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Welcome to Conway
About the Chamber

Conway’s New Model for Business Growth
Ask the Expert: Jason Hansen, Conway Corporation

10 Conway Seniors Named National Merit Scholars
Making Higher Education More Affordable
Conway’s Higher Education Institutions Earn National Rankings
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Events and Festivals
Parks and Recreation

Downtown
Midtown
Nearby Communities

CONWAY+ Index of Advertisers

A walkable, green community, The Village at Hendrix is located in the northern edge of downtown Conway across the street from the main campus of Hendrix College.

While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this publication, the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce cannot guarantee the correctness of all information or the complete absence of error or omissions. For changes or to submit your comments, please contact the Chamber.
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From its population to its economy, Conway has experienced decades of significant growth.

**CONWAY’S STRONG** community spirit, high-performing schools and colleges, family friendly recreation, and vibrant economy continue to attract visitors, residents, and businesses to the city. This quality of life has made Conway one of the fastest growing cities in Arkansas.

Conway's population grew at a rate of 9.5 percent from 2010 to 2014, increasing at a rate faster than most big cities in Arkansas. The U.S. Census Bureau defines big cities as having a population of 50,000 or more.

This growth is driven by a strong economy. Among 381 Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the U.S., the Little Rock–North Little Rock–Conway MSA is the country’s 28th strongest metro area. The ranking comes from POLICOM’s 2014 economic strength report, which measures the economic conditions of the United States’ metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

A diversity of jobs in education, health care, manufacturing, technology, energy, government, and an emerging startup...
community combine to provide Conway and Faulkner County residents with a variety of employment options. The availability of these jobs is the key driver in the city's continued residential growth – a trend that has occurred for several decades.

Conway's three colleges are another reason for the city's growth. The University of Central Arkansas, Central Baptist College, and Hendrix College produce graduates who choose to stay in the area and enter the workforce. As a result, over 40 percent of Conway’s adults have a post-secondary degree. This educational level is a boon to Conway’s employers.

Retail growth also continues to escalate. In early 2017, central Arkansas residents will have access to two major retail developments in Conway, further establishing the city as a regional shopping hub. The downtown area is also luring residents with trendy boutiques, antique stores, and restaurants. Furthermore, a mix of national chains and locally owned stores offer convenient neighborhood shopping throughout Conway.

Whether you are attending college, searching for employment, raising a family, settling into retirement, or simply looking for a place to shop and dine, Conway is a smart choice.

More than 40 percent of Conway's adults have a post-secondary degree.
The Conway Area Chamber of Commerce celebrates its 125th year in 2016. Since 1891, the Chamber’s focus has been on the success and growth of the local business community.

For 125 years, the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce has been focused on helping local businesses succeed and grow. We’ve done that by being the experts on the local economy, creating powerful partnerships, and leading the community in new directions.

The Conway Area Chamber’s mission is fourfold:
1. leading the community toward sustainable economic growth;
2. advocating a pro-business climate;
3. building on Conway’s educational foundations; and
4. establishing and executing a vision for the community.
Growing the local economy

The most important role any chamber of commerce can play is economic developer. Simply put, we bring money into our local economy. Recruiting new business, retaining and expanding existing business, promoting Conway, and hosting business-to-business networking opportunities for Chamber members all fall under the economic development umbrella. Over the past decade, Conway and Faulkner County have added more than 8,000 jobs and 1,000 new businesses to the economy.

New Business Recruitment. Few things garner more excitement in the Chamber world than recruiting a major employer to a community. Through a decades-long partnership with the Conway Development Corporation, the Chamber leads the community in efforts to recruit new business.

Business Retention and Expansion. The bread and butter of economic development is expanding existing business. The Conway Area Chamber is in constant contact with the local business community. Its yearly visitation program gauges the relative health of our major employers. The Chamber also hosts regular “Executive Forums” for leaders of the city’s largest private employers.
Tourism and Promotion. Conway may not be a traditional “tourist destination,” but it is a destination for business events and youth sports. Hotels and restaurants are the most obvious beneficiaries of our tourism economy. The city has a 2 percent tax on hotel rooms and a 2 percent tax on food prepared in restaurants, bakeries, and concession stands. The city-appointed Advertising and Promotion (A&P) Commission manages these funds.

The Conway Area Chamber acts as the staff of the A&P Commission. This includes assisting visitors and events, advertising on behalf of the commission, and looking for opportunities to promote the city. Because many guests are unfamiliar with the term “A&P Commission,” the Chamber now markets those services as the Conway Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB).

