



Getting to Know You: A Visit with Bob Baker

By Kathy Llamas

I had the honor of spending a sunny afternoon with Bob Baker, a nearly life-long resident of the town of Conway and its longtime Fire Chief. Bob came to Conway with his family at the age of two. In 1950 they were renting a home in South Deerfield. Along with many families of the era, his hoped to achieve the dream of home ownership and put down more permanent roots. His parents narrowed their search to the communities of Montague and Conway. While both had their charms, the property in Conway across from the Boyden Sugarhouse was the place they ultimately called home.

Bob attended the old Conway Grammar School up on the hill. He spent his middle-school years at Frontier in South Deerfield. His high school education was in the halls of Smith Vocational School, learning the electrical trade. After graduation, Bob opened his own electrical business. In addition to this work, he joined the Conway Fire Department. I asked Bob what led him to join the department. He said that he was raised to see the importance of serving the community. His father and brother were already members of the department, so this was an easy decision. After several years working in his own business, he was invited to teach in the electrical department at Franklin County Technical School. He enjoyed this work, teaching there for nine years. He returned to his own business for eight more years, then in 1993 was offered the post of Conway Highway Department Director. The Highway Department was interesting enough work to keep him there until his retirement in 2013.

Being a resident of Conway for seventy years has given Bob a unique perspective. Conway has undergone many changes over the years, but you can tell by the way Bob speaks that the town is still dear to his heart. When I asked what he loved best about living here, he replied, "Conway has a rule of character." The friendliness of the community and the willingness of the residents to help each other and support the Fire Department hold deep meaning for Bob. When he himself once again saw a community need, he ran for a seat on the selectboard and was elected to serve the community for a three-year term.

My interview continued with a discussion of the Fire Department, which after 52 years of service and forty years as its chief has imprinted on Bob's DNA. You can clearly hear his deep commitment to the department even through his face mask. His eyes sparkled as he continued to share information with me. He is immensely proud that his family has continued the tradition of service. His son, grandson, and wife, Helen, all serve as firefighters and his daughter, Heidi Flanders, serves as president of the Firemen's Auxiliary.



The Fire Department answers an average of eighty calls a year representing a variety of emergencies: a downed electrical wire, a motor vehicle or motorcycle accident, a structure fire. There have been several incidents of river rescues along the South River. He patted the monitor at his side and spoke about the importance of being ready 24/7. Bob embodies great pride in being a firefighter.

The Fire Department consists of thirty firefighters and eight junior firefighters between the ages of 14 and 18 who play a supportive role. Bob was the first chief in the area to invite women into the department as early as the 1980s. There are currently seven women firefighters and three female junior firefighters. Every member is trained to run the truck, the pumps, and all the equipment. Bob said another important component of the Conway Fire Department is the Firemen's Auxiliary. The auxiliary is involved in fund raising and provides food and drink to firefighters working active situations. Bob said, "The Conway Auxiliary is one of the most successful units in the area." When asked what he would love to see in the department's future, Bob answered, "I would love to see the Fire Department get its own station. And it is particularly important that there will be funds available to renovate the building. Now our primary truck stands at the ready in front of the station. However, only the driver can fit into the truck initially. The driver must pull the vehicle out before others can mount the truck."

I was interested in how long the Bakers have owned Baker's Country Store. Bob recalls that, under other owners, the store was in existence in the early 1950s. Helen's parents bought the store in 1970, and it passed to Helen and Bob in 1985. Bob hopes that whenever the time comes to retire, someone will purchase the store. He feels that every community needs a store like Baker's.

Bob looks forward to retiring with Helen so they can follow their interest in travel. They would like to go to the Caribbean again and out to Hawaii. They would love to explore the West. Other interests include camping, gardening, growing flowers, and generally being outdoors.

