



Volume 7, Number 4 - April 2026

## Conway Electric Rates

by Bob Armstrong

Several things are occurring that impact our electric rates. You may find your Eversource bill to be almost unreadable (I know I do), but, fortunately, the rates are only changing a very small amount.

Governor Healey has mandated that for the months of February and March, our electric supply costs are reduced by 25%. Note that this is just the supply rate and does not lower the distribution charges, which are more than half of your bill. The federal manager of the New England region has changed the way we fund rarely used electric generators that remain on standby and have high startup costs, and with this brutal winter those costs have gone up. When we went out to bid to set our municipal aggregation rate, we were advised to add 1/10th of a penny to the bid to pay these charges. To be safe, we added 6/10th of a penny, but it was still not enough. You will notice that starting in March, our aggregation rate will be about one cent higher than the rate we previously advertised. We are required to pay these charges.

This one-cent increase will make our basic rate slightly more than Eversource's. You could lower your bill by switching from our 25% additional renewable product to "no additional." Or you could opt out of our municipal aggregation and buy your power from Eversource. Their rates will change in August, and we expect them to go up significantly to include the regional charges they are avoiding now.

It is very unusual for our aggregation rate to change in the middle of a contract, but we have no control over these regional costs. If

you have questions, I am happy to discuss or seek answers: Bob Armstrong, 413-522-7617, or [bob@armstr.com](mailto:bob@armstr.com).

## Notes from the Town Administrator

Hello, fellow Conway residents,

The Selectboard has given me permission to set up a time-limited housing trust bylaws committee with two or three residents. The goal is to put on next year's annual town meeting two warrant articles: the first to create a new housing trust that can then be used to purchase housing or properties for senior and affordable housing, and the second to fund the housing trust. In order to create the trust, a set of bylaws outlining the trust's duties and authority will need to be developed – that's where you come in. If anyone has time from now until November to help draft those bylaws, please let me know, and we'll get going on this important project. The bylaws would then be forwarded to the Community Preservation Committee in November for their review and approval, and the trust would be seeded with Community Preservation Act funds.

I thought it was time for me to update you all on all of the grants the town has received over the past year or is pursuing on behalf of the town. Nothing good is ever accomplished by one person, so I have had a lot of help on all of these grants. My job is to identify Conway's needs, make sure the town submits an application, either done on my own or with help, and then to administer the grants once awarded. At the moment Conway has seven grants awarded for a total of \$2,321,955 and two in the pipeline for \$299,500!

### Awarded:

**1. MVP 2.0: \$175,000** total. This grant is a requirement to maintain status in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program and is intended both as an update to the Conway/Ashfield MVP 1.0 done in 2018 as well as a new process for obtaining

targeted community involvement. \$75,000 is for the first part of the grant program to create a core team of community liaisons, and the remaining \$100,000 can be used either in conjunction with Ashfield or separately as \$50,000 per town for a seed project to be developed through the core team and community involvement.

**2. MVP FY26: \$331,300.** This grant was awarded as part of the town's efforts to reduce the likelihood of flooding in town.

Residents Jim Manwell and his wife, Joanne Levenson, own the remains of the Tucker & Cook reservoir dam and have agreed to allow the town to apply for this grant to lower the area by removing built-up sediment behind what is left of the dam.

**3. Earmark: \$75,000.** I requested an earmark through State Representative Paul Mark's office, which was included in last year's supplemental budget. These funds are to be used for work on Shelburne Falls Road. There are at least three areas along the road from Route 116 roughly one and a half miles up toward Buckland where the embankments are failing and eroding, threatening the road itself. I am working with the FRCOG and MassDOT's LEAP program to use the earmark to design-engineer a scope of work for fixing these embankments. This will be a long-term and expensive project, which will eventually be placed in the pipeline for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**4. Earmark: \$700,000.** I requested a USDA earmark through U. S. Representative Jim McGovern's office for funds for a new fire truck. Conway has been saving monies for the last four years, under Chief Baker's recommendation, and that fire truck stabilization fund now stands at roughly \$400,000. Conway will receive the full \$700,000 from USDA and will make up the difference with the fire truck stabilization fund.

