Like last year an exhibition of works by older adults (60+) will be an exciting part of the event. This year’s exhibition theme is “Textile Arts,” which would include embroidery, weaving, sewing, knitting, quilting, and the like. Two small or one large piece from each artist will be accepted for display. All work will be collected on the Friday before the Senior Social between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. for ease of setup on the following day. Interested persons can contact Aimee for details at 302windyhill@gmail.com.

Annual Garlic Mustard Pull Party

Calling all invasive plant fighters! The Open Space Committee is holding its annual garlic mustard pull on Saturday, May 18, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in South River Meadow. We will provide waste bags and snacks for all those arriving between 9:00 and 11:00 to assist in removing and controlling this nasty invasive from the town’s favorite meadow. It’s easy to pull and fun to join your neighbors in a common effort to beautify and protect the meadow. See you there!

Festival of the Hills Needs Help

Did you enjoy the 2024 Festival of the Hills? Don’t let it be the last! We have recently lost several long-serving board members and volunteers. A solid team of activity coordinators is critical for planning and putting on this popular event. Please consider joining a great group that meets monthly in the spring (first meeting in March) and bi-weekly in the summer leading up to the 2025 festival on October 5. That festival *won’t happen without more help!* We currently need to fill the following positions:

- Two to three board members, including treasurer and secretary
- Publicity/advertising coordinator (radio ads, social media, etc.)
- Fried dough booth – ServSafe Certification required

- Information booth coordinator
- Parade coordinator
- Two Un-tag Sale volunteers

Job descriptions and manuals for these positions are available upon request and will soon be accessible on the festival website. If you have skills you think might be helpful for any of the above positions, or even just general enthusiasm for our beloved festival, please email hazel.goleman@gmail.com.

Bird Walk in Conway

Residents are invited to join the Conway Forest and Trails Committee on a guided bird walk with Daniel Fitzgibbons on **Sunday, May 18, at 8:00 a.m.** Bring your binoculars, and we will look for birds along the South River off Reeds Bridge Road. Participants will be outdoors, slowly traversing a mixed terrain. Appropriate attire is recommended. Please take precautions against ticks.

This event is free and open to the public, ages 12 and up; please, no dogs. Space is limited, so please reserve your spot by emailing courtney.gilligan@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Massachusetts E-Bike Voucher Program

The Massachusetts E-Bike Voucher Program demonstrates the state’s commitment toward expanding access to clean transportation. By providing a voucher that reduces the cost of an e-bike, the program contributes to the commonwealth’s goal of providing affordable and accessible electrified transportation for low- and moderate-income residents. Vouchers of \$800 to \$1,200, depending on eligibility, will be awarded via random selection. The program is part of the state’s strategy to reduce growth in vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.

If you have questions about the e-bike voucher application process or web portal, email MA-ebikes@aptim.com or call 833-527-7213. All participants must be residents of Massachusetts. Voucher amounts

will never exceed the total cost of an e-bike. Two types of vouchers are offered: standard and enhanced. The table below provides an overview of the available vouchers.

Voucher	Maximum Dollar Amount	Eligibility Criteria
Standard	\$800	Have an income at or below 400% of the Federal Poverty Line, adjusted for household size, or participate in an <u>eligible income-certified program</u> .
Enhanced	\$1,200	Have an income at or below <u>225% of the Federal Poverty Line</u> , adjusted for household size; participate in an <u>eligible income-certified program</u> ; or submit a signed doctor's note that specifies a need for an adaptive e-bike.
Equipment Voucher	Up to \$150	The equipment voucher is available to both standard and enhanced applicants. It assists with the purchase of a helmet, a lock, a floor pump, and/or lights.

Conway Grammar School News

We are thrilled to share that Frontier Regional Union 38 School District, to which Conway Grammar School belongs, has been awarded funding through the MA Fresh Corp grant to help grow its Farm-to-School program. This funding will provide Farm-to-School staffing and stipends for teachers, food service workers, and local farmers. This work is funded by the Massachusetts legislature and administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. CGS will be incorporating Farm-to-School principles into upcoming events and would love for the folks of Conway to join us!

May 4, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Join us for the Third Annual Spring Fling, featuring local musicians, food vendors, and farmers, as well as Conway Grammar's favorite bird-of-prey expert, Tom Ricardi!

May 17, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Conway Grammar Work Bee! CGS will be hosting a morning of planting, tending, and spring cleaning.

