



Volume 6, Number 10 - October 2025



Saturday, October 4

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Festival Bake Sale:** Town Common in front of the library

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Friends of the Field Memorial Library Book Sale:** Field Memorial Library

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. **Art Exhibit:** Field Memorial Library

2:00 - 6:00 p.m. **Conway Cruise Night:** Main Street

5:30 p.m. **Firemen's Auxiliary Turkey Dinner:** Conway Grammar School. Pickups for takeout begin at 6:30 p.m. For reservations call 369-4936.

Sunday, October 5

8:45 - 9:40 a.m. **Registration for Covered Bridge Classic Road Race:** Field Memorial Library

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Friends of the Field Memorial Library Book Sale:** Field Memorial Library

9:15 a.m. **United Congregational Church of Conway Communion Service:** Ballfield

10:00 a.m. **Covered Bridge Classic Road Race:** Field Memorial Library

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **"The Great Calamity":** Conway Historical Society Museum, 50 Main Street. *Learn about fires, floods, and major storms that have impacted the town and how residents responded to these calamities.*

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Information Booth, Café Conway, Festival Merchandise Table, Festival Raffle Table, Fried Dough with Maple Cream, Cider and Donuts, Homemade Candy:** Town Center

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Live Music. Food Vendors, Children's Activities, Craft Fair, Exhibitors:** Ballfield

11:30 a.m. **Log-Splitting Contest:** Ballfield

12:00 p.m. **Presentation of Tricia Donovan Scholarship:** Music Area

1:00 p.m. **Parade:** Starts at OESCO, Route 116

2:00 p.m. **Skillet Toss:** Ballfield

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. **Art Exhibit:** Field Memorial Library

4:00 p.m. **Festival Raffle Drawing:** Town Hall





Volume 6, Number 10 - October 2025



Saturday, October 4

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Festival Bake Sale:** Town Common in front of the library

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Friends of the Field Memorial Library Book Sale:** Field Memorial Library

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. **Art Exhibit:** Field Memorial Library

2:00 - 6:00 p.m. **Conway Cruise Night:** Main Street

5:30 p.m. **Firemen's Auxiliary Turkey Dinner:** Conway Grammar School. Pickups for takeout begin at 6:30 p.m. For reservations call 369-4936.

Sunday, October 5

8:45 - 9:40 a.m. **Registration for Covered Bridge Classic Road Race:** Field Memorial Library

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Friends of the Field Memorial Library Book Sale:** Field Memorial Library

9:15 a.m. **United Congregational Church of Conway Communion Service:** Ballfield

10:00 a.m. **Covered Bridge Classic Road Race:** Field Memorial Library

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **"The Great Calamity":** Conway Historical Society Museum, 50 Main Street. *Learn about fires, floods, and major storms that have impacted the town and how residents responded to these calamities.*

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Information Booth, Café Conway, Festival Merchandise Table, Festival Raffle Table, Fried Dough with Maple Cream, Cider and Donuts, Homemade Candy:** Town Center

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Live Music. Food Vendors, Children's Activities, Craft Fair, Exhibitors:** Ballfield

11:30 a.m. **Log-Splitting Contest:** Ballfield

12:00 p.m. **Presentation of Tricia Donovan Scholarship:** Music Area

1:00 p.m. **Parade:** Starts at OESCO, Route 116

2:00 p.m. **Skillet Toss:** Ballfield

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. **Art Exhibit:** Field Memorial Library

4:00 p.m. **Festival Raffle Drawing:** Town Hall



Festival Information

Festival Parking Welcome, festival goers! We're looking forward to celebrating with you on October 5! Please remember, parking is now at South River Meadow on Shelburne Falls Road, and there will be a shuttle bus to the center of Conway, courtesy of Deerfield River Portage. Additional parking will also be available on the other side of town at Pumpkin Hollow Common.