**5. MassWorks: \$1,000,000.** I applied for this grant working in conjunction with GZA Environmental Engineering, FRCOG, and Highway Superintendent Ron Sweet. These funds were awarded to pave the remaining section of Shelburne Falls Road and to put in a new drainage system along Delabarre Avenue, Upper Baptist Hill Road, Baptist Hill Road, and Shelburne Falls Road. This work will be completed by the end of this fiscal year.

**6. Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) grant:** for an Americans with Disabilities Act self-evaluation. Conway has hired the Institute for Human Centered Design for this project and will be evaluating town buildings, properties, and the website.

**7. Green Communities:** streetlights, **\$16,334.** These funds were awarded to continue the work the town is doing to purchase and then upgrade the streetlights in town with more "dark sky"-friendly illumination.

#### **Pending applications:**

**8. Grant Central MassDOT;** Brester Road, **\$49,500.** Jeff Bellino, P.E., has developed a grant application to upgrade the culvert on Brester Road.

**9. Grant Central MassDOT: \$250,000.** I submitted an equipment request for a grader. Town meeting recently approved \$200,000 for the purchase of a used grader, but the town is having trouble locating one. If awarded, these funds will be used together with the \$200,000 to purchase a new grader.

Happy April!

Véronique

## **Conway Mall Update**

Work will begin in early April to install electricity and then insulate the Conway Mall. To do this, the entire Mall will need to be emptied of donations, so we ask you to hang on to any donations until after the work is completed and the Mall can reopen. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

## **Rabies Vaccine Clinic**

Save the date! The Spring Rabies Clinic for both dogs and cats, offered by the Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter, will be on April 1, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, at the Franklin County Fairgrounds. No appointment required. Cost is \$20.00 per shot per pet; cash only, please. Remember to bring your previous

rabies certificate in order to receive a three-year vaccine. Dogs must be leashed. Flexi/extendable leashes are not allowed. Cats must be in carriers.

## GCC Spring Senior Symposia

All remaining spring symposia will be presented in the first-floor meeting room of the John W. Olver Transit Center. Thanks to the mayor's office, the garage parking fee will be waived, so park free on any floor. Registration, at \$10 per talk, will be entirely online. Registration is free for those who wish to attend but cannot afford the fee. Please mark "scholarship registration" when you register for a program. All symposia take place from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 7** Jarice Hanson will be back with her new historical monologue "Martha Gellhorn: In Her Own Words."

**Wednesday, April 22** Dale Monette returns to share his photographs in "I See You: Stories of Quabbin Wildlife."

Descriptions of the talks and biographies of the speakers are available on our website, [communityed@gcc.mass.edu](mailto:communityed@gcc.mass.edu).

## Barn Inspector Wanted

The Conway Board of Health is searching for its next barn inspector. Please contact the BOH for more details at [boardofhealth@conwayma.gov](mailto:boardofhealth@conwayma.gov).

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources  
Requirements:

**1. Qualifications** – A municipal animal inspector should be reasonably experienced in the care and handling of domestic livestock animals, be generally experienced in their husbandry, and be knowledgeable in the handling and care of other domestic animals, such as dogs and cats. Knowledge and experience with

common "urban wildlife" such as raccoons, skunks, and bats that expose domestic animals and come under the jurisdiction of the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife will prove beneficial in the collection of specimens for submission to the State Rabies Laboratory.

Municipal animal inspectors should familiarize themselves with domestic animal import requirements. They should also understand local ordinances (sanitary codes, zoning laws, etc.) that form part of their duties to their primary nominating body at the municipal level.

There are no scholastic, professional (i.e., veterinarians), or farm experience requirements for the position of animal inspector. A generalized knowledge of domestic animals will prove very useful.

**2. Duties** – The primary duty of the animal inspector has recently become rabies control in the domestic animal population. Municipal animal Inspectors are also responsible for barn inspections. Depending on the city/town, this may be a light task or a lengthy one. The third duty of the animal inspector is to check ear tag numbers and date of arrival of cattle from out of state and to report this information on the animal inspector's copy of the Cattle and Llama Permit that is furnished to the animal inspector by the Department of Agricultural Resources. Municipal animal inspectors may also be called on to assist with other domestic animal disease quarantines in the event of an outbreak.

