



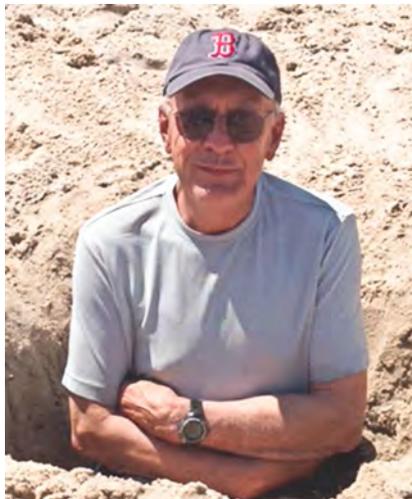
Once in a Blue Moon . . .

by Kathy Llamas

When something is rare or perhaps extraordinary, the phrase “once in a blue moon” often comes to mind. Conway has a little piece of “blue moon” in its midst, personified by local resident Joe Strzegowski. Joe has given forty years of service to Conway, a town he has called home since 1977. In his years of service, Joe has worn many hats: Selectboard for 24 years and on the Planning Board, Wastewater Treatment Committee, Friends of the South River, and Regional Planning Board as well.

When Joe and his wife, Eileen, decided to move to Conway from West Hatfield, they purchased land and built their own home. Now married for 55 years, the couple has a son, Mark, and a daughter, Sharon. Their children have added four grandchildren to the family, and they could not be happier.

What might have interested a man who did not have a family legacy of town service to devote so much time serving others? Joe, who was born in Northampton, was a graduate of UMass, and he felt a certain amount of gratitude to the state for providing him with a quality education at an affordable price.



Together with other men in Conway, Joe committed to joining a Lions Club chapter here. One tenet of that organization struck a chord with Joe: its advocacy of civic duty.

Joe recalled that his first choice for service to the town was to run for a seat on the Board of Assessors, for which several Lions’ friends planned to support his nomination. At the Town Caucus, however, he found that he would have to run against his boss for the seat. This was not acceptable to Joe. At that meeting, selectboard member Dick Ouimette was looking to step down, so Joe accepted the nomination for that position instead. During his time on the selectboard, Joe credits all the people he has served with helping him grow, mentioning Bill Graves and the late Tom Ward in particular. The momentum of Joe's service to the town accelerated from there! Upon reflection, he realized, he said, that his family life did create an atmosphere of service. His wife, Eileen, was Conway’s treasurer for ten years, and his daughter currently serves as the treasurer/tax collector for the town of Hatfield.

Joe said with a smile that he followed in Dick Ouimette’s footsteps in many areas. He became involved in scouting and took Dick's place as cub master of the Conway Cub Scout troop; his wife was a den mother for the five years their son was a scout. The couple's love of physical activity encouraged the scouts to do a 50-mile canoe trip and a 50-mile hike through the White Mountains. Joe was also an assistant coach under Greg Wells for Youth Baseball in Conway.

Some of the projects that Joe credits to ad hoc committees are creation of a cell tower bylaw, the cell tower, and the Conway Highway Garage. If residents had an idea or issue that needed solving, they were often invited to participate in the work of a specific committee to find a solution. The difference between that time and the present is that the town now has permanent committees to which residents' concerns can be brought.

In his forty years of service, Joe has accumulated a wealth of memories. One memorable, unexpected event occurred during the town's Annual Town Meeting upstairs at town hall, when a bomb scare was called in. The entire group moved to the library steps and then adjourned to the Congregational Church to finish the meeting. Joe mused that the person who originated the call was never found, but it certainly made for an eventful meeting.

Another story he told was about seeing Eleanor Manwell at the Festival of the Hills, selling mugs to raise funds for rebuilding the Burkeville covered bridge. He knew that selling mugs would never raise enough money for the project, so he suggested that the selectboard, interested townspeople, and the Historical Commission work together. The outcome was, with the help of the state, acquiring sufficient funds to complete the million-dollar project.

Finding a location on which to construct a new building for the Conway Grammar School was another project on which Joe worked alongside Al Charsky and others. The best location for the school was farmland owned by the Fourniers, who were still living in their farmhouse on the property. After much negotiation, an agreement was reached that gave the Fourniers a life tenancy so they could remain in the family home. The Conway Grammar School had a new home!