The last question I asked was what office he was running for, having seen the campaign poster on the common. He laughed and said that many have asked him the same thing. "The truth is that someone was visiting Maine and found a yard sign of a person running for office that shares my name. They brought it back and

stuck it there as a joke." He said with a smile that someone told him they didn't know what he was running for, but he had their vote.

That, to me, is a ringing endorsement of a man who has served his community well.

Look for articles on the faces and places of Conway in future issues!

Conway Council on Aging

The COA receives a grant from the state Executive Office of Elder Affairs and an appropriation from the town. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in Town Hall. During the COVID-19 crisis, non-COA participants are invited to join by conference call. The number to join the meeting is 369-1541; the participant ID is 1541#. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284.

Senior Calendar for October

Healthy Bones & Balance Class This free class, sponsored by RSVP, meets Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. Contact leader Gary Fentin at 369-0001 for a link to the Zoom class.

Monthly Foot Care Foot clinics are held on the first Monday of the month in Town Hall by appointment only. The next clinic is Oct. 5. Call Peg Tiley at 369-4010 for information or to make an appointment. Face masks are required. There is a \$20.00 fee.

Grab-and-Go Meals Beginning this month, the COA is offering "Grab-and-Go" meals from LifePath on the second and last Thursdays of each month for pickup at noon at Town Hall. These are fully prepared meals to take home and heat up. Menus will vary depending on what LifePath is providing for a given day. For more information or to sign up for a meal, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010.

LifePath suggests a voluntary donation of \$3.00 per meal. Oct. 8: kielbasa and cabbage casserole, Yukon gold potatoes, peas and carrots, rye bread, yogurt. Oct. 29: sloppy Joes, corn, broccoli, hamburger bun, yogurt.

Walking Group The group meets at 9:30 a.m. Monday mornings in front of the library, weather permitting. Social distancing is maintained during walks. Call Phylis Dacey at 369-4326 for information.

Yoga for Seniors Led by Jody Fontaine on Wednesdays. Class times: mat yoga, 10:00-11:00 a.m.; chair yoga, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Call Jody at 413-824-9435 for links to the Zoom classes.

Senior Services

Durable Medical Equipment Loans The COA has items of durable medical equipment available for loan, including wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes, tub and shower chairs, commodes, raised toilet seats, and a recently donated CPAP machine. Call Hank Horstmann at 369-4405 to borrow equipment or if you have equipment to donate.

Home-Delivered Meals Meals on Wheels are still being provided during the COVID-19 crisis by LifePath for Conway seniors. Call LifePath at 773-5555 for further information and registration.

Van Transportation The Shelburne Falls Senior Center provides curb-to-curb van transportation within Franklin County for seniors 60 and over, for medical appointments and shopping. However, daily trips are no longer available. Call the center at 625-2502 to make an appointment at least 48 hours in advance or for information about reservations and fees. For rides to out-of-county medical appointments, call the FRTA at 774-2262 for information and reservations.

In-Person Early Voting

In-person early voting hours for the 2020 general election will be held at the Town Offices, 32 Main Street, Conway as follows:

Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18
10:00 am to 2:00 p.m.

Monday, October 19 and Wednesday, October 21
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20, Thursday, October 22 and Friday, October 23
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 24 – 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 25 – 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m.

Monday, October 26 and Wednesday, October 28
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 27, Thursday, October 29 and Friday, October 30
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Town Clerk will make all efforts to keep the area sanitized and safe for all voters.

Voting by mail is available due to COVID-19. Simply complete and return the postcard mailed to you by the Elections Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

If you are not registered to vote or are not sure if you are, there will be a final voter registration session on Saturday October 24, 2020 at the Town Offices, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You may also register to vote on-line (www.vote.org), by mail, or in person with the Town Clerk up until this date.

For Registration or Voting at the Town Office, use the rear entrance only!

Get Your Flu Shot!