## Natural Roots Farm Starts 29<sup>th</sup> Growing Season!

We are excited for the 2026 growing season and for all of the improvements and changes that are coming with the new year! We are increasingly eager to begin our annual ritual of stirring the soil and sowing seeds once again, and we are deeply grateful to be in a community that really values small farms.

For those of you who don't know about us, Natural Roots is a horse-powered, family-run, organic vegetable CSA (community-supported agriculture) farm that has been feeding our community for 29 years! The CSA model connects farmers and food-eaters by inviting community members to purchase a share of a farm's harvest for the season. It is an economic model that effectively sustains small farms while connecting people to their farmers and the land on which their food is grown. CSA share distribution happens every week from June through October and is a great place to see friends and neighbors. It's an opportunity to spend some time on our beautiful farm picking berries with the kids, splashing in the river on a hot day, or having a picnic.

We raise an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables. Over the years we have responded to the needs of our membership by offering a variety of different ways to enjoy the bounty of the farm. If you had a share with us in the past but found it was more than you could eat, or if you're away for part of the growing season, you might want to consider our ten-week share, which allows you to come for vegetables any ten weeks of the season. If your family loves veggies, you might choose a full-season large share and come to pick out a big bag of vegetables every week of the 22-week season. And there are options in between! We have low-income and SNAP/HIP-eligible shares.

Vegetables are also available for sale to anyone and everyone every Tuesday and Friday from 3:00-6:30 p.m., June through October. It's like having a farmer's market twice a week in your own town. Please come!

We are looking forward to a bountiful growing season and would love to have you join us. To learn more about our farm, please visit our website, [naturalroots.com](http://naturalroots.com). We hope to see you on the farm this summer!

## UCC April Happenings

Coffee and conversation:

**When:** Saturday, April 18, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Where:** UCC Conway, 44 Whately Road

**Who:** Anyone who wants to come!

**Cost:** Free, but donations of nonperishable food will be accepted.

For other upcoming events at UCC, go to our website, [uccofconway.org](http://uccofconway.org).

## Solid Waste District's 2026 Collection Dates

Save these dates:

- Spring "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day: Saturday, May 16
- Household Hazardous Waste Day: Saturday, September 19. Preregistration is required for Hazardous Waste Day; registration opens in mid-August.
- Fall "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day: Saturday, October 17

Fees are charged for most clean sweep items. Pricing is subject to change. Household Hazardous Waste Day is free for residents of most towns. For more information on these events, including locations, participating towns, hours, and pricing, go to [franklincountywastedistrict.org/](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org/).

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District: [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org) or 413-772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The district is an equal opportunity provider.

## Splendid Book Chat

by Aimee Anderson

Spring greetings. This month's selections are a couple of easy, fun books – the kind that are perfect to read outside on a chilly spring day when the sun is warm in those little, protected spots just out of the wind. The first selection is *Lady on the Case: 22 Female Detective Stories*, edited and compiled by Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini (Barnes & Noble, 1988). As the title indicates, each story or case is investigated by a female detective. As a person who enjoys a good mystery story, it is irrelevant to me who investigates as long as I like their style. I'm often in too much of a hurry to begin a book to read the introduction, but the editors of this book explain their reasons for exclusively featuring female detectives, and it is worth a read at the start. The collection includes, as it must, Agatha Christie's famous and charming character Miss Marple, a deceptively mild-mannered elderly woman with a mind like a steel trap. Baroness Orczy, better known for her adventure stories, is also included. Altogether, the book is over 500 pages and will keep you occupied without feeling overwhelmed.