Joe offered these words of encouragement for anyone considering getting involved in town government: "Go for it! My educational focus was mechanical engineering, a world of numbers and measurement. Often people in this field are introverted. The selectboard is all about building a world of personal relationships. It is rewarding and at times can be all-consuming, but there is never a lack of things to do!"

When he is not serving others, Joe enjoys taking care of his twenty acres and exploring the woods that surround his property. He and

his wife also have enjoyed time hiking and currently walking with his daughter's dogs. "Of course," he says with the pride of a grandparent, "spending time with the grandchildren is particularly important to us." Gymnastics, softball, baseball, and equestrian events are some of the many ways they share time together.

Travel has played a big part in the life Joe and Eileen have built. While still at the University, Joe met Jim Hardigg of Hardigg Industries (now Pelican). Mr. Hardigg offered Joe a job and he worked for several summers there. Upon graduation, he felt grateful for the time he had already spent with the company. What might have been a few years of service for some, became for him a career that spanned fifty years.

Joe served on the Board of Plastic Industries and eventually became president of the board. This board opened a chapter in India, which he helped set up. He has also traveled through the United Kingdom, Europe, Asia, and Scandinavia, among others, sharing his expertise as well as enjoying traveling for pleasure.

The moon may go through phases, but when it comes to people like Joe, the fullness of his heart devoted to service shines as brightly as that blue moon on the snow-covered fields below! That is something the people of Conway can count on!

COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling Information

The Conway Board of Health wants to give you the best suggestions for signing up for the COVID-19 vaccine. We urge you to get your vaccine as soon as you are eligible in order to protect yourself and others in the community.

The best numbers to call with the latest, continually updated, detailed information for all regional vaccine sites are:

- The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) 413-774-3167 x 153. This number is available 24/7.

- For those without computer access, it is best to contact the South Deerfield Senior Center for help with scheduling an appointment: 413-665-2141.
- Any homebound residents of Conway, unable to travel, are encouraged to call Jackie Choate, Conway BOH member, at 413-834-2930. She is working with our town nurse, Lisa White, and LifePath to get folks who are eligible vaccinated as soon as possible. Leave a message if you get voicemail.
- You can also call 211 for help with scheduling at state vaccination sites.
- FRCOG also keeps information updated continuously at this web address: <https://frcog.org/covid-vaccine/>.

We recognize that signing up for the vaccination clinics has been a frustrating process. Please be assured that everyone involved is working hard to get the vaccine to all eligible groups as quickly and efficiently as possible. Please check the sites often, and thank you for your patience!

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. Next meeting is March 3. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284.

Senior Calendar for March

- **Healthy Bones & Balance Classes** These free classes, sponsored by RSVP, offer a combination of upper body, lower body, core, and balance exercises. Meeting dates and times: Tuesdays 9:00-10:00 a.m., Fridays 9:00-9:30 a.m. Contact leader Gary Fentin at 369-0001 for the Zoom links.
- **Monthly Foot Care** Foot clinics are held on the first Monday of the month in Town Hall by appointment only. The next clinic will be March 1. 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** The COA offers fully prepared meals from LifePath Thursdays at noon for curbside pickup at Town Hall. Menus vary. For more information or to sign up for a meal, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010 or Carolyn Thayer at 369-6948. LifePath suggests a voluntary donation of \$3.00 .
- **Yoga for Seniors** Led by Jody Fontaine on Zoom 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 the Zoom links.

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 CPAP machine. Call Hank Horstmann at 369-4405 to borrow equipment. Owing to lack of storage space, we are currently unable to accept donations of equipment.

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.

Transportation for Medical Appointments and Shopping The Shelburne Falls Senior Center provides curb-to-curb van transportation within Franklin County for seniors 60 and over, for 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. A short application with a copy of a photo ID is needed to be pre-approved for ridership. Fares range from \$.75 to \$2.25 each way. For rides to out-of-county medical appointments, call the FRTA at 774-2262 x 163 for information and reservations.

Community Resources for Those in Need

COVID-19 and the challenges it has presented to our work and home lives have negatively affected many people, and Conway residents aren't exempt. The following is a list of local resources where help is available in a number of areas. This list is also posted on the town website, www.townofconway.com, and updated regularly. We will reprint it in *Conway Currents* when space permits.