Thanks to the generosity of the members of the Forest and Trails Committee, we will be planting a variety of native shrubs and trees alongside expert gardeners. Join us with your gardening tools in hand for a fun morning of community and cultivation!

If you would like more information or to volunteer, please reach out to us at conwaygrammarpto@gmail.com or visit our website at BIT.LY/CGSPTO.

LifePath Awards Grants to Eleven Organizations

LifePath has awarded funding to eleven community-based organizations in the first year of the annual Age and Dementia Friendly Community Grants initiative. These one-time grants support projects that improve accessibility, foster inclusion, and promote the well-being of older adults and people living with dementia across our region. These awards are supported with funding from Point32Health Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Tufts Health Plan, and the Community Health Improvement Plan Network, a project of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Grants of up to \$3,000 were awarded to support initiatives aligned with the Age and Dementia Friendly Action Plan, a blueprint for building safer, welcoming, and equitable communities for all ages and abilities.

Among the eleven organizations was Conway's Mass in Motion /Age-Friendly Committee, which received grants for both the creation of a one-stop home repair resource portal for older adults and the launch of an on-demand senior transportation service, improving access to daily needs, events, and social opportunities. The other grants were to the Greenfield Council on Aging, Greenfield Housing Authority, Leverett Library, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Northfield Senior Center, Rowe Council on Aging, Shelburne Senior Center, the Towns of Ashfield and Athol, and Village Neighbors.

Regional Repair Event

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is working in conjunction with the Franklin County Technical School to host a repair event on Saturday, May 31, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Tech School, 82 Industrial Blvd., Turners Falls. This event is free and open to all residents of solid waste district member towns: Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

A combination of Tech School students and instructors plus other “fixers” will help residents with small electrical repairs, such as rewiring lamps. The Tech School will also offer a sharpening service for knives, scissors, tools, chainsaws, and lawn mower blades. No registration is required for this event. More information will be available in the coming weeks at franklincountywastedistrict.org or by calling 413-772-2438.

Fixers are being sought to provide small repairs to furniture, such as gluing and clamping broken chairs and other small wooden items. Have another fix-it skill? If you are skilled at repairing household objects or have another skill to share, let us know! We need volunteer fixers for this event and hope you'll join us for an hour or more! Email Jan at fcswmd@crocker.com or phone 413-772-2438.

Illustrator Wanted

The Town of Conway is seeking an artist to produce pen-and-ink spot illustrations for an upcoming guide to the town. Sections of the guide that might inspire illustrations include a physical description of the town; Conway history; town government and departments (police, fire, ambulance, highway, emergency management, transfer station); town meeting; understanding the Town Report; town departments, boards, and committees; sources of revenue; the town election; appointed and elected officials; clubs and organizations (Snowmobile and Sportsman's clubs, Field Memorial Library, Grammar School, etc.); recreation (forests and trails, the South River, Conway Pool) and

sports (pickleball, ballfield); and places of interest (covered bridge, historic cemeteries). For further information, call or email Town Administrator Véronique Blanchard, 369-4235 x 3, townadmin@conwayma.gov. Samples of your work can be mailed to the town administrator, PO Box 240, Conway, MA 01341.

Swimming Pool News

Our spring clean-up is May 3. Consider joining us to ready our pool for a May 23 opening. Bring gloves, rakes, pruners, and weed whackers. We'll supply doughnuts; you bring your favorite beverage.

On June 14 there will be a 75th Pool Anniversary event. Planning is in the works, so be sure to save this date for a townwide celebration.

Second Annual Senior Social (AKA “Senior Prom”)

The town's Age-Friendly Committee and the Friends of the Field Memorial Library invite all of Conway's older adults (60+) to a Senior Social. As those who attended last year will remember, this was a fun gathering.

The social will be “Under the Dome” at the Field Memorial Library on **Saturday, June 14, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.** Music, food, and beverages will be provided. In addition there will be an exhibit of fiber artwork created by your senior neighbors. This free event is a wonderful chance for Conway's older adults to gather together, meet your neighbors in a new way, and enjoy some social time. Wondering about attire? Dress casually and comfortably.

Look for a mailer to come to your home or PO box during May. For further information now, contact Robin Yerkes at rbyerkes@gmail.com, 413-575-7816, or 369-4170.