My second selection for this month is *Style Book: Fashionable Inspirations* by Elizabeth Walker (Flammarion, 2011). The book features images of clothing, from the everyday to the extravagant, worn by celebrities, models, and random people on the street. It claims to be a style guide to help people develop their own personal style, but it is much more than just that. The book features approximately 450 photographs of styles worn by such disparate people as an apprentice geisha bowling in 1964 Japan and a Sioux warrior dressed in tribal regalia in the United States in 1900. The book is more of a journey through human ideas with undertones and overtones of class, power, and changing ideas of people's place in the world. It's a journey through time in no particular order. That all sounds pretty deep, and none of that struck me the first few occasions of looking through it, but over time it started to occur to me that this is not just a picture book with captions. It has

become, to me, more of a showcase of changing times and what is on our minds as time passes. It's also simply gorgeous to look at.

Thank you for joining me for Splendid Book Chat.

## Update from the Field Memorial Library

Have you ever wanted to sing or play your musical instrument under our magnificent dome? In April we are pleased to offer open sessions every Wednesday evening from 5:00-7:00 p.m. No signups required and no guarantee of an audience! You are welcome to sing, strum, whistle, or play whatever you like. Come free the muse at the FML in a "shush-free" zone.

Like local history? We have been tidying the library and have uncovered a variety of local history treasures to share with you over the next few months. Some of these items are over 250 years old and have not been seen for many decades. Each small exhibit will be displayed for about a month before eventual transfer to the Conway Historical Society. Stop by in April for a peek at rare material!

Chris Caldwell, Director, Field Memorial Library  
[director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org](mailto:director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org)  
369-4646 [fieldmemoriallibrary.org](http://fieldmemoriallibrary.org)

## Friends of the Field Memorial Library Update

**The seed library** in the catalog cabinet has been replenished with new seeds for this season! Please stop by and take whatever you need. There is no limit! The Common Seed Project's seed of the season is a Hopi Sunflower. This is the same initiative that gave us the Provider Bean last year. You can read about this program at [guides.library.umass.edu/commonseed](http://guides.library.umass.edu/commonseed).

**Museum Passes** Passes are available for several museums and parks. Come see what is available by looking at our board near the circulation desk. Each pass admits a varying number of people. Please check with the librarian to reserve a pass and find out what it will cover.

**The food exchange** access program is located in the entrance lobby of Town Hall. Anyone can access these materials. Take what you need and give what you can. Donations may be brought to Town Hall during open hours.

**April 4, 11:00 a.m.** Come hear the wonderful story of *JoJo and Bea the Bolivian Bunny* read by local author Peter Rosnick. Bea, who communicates in Spanish by wiggling her nose, has lost her tail! Meet JoJo and Bea in the library's Children's Reading Room.

**April 18, Book Sale** Our spring book sale will be on Saturday, April 18, in the community room from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. There will be a large selection of books and puzzles. Books on gardens, gardening, climate change, sustainability, etc. have recently come in! Book prices: \$2 hardcover, \$1 paperback, \$.50 children's books. Proceeds benefit the library's educational and cultural programs. We are now accepting donations, and we especially welcome books on local history, puzzles, children's books, and recent books of all genres. Donations, in good condition, 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 the library website [fieldmemoriallibrary.org](http://fieldmemoriallibrary.org) for more information.

**April 18-20, Story Walk** The walk will be set up along the path to the library's community room. On Sunday we'll move it to Veterans Memorial Park opposite Town Hall. It will stay up until 3:00 p.m. on Monday. 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.

**April 25, 3:00 p.m., Ensemble Galliard** Judith Dansker, recorder, and Joe Belmont, will perform renaissance and baroque music under the library's rotunda. Refreshments will be served during intermission. Enjoy a very special afternoon of beautiful music.

## Field Guide to Conway:

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

*Common names: Red Puccoon, Red Root, Snakebite, Sweet Slumber, Tetterwort*

by Courtney Gilligan & Marilyn Webster; illustration by Hannah Harvester

While you eagerly await green leaves on trees and shrubs, look down along roadsides for native early spring wildflowers. These tough plants thrive in the unobscured access to sunlight and the early spring soil, rich in nutrients from decomposing fall leaves.

One of the first to emerge and bloom is Bloodroot. The only species in the genus *Sanguinaria*, Bloodroot is named for the reddish sap in the rhizome, leaves, and flower stalk. This sap contains toxic alkaloids that cause skin irritation and vomiting in mammals. However, the Bloodroot Aphid sucks this sap from the undersides of the leaf during the summer.