Festival Is Cash Only! Please remember that all festival booths are cash only, including fried dough, merchandise, raffle tickets, kids' activities, and skillet toss and log-splitting signups. New this year, we'll have an ATM on the field for the first time! All proceeds go to the scholarship fund!

Festival Merchandise! The Festival of the Hills is right around the corner, and you can start getting your outfit ready now! Visit our new online store and stock up on the classic "Enjoy Conway" logo, now available on shirts, hats, baby onesies, and more! This limited run of "Enjoy Conway" merchandise is available only online at festivalofthehills.com/shop.

And during the festival, don't forget to visit the merchandise tent to check out our new 01341 hats as well as T-shirts, sweatshirts, and tote bags with our very own local logos of the library, Millstone, and skillet! All proceeds go to the Festival of the Hills Scholarship Fund. Come get your Conway gear and support our local students!

Volunteer for the Festival of the Hills!

Our favorite day is just around the corner – **Sunday, October 5**, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – and we need YOU, our village, to help make it awesome! From pre-festival setup and running fun kids' games to slinging fried dough and serving up cider, over 140 volunteers are essential to keep this beloved tradition running smoothly. Each shift is just two hours, and you're welcome to sign up for multiple areas if you'd like to be even more involved!

Did you know that it takes

- 10 volunteers for pre-festival setup (banners, signs, tables, and more)
- 13 for parking assistance throughout the day
- 9 for greeting crafters as they arrive
- 4 for the legendary skillet toss
- 30 for children's activities, such as fishing, pumpkin painting, and ring toss
- 6 at the Information Booth
- 9 for the cider tent
- 9 for Café Conway's bake sale
- 9 for fried dough
- 6 at the merchandise table
- 19 for the Green Team (trash, recycling, compost)
- 3 floating/emergency volunteers ready to jump in where needed
- 10 for post-festival cleanup

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, support the community, and experience the fun from behind the scenes. Plus it's a fantastic opportunity to give back to Conway while enjoying all the great music, food, and activities. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join you. This longstanding town tradition thrives because of volunteers like you! Sign up today at festivalofthehills.com/volunteer and help make this year's festival unforgettable!

Age-Friendly Conway Committee at the FOH

The Age-Friendly Conway Committee (AFC) will be at the Festival of the Hills again this year. This is the town committee that brought you the Senior Social (AKA Senior Prom) in June; a new, user-friendly bench for South River Meadow; and comfortable padded chairs and a new refrigerator and other equipment for the Council on Aging's senior lunches at Town Hall. Stop by, get our new brochure, and see what we have planned for the future. Flyers for current projects, such as an Uberlike

transportation service and a list of tradespeople to help with home repairs, will also be available. Better yet, sit in the shade, talk with some of our members, and get in on the discussion for making Conway a more age-friendly community.

AFC is part of the Franklin County effort to plan ways to ensure that older adults are well served in our community and can more easily age in place. This is part of a statewide effort, Mass in Motion. Visit frcog.org/project/mass-in-motion to learn more.

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.

Café Conway Needs You!

Conway's one-day-only café will open during our Festival of the Hills. Please consider donating a baked good. We sell everything from whole pies and cakes to individually wrapped cookies and brownies. Bring your creation to our tent across from Town Hall. Donations can be dropped off any time during the morning of the festival. All proceeds go to the FOH Scholarship Fund. Thank you for supporting the festival and the scholarship fund.

First Annual Conway Cruise Night

On Saturday, October 4, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., Conway's First Annual Cruise night will take place on Main Street. Catering will be by Cliff's Backyard Barbeque and Catering, and the Conway Inn will offer pizza, beverages, and live music. DJ Ivan will be playing '50s and '60s music on the Town Common. Dress to impress in your '50s attire! Enter your show vehicle at 2:00 p.m. via Route 116 for parking on Main Street. A \$10.00 donation per show vehicle is suggested, and all proceeds benefit the Conway Festival of the Hills Scholarship Fund. Sponsored by the Hilltown Cruisers in conjunction with the Conway Festival of the Hills. Questions? Call 413-824-9670.