Information Resources

COVID-19 Community Resources: – Tapestry

<https://www.tapestryhealth.org/covid-19-community-resources/>

Department of Transitional Assistance: 413-772-3400, 877-382-2363. Information on SNAP (food stamp) benefits, economic assistance, and other resources.

Greenfield COVID-19 Community Information Line: 413-775-6411

LOOK4HELP: Public online resource directory for social services in Franklin County, Hampshire County, and the North Quabbin region. www.look4help.org

Resource Guide for Franklin County and North Quabbin (1).docx
<https://cacfranklinnq.org/files/>

Assistance in Multiple Areas

Community Action: 413-774-2318. Offers a wide range of public assistance and community support programs including fuel assistance (413-774-2310), heating system repair and replacement (413-376-1115), heating and utility payment assistance, service shut-off protection, energy efficiency/weatherization (413-376-1140), financial counseling/tax assistance, and assistance applying for SNAP benefits.

The Salvation Army: 413-773-3154. Provides a wide variety of services and assistance programs that include free food from local pantries; housing and rent payment assistance; electric, gas, water, and general utility bill payment programs; and prescription expense assistance.

Food Resources

Center for Self-Reliance Food Pantry: 413-773-5029. Prepacked bags of food for sidewalk pickup at 156 Main Street, Greenfield. Mon., Tues., and Thur., 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

FoodSource Hotline: 1-800-645-8333. Project Bread's hotline connects people with SNAP benefits and other food resources in their communities. People in need can also reach hotline counselors by instant message through www.gettingsnap.org.

Hilltown Churches Food Pantry: First Congregational Church, 429 Main Street, Ashfield. 413-625-0020. Food distribution is held every other Tuesday from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Emergency food is available during off hours.

Foreclosure Assistance and Mortgage Help

Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA): 413-863-9781. Runs programs including mortgage delinquency and default resolution counseling, housing counseling, housing authorities and mortgage foreclosure information, housing search and information, and RAFT intake. www.fcrhra.org

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT): A program to serve eligible households facing a housing crisis due to a loss of wages or increase in expenses related to or resulting from COVID-19. HRA is conducting RAFT intakes by phone or online: 413-863-9781 x150 or www.fcrhra.org/emergency-assistance/raft

Western MA Foreclosure Education Center: 413-233-1622. Provides at-risk homeowners with counseling and a variety of

support services to prevent housing loss, including mortgage foreclosure assistance.

Services for Elders and Persons with Disabilities

LifePath: This nonprofit organization serving older people, people with disabilities, and caregivers in Franklin County and the North Quabbin region offers in-home services, Meals on Wheels, health insurance help, and much more. For information contact LifePath at 413-773-5555, email info@lifepathma.org, or visit www.lifepathma.org.

Utility Assistance

Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund: 1-800-262-1320. Provides funds for heating source (paid directly to your energy provider) for those who exceed fuel assistance. Covers oil, wood, gas, propane, electric. magoodneighborfund.org.

Eversource: 877-963-2632. Offers several programs to help with paying energy bills: New Start – Eversource will review your account billing history and set a monthly budget payment; a portion of your past due balance will be eliminated, or “forgiven,” reducing the amount you owe. To be eligible, you must be a current residential customer; have a past due balance of \$300 or more that is 60 or more days past due; have an income that falls at or below 60 percent of the estimated state median income; and have applied for and are eligible to receive energy assistance funds or be able to provide other proof of income. Discount Rate – a special discounted energy rate for customers in need. To be eligible, you need to be a residential customer with a household income that meets eligibility requirements and who receives benefits such as low-income home energy assistance. For information and guidelines, contact Community Action (413-774-2318).

Payment Plan – enables you to pay off your past due balance over a period of time to help prevent service interruption.

Budget Billing – To avoid seasonal spikes, pay a fixed rate each month based on your average annual usage.

Conway Families in Need

The Conway Grammar School is asking for assistance in meeting the needs of some of Conway's families and children. These needs include the following items:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Full-size bed sheets | Blankets |
| Full-size comforter | Pots and pans |
| Towels | Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste) |
| Silverware | |

If you can help, contact Principal Kristen Gordon:
Kristen.Gordon@frsu38.org Conway Grammar School, 413-369-4239.