This event is made possible by a grant from Mass in Motion, a statewide movement, and the Mass in Motion Franklin County initiative led by partners LifePath and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, as well as by the support of the Friends of the FML and the Age-Friendly Committee.

“Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Collection

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is holding its “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Collection days on May 17 and October 18 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at these three collection sites: Erving Highway Garage, 16 Public Works Boulevard; Mohawk Trail Regional High School, 26 Ashfield Road (Route 112 South); and Whately Transfer Station, 73 Christian Lane (off Routes 5 & 10). Residents from any of the district’s 21 member towns may bring bulky items such as tires, scrap metal, appliances (doors must be removed from refrigerators and freezers), upholstered furniture, carpeting, construction and demolition debris, computers, televisions, electronics, VCRs, microwaves, propane tanks (20 lb. and 1 lb.), fire extinguishers, and the like. Note: Mattresses are not accepted at this collection. No preregistration is necessary. Please do not bring yard waste, brush, tree stumps, asbestos, paint, auto batteries, oil tanks, hazardous materials, or trash.

There are charges for most items. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected during check-in at each site. A price list for the most common items is at franklincountywastedistrict.org. More information is on the website or you can call 413-772-2438.

News from the Board of Health

Watch out for ticks! Ticks can transmit diseases to humans when they bite. The longer a tick remains attached to the skin, the higher the likelihood that it may spread bacteria that cause tick-borne illnesses.

In 2023, over 250 ticks from Franklin County were tested for tick-borne disease. Lyme disease was found in ticks from 65% of Franklin County towns. Although only deer ticks (aka black-legged ticks) can transmit Lyme, babesiosis, and anaplasmosis, other ticks should be avoided because they can transmit less-common diseases, such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia.

Luckily, there are many actions we can take to prevent tick-borne diseases:

- When outdoors, stick to hiking trails, wear light-colored clothing to see ticks more easily, and tuck in loose ends.
- Brush your clothing off with your hands or a lint roller before coming inside to reduce what you carry indoors.
- Showering within two hours can help wash off ticks before they bite and become embedded. Use a washcloth and do a good “tick scrub.”
- Make a habit of checking yourself, your children, and your pets for ticks after coming inside. Think like a tick: Ticks often hitch a ride after you make physical contact with brushy plants. Start by checking feet, ankles, legs, and groin, then work your way upward.
- Use tick repellents. DEET, picardin, and oil of lemon eucalyptus can be used on skin. Use as directed. Pretreat clothing, including socks and shoes, with permethrin (not to be put on skin). Permethrin is invisible, odorless, and stays effective in fabric through many washings. Using skin and clothing repellents together is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Defense.

Want to identify a tick? Send a photo to Tick Encounter tickencounter.org to learn about the tick and your risk level. You’ll hear from a tick expert in about 24 hours when using this free service, which is run through the University of Rhode Island.

For more information on tick safety and prevention, go to these websites: MA DPH mass.gov/info-details/tick-borne-disease-prevention and CDC cdc.gov/ticks/prevention/index. For the most up to date information, please see the Town’s BOH webpage conwayma.gov/g/42/Board-of-Health.

Visit the Conway Board of Health table at Conway Grammar School’s “Spring Fling” on May 4! We’ll have informational handouts, tick identification cards, tick removal tools, and more for you to take home. Information from the Conway BOH is focused on our shared public health. Please consult your healthcare provider for your personal healthcare guidance.

Conway Historical Society News

Join the Conway Historical Society on Thursday May 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the Conway Historical Society Museum, 50 Main Street, for a presentation by Conway resident Philip Kantor titled "Ely's Insurrection of 1782 as Viewed by Joseph Hawley." Ely's Insurrection was the forerunner of Shay's Rebellion five years later and was the single largest and most serious protest movement during the American Revolution. Its namesake, Samuel Ely, was a Conway resident, clergyman, and war hero. The insurrection itself – and the subsequent freeing of Samuel Ely from prison – was led by notable Conway residents and Continental Army officers Captain Abel Dinsmore and Lieutenant Perez Bardwell.

This presentation will discuss the insurrection and the life of Samuel Ely through the writings of three prominent contemporaries: John Adams, Samuel Adams, and Joseph Hawley. Hawley and his remarkable life will be a primary focus of the talk. This talk is free and open to the public. Donations welcome; refreshments will be served.