Festival of the Hills Raffle 2025

Tickets: \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. Proceeds from the raffle benefit the Festival of the Hills Scholarship Fund. The drawing will be held at 4:00 p.m. on October 5. You don't need to be present to win.

Grand Prize \$200.00, thanks to the generosity of the following: Baker's Country Store, J&J Maggs Antiques, YUP Coffee Roasters, D&S Scuba, the Conway Inn, Joanie Schwartz Real Estate, Integrity Development & Construction, Jerry Sawma family. And thanks to all of these Conway artists, craftspeople, and businesses:

- Hand-Thrown Rake Vase: *Bob Green*
- 1/2 Gallon of Maple Syrup: *Howard and Jeanne Boyden*
- Handwoven Throw: *Lisa Hill/Plain Weave*
- Gardening Items and Cookbook: *Orchard Equipment & Supply*
- Handcrafted Pottery: *Megan Hart Pottery*
- Goodies from Provisions: *Benson Hyde/Provisions*

- Jack Masson Pottery: *Barbara Masson*
- Framed Black-and-White Photo: *Geoffrey Bluh*
- Baby Sweater: *Susan Fentin*
- Handfelted Wool Luminary: *Weave and Weft/Sue McFarland*
- \$25 Gift Certificate & Vegetable Basket: *Natural Roots Farm*
- Hat and Glove Set: *Nancy Winter*
- Artwork: *Debra Hoyle/Conway Healing Arts*
- Hand-Forged Bottle Opener: *Bob Compton/Rising Sun Forge*
- Andy Jaffe Jazz CDs: *Andy Jaffe*
- Handcrafted Necklace: *Denise Dwelley*
- \$50 Gift Certificate: *Conway Natives Nursery/Lilian Jackman*
- Handmade Photo Cards: *Robin Yerkes*
- 2 Pounds YUP Coffee: *YUP Coffee Roasters*
- Children's JoJo Books: *Peter Rosnick*

Flu Clinic October 3

There will be a flu clinic at Town Hall during regular First Friday Walk-in Wellness Clinic hours on October 3 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Both high-dose and regular flu vaccines will be available. This clinic is for adults only. Please bring your health insurance card. An extra nurse will be available for the clinic.

Firemen's Auxiliary Turkey Dinner

The Conway Firemen's Auxiliary will be hosting its annual turkey dinner on Saturday, October 4, at the Conway Grammar School. This will be a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixings, including a choice of pie. There will be one sitting at 5:30 p.m. Pickup time for takeouts begins at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are required for both eat-in and takeout dinners, and the cost is \$20 per person. For reservations call 369-4936 or stop in at Baker's Country Store, 101 River Street in Conway.

Conway Cultural Council Grants

The grants cycle for the Conway Cultural Council opens on September 2 this year and closes on October 16. The council, as a Local Cultural Council (LCC), receives funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The mission of the Mass Cultural Council is to promote excellence, education, diversity, and inclusion in the arts, humanities, and sciences to foster a rich cultural life for all Massachusetts residents.

Local grants are given to support a variety of cultural projects that will benefit the people of Conway. Programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences – including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, performances in schools, workshops, and lectures – are the type of projects that are considered. In November 2024 the Conway Cultural Council voted to provide grant money to more than twenty individuals and organizations to support programs that would provide Conway residents with a variety of enriching cultural programs throughout 2025.

The Conway Cultural Council gives preference to applicants from Conway and/or programs that take place in Conway and also considers the number of residents served. We attempt to fund programs that address the interests and ages of Conway residents; with limited funding from the state, typical grant amounts range from \$150 to \$500.

For more information about the Conway Cultural Council's priorities and how to apply for a grant, please visit mass-culture.org/Conway. The Conway Cultural Council is made up of volunteers who are appointed by the Selectboard. If you are interested in serving on the council or if you have other questions about the grant process, please email conwayculturalcouncil@gmail.com to let us know.