Information Session on Detached Accessory Dwelling Units

Detached Accessory Dwelling Units are small, freestanding, self-sufficient residential buildings that can be built on the same building lot as an existing residence without dividing the lot into two lots. The Conway Planning Board is considering proposing a revision to the zoning bylaws to permit this type of housing. Conway's current zoning bylaws allow one dwelling unit per lot and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) that are attached to the primary dwelling. The Planning Board wants to hear from Conway residents on the topic of Detached ADUs and whether the town should consider changing the bylaws to allow more than one dwelling unit per lot.

The board invites all Conway residents to a Zoom meeting on Thursday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m. Residents will be able to join the meeting via internet video or by calling in from any phone, including landlines. The session will be recorded and available for later viewing/listening.

“This information session is an opportunity for the board to present information and get input on important concerns that have the potential to impact our entire community,” Conway Planning Board Chair Beth Girshman said. “Many towns and cities in Massachusetts have amended their zoning bylaws to permit Detached ADUs as a way of increasing the available housing in their communities. Detached ADUs can be a way to increase housing diversity, affordability, and flexibility. The Planning Board would like to hear from town residents about whether they think this type of housing would be a good idea in Conway and, if so, what should be included in a revised zoning bylaw.”

This information session will be held in accordance with state-mandated social distancing requirements. The session will be accessible via Zoom. Links for internet connection as well as via call in are below. Contact the Planning Board chair for more information at planningboard@townofconway.com.

Follow this link for connection to the Zoom meeting:
<http://bit.ly/PBInfoSession>

Phone in from any phone, including landlines: 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 822 4499 4143
Passcode: 76453178

An Invitation

by Mary McClintock

Fun, thoughtful, community-minded group seeks new member(s) for wide-ranging conversation, detailed work, laughter, and community service. Curious? Call or email Mary McClintock at 413-369-0117 (landline) or mcclinto@verizon.net.

After serving on Conway’s Planning Board since 2013, I’ve decided not to run for re-election. I’m going to take Joe Strzegowski’s lead and request to be appointed as an associate member after my term

ends in May. I’m still very interested in serving the town by working with the Planning Board in the nonvoting role of an associate member. I made the decision not to run for several reasons, including:

- I think it is important for other folks to have the opportunity to step forward to join the Planning Board and serve our community.
- It takes some time to learn about the tasks of the Planning Board, and this is a perfect time for a new person to come onto the board and learn from the collective wisdom of the current members.

This is an elected position, and there are two ways to get on the ballot:

- Be nominated at the Town Caucus on March 1, 7:00 p.m., Conway Grammar School, or
- Contact Town Clerk Laurie L. Lucier, 369-4235 x 4, clerk@townofconway.com, to find out how to get on the ballot by petition.

A great way to learn about the Planning Board is to attend our meetings, information sessions, and public hearings. Upcoming meetings include:

March 4, 6:00-7:30 p.m., regular meeting

March 18, 6:30-6:55 p.m., regular meeting; 7:00-9:00 p.m., information session about housing

March 24, 7:00-9:00 p.m., public hearing about revising the Large-Scale Solar Facilities Bylaw.

I would love to talk with anyone who is interested in exploring running for the open seat on the Planning Board. Call or email Mary McClintock at 413-369-0117 (landline) or mcclinto@verizon.net.

What does the Planning Board do? Here’s the official description: The Planning Board is responsible for drafting, amending, and modifying zoning bylaws, and granting Special Permits. It is charged

with creating a Master Plan that forecasts the long-term needs of the town with respect to: housing, land use, economic development, environmental concerns, services and facilities, conservation, and recreation. The board will make studies, hold meetings, authorize technical research, prepare plans, and develop proposals with regard to the future needs of the town.

Conway Emergency Alert System

The Town of Conway has an emergency Reverse 911 call system to alert residents in case of an emergency situation. Residents are not automatically included. *You must sign up* in order to get these alerts. Please contact emd@townofconway.com to sign up or send a letter to Emergency Management Director, Town of Conway, PO Box 240, Conway, MA 01341. You will need to provide both the phone number where you can be reached and your street address. This system may also be used for important COVID-19 updates, so be sure you are signed up!

Talkin' Trash

What you need to know about plastics recycling: All of us are familiar with the image of chasing arrows forming a triangle with numbers inside on the bottom of plastic containers. This was instituted over thirty years ago by the plastics industry and actually has nothing to do with whether or not that item is recyclable in your location. The numbers identify the type of resin used in that container. And while most items may technically be recyclable, the important thing is to know whether your recycling system accepts them and, therefore, recycles them.