Flu vaccine is an important preventive in any year, and this is definitely not just another year! Preventing flu during the COVID pandemic is even more important. Member Towns of FRCOG's Cooperative Public Health Service are working together to provide residents in the region with several opportunities for flu vaccination this season. The Conway Board of Health is helping to plan these events:

Sunday, October 4, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

All-Ages Drive-Thru EDS/Flu Clinic

South Deerfield Highway Garage, 9 Merrigan Way, So. Deerfield

Friday, November 6, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Conway Town Hall – Senior High Dose Available

Please gather your insurance cards, plan form preparation before arrival, and mark your calendars to join us! Forms, details, and a full schedule of community clinics will be available on Conway (www.townofconway.com) and FRCOG (<https://frcog.org>) websites in early September.

NOTE: State public health officials have announced that influenza immunization will be required for all children six months of age or older who are attending Massachusetts child care, preschool, K-12, and colleges and universities. The new vaccine requirement is an important step to reduce flu-related illness and the overall impact of respiratory illness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students will be expected to have received a flu vaccine by December 31, 2020, for the 2020-2021 influenza season, unless either a medical or religious exemption is provided. Also exempted are K-12 students who are homeschooled and higher education students who are completely off-campus and engaged in remote learning only. This new flu immunization requirement to enter school in January is in

addition to existing vaccine requirements for all those attending child care, preschool, K-12, and colleges and universities in Massachusetts. Elementary and secondary students in districts and schools that are using a remote education model are not exempt.

Got Drugs?

Do you or your relatives have a medicine cabinet full of old medications? Help get rid of them safely.

Save the date! National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is back!

Saturday

October 24, 2020

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Drop drugs off at these police stations: Amherst, Ashfield, Athol, Belchertown, Bernardston, Buckland, Cummington, Deerfield, Easthampton, Erving, Goshen, Granby, Greenfield, Hadley, Hatfield, Leverett, Montague, Northampton, Orange, South Hadley, Southampton, Sunderland, Ware, Whately, Williamsburg. Simply bring them to the police station and drop them in the MEDRETURN box. You can also bring medications to a permanent drop box location.

Medicines can remain in original containers with labels. No liquids, syringes, IV equipment, or chemotherapy drugs. Prescription and nonprescription drugs, vitamins, and veterinary meds are accepted.

Food as Medicine

by Peter Farber

As the growing season ends, I celebrate this and many other past seasons for so many reasons. I love fresh vegetables. And the fresher, the better! Not just because a fresh vegetable tastes like no other vegetable, but because a fresh vegetable, if it is truly fresh, is medicine. Yes, carrots are good for the eyes and blueberries for the

brain, and did you know that the cruciferous – kale, broccoli, cauliflower, etc. — may be helpful for the prevention of cancer due to their sulforaphane content? In fact, almost everything you eat from the field is very much like taking a multivitamin but tastes a whole lot better.

If it's not fresh, and I mean right from the field, you are not getting what you paid for if nutritional value is a consideration along with taste. We all know, or should know because we live in this garden of eaten, what a great-tasting right-off-the-field vegetable tastes like as compared to a vegetable that was picked four or five days ago in California, Florida, or Mexico, then traveled by truck across country, and has sat in a bin for a day or so. That's not fresh, it doesn't taste the same, and it has a whole lot less nutritional, let us say medicinal, value than a vegetable coming from one of our local gardens or farms.

Jo Robinson's *Eating on the Wild Side* (Little, Brown Spark 2014) spells it out very clearly. The moment a vegetable or fruit – we do not want to slight our fruit friends – is harvested, it begins to lose nutritional value. Hours later – and days later, if having traveled across country – it's a hugely different vegetable from what you pick from your garden or get from local farms.

I was never big on string beans. Then one day, living as I do in the kingdom of the fresh vegetable, I went out into the farm field near my Conway home – watch out for those horses – picked, steamed, and fell in love with this vegetable. Then I checked string beans out on nutritiondata.com. Fell in love all over again.

What a wonderful thing it is to live with gardens, farm stands, Hart, Natural Roots, and Atlas just down the road. Among so many things to celebrate about living in Conway: the freshest vegetables.