Annual LifePath Walkathon

Saturday, October 18, 10:00 a.m., Franklin County Fairgrounds

This annual fundraiser for LifePath provides a great opportunity to get together with family, friends, and colleagues and to support our Meals on Wheels program, among other life-changing programs. Registration and check-in start at 9:30 a.m. This family-friendly event will have games, activities, and information tables from LifePath and other community partners and sponsors. In addition, there will be music, entertainment, food, and refreshments to enjoy.

New this year, we are encouraging people to hold their own mini-walkathons with family and friends right in your own neighborhoods. You pick the date, time, location, etc. Have fun with it! Get creative! Go ahead and use our pledge forms for your convenience. We would love to see pictures of your event so that we can share them on our website.

Can't walk but would still like to support LifePath? Visit our website: lifepathma.org/support-our-mission to make a secure, online donation. Or if you prefer, mail in your donation to LifePath, 101 Munson Street, Suite 201, Greenfield, MA 01301. For questions about the walkathon or your own mini-walkathon, please contact John O'Farrell by email at giving@lifepathma.org.

Bigelow Meadow Event

Conway's Open Space Committee and volunteers will be planting native trees and bushes at Bigelow Meadow on Cemetery Hill Road on Saturday, October 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You are cordially invited to come explore the site's new walking paths, plants, and beautiful views of the surrounding area. If you wish to pitch in and help with the planting, please email Mac at mac@dzi.com. Refreshments provided. Hope to see you there!

Franklin County Solid Waste District Programs

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 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.

Swimming Pool News

On Saturday, October 25, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., Mike Haley will share a Halloween story around a fire pit at the Conway Swimming Pool. Bring a chair, a warm blanket, and ask a neighbor to join us at this pre-Halloween event. Cross your fingers for a starlit evening.

Drug Take-Back Day

National Drug Take-Back Day is Saturday, October 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Medications can be brought to a permanent drop-box location at any of the following nearby police stations: Ashfield, Deerfield, Shelburne, and Whately. Medicines can remain in original containers with labels. No liquids, syringes, IV equipment, or chemotherapy drugs are allowed. Prescription and nonprescription drugs, vitamins, and veterinary medications are accepted. For more information go to NorthwesternDA.org.

Halloween Rag Shag Parade

The Conway Firemen's Auxiliary will be hosting the annual Halloween Rag Shag Parade on October 31. Line up for the parade at 7:00 p.m. at the corner of Shelburne Falls and Baptist Hill roads and follow the fire truck to Town Hall. Refreshments will be served on the Town Common in front of the library from 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Notes from the Town Administrator

What does community mean to you? Most definitions I have found include something like “the people living in one particular area or people who are considered as a unit because of their common interests, social group or nationality.”

One of the aspects of Conway that I value the most is the sense of community I have felt here from the day I first moved to town. Conway is blessed to have so many folks in town who embody the community spirit and give back in so many ways without asking anything in return, not even thanks. As town administrator, though, I’ve heard that there are some who don’t feel as connected to Conway, who feel they are not that much a part of the town. In addition we have new folks moving into town who may not realize how much they do have to offer the community and could do for it. So I would like to find ways to help keep us all connected and explore new ways to connect us.

Toward that end, I have three questions for you:

- What does community mean to you?
- How can we improve our connections and community spirit?
- And would you be willing to become involved?

Any and all ideas and comments are most welcome, and you can reach me at townadmin@conwayma.gov or 369-4235 x 3.

Thank you! Happy Halloween!