Conway is a member of the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility, or MRF. The MRF has a website – www.springfieldmrf.org – that lists items that are accepted for recycling. In particular, there is a detailed YES/NO list, found on the "What's Recyclable" page, which

is a useful guide. However, the best guidance is to look at the shape of the container: If it is a tub, jug, jar, or bottle, it is recyclable. You can also use the Recyclopedia at RecycleSmartMA.org to look up the exact item you are wondering about. Remember, we pay for processing recyclables, so it is very important to make sure you know exactly what can and cannot go into the rolloff at the transfer station. Thank you for all you do to make recycling successful in Conway!

Benefits of Uphill and Downhill Walking

by Peter Farber

We live in a Hilltown. Therefore it would seem likely that if you walk far enough – and that may mean just out your back door – you are going to come face to face with a hill, big or small, but a hill nonetheless. Incorporating even a little bit of hill into your walking routine has significant benefits. For every additional 5 percent of incline (a modest rise in the landscape), you burn an extra 3 to 5 calories per minute, depending on your speed and effort level. That may not sound like a lot, but put it in perspective. The average person burns about 200 calories walking on a flat surface. If about half that distance consists of hills, the total calorie burn jumps to an average of 275 calories.

Walking more downhill or uphill in an exercise routine can have differing effects on whether someone is more likely to improve levels of fats (lipids) or sugar (glucose) in their blood, according to a small but intriguing study presented recently at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions. All walking is beneficial for improving lipid problems and glucose metabolism. The study found that downhill walking did a better job of improving glucose tolerance, which is a measure of how well a person is able to move glucose out of the blood and into the cells of the body. People who are glucose-intolerant are at higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Downhill walking improved their glucose tolerance by 8.2 percent, compared with a 4.5 percent improvement with uphill walking.

People who have lipid problems, especially high amounts of triglycerides – a type of unhealthy fat found in the blood – might want to consider uphill walking. While uphill walking, the test subjects lowered their triglycerides by 11 percent, compared with 6.8 percent while downhill walking. Climbing hills strengthens the front of your thighs (the quadriceps and hip flexors), which may not get worked as hard when you walk on flat surfaces. Increased leg strength also means greater endurance, because you'll experience less leg fatigue.

Start with ten steps up and down a hill. Over time you can add a few more steps each time you go out, or just stay at ten steps or even five. It's all good!

Conway Grammar School Update

When you enter Conway Grammar School, you will notice hand-sanitizing stations and colorful mini-cones separating the hallway into two lanes, but what really stands out is the laughter of teachers and students happy to be together! At a recent staff meeting, Principal Kristin Gordon said, "The students are here and happy. What more could we ask for?" Students are in the building four days a week and meeting the challenge of practicing the many safety protocols necessary during this time. Some of our families are attending school remotely. We are impressed with the level of engagement of our students and their ability to make connections with their teachers and classmates!

At CGS, our special subjects are going strong! Art, music, and technology are taught remotely, while PE is taught in person. Students and teachers celebrated the 100th day of school on February 23 with a day (or more) of activities and games. We are getting ready for our annual Read Across America event, which will take place both in the classrooms and via the internet. The event, which we will hold on March 2, will include guest read-alouds (appearing remotely), whole-school movement breaks, crafts, a Battle of the Books, and more!

As we approach the third trimester of this unprecedented school year, our teachers, students, and staff are setting and meeting goals, collaborating and connecting, and laughing together!

In Principal Gordon's words, what more could we ask for?

Update from the Field Memorial Library

The Field Memorial Library's "steps-side" system of picking up materials and returning them to our outside book drop continues. Pickup schedules include Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Monday and Wednesday afternoons/evenings scheduled via email or phone. Phone is staffed during these times. Visit our website at <https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org> for news and events and the "Collections" page to browse portions of our collection.

Cracks are beginning to appear in the walls the pandemic has imposed upon us. Although we must be patient in reopening the library to physical visits, there are some new developments. First, the Libraries in the Woods (LITW) Collaborative has chosen the book *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel (2014) as our 26 or so communities' group read for 2021. This is a significant choice, because it is a novel about a pandemic – but not like the one we are enduring. It's far worse. Based on the premise that 99.6% of the world's population is wiped out in a matter of weeks and civilization as we know it collapses completely, it is far more drastic. Survivors must make their way in a world without fuel, electricity, or normal guideposts and with great foreboding and fear.