The plant is fairly inconspicuous at first, with the single leaf wrapped tightly around the plant stalk. As the stalk grows, the flower bud extends above the still-wrapped leaf. Only after the Bloodroot has bloomed does the lobed, kidney bean-shaped leaf unfurl, and then the plant continues to grow into August.

The starlike flowers with white petals and yellow stamens usually bloom for only three to four days. Bloodroot commonly has eight symmetrical petals, but individuals sometimes have more. Warm, sunny days open the flowers and awaken their main pollinators, the native mining bees and sweat bees,

which have overwintered as adults. Beetles and hoverflies that can fly at lower temperatures are secondary pollinators. The flowers close when it's overcast and at night, when their pollinators are not active. If the flowers don't get pollinated by insects, they will self-pollinate.

Once the flower is pollinated, the petals drop off while the pistil remains and develops into a seed capsule. Small, dark brown seeds form inside this spindle-shaped capsule, hidden beneath the enlarged leaves. Ants find the oil-rich outgrowth, called an elaiosome, attached to each seed irresistible, so they carry the seeds back to their nesting sites, where they remove and eat the nutritious elaiosome. The discarded seed is thus "planted" in an ideal environment for germination, where it has the added benefit of being safe from predators.

Bloodroot is often among the leaf litter under Sugar Maples and Hop Hornbeams, just upslope of streams or wet spots. If you see Bloodroot, keep looking around, because spring ephemerals such as Red Trillium, Dutchman's Breeches, and Spring Beauty are likely to be nearby.

## Scholarships

**Conway Festival of the Hills Scholarship** Festival of the Hills Scholarships are available to all graduating high school seniors from Conway who submit complete applications, regardless of school attended or postgraduate plans. Primary consideration is given to a student's community service, extracurricular activity, and academic achievement. Financial need, work history, and Festival of the Hills service are also considered. **The deadline is Thursday, April 30.** Please note: No application received after this date will be considered. Applications should be mailed to: Conway Festival of the Hills Scholarship, PO Box 431, Conway, MA 01341. Questions? Please contact Phyllis Jeswald: [pjeswald1@gmail.com](mailto:pjeswald1@gmail.com), 369-4410.

**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](http://conwayma.gov/p/59/Scholarships). Submit completed applications to Conway Firemen's Auxiliary, PO Box 46, Conway, MA 01341.

**Germain Scholarship** This Charitable Trust was established in 1985 under the will of Mark Walter Germain and is known as the "Mark Boice Germain and Mildred Boice Germain Fund." He directed that this fund be established "... to grant funds to those Conway residents whose parents or guardians cannot afford such child's college expenses, and any applications that such applicants have made for other private and government scholarships have resulted in an insufficient amount of funds to allow the furtherance of their education without additional monetary support."

**Completed applications must be received no later than noon on Friday, April 17, 2025.** Visit [conwayma.gov/files/Germain-Scholarship\\_Application](http://conwayma.gov/files/Germain-Scholarship_Application)

**The Ryan Scholarship** Attention parents: The Ryan Scholarship is now available to both college students and post-high school students. The Ryan Scholarship, sponsored by the Friends of the Field Memorial Library (FML), is accepting applications from Conway residents who are current high school seniors or were Conway residents when they graduated from high school from 2022 through 2025 and who are looking to expand their education and/or certification. The \$3,000 scholarship is made directly to the student.

**The application deadline is May 30.** Information is on the FML website: [fieldmemoriallibrary.org](http://fieldmemoriallibrary.org). If you have questions about college student applications or want to learn more about the Ryan Scholarship, contact Thad Bennett, coordinator, at [theyanscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:theyanscholarship@gmail.com) or at 802-579-7675.

**Note:** If you have received a Ryan scholarship in the past, you may not reapply for two years.

**Conway Sportsman's Club Scholarship** Our scholarships are awarded to any graduating senior within Franklin county regardless of post-graduate plans. **The deadline is April 20th.** Applications postmarked after April 20th will not be considered. All applications will be reviewed by our scholarship panel and winners announced in early May. The 2026 application is available on our website [conwaysportsmansclub.org/](http://conwaysportsmansclub.org/). For more

information please contact Mike Haley 413-537-9149 or Tom Pleasant 413-369-4712.

