

Ashfield FilmFest

“These are the times that try men’s [our] souls,” Thomas Paine wrote in his pamphlet “The American Crisis” in 1776. On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Ashfield FilmFest introduces a special history prize of \$1,000 this year only for the short film that best addresses the idea attributed to philosopher George Santayana: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” The challenge will be to think outside the box. Themes could range from lighter treatments, such as “how to best set a toaster oven to avoid burning toast for a second or third time,” to weightier subjects such as “constitutional crisis.” In 1787 Thomas Jefferson wrote this about Shay’s Rebellion: “I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical.”

As always, the FilmFest welcomes all films that are five minutes or less in length, family friendly, and with some connection to western Massachusetts. You can submit your film through [FilmFreeway](#). For more information see the [Ashfield FilmFest](#) website. All the films are eligible for cash prizes (between \$250 and \$500), and winners also receive a piece of art made by local artisans. The submission deadline is August 31, but it's never too early to submit your film!

The FilmFest is scheduled for September 19 and 20 at Ashfield Town Hall. On Friday night we will screen an engaging feature film with participation from the filmmakers and the audience. Saturday is the short film competition gala, at which community members gather to watch a juried collection of community-created films with big sound on a big screen.

Mark your calendars for the event! Amateurs and established filmmakers, young and old, are encouraged to submit films. YOU could be the one to take home the coveted Audience Choice Award, the Youth Award, or this year’s special history prize. Contact Lynn R. Dole, lrdoe@gmail.com, with questions.

Festival of the Hills

Call for Artists! Conway’s Festival of the Hills is seeking artists for the Festival of the Hills Art Exhibition to be held at the Field Memorial Library on October 5. All Conway artists are cordially invited to enter up to five pieces. Please join us for this event. Applications are available at festivalofthehills.com. Queries and applications can be sent to the art show coordinator at conwayfestivalarts@gmail.com.

Annual Festival of the Hills Bake Sale

Saturday, October 4, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Town Common in front of the library – The annual **Saturday** FOH bake sale is looking for donations of baked goods: cookies, pies, cakes, breads, muffins, and the like. The food must be wrapped and labeled for nuts, GF, etc. Food can be dropped off the morning of the sale after 8:00 a.m. We will also have coffee, tea, and cider for sale. All proceeds from the bake sale are for the benefit of the Festival of the Hills Scholarship Fund for Conway graduating high school seniors.

No time to bake? Please stop by and purchase some baked goods for the weekend, holiday company, or your freezer. Thank you for supporting the festival and Conway students. Call Gail Connelly at 369-4287 if you have any questions.

Calling All Crafters! If you are a crafter interested in participating in the Craft Fair at the 2025 Conway Festival of the Hills, October 5, please obtain a crafter application form by visiting the FOH website, festivalofthehills.com >“Events,” >“Craft Fair”, or by contacting the Craft Fair coordinator, Amy Rioux, at conwaycrafters@yahoo.com or 413-336-1360.

All crafts must be handmade by the exhibitor. No manufactured, imported, or made-from-kits goods are permitted. Applications must be postmarked by August 15 and will be replied to by August

29. Crafts will be juried for craft balance. Crafters must provide their own canopy tent, tables, chairs, and other means of display. The fee for a 12' x 12' crafter space on the ball field is \$50, which supports the FOH Scholarship Fund for graduating seniors from the town of Conway.

Festival Parade Needs Participants The Festival of the Hills parade needs you! Consider getting together with folks in your neighborhood to put together a float this year. Or perhaps you have a particular talent or know someone who can juggle, ride a unicycle, hula-hoop, or walk on stilts or who plays in a band. Are you a line dancer or some other type of group dancer? What about those of you with well-behaved oxen, horses, goats, sheep, or llamas? Oh, and tractors, lawnmowers, or golf carts. Polish them up or decorate them and join the fun! I would be remiss to omit bikes: decorated or not, we want you too! Contact Ceil Antes at ceil.antes@gmail.com with your wish to participate.

Friends of the FML Update

Museum Passes The Friends of the Field Memorial Library has free passes available for several museums and parks. Come see what is available by looking at our pass board located near the circulation desk. Each pass enables admission of a varying number of people. Please check with the librarian to reserve a pass and to find out what it will cover. Passes are on a first-come, first-served basis and are a one-week loan for maximum community use. We request that passes be returned during the library's 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.