You might think, as I did, that reading such a work would only add to the heartache of our present situation. After all, who needs more pandemic? However, reading *Station Eleven* had a strong, paradoxical effect on me. It envisions a situation so much worse than ours that it provided perspective on the experience. This perspective was somehow tension reducing. The book *is* compellingly written, with many twists, and it flips back and forth in time between some characters' pre-pandemic life and their struggles to survive in the post-pandemic world. It's a good

and quick read, a page turner, and *both* a movie and tv series are in the works.

The FML and other area libraries will use *Station Eleven* and other pandemic-related resources to organize conversations on Zoom about it and our COVID-19 experience. The idea is to encourage healing through sharing and gaining perspective. Other resources widening the perspective include *The Stand* by Stephen King; *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*, a 2001 bestselling historical fiction novel by Geraldine Brooks; other titles, especially a few related to the 1918 pandemic; and a 1999 episode of *Star Trek: Voyager*, which Ms. Mandel cites as inspiration for *Station Eleven*. Keep informed of developments in this project through our website at <https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org>.

Your Field Memorial Library has copies of *Station Eleven* for loan. The Zoom-based conversations and activities related to the book and sponsored by the FML and other LITW Franklin County libraries are being planned for April and May. At this time, it appears most events will be virtual.

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

Conway Festival of the Hills: Please Consider Donating

The Conway Festival of the Hills is scheduled to be held on October 3, 2021. We are currently planning via Zoom meetings and looking for volunteers to help us continue this long-time town tradition to benefit our graduating high school seniors. Please contact us at festivalofthehills@yahoo.com if you would like to get involved.

We will be giving out 2021 scholarships this spring despite the

cancelation of our 2020 festival. 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 2020 festival to our 2021 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.

Open Space Committee Survey

The Open Space Committee has been meeting since October to update Conway's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Look for links to the Open Space and Recreation Survey in March. Your answers to the survey are an essential part of the town's ongoing work to identify and prioritize projects that (1) meet the recreation needs of its residents; (2) protect our natural, scenic, historic, and recreational resources; and (3) help make our community more resilient to a changing climate. Your participation is important!

Conway Cookbook Still Available

Copies of our town's Sestercentennial Celebration cookbook – *Conway's Open* – are still available at OESCO (Orchard Equipment) and at Conway's Greenfield Savings Bank branch for \$10.00.

Contact Kate French at OESCO in person or phone (369-4335) or at kate4cats@hotmail.com to purchase. Since funding for the town's 250th celebration has ended, the money raised will be donated to the Festival of the Hills. Checks or cash only. Thanks for your support and all of the wonderful recipes you contributed! It is by *far* my most used cookbook, and I have many!

Kate French

From Conway's Kitchens

A favorite maple recipe from Jeanne Boyden

Maple Walnut Pie

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 eggs | 3/4 cup maple syrup |
| 1/2 cup sugar | 1/4 cup melted butter |
| 1/4 tsp salt | 1/2 cup chopped walnuts |
| 1/2 tsp cinnamon | 1/2 cup raisins |
| 1/2 tsp nutmeg | pastry-lined pie plate |
| 1/2 tsp cloves | |

Preheat oven to 375. Beat eggs, sugar, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, syrup, and butter with hand beater. Stir in walnuts and raisins. Pour into pastry-lined plate.

Bake until filling is set, 40-50 minutes. Serve warm or refrigerate.

Scholarships

Conway Festival of the Hills Scholarship Although there was no festival in 2020, we will still be awarding scholarships! Applications for the Conway Festival of the Hills Scholarships are currently available on the town website: www.townofconway.com under forms and downloads.

Scholarship applications (hard copy only) must be postmarked by the last weekday in April (**Friday, April 30**) and mailed to Conway Festival of the Hills Scholarship, PO Box 431, Conway, MA 01341. Please note that no applications received after that date will be considered.

Festival of the Hills Scholarships are available to all graduating high school seniors from Conway who submit completed 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.