Update from the Field Memorial Library

The Field Memorial Library (FML) remains closed to physical visits as we consider modifications required to reopen it safely. We

appreciate your ongoing patience as we work on the physical aspects of the library and encourage you to visit our website, where many virtual opportunities await you. These include:

- An online talk addressing “What Does the Earth Ask of Us?” by *Braiding Sweetgrass* author Robin Wall Kimmerer sponsored by UMass and the Libraries in the Woods Collaborative
- A mystery writers “Zoomcast” featuring Archer Mayor, Julia Spencer-Fleming, and other mystery authors with Western Mass connections, sponsored by the Spear Library in Shutesbury and the Libraries in the Woods Collaborative
- Free links to the Boston Book Fest and, right at home,
- How the “Conway Knot” problem was solved, *finally*
- Free links to the virtual 82nd season of the Pioneer Valley Symphony
- Our “Collections” page, linked from our website at <https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org>. This page offers listings of items in the library to which we continue to add and that may be borrowed through our "steps-side" system.

FML's “steps-side” process – picking up materials and returning them to our outside book drop – is continuing. Our pickup schedules include Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and, for the near future, weekday appointments scheduled via email. You can also request any item and we will search our collection, and if we do not have it, we will try to obtain it for you. The Inter-Library Loan (ILL) process is back up and running, and this ensures we can obtain items from other libraries. To request an item or to arrange to pick up a copy of *The Solitude of Self*, send an email with your requested title(s) and author(s) or your request for the book to director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org.

We hope you are well and managing during this uncertain and stressful time. Please let us know if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding how FML may be of service.

All best,
David Whittier
Director, Field Memorial Library
director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org
<https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org>

Free Saplings from the Brownies

The Conway Brownie Girl Scout Troop is excited to give away **100 free trees** on Saturday, October 3, in the town center. The second-grade Scouts want to support our community and the planet by handing out saplings to anyone who wants one or two or three. They will have plenty of native sugar maples and other species to place in your trunk (contactless giveaway!). Pull over on your way back from the transfer station! A big thank you to Bartlett Tree Experts of Northampton for donating the trees. Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Rain date Sunday, October 4.

Firemen's Auxiliary Reminder

The Conway Firemen's Auxiliary, which had to cancel its Annual Turkey Dinner fund-raiser because of the pandemic, is asking people in the community who might have spent \$15 on a take-out dinner to instead make a donation to the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry. Send donations to:

Hilltown Churches Food Pantry
c/o First Congregational Church
PO Box 161
Ashfield, MA 01330

For the same reason, the traditional Rag Shag Parade and Halloween party have also been canceled.

Festival of the Hills: Please Consider Donating

The Conway Festival of the Hills will not be held this year but will continue to give scholarships to 2021 graduating seniors. Without the income from the festival, we will need donations more than ever. What would you have spent on fried dough, children's games, and a treat from our bake sale?

Please consider donating what you would have spent at the festival to our scholarship fund by sending a check to:

Conway Festival of the Hills
PO Box 431
Conway, MA 01341

We are a 501c3 organization, and your donations are tax deductible. We are still looking for volunteers to help make our 2021 festival a success. Please contact festivalofthehills@yahoo.com for more information.

Fall Bulky Waste Day Canceled

Franklin County Solid Waste District's fall "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day, previously scheduled for October 17, has been canceled.

Residents can take most items that are collected at Clean Sweep to Greenfield Transfer Station, which is open to nonresidents for a \$5.00 fee per load, plus specific disposal fees per item. For hours and pricing, see <https://tinyurl.com/GreenfieldTS>.

Residents are encouraged to recycle computer equipment and televisions at their own town's transfer station, if an e-waste collection program is available there, or at Greenfield Transfer Station. Residents can go to the district's website (www.franklincountywastedistrict.org) to find town-specific information on the 17 transfer stations in the district, which remain open for proper disposal of many items.