Véronique

Update from the Board of Health

Breast Cancer Awareness Month October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign to raise awareness of the risk of breast cancer and the importance of early detection and care. One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. While there is a much lower incidence, men can also develop breast cancer. Know your risk based on family history, get screened, make healthy lifestyle choices such as limiting alcohol, and seek care if you notice any changes or have concerns.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month October is also Domestic Violence Awareness Month, dedicated to raising awareness of the prevalence of domestic violence, supporting survivors, and promoting prevention. The Resilience Center of Franklin County - rcfcma.org - is the sexual and domestic violence crisis center of Franklin County and the North Quabbin area. They offer services to people of all genders, sexual orientations, and abilities. All services for survivors are free of charge, do not require health insurance, and are available to people of any immigration status. They provide counseling, advocacy, and resources for individuals affected by domestic and/or sexual violence and assist in prevention and education to decrease violence in our community. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, the 24-hour crisis hotline is 413-772-0806. Interpreters are available.

Respiratory Illness Season Is Here! Make sure you are up to date on your vaccines. Upcoming vaccine clinics:

- October 3: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Montague Town Hall Annex
 - October 14: 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m., Rowe Elementary School
- Each vaccine clinic will offer flu, COVID, TDAP, and pneumococcal vaccines. Vaccines are also available at local area pharmacies.

2025 Opioid Settlement Listening Session Has your life been impacted by opioid use? Participate in a listening session on October 6, 3:00-4:30 p.m., at the Recover Project, 58 Federal Street, Greenfield, or on Zoom. Discuss how services could be improved and what our communities need now.

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.

Council on Aging Thanksgiving Dinner

Save the date! Thursday, November 13, is the day on which the Council on Aging's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at the Conway Sportsman's Club on Elmer Road. The meal will be served at 12:30 p.m., but come early to socialize with your friends and neighbors or those whom you haven't yet met. Those who have attended in past years can attest to the variety, quality, and quantity of the food. Service is family style with dishes passed around the table. Suggested donation is \$10.00. To reserve a place call Carolyn Thayer at 413-559-0282.

Firemen's Auxiliary Seeks New Members

The Conway Firemen's Auxiliary is dedicated to supporting the Conway Fire Department. We are a small volunteer organization that raises funds through events, donations, and online campaigns

in order to purchase new equipment for the Fire Department, improve and maintain the Fireman's Relief Association building, and to support the Firemen's Auxiliary Scholarship Fund and other causes. When disaster hits and the Fire Department is called on, we are behind the scenes providing the firefighters with refreshments and the supplies they need to continue their work. Annually we put on a turkey dinner on Festival of the Hills weekend and organize the Halloween Rag Shag Parade. If you are looking for a way to support your local community and have some time to spare, we welcome you to check out our group. We have meetings once a month for approximately eight months a year and as needed when duty calls as well as one or two fundraisers a year. No connection to the Fire Department is necessary to join. Contact heidi@integbuild.com.

Friends of the FML Update

Book Sale Visit the Field Memorial Library during the Festival of the Hills weekend, Saturday, October 4, and Sunday, October 5. The Friends of the FML will be there both days from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Enjoy a large selection of books and puzzles just waiting to be taken home with you! Recent books, classic books, history, biographies, gardening, cooking, etc. We have a good selection of children's books for you to read to your special little person and to enjoy again yourself! We are hoping of have a nice selection of puzzles as we have had other years. Come see what you can find!

October 4-5, Story Walk Our Festival of the Hills story walk, *Families* by Todd Parr, will be set up along the library's path to the book sale. You can read this wonderful story as you come to find other books you can read. As usual, activity kits will be available in a plastic container, first come, first served!

October 17-20, Story Walk This will be our last story walk, ending the season! *Grumpy Pants* by Claire Messer will be set up in Veterans Memorial Park opposite Town Hall. Activity kits will be available in a plastic container, first come, first served. Enjoy this

final story walk, and we will see you again in the spring for more. We are able to provide story walks with the generous support of the Union 38 Family Network.

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 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.

Field Memorial Library Needs Extra Hands

Our staff is looking for shelving volunteers during our open hours. Putting books, DVDs, and audio media away is our biggest endeavor. We are happy to do it, but our staff would love to focus on other tasks to serve the community further!