Questions? Please contact Phyllis Jeswald: 369-4410 or pjeswald1@gmail.com

Field Memorial Library Scholarship The Friends of the Field Memorial Library in Conway announce their Scholarship2021. We want to encourage and support the continued education of a graduating Conway high school senior. Applications are now being received; the deadline is **April 30, 2021**. To be eligible for this scholarship (currently \$500), the applicant must:

- Be a resident of Conway, MA
- Be a graduating high school senior, either from a school or home-schooled
- Have maintained good academic standing throughout high school (grade point average)
- Have demonstrated good communication skills by submitting an application

To obtain an application, contact your high school guidance counselor or go to <https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org/> or contact Thad Bennett at FieldMemLibraryScholarship@gmail.com

The Conway Firemen's Auxiliary Scholarship The Conway Firemen's Auxiliary scholarship is awarded annually to a Conway resident who is a graduating high school senior. Primary consideration will be given to students that have been involved in community service and/or extracurricular activities and who plan to further their education in either college, trade school, or a certificate program. Grades and financial need will also be considered. To obtain an application, visit the Forms and Downloads page of the town website - townofconway.com - or pick up an application at the Frontier Regional High School or Franklin

Technical School guidance offices. Send your completed application to: Conway Firemen's Auxiliary; PO Box 46; Conway, MA. 01341 by **Friday, May 7, 2021**. For additional information contact Heidi Flanders, President at 413-369-4219.

Fred W. Wells Scholarship Residents of Conway wishing to apply for a 2021-2022 Fred W. Wells Scholarship must submit their applications with all required documentation postmarked on or before **March 20, 2021**. Applications are available NOW at the Town Office, 32 Main St., Conway, or at OESCO (Orchard Equipment – ask for Kate). Email questions or concerns to pblond@greenfieldsavings.com. Mail the application and documents to Prudence Blond, Greenfield Savings Bank, 400 Main Street, PO Box 1537, Greenfield, MA 01302.

Fred W. Wells Trust Scholarships are offered to graduating seniors and full-time college students who have resided in Conway, one of sixteen local towns that can participate in this award, for at least two years immediately prior to application. Recipients are selected based on scholarship, need, extracurricular activities, and recommendations from counselors and teachers. The maximum award for any one academic year is \$1,000 and is contingent upon the number of qualified applicants. Awards are not to exceed a maximum total of \$4,000 over the course of an academic career. If your awards amounted to less than \$4,000 and you have continued your education, apply again for the balance for graduate school or a new career!

The Mark Boice Germain and Mildred Boice Germain Fund: A College Scholarship Fund for Residents of Conway, Academic Year 2021-2022 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.”

Applications are available at the Town Office, 32 Main Street, Conway, or you can download and print the application: Germain-Scholarship Application 21-22. The application deadline is Friday, **April 16, 2021**.

UCC Conway Scholarship

The United Congregational Church of Conway is awarding a scholarship to a graduating high school senior in 2021. 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. Completed applications must be postmarked by **Friday, April 16, 2021**, and mailed to:

UCC Conway, Attn: Scholarship Committee, PO Box 214, Conway, MA 01341

Students may obtain applications by contacting Tina Burnett at 369-8035 or 16xcmom@gmail.com.

Currents Advertisements & Notices

Rates for ads up to 150 words are: one month \$7.75, three months \$15.75; 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.

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](#) or send a check to:

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

Rental Request - Rural Woman Writer Seeks Reasonable Dwelling in Conway, Buckland, Shelburne, Ashfield, Goshen area - a quiet place, a little out of the way, (no main road) for long term tenancy. I have good references, dependable income, am responsible, quiet, clean, single, no kids, smoke, drink or TV, very conscientious with wood/pellet stove. A

senior, mostly mute, blind cat comes with me, he can't see anything to scratch on, and his litter is odorless and cleaned with each use. Can do horse/animal care. Please email at equineauntie@yahoo.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!

The Conway Inn - The inn continues to be 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. Take-out orders may be placed 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!

Baker's Country Store - open seven days a week for all-day take-out breakfast and lunch. Limited seating since the partial lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions. Hours: Monday-Friday 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Call 369-4936. We have a variety of homemade desserts and baked goods, and a large selection of last-minute items including locally made kid's masks. We always have freshly baked cakes, muffins, pies, and cookies - put in your order today for one of Helen's famous pies! Check us out on Facebook: [facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store](https://www.facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store) for today's specials. Thanks to everyone for their continued support.