Staples stores accept computer equipment (no TVs) free of charge. Call your local store for details. Various charities and nonprofits accept donations of working electronics, including local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores. Always call ahead to ask if they can accept your item.

Additional questions about proper disposal of trash, bulky waste, recyclables, hazardous wastes, yard waste, or food waste can be directed to the Franklin County Solid Waste District at 413-772-2438 (leave a message with your phone number and town of residence), or email info@franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The district is an equal opportunity provider.

Mutts Still in Need: Help the Dog Shelter

The coronavirus crisis forced the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter to cancel its annual August fundraiser, "Mutts in Need," a source of much-needed income. The event, held for the last eight years at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club and featuring an outdoor barbecue with live music, raffles, and auctions, usually brought in enough funds to pay the shelter's veterinary bills for an entire year. Although adoptions have increased since the start of the pandemic, both donations and volunteer help are down. To compensate, the shelter has launched a fundraising campaign on social media titled "Mutts Still in Need." It is publicizing its activities on Facebook and is considering other ways to raise donations. To donate, send checks made out to the Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter to:

Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter
10 Sandy Lane
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Donations may also be made online at fcrdogkennel.org/donate. To inquire about contributing, call 413-676-9182 or email fcsodogshelter@gmail.com.

Honoring the Unsung Work Plants of the Farm

by David Fisher

I think of cover crops as puffy, lush, warm, green comforters for worms. When autumn approaches, I don't want our worms to catch a chill, especially after all the hard work they've been doing all season long, tilling the soil and digesting crop residues, turning them into fertilizer. So we've been focusing lately on getting our fallow fields and bare areas seeded down for winter. Not only do cover crops keep the worms warm and cozy, but they are essential for protecting other soil life from the harsh elements. Beneficial soil fungi and billions of micro-organisms are much happier underneath the shady, moist cover of plants. Not only do these special plants protect soil life, they protect the soil itself from compaction and erosion that can be caused by rain and wind. Perhaps most important in our floodplain location, cover-crop roots can hold onto our precious soil and keep it from being washed away in the event of a flood. Who remembers the terrible flood of 2011 during Hurricane Irene?

Cover crops are a way to grow organic matter right here in the fields, which in turn helps to hold onto water and nutrients for vegetable crops to use later on. The roots of cover-crop plants create miles and miles of tiny channels and pockets in the soil that are easily traveled by beneficial soil creatures and the roots of vegetable plants alike. Above ground, flowering cover crops can provide abundant feed for many important species of bees and wasps who need to forage on pollen and nectar for their survival. This winged workforce also helps to control crop pests and pollinate many of our vegetable crops as well. Though maybe not as tasty and exciting to some as melons, tomatoes, and carrots, let's celebrate our humble cover crops. Thanks buckwheat, rye, and clover. Thank you oats and peas!

Garden Club Notes

October weather varies greatly from year to year where we live, here in the hills. What will the month bring, Indian summer or early snowfalls? (Do you remember the heavy snow that led the Festival of the Hills Committee to move the event from the weekend after Columbus Day to the weekend before?) If we do get a warm October, it's one of the best times of the year to work in the garden: humidity is almost nonexistent, and mosquitoes have mostly been killed off during cold nights. October is a busy time ensuring everything in your garden is ready to withstand the wintry weather that will return all too soon.

- Now is the time to plant a cover crop. Clover is a favorite because it helps correct any nitrogen issues.
- As leaves start falling, mulch them in place. As it composts, the leaf litter will greatly benefit the soil.
- Begin cleanup now – everyone's least favorite chore at the end of growing season but one of the most important. Rake leaves from beds and remove any debris, such as dead or diseased plants, twigs, and such.
- Cover tender plants when freezing temperatures are predicted. Sheets or lightweight tarps spread loosely over plants will trap the heat stored in the ground and prevent damage.