August 16-18, 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. August's story is *Jamberry* by Bruce Degen. 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 Network.

October 4-5, Fall Book Sale We begin preparing for this great event by asking for donations of books in good condition. All genres are sought, with the exception of self-help books. Our sale is only as good as the books you generously provide! Bring your books to the library during open hours, Monday 3:00-6:00 p.m., Wednesday 2:00-7:00 p.m., and Saturday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Thank you to all who are responding with donations to the Friends' annual appeal letter. We appreciate your support and welcome your contributions toward helping the library meet more of the needs of our community. Please let us know what you'd like to see the library provide in programming, events, books, media, etc. All ideas are welcome!

Franklin County Solid Waste District Programs

Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Franklin County Solid Waste District will hold the 2025 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 20, at Greenfield Community College and the Orange Transfer Station. Residents and businesses must preregister by September 10. Online preregistration for the 2025 collection will open in mid-August at franklincountywastedistrict.org. Mail-in registration forms will be available in mid-August at town transfer stations and in local newspapers. Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring waste to the collection; an appointment time and instructions will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

The collection is free for residents of most of the district's 21 member towns. Businesses may participate but must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call 413-772-

2438. This event provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash. A complete list of acceptable items is on the website above.

Fall “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day The three collection locations on Saturday, October 18, 9:00 a.m. to noon, will be Erving Highway Garage on Public Works Boulevard (off Route 2); Mohawk Trail Regional School at 26 Ashfield Road (Route 112 South), Buckland; and Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane. Residents and businesses from any of the district’s 21 member towns may bring bulky items to this collection. There are charges for most items (cash only). A price list for the most common items is on our website. Preregistration is not required for this event.

Low-Cost Compost Bins and Pails Composting is easy, and it can be even easier with effective, low-cost compost bins and pails. Franklin County Solid Waste District sells “Earth Machine” home compost bins (\$25.00) and “Sure-Close” kitchen food waste collection pails (\$5.00). Residents of these towns may purchase a compost bin through a subsidized pricing incentive: Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Shelburne, Wendell, and Whately. To purchase bins or pails, call the district at 413-772-2438.

For more information on any of these programs, visit franklincountywastedistrict.org or contact the district at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, 413-772-2438. *MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).* The district is an equal opportunity provider.

News from the Board of Health

August Is Overdose Awareness Month Across the United States, more than 200 people die every day from overdose. Opioid

overdoses continue to impact families across Massachusetts, including right here in Conway. In honor of Overdose Awareness Month, we urge residents to learn the signs of overdose and how to respond.

Narcan (naloxone), a life-saving medication that reverses opioid overdose, is available without a prescription at many pharmacies. We are awaiting installation of two outdoor Narcan boxes in Conway. Learn how you can recognize and respond to an overdose, including how to administer naloxone nasal spray (Narcan or RiVive), in a free, ten-minute online training. See URI.edu/ROTA-R and click on “Massachusetts.” As part of the program, you can anonymously request a free Narcan nasal spray kit and fentanyl testing strips by mail. Local recovery support resources are available on the Board of Health webpage.

Mosquito-Borne Disease Prevention August is peak mosquito season, and with it comes the risk of West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. As of mid July, mosquitoes infected with WNV have been found in ten counties in Massachusetts.

To avoid these illnesses, eliminate standing water around your home. Birdbaths, buckets, and clogged gutters are common breeding spots. Avoid being outside around dawn and dusk if possible. When outdoors, use an EPA-approved insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants.

Back-to-School Health Prep As children prepare to return to school, now is the time to schedule annual physicals, update vaccinations, and review school health policies. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health recommends you keep current with vaccinations, including against COVID, flu, and measles.

Heat Safety Reminder While evenings may be getting cooler, August days can still bring high heat and humidity. Please remember to stay hydrated, avoid strenuous outdoor activity

during peak afternoon hours, and check in on elderly or at-risk neighbors and those without air conditioning.

Information from the Conway BOH is focused on our shared public health. Please consult your health care provider for your personal health care guidance. For the most up-to-date information, please see the town website and the BOH webpage at conwayma.gov/g/42/Board-of-Health.

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.