Left: Writing desk of Northampton's Major Joseph Hawley (1723-1788), upon which he wrote some of the most important documents of the revolution. Hawley was an ardent patriot, staunch abolitionist, and fierce advocate of liberty. One of the foremost leaders of the American independence movement, he greatly inspired his fellow revolutionaries.

History Chats

Members of the town Historical Commission, a municipal committee separate from the nonprofit Conway Historical Society museum, have resumed their monthly history discussions. These informal discussions take place on the fourth Friday of each month from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the Town Hall General Purpose Room. Advance notice helps us to compile our research about neighborhoods and properties

but is not required before stopping by. We also welcome opportunities to conduct oral-history interviews with anyone interested in sharing their memories. For more information, please contact commission member Bill Burnett at maplefarm116@gmail.com or 413-768-1353.

Hands Off Conway



An estimated 350-400 people gathered in Conway center in support of the nationwide "Hands Off" event, April 5. Image courtesy of Cayte McDonough.

UCC Camperships

Are you going to camp this summer? UCC of Conway is offering some money to help with expenses. We will be awarding six \$50.00 "camperships" to any boy or girl attending either a day or an overnight camp. Preference will be given but not limited to those who live in or are affiliated with Conway. If you are interested, please email uccconway@gmail.com or send a written request to UCC of Conway, PO Box 214, Conway, MA 01341. Happy camping!

Town Administrator Update



Work on the Public Safety Building, above, has progressed rapidly these past few months with the help of the Franklin County Tech School students who have made it their project.

Left, Ken Ouimette explains the layout of the addition as well as the changes being made with the original structure.

Once complete, the 75-year-old public safety building at 14 Ashfield Road will have individual offices for the Fire, Police and Ambulance departments, as well as a shower, laundry room and conference room.

Friends of the FML Update

Museum Passes at the Library The Friends of the Field Memorial Library has free passes available for several museums and parks. Come see what is available by looking at the pass board located near the circulation desk. Each pass enables admission for a varying number of people. Please check with the librarian to reserve a pass and to find out what it will cover. Passes are a one-week loan for maximum community use. We request that passes be returned during our open hours. We have passes for MassMOCA, the Eric Carle Museum, Historic Deerfield, the Clark Museum, Wistariahurst Museum, the Pioneer Valley Symphony, and a DCR pass to any state park. This month we are featuring Historic Deerfield. Visit the website historic-deerfield.org/ to see all that this museum offers and then pick up a pass at the library. Historic Deerfield opens for the season on May 3. Even if you have visited it many times, each year it offers new exhibits, events, and history for you to explore. It's wonderful that we have such a rich and accessible resource to visit within just a short commute.

May 3, 2025, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. With the Museum of Art in the Springfield Symphony Orchestra will present a fun and informative traveling hands-on exhibit of musical instruments for children PreK to grade 4 and beyond. Students will get a chance to hear, experience, and even play the orchestra's instruments. Each participant will receive an activity book as part of the program. Literacy and STEM initiatives are built into the activity. Join us for this special event!

May 17, Spring Book Sale The Friends will hold their spring book sale on Saturday, May 17 at the library from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. There will be a large selection of books and puzzles. Proceeds benefit the library's educational and cultural programs. We are now accepting donations of books in good condition. We especially welcome donations of local history books, puzzles, and recent books of all genres. Donations can be brought to the library during open hours (Monday 3:00-6:00 p.m., Wednesday 2:00-7:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.). Check our website at fieldmemoriallibrary.org/ for more information.

May 17-19, Story Walk The walk will be set up in Veterans Memorial Park opposite Town Hall on Saturday and stay up until 3:00 p.m. on Monday. May's story walk is *Lola at the Library* by Anna McQuinn. You can walk from one sign to the next to read the story. 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.

May 24, 10:30-11:00 a.m. , Story Time On the fourth Saturday of each month stories for children three to six years old (but all are welcome) will be read in the library's children's room or possibly outside during warmer months. Story readers will be a Friends volunteer and/or Amy Battisti and staff from the Union 38 Family Network and Frontier Regional School district. A furry friend may visit to join in the fun. We hope this will be another way for children and families to enjoy our library!