The aims of the Conway Garden Club are to stimulate interest in gardening and related skills, to enhance the natural beauty of our area, and to educate and promote environmental improvement. See you in the spring.

WHY?

by Sir Reginald Buttwinker

WHY do hospital personnel wake you up to ask you if you're sleeping?

WHY does my printer run out of one color at a time?

WHY do I eat all of the car snacks for my four-hour drive before I've left town?

WHY do I think that the need to "go" in the middle of the night will go away if I don't move?

WHY does it take me three innings to realize that the Sox game I'm watching on TV was last night's game?

WHY do I remember, after buying \$127.36 worth of groceries, that I never bought the item I went there for?

WHY does my father's face show up when I look in the mirror?

WHY do I drop a large jar of pickles just as company arrives?

WHY do I find my missing keys in the fridge and my missing eyeglasses on top of my head?

WHY does my wife ask me a question while I'm brushing my teeth?

WHY do birds hate my car?



Conway Cultural Council Grant Funding



While we don't know what the future has in store, we are hoping that a sense of normalcy will be restored in 2021, and in that vein, applications open October 1 for proposals for

community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs. The deadline is November 16 for organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

These grants can support a variety of artistic projects benefiting the people of Conway, including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, or performances in schools, workshops, and lectures. Preference will be given to applicants from Conway and/or programs that take place in Conway.

The Conway Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 local cultural councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

Previously funded projects include nature walks, school programs, musical performances, and lectures. We prefer to fund events that will take place live before December 2021. Alternately, an online offering is an option if the project lends itself to this format. During the spring of 2020 when social gatherings were not possible, the Charlemont Forum went virtual in a dynamic event titled "Forging an Earth Ethic in aTime of Crisis." You can view this at <https://centerforearthethics.org/forging-an-earth-ethic-video>.

Local guidelines, information about applications, and complete information on the Conway Cultural Council can be found online at www.mass-culture.org. The application process is straightforward, but if you need assistance or have any questions, please email conwayculturalcouncil@gmail.com.

The Pool Committee Thanks You

Thanks to Conway residents for adhering to the Conway Swimming Pool 2020 protocols.

The pool committee recognizes that the COVID-19 mandates were restrictive and seemed, perhaps, unnecessary to some; however, we're glad we were able to open and that so many were able to enjoy the pool this summer.

At our last meeting we decided to once again send out an annual bulk mailing. Please look for it and consider responding with an interest in either joining this volunteer group or sending a donation of any amount.

In appreciation,
Conway Swimming Pool Committee

Welcome to the New Conway Giveaway!

Due to the current pandemic and the temporary closure of the "Conway Mall," *Conway Currents* will be hosting a local giveaway section.

Although there are many other ways to repurpose and donate, we offer this service for those who would like to donate items they no longer need to others right here in town who could use them. Please provide a very short description together with your preferred method of contact.

For instance:

- Used once, extra-large, heavy-duty rubber doggie boots (fit a golden retriever): veroniquecb28@gmail.com
- White aluminum storm door, old standard size, combination glass/screen window: patricialynch@earthlink.net

If anyone wants one of these items, please email to set up a place and time for a contactless pickup. Please note that this is for giveaways only, not items for sale.

Conway Currents Now Offers advertising!

Rates for ads up to 150 words are: one month \$7.75, six months \$25.75, twelve months \$44.75. For cost of longer ads or to include images (limited), call or email Louise at 413-559-1180 or lmbeckett@crocker.com. We have set what we feel is a fair price based on our circulation, which is to the entire town.

Advertisements can be paid for by checking account or credit card through the town's website: <https://townofconway.com/> > [View or Pay a Bill](#) > [Pay Newsletter Advertising](#). You can even make a donation to *Conway Currents* using the website.

Please send the text of your advertisement to Louise by email at lmbeckett@crocker.com. If you want to discuss your ad or have any questions, you may call or email.

Thank you for your support of *Conway Currents*!