**UCC Conway Scholarship** The United Congregational Church of Conway will award two scholarships to graduating high school seniors in 2026. This scholarship is not limited to just those continuing on to college; it includes those who may be pursuing a more nontraditional career path, work study, or training. Recipients will be chosen strictly on the basis of character, not on academic record or financial need. Students may obtain applications by contacting Tina Burnett at 369-8035 or [16xcmom@gmail.com](mailto:16xcmom@gmail.com). Completed applications **must be postmarked by April 10** and mailed to UCC Conway, Attn: Scholarship Committee, PO Box 214, Conway, MA 01341.

## Sir Reggie's Homemade Quiz

One hundred ninety-nine dog obedience judges from U.S. and Canadian kennel clubs compiled a list of the ten most intelligent dog breeds. I've listed them in random order below. Pencil in hand? See if you could become the 200th dog obedience judge by listing the ten breeds in order of intelligence. Arf! Arf!

- \_\_\_ Doberman pinscher
- \_\_\_ Labrador retriever
- \_\_\_ Papillon
- \_\_\_ Poodle
- \_\_\_ Australian cattle dog
- \_\_\_ Golden retriever
- \_\_\_ Border collie
- \_\_\_ Shetland sheep dog
- \_\_\_ Rottweiler
- \_\_\_ German shepherd



Answers on page 23.

## Swimming Pool News

The Pool Committee is planning for the 2026 swim season:

- Annual Spring Work Bee, May 2, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Many hands and abilities are needed to help ready the pool for opening day!
- Pool opening, Friday, May 22!
- Free ice cream social on opening weekend, Saturday, May 23
- A summer community event (date TBD)
- An end-of-season outdoor movie night (date TBD)

Throughout the summer we're planning on a few fundraising events to fund repairs on the raft/platform. Details will be on our website and postings in town. We welcome your ideas! We welcome volunteers. Upcoming meetings are April 14 and May 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the elementary school. All are welcome. For questions contact Michelle at 413-522-8050.

## Board of Health Update

As spring invites us to get outside, tend our gardens, and reconnect with neighbors, here are a few seasonal health reminders.

**Get Moving: Carefully** After a long winter, it may be tempting to jump back into outdoor activity at full speed. Remember to ease into yard work, hiking, and exercise to avoid muscle strains and injury. Stay hydrated, especially on warmer days.

**Watch for Ticks** April brings a rapid increase in tick activity in western Massachusetts as soon as temperatures rise above freezing. Wear light-colored long-sleeved shirts and pants in wooded or grassy areas, use insect repellent, and do a full body check after time outdoors. If you do see a tick, remove it with tweezers, grasping the head of the tick, and lift it straight up from the skin. Early removal of a tick significantly reduces the risk of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases.

**Celebrate National Volunteer Month** April is National Volunteer Month, and we gladly recognize the many people of our town who give their time

and energy to keep our community strong and connected. Volunteering is good for more than just the town. Research shows that people who volunteer regularly experience lower rates of depression, reduced stress, and even longer lives. Whether you help with a local food pantry, serve on a town committee, coach youth sports, or check in on an elderly neighbor, your contributions matter deeply.

If you've been thinking about getting involved, this is a wonderful time to start. See our town website for projects and openings on our committees and boards. Reach out to the library, Council on Aging, your local faith group, or other organizations to find opportunities you enjoy.

**Check Your Well and Sump Pump** Spring snowmelt and April rains can affect private well water quality. Massachusetts recommends annual private well water testing for bacteria, nitrates, and sodium, with testing every three to five years for PFAS, lead, and pH. See [mass.gov/drinking-water](https://www.mass.gov/drinking-water) for details. Check that your sump pump is functioning and that drainage around your home directs water away from the foundation.

We wish everyone a healthy and joyful spring.

*Information from the Conway BOH is focused on our shared public health. Consult your healthcare provider for your personal healthcare guidance. For the most up-to-date information, see the town website's BOH page [conwayma.gov/g/42/Board-of-Health](https://conwayma.gov/g/42/Board-of-Health).*

## 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 April 1. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email [patricialynch@earthlink.net](mailto:patricialynch@earthlink.net).