Splendid Book Chat

by Aimee Anderson

The first book I've selected for this month is *The Legacy* by Nevil Shute (William Morrow and Company, 1950). The story begins a few years after World War II with a lawyer's search for the heir to a fortune. Jean Paget, surprised by this unexpected legacy, decides to fulfill a dream she dared share with only one other person: a dream that sustained her during the dark, horror-filled years of the war she spent as a prisoner of the Japanese in Malaya. Facing the terrors of her past unexpectedly opens a new path that may lead her to the fulfillment of her ultimate dream of a place in which she can come alive and share a love that seems impossible. I would like to go on and on here, but I don't want to rob you, the reader, of the charm of discovery of what comes next for Jean. I've read this wonderful story so many times that the pages are falling out of my copy! (Note: *The Legacy* was published in England under the title *A Town Like Alice*, and while there have been good movie and miniseries adaptations, I've always found the book better.)

My second selection is *Last of the Breed* by Louis L'Amour (Bantam Books, 1986). L'Amour authored 100 novels and 250 short stories, most of them westerns set on the American frontier, but this one's locale is a whole other continent. It's the story of Major Joe Makatozi (Joe Mack), a man who lives in two worlds: as a part-Sioux/part-Cheyenne steeped in the traditions of his ancestors, and as a U.S. Air Force pilot. Joe is shot down over the Bering Strait while testing a military aircraft and captured by the Soviets. He is determined to escape and somehow return to the United States. My copy of the book contains a map that shows the enormous swath of land he must travel on foot across the vast and deadly Siberian wilderness to make his escape. *Hopeless, impossible, ridiculous* are words that describe such an attempt. What follows is an epic tale of unbending will, grit, and determination befitting a L'Amour character: a character who must fight for his life using the ancient survival skills of his forebears.

Please join me next month for more Splendid Book Chat.

Scholarships

Conway Firemen's Auxiliary Scholarship The Conway Firemen's Auxiliary annually awards up to two scholarships of up to \$500 each. Applicants must be a Conway resident and a senior in high school. Primary consideration will be given to students who participate in community service, work, or extracurricular activities and who are planning to further their education in 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 conwayma.gov/p/59/Scholarships. Submit completed applications to Conway Firemen's Auxiliary, PO Box 46, Conway, MA 01341.

Friends of the FML Red Gate Farm Scholarship Aid The Friends of the Field Memorial Library is offering scholarship aid to Red Gate Farm 2025 Summer Programs. Children who live in Conway and need financial aid to attend the program are eligible and encouraged to apply. Simply apply online: redgatefarm.org/summer. The age range for children attending the elementary school summer farm

program is five to ten years. The child needs to be five years and ten months old by July 1, 2025. The summer program is now open for registration on a first-come basis.

The Ryan Scholarship The Friends of the Field Memorial Library welcome applications for the Ryan Scholarship. Conway was labeled “the wettest place in America for the month of July” in 2023. The scholarship is, in part, a response to that dubious distinction. It is named to honor the life and work of Ryan Walsh Martel, who grew up in Conway and died from brain cancer in 2022 at the age of 41. Ryan’s life work was in energy policy. He had a passion for reducing the impact of climate change for the sake of future generations. The scholarship (\$3,000) will be awarded to the Conway high school graduating senior who presents the best plan, through education or work, to lessen the impact of climate change and thus carry on Ryan’s legacy. For more information about Ryan, you can read his obituary at bit.ly/Ryan_obituary and learn about his work at bit.ly/Ryan_work. Download a copy of the application at fieldmemoriallibrary.org or contact Thad Bennett, Coordinator, The Ryan Scholarship, theyanscholarship@gmail.com, 802-579-7675.

Conway Council on Aging

Council on Aging meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in Town Hall. The next meeting will be May 7. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email patricialynch@earthlink.net.

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).

Monthly Foot Care Foot clinics are usually held on the first Monday of the month in Town Hall **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Clinic hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$25.00. A 48-hour notice

is required for cancellations; without such notice, you will be responsible for the fee. NOTE: Reservations are taken at each month’s clinic for the following month. Reserve a space now for the June clinic. 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.

Senior Strength & 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. Each class includes upper body, lower body, and core strength exercises with dumbbells and body weight and balance training. This Healthy Bones & Balance program is sponsored by RSVP. Contact leader Gary Fentin at 369-0001 for information or for the Zoom link.

Walking Group It’s spring at last, and the walking group is again taking to the streets of Conway for walks around town. Join the group in front of the library every Monday at 10:00, weather permitting, to enjoy companionship and friendly conversation while engaging in healthful exercise. For more information contact Phylis Dacey, 369-4326.