Advertisements

The Conway Inn - The inn is open Sunday through Thursday 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. for pizza, chicken wings, and breadsticks. Place take-out orders starting at 4:00 p.m. We are now able to serve alcoholic beverages for dining at the inn and to sell bottled beer and single-serve wine with to-go food orders. Call 369-4428 to place your order. Thanks again for the hometown spirit you've shown toward your local businesses!

For local stonework

masonry repair and landscape design call Greene Masonry at 508-320-5258. Friendly, reliable and well recommended.

Check out these two titles by local author

Maki Matsui! - *Back to Troy* - Haunted by the unsolved murder of her enigmatic mother Hannah, Emma returns to her hometown of Troy in hopes of finding closure and regaining an emotional foothold. Her search for truth and peace of mind takes on new dimensions when she encounters her old crush Danny Oliveira, a freewheeling yet irresistible high school dropout who took care of her and his brother when they were young. Available on Amazon.



Daisy Fields - A gentle soul looking for a way to live sincerely in an insincere world. A story spinner who has built a barricade of lies around herself. What is sincerity, what is loyalty, what is true love? A warm and romantic novella that is a perfect long weekend read! Available October 1st on Amazon. Learn more at www.makimatsui.com.

Your Home Town Realtor

As a Conway resident for over 20 years, I provide local, attentive and trustworthy service for both buyers and sellers in our community. Previous experience as a licensed residential architect is valuable for my clients. Please contact me for a free, no obligation consultation! Sarah Newman, Realtor with Coldwell Banker Community Realtors. Call or text: 413-548-6525 or email sarah.newman@cbcommunityrealtors.com Thank you!

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.

Unheard Melodies

by Nicole Braden-Johnson

"Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard /Are sweeter"
– John Keats "Ode on a Grecian Urn"

Our Daily Bread

"Peace goes into the making of a poem as flour goes into the making of bread."

– Pablo Neruda

First, pour water, that fundamental essence
The birthplace of all terrestrial existence.
Scoop in flour, the foundation of human civilization
Grown, harvested, and milled by humans half wild.
Let it grow.

So days slip by, babies eat, babies sleep,
And life blooms unseen in a Mason jar.

Mold and stretch and pat and feed,
Hands move gloved in a ghostly palimpsest:
The instinctual memory of ancestral hands.
Then, a modicum of salt, the pungent, life-enabling mineral.
Finally, Zeus' secret, Prometheus' gift, paid in blood:
Fire that melds and shapes one fragrant loaf,
Break this bread and make the body whole.



The Conway Pool; undated; Jennifer Hassell Coliskey - "The pool was the place to be for me in summer in the '50s and '60s. We had two weeks of swimming lessons every summer. In six years one could advance from Beginners to Senior Life Saving. We had two docks, the raft (it used to be tethered so it floated), the Tarzan rope, and the "high" diving board. It was a rite of passage for me when I was allowed to swim from the beach to the raft. First time swinging and jumping from the rope was like flying for me."

The deadline for articles and ads in the newsletter is the 20th of the preceding month. Please send your content, comments and suggestions by email to Kathy Llamas at conwaycurrents@gmail.com. Thank you!

Current Town Office Hours

Until further notice, ONE VISITOR AT A TIME may enter the town office. If you find that another visitor is already in the office, PLEASE WAIT OUTSIDE until that person leaves. MASKS MUST BE WORN

Currently, only the following will have limited office hours at the town office:

Town Clerk - Laurie Lucier - 369-4235 x4

Enter at rear of building.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Treasurer/Tax Collector - Jan Warner - 369-4235 x2

Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector Lynn Kane - 369-4235 x1

Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Transfer Station stickers available.

Town Administrator - Tom Hutcheson - 369-4235, x3

Please call for appt. – may be out of office.

Mondays 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesdays 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursdays 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

To speak with others in the town office, call 413-369-4235 and follow the instructions to reach the appropriate office or go to <https://townofconway.com/>.

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