Join Natural Roots CSA - - for delicious, fresh vegetables grown right here in Conway. We have several CSA share options, including part-time and low-income shares, main season (June through October) and winter shares. Our farm store is also open to the public year-round during daylight hours. We offer eggs from our own pastured hens as well as other local items like beef, chicken, pork, dairy, bread & baked goods, honey & maple products, coffee & tea, ice cream, snacks, beverages and more! Support a horse-powered farm in Conway and enjoy this beautiful, bountiful farm and the vibrant community that we feed. www.naturalroots.com. Natural Roots, 888 Shelburne Falls Rd., Conway,

MA 01341, (413) 369 - 4269, naturalroots@verizon.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 23rd-November 26th. Pay with card/check/SNAP. 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. More info at www.conwayhartfarm.com, Conwayhartfarm@gmail.com, 413-453-9098.

Tea at Two Gift Shop - Come and browse the varied, locally-made items available at Tea at Two. The offerings range from jewelry to hand knits and lots of things in between; baby items, kitchen items, soaps and lotions, Christmas decorations and much more. The shop at 85 Whately Road is open Wednesday and Friday 1-5, Saturday 10-5 and by appointment as well. Call 413-834-2339. Look for the "OPEN" flag! Thanks for supporting our local Conway businesses.

Conway Giveaway

The following items are free for the asking. Contact veroniquecb28@gmail.com or call 413-325-3472.

- Eleven 12-oz Luminarc glasses
- Triangular stainless steel dish drain for food scraps
- Nutcracker, metal screw with lever
- Spaetzle maker, works great, needs a little TLC
- Vintage teal, metal cheese/veggie grater and slicer with four attachments; some rust

Correction The "Distinguished Conway Residents" article on page 14 of the February issue incorrectly attributed the list of distinguished residents to the Festival of the Hills Committee. The 250th Anniversary Committee compiled the list.

A Vignette from Conway History

One October day in 1949, Secretary of State Dean Acheson was taken on a walk in Pumpkin Hollow by the longtime friend he was visiting, Conway resident Archibald MacLeish. He later wrote about that day that he'd witnessed "a remarkable exhibition of democracy in action": volunteers hard at work constructing the dam that would eventually hold the waters of the Conway Swimming Pool. Acheson was so inspired by the sight of these volunteers that he willingly agreed to write something MacLeish could read at the 1950 dedication of the pool. It was, he said, an example of community effort to achieve a common goal that he wished the entire world could see.



"Fifty or more men worked together at the Swimming Pool site, sometimes at night under floodlights, with brush cutters and shovels, picks and rakes. The Town donated the use of road equipment, farmers came with tractors to move boulders and tree stumps, local businesses gave free lumber and loam, and those with technical and engineering expertise advised on the construction of the basin and dam. Women led the way in fundraising, organizing raffles, card games and strawberry suppers, and bringing in the support of the United Congregational Church and Ladies Aid Society." - Peter Engelman, from Conway Historical Society Summer Program, "Democracy in Action", 2015. Image courtesy of Conway Historical Society, Gift of Conrad Totman.

Unheard Melodies

by Nicole Braden-Johnson

"Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard /Are sweeter"

– John Keats "Ode on a Grecian Urn"

It Could Happen to You

On the back porch, cradling a sunburst guitar among autumn leaves
He labors to wrap a leathery palm around the smooth wooden neck
With taut steel strings resisting the pressure from his fingers.
His brow furrows; he adjusts the hollow body against his own.
Hand and pick hover over silently waiting strings.
This is the hardest moment.
This is the longest moment.
This moment is bitter and it is sweet.
This moment has been in him since the first chord he ever heard.
Until now he could say: "If only," and "Maybe someday,"
And hide behind all the things he is and has done instead.
Now he either sees this to the end or admits defeat.
Now he finds out if he can bend his fingers to his will,
If he's got rhythm.

He pins the strings down behind a fret and
Plucks the note with a worn and aged fingertip,
Overeager, it twangs out in a tremulous waver,
It is neither clear nor full, but it is his -- he made it,
He wrung it from this lifeless box of wood and metal.
No note will ever be this hard again or cost so much
Though many will not come easy.

For hours and years he sits and learns, note by note
He plays on foggy days and in the summertime as notes turn into
chords,
Turn into melodies, turn into songs – his love is here to stay.
A blue rhapsody cannot be spun from the filaments of dreams,
But each attempted practice could potentially be a symphony.



South River looking downstream from the Hickory Ridge Road Bridge, November 2019, Patricia Ann Lynch.

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