Splendid Book Chat

by Aimee Anderson

Greetings. My first book selection for this month is *The Moon-Spinners* by Mary Stewart (Ballantine Books, 1963). The story begins when Nicola Ferris, a young Englishwoman, is vacationing on the Greek island of Crete. On an impulse, she goes for a walk in the beautiful White Mountains, where she stumbles upon a shocking scene: a wounded young Englishman in a hut guarded by a fiercely protective Greek. Unknowingly she has happened upon men who are hiding from jewel smugglers: a crime that stretches from the Cretan hills to the streets of London. The men warn her to leave and forget what she has seen rather than become involved in

a dangerous situation. However, she becomes entangled in this dangerous world, which ultimately leads to a dramatic climax. The vivid beauty and the folklore of Greece are the intriguing backdrop for the romantic adventure that follows. A perfect summer read!

The next selection is *A Morbid Taste for Bones* by Ellis Peters (Warner Books, 1977), a medieval mystery set in 1137. The monks of Shrewsbury Abbey intend to install the bones of a Welsh saint in their chapel to enhance the abbey's prestige and make it a destination for pilgrims. Residents of the Welsh village in which the bones have rested object to this. Complicating matters is the murder of one of the village's prominent leaders, an outspoken opponent of the removal of the saintly relics. Enter Brother Cadfael, a former crusader who has become a Benedictine monk. He will need all his powers of observation and deep knowledge of human nature to unravel the twisted mystery and bring about a satisfactory ending for all parties, in both Wales and the Abbey.

Note: This book was the first in a series of twenty novels featuring Brother Cadfael, who aids the law by investigating and solving murders. A television series of the Brother Cadfael mysteries was produced by ITV, Britain's public broadcast television network, and was aired in the United States as part of PBS's *Mystery!* series. It is well worth watching.

Please join me next month for more Splendid Book Chat.

Swimming Pool News

Save the date! Second annual poolside movie night will be at sunset on **August 30** (rain date August 31). Bring a blanket, bring a friend, and join us for a family night of outdoor entertainment with free popcorn. Watch for flyers and visit the pool website, conwayswimmingpool.org, for details.

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

Senior Calendar for August

“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 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 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 September 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 The walking group meets in front of the library every Monday, weather permitting, for walks around town. to enjoy companionship and friendly conversation while engaging in healthful exercise. For more information and the summer meeting time, 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

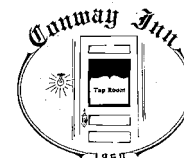
Rates for ads up to 150 words are: one month \$8.50, three months \$16.50; six months \$26.50, twelve months \$45.50. For cost of longer ads or to include images (limited), call or email Louise at 413-559-1180 or lmbeckett@crocker.com. Pay by checking account or credit card through the town's website <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**. Please send the text of your advertisement to Louise by email at lmbeckett@crocker.com. **Deadline is the 15th of the preceding month.** If you want to discuss your ad or have any questions, please call or email lmbeckett@crocker.com.

Wanted: Odd job person - for demolition, exterior trim, cement block wall building, clean-up in downtown Conway. Inquire at 413-588-4873 or 302windyhill@gmail.com.

Personal Care Aide/Caregiver - needed in center of Conway - **The PCA who puts mom to bed at night has just broken her ankle** and will be out for several weeks. We have had a great response finding people since the ad in *Currents* as been running, and 80% are from Conway. **Thank you Conway!** What does it take to keep an elderly person out of a nursing home? Everything you can think of: caring, dedicated, responsible people to do PCA care, laundry, trash removal, cleaning, shopping, cooking, help with personnel tasks, like toileting and dressing. Motorized wheelchair bound elderly female managing medications independently requires no help feeding. No heavy lifting in this case. Right now, we need to fill our injured PCA's shifts and backup shifts **ASAP**. We continue to need backup PCAs to fill in

when someone needs a day off or has an emergency at home. Evening and day shifts available with variable hours depending on the shift. We currently work with MA Health and Tempus. Tempus offers many free professional development classes under its union contract including CNA training with certification and first aid. Current rate is \$20/hour. Must pass a CORI check. The population in Conway is getting older and we all may need help in the future! Please contact David if interested. 413-768-8751.

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. 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 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 and a large selection of last-minute items. Check us out on Facebook: 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.