Please send an email to director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org to connect with Library Director Phoebe Hynes. You will be sent an application and a brief outline of what the volunteering routine would look like.

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

Autumn greetings! This month's selection is *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (Egerton Publishing, 1813). The story is set in Regency England. The main character is Miss Elizabeth Bennet, a young woman from a good family of comparatively wealthy landowners, whose mother is determined to see Elizabeth and her four sisters well married. Before I read the novel, my first introduction to the story was the 1940 movie adaptation starring Greer Garson and Lawrence Olivier. I was enthralled by the humorous characters and the love story between the charming Miss Bennet and the austere Mr. Darcy. Inspired by the movie, I rushed to read the novel, and I have reread it several times over the years.

I'm not alone in this obsession. *Pride and Prejudice* is one of the books most read and reviewed in libraries. There are at least 17 television and movie adaptations of the book and many more plays and novels that follow the story of Elizabeth Bennet. A new six-part miniseries is currently being filmed for Netflix. It makes one wonder about the enduring popularity of this novel. Why is this story of such continuing interest?

Pride and Prejudice has been critiqued and analyzed numerous times by scholars more learned than I, so I will speak only of what keeps me coming back to it. First is my love of the Regency period, and the book's portrayal of people's behavior, dress, status, and manners is fun and fascinating. Second is Elizabeth Bennet's humorous observations of the foibles of her fellow creatures, an enjoyment she shares with her father. Third, the bumpy course of romance between Elizabeth and Darcy and of the romantic

adventures and misadventures of her sisters and friends is always entertaining. There are also deeper themes in the novel, such as the place of women in a rigid social system that holds them to a narrow course of approved behavior. Elizabeth's family is severely tested in this vein. Her parents are a study in companionship in marriage and how it relates to the happiness or otherwise of the individual and the family.

Perhaps, after all, the fascination with this story may boil down to some simple, common themes that we try to figure out in our own lives: Whom do we want to be our companions? How can we continue to love our families when they drive us crazy? What is our best place in this world?

Note: The book is better than any adaptation, but some of those are wonderful. I recommend both the 1980 and 1995 BBC miniseries and the 1940 MGM film version. Please join me next month for another Splendid Book Chat.

Eating Around Town

by Kate French

A by-the-seat-of-your-pants recipe from Helen Baker, which arrived without measurements! She put out both hands and said, "This much onion." Give it a shot. It's wonderful when Helen makes it!

Helen Baker's Oyster Stew

2 onions, chopped
4 celery stalks, chopped
6 cans oysters, **not** drained
1 cup half-and-half
3 cups milk
Salt and pepper to taste
Cornstarch-and-water paste *or* flour-and-water paste



Sauté celery and onion in butter, then add oysters. (Do not drain the oysters! You want that juice to flavor the recipe.) Bring to a boil for about 5 minutes. Add half-and-half and milk, salt, and a pinch of pepper. Reduce to a simmer, then thicken a little with either a cornstarch or flour paste. (Not too thick.)

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 October 3. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email patricialynch@earthlink.net.

Senior Calendar for October

“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 4:30 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 November 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. See upcoming issues of *Conway Currents* for information about the Thanksgiving dinner at the Sportsman's Club

in November and the holiday dinner at the Whately Inn in December. 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 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. Enjoy companionship and friendly conversation while engaging in healthful exercise. For more information and the fall 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.**

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.

October means - it's time to make cider!

Whether you're a commercial grower or just pressing a few gallons for home enjoyment, we have what you need. American Harvester and Homesteader wood/cast-iron cider presses are classics for a reason - with durable materials and timeless design, they bring beauty and functionality to your home. Interested in something more modern? Check out our Lancman water-operated press. Imported from Slovenia, these highly efficient stainless-steel presses work with an ordinary garden hose. We offer apple grinders too, made here at OESCO by our skilled fabricators. We carry an extensive selection of great books on cider making and be sure to catch our cider demo at Clarkdale Fruit Farm on Saturday, November 1st during Cider Days! Call or stop by to talk to our knowledgeable sales staff. Shop where the pros shop, and thanks for buying locally. OESCO, Inc. (Orchard) Monday-Friday: 7-5; 369-4335.