### Senior Calendar for April

**“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 3:00 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 April or May 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 reservations, 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 413-530-1703 for information or for the Zoom link.

**Yoga for Seniors** Led by Jody Smith-Soles on Wednesdays in person and on Zoom. Class times and locations: mat yoga 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the library, chair yoga 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the UCC. 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](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com). Pay by checking account or credit card through the town's website <https://conwayma.gov/> > How do I . . . ? > Pay for > Newsletter Advertising; or send a check to made out to **Town of Conway with Conway Currents in the memo section, PO Box 240, Conway, MA 01341**. Please send the text of your advertisement to Louise by email at [lmbeckett@crocker.com](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com). **Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.**

**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. Always 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](https://facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store) for today's specials or call 413-369-4936.

**Now's the Time!** - If you're considering a move in 2026, now is the time to call your realtor for pre-listing advice, pre-buying guidance and coaching on how to be ready for the Spring thaw in the residential real estate market. Don't have a realtor yet? I'm a longtime Conway resident and love working with fellow Conwegians! Sarah Newman, Realtor with Coldwell Banker Community Realtors MA Real Estate Salesperson License #9561615, MA Registered Architect License #9849 [sarahnewmanrealtor.com](https://sarahnewmanrealtor.com); [Sarah.Newman@CBCCommunityRealtors.com](mailto:Sarah.Newman@CBCCommunityRealtors.com); 413-548-6525

**It's April** - and spring is right around the corner. You may be noticing tiny buds forming on your fruit trees and ornamental shrubs, starting seeds in a sunny window, or even planting peas if you're lucky! OESCO is stocked up on all the tools you need for spring cleanup, garden prep, and landscaping. Our popular WWM line is manufactured in the US from premium materials and built to last. The Master Gardener collection from GrowTech, made in Japan, includes such perennial bestsellers as the long-handled weeding sickle and the Nejiri Gama hand hoe. We have customers who return year after year to purchase these tools as gifts – are you one of them? Call or stop by to talk to our knowledgeable sales staff. 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** - 17<sup>th</sup>-century English oak furniture, Queen Anne and Georgian jewelry, paintings, carpets, and small accessories in our shop in Pumpkin Hollow. We invite you to visit us online at [jmaggs.com](https://jmaggs.com) or in person by calling or emailing to arrange a visit: 413-369-4256; or [jmaggs@jmaggs.com](mailto:jmaggs@jmaggs.com). We're always happy to show visitors around and answer questions about the things we sell. Looking ahead



to May, our 2026 Spring Opening, marking our return from a buying trip in England, will take place on the weekend of May 16 & 17. As usual, the shop will be full of our most recent purchases. Our opening times will be announced in our May ad.

---

**Debra Hoyle Studio and Gallery** - welcomes spring as Deb continues to participate in the new AMP IT UP! artists' membership cohort at Northampton Center for the Arts, 33 Hawley Street. 25 exceptional and diverse artist members will be showcased at the annual Revelry 33 fundraising exhibit for NCFA April 8-24. Five of Deb's collage paintings will be shown on the mezzanine level of the Split Level Gallery. Stop by Wed – Sat from 12-7 or join us at the opening reception during Arts Night Out on April 10. Collage and gel printing workshops are available at the studio. Typically 3 hours and all supplies are included for \$65 per person. No experience needed! Call or text 413-325-5579 for more info.

[instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors](https://www.instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors).

---

**Calm Computing** - Tech help, made local.

Having trouble with your computer, Wi-Fi, printer, or phone? Calm Computing provides friendly, down-to-earth tech support right here in Western

Mass. Whether it's setting up a new computer, solving email issues, getting your smart TV online, or just making things "work like they should," we make technology simple again. We offer in-home visits, phone, and remote support with no long waits or confusing jargon, just patient, practical help. Serving Conway and surrounding towns for over a decade. Calm Computing LLC (413) 548-5358 • [CalmComputing.net](http://CalmComputing.net) – Your local tech experts – calm, clear, and close by.