Yoga for Seniors Led by Jody Smith Soles 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 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 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.

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, PO Box 240, Conway, MA 01341.**

As You Like It Cleaning Service - is looking for 1 or 2 new clients once or twice a month. I have been serving the Conway area since 1982 and have sterling references available upon request. Please call 413-325 - 5777 for more information.

Personal Care Aide (PCA)/ Caregiver needed - in center of Conway. Our team is 80% Conway residents. Thank you, Conway, for the response. 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 too. What does it take? Everything you can think of: caring, dedicated, responsible people to do PCA care, laundry, trash removal, cleaning, shopping, help with personnel tasks, cooking and so much more. We currently have a full staff with one person who can cover some shifts if needed. But schedules and/or circumstances can change so we continue to advertise for people who might be able to help. If this is something you might want to do now or in the future think about it and call. The population in Conway is

getting older and we all may need help in the future. Applicants must pass a CORI check; Current pay is \$19.50 hour. Variable hours depending on shift. Please contact David if interested. 413-768-8751.

Odd job man - for small projects, repairs, painting etc. Custom wood and metalworking available. Insured. Over 25 years experience. Call or email John; we can talk. 413-369-4064; spell938@earthlink.net

Conway's very own - South River Singers, a community choir led by Sophie Michaux and Adam Simon, will perform their annual concert on Tuesday May 20 at 7 p.m. at Edwards Church in Northampton, and you are invited! They will share music from Bulgaria, Croatia, American folk songs, Mozart, originals, and more. The concert is free and open to all: 100% of any donations will be given to Música Franklin, a non-profit that offers an immersive after-school program for youth in Franklin County, modeled on El Sistema, a hugely successful music and social change program. This event is part of the Music at the Crossroads concert series, and is supported by the Conway and Massachusetts Cultural Councils. We hope to see you there!

Hannah Harvester Fine Art - Open Studio! Sunday, May 18, 1-5 p.m. Original landscape paintings, reproductions, and block prints on view and available for purchase, with 20% of all proceeds going to benefit the Franklin Land Trust. Live jazz by Conway's David Braden-Johnson on keys, Nate Thorn on guitar, Josh Metz on bass, and The Soul Magnets' Carolyn Dufraine on trombone. Come for art, snacks, music, community, the land, or just to say hi! Space is available for Hannah's Friday afternoon art club for children ages 6 and up. A focus on observational drawing and being outdoors when possible. www.HannahHarvester.com or hannahharvesterfineart@gmail.com for more information.

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 and fourth Friday 7 p.m. and third Thursday - starts around 6 p.m. - each month! Look for the blue flag on the porch.



Baker's Country Store - open seven days a week for all-day take-out breakfast & 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 & baked goods & a large selection of last-minute items. We have Mother's Day flowers and plants! facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store for today's specials or call 413-369-4936.

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.

Wood Stove for sale - \$1500. Vermont Castings Vigilant, used but in excellent working condition. Contact Janet or Carl at 413-625-6921, or email jgerry@crocker.com or cnelke116@gmail.com.

Realtor on Main Street, Conway - Seeking advice with buying your next house or selling your home or land? Ask Geoffrey Baker, a licensed realtor with Cohn and Company in Greenfield. You might have seen me walking around town with a baby strapped-in while towing a bluetick hound dog. Since moving here five winters ago, my wife Mikayla and I have been fixing up our old home on Main Street, growing our garden a little bigger every summer, and now raising our daughter Aurelia, born last June. We're excited that she will grow up here! From the experience of moving to Conway, I know how helpful a good realtor can be. I look forward to hearing your questions about what makes Conway so desirable or estimating your home's value. Please contact me at 413-296-5225 or geoffrey@cohnandcompany.com

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.

Old Parsonage Flowers - Need a unique gift or something to brighten your home? Old Parsonage Flowers has a variety of Conway-grown pressed flowers as well as vases, candle holders, small made-to-order signs and tiles and framed items, many incorporating decoupage; almost all using upcycled materials. Have a special request? Let's see if we can help. Check out our [FaceBook](https://www.facebook.com/oldparsonageflowers) page or email us at oldparsonageflowers@gmail.com. Open by chance on Upper Baptist Hill when the flowers start blooming!