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](#) page or email us at oldparsonageflowers@gmail.com. Open by chance on Upper Baptist Hill when the flowers start blooming!

August is here - which means all that spring work in your vegetable garden is paying off! Our Zenport garden knives are affordable, easy to sharpen, and come in several sizes for efficient harvesting of everything from broccoli to zucchini. Growing okra, hot peppers, or cut flowers? Grab a pair of lightweight snips from Felco, ARS, or Bahco. Our sturdy Roo aprons are great for keeping both hands free – carry tools, garden debris, or fruits and veggies while you work. Pick up a beautiful, functional Maine Garden Hod, in 8qt or 16qt capacity, to carry your bounty from garden to kitchen in style. Call or stop by to talk to our knowledgeable sales staff, and don't forget to grab a copy of our latest catalog 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 - Look for our **OPEN** flag on Sundays in August. The Massachusetts Tax Holiday Weekend will take place on the 9th & 10th, and we'll be offering our inventory of artworks at a discount of 25% for the entire month. Oil paintings, watercolors, and prints will all be on sale. Our shop will be open Sundays throughout August, and on the Saturday of the Tax Holiday. We'll be displaying our entire inventory of 17th-century English oak furniture, Queen Anne and Georgian jewelry, artwork, carpets, small accessories, and more. If Sunday isn't convenient, call 369-4256 to arrange a visit. And remember, our online shop is always open; visit us virtually at www.jmaggs.com.



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 online. Conway has been my home town since 1985. First lesson half off. 413-695-0375.



News from Debra Hoyle Studio Gallery - Deb's collage *Background Noise* was selected to be part of the Annual Juried Show at Gallery A3, 28 Amity Street, 1D, Amherst. The theme this year is "United We Stand: Art for Divisive Times". The exhibit was juried by Billy Myers, artistic director and curator of the Art for the Soul Gallery in Springfield. The show runs from August 7-30; opening reception August 7 from 5-8. And when you visit Northampton this summer enjoy the beautiful banners along Main Street installed by Northampton Center for the Arts. Deb was one of 50 artists chosen to have their work printed on 25 colorful banners which will be displayed this summer. Debra Hoyle Studio and Gallery, 46 Main Street, Conway, Ma 01341; 413-325-5579 [instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors](https://www.instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors)

Attention Lifelong Learners - Five Colleges Learning in Retirement (FCLIR) is an organization established in 1988 and sponsored by the Five Colleges. Its mission is to serve the lifelong learning interests of retired and semi-retired people living in the Pioneer Valley. It offers member-led seminars, interest groups and hands-on workshops via Zoom and in person. Ranging in length from 2-10 weeks, our seminars have explored such diverse topics as artificial Intelligence, utopian societies, Bob Dylan, great disasters, zombies and memoir writing. Several interest groups meet throughout the year and there are regularly scheduled social events. To learn more about FCLIR pick up our brochure at the town hall or library or visit fclir.org.

Mosaic Art Workshops for Adults: - Christine Kenneally, Conway resident and mosaic artist, with 18+ years teaching experience, is offering workshops and retreats at her home studio on North Poland Road. Small classes, personalized instruction, creativity coaching. Upcoming Workshops

include: Mosaics Inspired by Nature. Six weeks on Thursday evenings beginning September 18. Mosaic Quilts (new workshop!) Six weeks on Wednesday mornings beginning September 10. Mosaic Stepping Stones (one day workshops) October 25, November 15. Details and registration:

www.christinekenneally.net

Organic Blueberry Season - at Conway Natives (formerly Wilder Hill Gardens) Pick-Your-Own every Sunday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Other times by appointment. \$6/lb. or pick 10 or more lbs. @ \$5/lb. Lilian Jackman, 351 South Shirkshire Road, Conway, MA 01341 413-772-9065; lilianjackman@gmail.com; conwaynatives.com



Conway Currents is looking for YOUR opinion on our monthly newsletter. Would you like to contribute an article, a monthly column, a photograph now and again? What would you like to see more of – or less of? Send us your comments, your articles, and photos to newsletter@conwayma.gov - We'd love to hear from you!

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Brownie with her newborn calf, Pumpkin, born Sunday, July 13. Welcome to the world! Image courtesy of Mike Ambs.