---

**Learn to Draw or Paint** - right here in Conway! Making art is a wonderful way to connect with the world around you and with each other, too. I'm Hannah Harvester and I teach drawing, painting and printmaking for all ages from my studio on Delabarre Ave. I'm planning my summer classes now, so if you've been looking for a drawing or painting class to learn or keep you motivated, contact me! My groups are small and I can take your individual needs and schedule into consideration when planning my summer offerings. Learn more at [www.HannahHarvester.com](http://www.HannahHarvester.com) or write to me at [hannahharvesterfineart@gmail.com](mailto:hannahharvesterfineart@gmail.com)

---

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

- Mosaic Stepping Stones: April 11 and May 16, 10-4 (lunch included)
- Mosaics for Beginners. Six weeks on Tuesday mornings beginning May 5.
- Mosaics Inspired by Nature. Six weeks on Wednesday mornings beginning May 6.

Details and registration: [www.christinekenneally.net](http://www.christinekenneally.net)

---

**Fresh, Local Farm Food Delivered Right to Your Door!** - Hart Farm CSA boxes are filled with veggies, fruits, flowers, eggs, bread, cheese, meat and more. Choose from 3 different box types and then choose your delivery dates. Delivery throughout West Franklin/Hampshire Counties every Friday, April 24th-October 23rd. Pay with card/check/SNAP/Venmo. We provide an accessible, convenient and flexible schedule farm box program to the community that we love. You can expect high quality, freshly picked, delicious produce infused with good vibes and delivered with a smile. We also offer a 20 week flower CSA and garden plant sales for pick up at the farm! For information: [www.conwayhartfarm.com](http://www.conwayhartfarm.com), [conwayhartfarm@gmail.com](mailto:conwayhartfarm@gmail.com), 413-453-9098.

---

**Davenport's Mobil Service Station** - has been locally owned and operated by the Davenport family since 1981. Celebrating 45 years in business this year! We have an automotive service shop selling brand-name, competitively- priced tires. Pick up a soft drink, chips, lottery or the *Recorder* - Find us at 269 Mohawk Trail in Shelburne Falls. Hours: Mon - Fri: 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sat: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sun: 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. 413-489-3740.

---

**Realtor on Main Street, Conway Center** - Geoffrey Baker, licensed realtor with Cohn and Company in Greenfield. As the days grow brighter and warmer, the housing market is showing signs of turning a corner, so staying ahead of the curve and meeting the future now is always a smart strategy. Let me help you make your move, whether buying or selling. Proud to support my community and children's arts education, 20% of all my commissions go to Amherst Ballet Theatre Company, 65 Sunderland Road. 413-296-5225, [geoffrey@cohnandcompany.com](mailto:geoffrey@cohnandcompany.com).

## Sir Reggie's Homemade Quiz Answers

1. Border collie
2. Poodle
3. German shepherd
4. Golden retriever
5. Doberman pinscher
6. Shetland sheep dog
7. Labrador retriever
8. Papillon
9. Rottweiler
10. Australian cattle dog



**Eastern and Somatic Therapies** - and Western Mass Equine Therapy for mental health offers private sessions and retreats in therapeutic yoga, qigong, connection, intimacy and yoga therapy as bodywork and dialogue, as well as equine therapy for mental health. Sessions available in person or virtually. Our Grand Opening of Western Mass Equine Therapy begins April 1: To celebrate, we're offering a 20% discount on four sessions packages,



with adult and children's rates, til May 1. Join us at our Open House on April 18, 1 - 3 p.m. (rain date April 19). Equine therapy demo, reiki with horses demos and yoga class with horses. Space is limited, so please register at [www.ginambarrett.com/contact](http://www.ginambarrett.com/contact)

**Smith Landscaping** - Call us at 413-325-4062 for your tree removal, snow plowing or brush hogging needs!



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  
, please an ad or a notice, contact Louise at  
jimbeckett@crocker.com  
of the preceding month.  
newsletter@conwayma.gov  
Thanks for your support of

ECRLOT  
BOXHOLDER  
CONWAY, MA 01341