Happy May! - It's time to start planting summer crops and bulbs. Perhaps our GrowTech Hori-Hori Knife will suit your needs with its beveled, serrated edge that digs, weeds, and divides with



ease. Or maybe GrowTech's long-handled Surudo-Kote trowel or Nejiri Kama sickle to help reduce back pain after spending long hours in the garden. Don't forget to protect your hands; choose from our large selection of work and gardening gloves. Finish cleaning up dead stems and stalks with a pair FELCO or LÖWE pruners or ARS snips. Need help picking the right tools for the job? Call or stop by to talk with our knowledgeable sales staff. Be sure to pick up your copy of our latest Master Catalog 28 while you're here. Shop where the pros shop and thanks for buying locally!

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

Jan & John Maggs Antiques and Art - 17th-century English oak furniture, Queen Anne and Georgian jewelry, paintings, carpets, and small accessories in our shop in Pumpkin Hollow. Look for our OPEN flags on the weekend of May 10 & 11, when our shop will be full of our latest purchases. We'll be open on Saturday from noon until 4:00 and on Sunday from 9:00 until 4:00. Visit us online online at jmaggs.com, or call or email to arrange a visit. 413-369-4256; jmaggs@jmaggs.com. There's plenty to see, and we're always happy to show visitors around and answer questions about the things we sell.



Singing Lessons! - The School of Trusting the Voice by Peter Barley - Confidence building: use your unique voice; expand your range and quality of sound. Enjoy singing and optional guitar lessons. For students of all ages and levels, including those who think they can't sing, are tone deaf, or are afraid of singing or have voice injuries. The school of trusting the voice with Peter Barley. Referrals available. Come to my studio in Conway or visit me at [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/peterbarley) - free your voice. Conway has been my home town since 1985. First lesson half off. 413-695-0375.



Debra Hoyle Studio/Gallery - is accessible. Stop by . . . Deb's studio and gallery is open by chance and by appointment. Browsers welcomed, and workshops offered for small groups. No experience needed, and it's a fun way to spend an afternoon with family or friends! \$60. each for a 3 hour session with all materials included. *Gift certificates available.* 413-325-5579; [instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors](https://www.instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors)

Feb & April Vacation/Summer 2025 Piano Programs - for Kids 5+ - Are you looking for fun activities during school breaks? We've got you covered at Glover Piano Studio in South Deerfield! Join us Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-noon during the summer. Each day is packed with group & individual lessons, fun games, free play, movement, and even arts and crafts. Plus, we offer early drop off and late pick up at no extra

charge for your convenience. For more information, or to reserve your spot, contact Dorothy Claire Glover at 601-421-5032 or visit gloverpianostudio.com.

Mosaic Art Workshops for Adults - Christine Kenneally, Conway resident and mosaic artist, with 18+ years teaching experience, offers workshops and retreats at her home studio on North Poland Road this spring. Personalized instruction, creativity coaching. Learn to work with various materials and with the added support of Reiki energy, to create a work of art, all using hand tools. www.christinekenneally.net. Mosaic Garden Stepping Stones: 1-day workshops; May 17, June 8. Luminous Glass on Glass Mosaics: 6 week session; starting May 8. Manifesting the Life you Desire with Mosaic Totems; May 10

Attention Lifelong Learners - Five College Learning in Retirement (FCLIR) established in 1988 and sponsored by the Five Colleges for the purpose of serving the lifelong learning interests of retired and semi-retired people in the Pioneer Valley. Member-led seminars, workshops and interest groups on a wide range of topics, throughout the year. Recent examples: Bob Dylan, Artificial Intelligence, Utopian Societies, Great Disasters, Famous Public Gardens, Zombies, Watercolor Painting, and most popularly, Memoir Writing. Programs range in length from 2-10 weeks and may be offered via Zoom or in person. Interest groups get together throughout the year and several social events are organized each year for the entire membership. To explore what FCLIR has to offer both in educational programs and in opportunities for peer-to-peer connections visit fclir.org.

Mother's Day Weekend Sale at Wilder Hill Gardens - May 10 - 11, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.. Shop for locally grown nursery stock including flowering shrubs, annuals, currants, gooseberries, blueberries, herb plants, shade and sun perennials, and a growing collection of native plants. Wilder Hill Press and gallery will also be open so you can browse an original

WILDER HILL
gardens

collection of prints, handmade books and ceramics. Contact: Lilian Jackman. 351 South Shirkshire Road, Conway.
lilianjackman@gmail.com;
wilderhillgardens.com; 413-772-9065.

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