Jan & John Maggs Antiques and Art -

Our Fall Opening will take place on the weekend of October 18 & 19. We'll be unveiling several dozen newly acquired pieces: early furniture, smalls, jewelry, and paintings. We'll open at 11:00 on Saturday the 18th. Stop in if you'd like a look at our new old things, or visit us online at jmaggs.com. To arrange a visit, email jmaggs@jmaggs.com, or call 369-4256.



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 and Gallery - this month is about the Festival of the Hills art exhibit at Field Memorial Library. While you're at the festival this year stop at the library to enjoy the work of Conway's fine artists and craftspeople! Our beautiful library will be turned into a gallery for the day on Sunday, October 5 from 10-4 thanks to the dedicated efforts of volunteers and artists. It's amazing how much talent and creative energy resides in our small town. Many of the artists have donated quality items to the raffle as well, so take a chance to win and support the festival scholarships! See you there, and contact Deb about collage workshops or to schedule a studio visit at 413-325-5579; [instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors](https://www.instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors)

Conway Currents is available online! Go go conwayma.gov > Boards & Committees > Newsletter Committee: Conway Currents and scroll down to Conway Currents Newsletters and you'll see all issues published to date. Feel free to share with folks from out of town who don't get the paper version.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, the organizing committee or town officials and should not be construed as such. Although we work to produce accurate and typographically correct copy, we cannot be responsible for errors or accuracy of materials submitted. *Conway Currents* does not endorse any specific product or service mentioned in its pages and is not responsible for the reliability of any service.



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

Presort-STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 701
Greenfield, MA 01301

Conway Currents
residents, is funded by the Town of Conway,
our advertisers, and generous donations from
our readers. To have an article published in
Currents
by the 15
, the newsletter for Conway
, ~~Temple~~ place an ad or a notice, contact Louise at
lunbeckett@crocker.com
of the ~~preceeding~~ ^{preceeding} month.
newsletter@conwayma.gov
Thanks for your support of

ECRLT
BOXHOLDER
CONWAY, MA 01341

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 and Gallery - this month is about the Festival of the Hills art exhibit at Field Memorial Library. While you're at the festival this year stop at the library to enjoy the work of Conway's fine artists and craftspeople! Our beautiful library will be turned into a gallery for the day on Sunday, October 5 from 10-4 thanks to the dedicated efforts of volunteers and artists. It's amazing how much talent and creative energy resides in our small town. Many of the artists have donated quality items to the raffle as well, so take a chance to win and support the festival scholarships! See you there, and contact Deb about collage workshops or to schedule a studio visit at 413-325-5579; [instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors](https://www.instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors)

Conway Currents is available online! Go go conwayma.gov > Boards & Committees > Newsletter Committee: Conway Currents and scroll down to Conway Currents Newsletters and you'll see all issues published to date. Feel free to share with folks from out of town who don't get the paper version.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, the organizing committee or town officials and should not be construed as such. Although we work to produce accurate and typographically correct copy, we cannot be responsible for errors or accuracy of materials submitted. *Conway Currents* does not endorse any specific product or service mentioned in its pages and is not responsible for the reliability of any service.



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

Presort-STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 701
Greenfield, MA 01301

Conway Currents
residents, is funded by the Town of Conway,
our advertisers, and generous donations from
our readers. To have an article published in
Currents
by the 15
, the newsletter for Conway
, ~~Temple~~ place an ad or a notice, contact Louise at
lunbeckett@crocker.com
of the ~~preceeding~~ ^{preceeding} month.
newsletter@conwayma.gov
Thanks for your support of

ECRLT
BOXHOLDER
CONWAY, MA 01341