Benefits of Membership. The Conway Area Chamber also provides a vibrant suite of business-to-business and prospect targeting opportunities for its members. Whether it’s a gathering of more than 1,000 attendees at annual events such as Business Expo or 20 Leads Group members meeting regularly to network, the Chamber offers a business product for every budget or market.

Advocating for our members and community

There is an old saying in the chamber business that goes, “Chambers do what people think just happens.” No description is more appropriate for what a strong government affairs agenda can do. Without it, large infrastructure projects would go unfunded or would occur at a much slower pace, and the voices of small-business owners would be unheard.

Infrastructure. The Conway Area Chamber is the chief advocate for major public projects in Faulkner County. Additional lanes and exits on Interstate 40, a new airport, and extended highways have all been spearheaded by the Chamber. These projects are often decades in the making; no individual or elected official can sustain the effort necessary to see them through. It takes an organization with a 125-year track record of vision and service.

Advocacy. Most chamber members are small businesses that can’t afford a lobbyist to represent their interests. Each year, hundreds of pieces of legislation are introduced at the state and national levels that impact businesses. Because of the Chamber’s affiliation with the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, those members have representation in both capitals to monitor legislation.
Educating the next generation

Education is the cornerstone of Conway's economy. The Chamber was founded to recruit the city's three higher-education institutions. An educated population and workforce are critical to recruiting jobs and growing a local economy. Our chamber works toward that goal in three ways: educational funding through Toad Suck Daze proceeds, recognizing student achievement at Academic Signing Day, and connecting education and the business community through the Teacher Fair.

The Chamber also helped create and sustain Arkansas Preschool Plus, a local nonprofit focused on early childhood education. The partnership provides professional development and first-class curriculum to area preschools. Today, Arkansas Preschool Plus is helping more than a dozen preschools offer highest-quality teaching and curriculum to Conway’s youngest students.

Executing a vision for the city

In 2009, the Chamber took on the role of coordinating and executing a strategic vision for the city of Conway. The end result was the Conway2025 plan. The plan was developed using surveys and personal input from more than 1,500 area residents. The Chamber and its staff facilitated more than 50 community meetings in order to come up with 132 goals to be accomplished by the year 2025.

In January 2011, the Conway city council adopted Conway2025 as the “official strategic vision for the city of Conway.” In doing so, they joined a number of other public and private organizations that have pledged to partner in the execution of the plan. Since that time, 20 percent of the goals have been “achieved” and measurable progress has been made on an additional 30+ percent. Rogers Plaza downtown, the redevelopment of the former airport, and many other high-profile transportation initiatives all trace their roots back to Conway2025.

The plan paints a picture of Conway at its best as we approach the quarter-century mark. It is a reflection of the thoughtful and ambitious spirit that makes Conway great. In 2015, the Chamber led Conway2025 2.0, a renewed commitment to planning for and accomplishing the remaining goals.
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Announcing new businesses and jobs in Conway isn’t new. Job growth has been steady, and at times rapid, over the last decade. But the types of jobs announced in 2015 are dramatically different than announcements from as recent as 2010.

“It’s definitely a new model for us,” said Brad Lacy, president and CEO of the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce and Conway Development Corporation. “For decades, we attracted large industries that employed hundreds of people. Then we had the opportunity to locate “back office” type projects that employed hundreds of people. Now the majority of our time is working with tech-driven companies that may open with less than a few dozen employees.”

In 2015, a number of companies announced plans to add jobs in Conway:

- Garver Engineering
- Black Oak Analytics
- Metova
- Eyenalyze
- Big Cloud Analytics
- Northwestern Mutual

Metova represented the largest single announcement of 2015. After initially announcing plans to create 60 jobs, they amended figures upward to 160. However, the remaining projects all announced headcounts of less than 40. Lacy said the projects had something other than scale in common. “Almost every announcement we had in 2015 was a tech- or knowledge-based industry. And the majority either located downtown or has plans for a downtown location. That combination of highly skilled workers and a desire to be close to each other and other amenities is one we’ll continue to see.”
Conway + Social: Economy

Three technology companies today announced plans to locate new facilities in downtown Conway. Metova Inc., a mobile app development company; Big Cloud Analytics, a predictive analytics software company; and Eyenalyze, a Conway-based company that has developed innovative software for use in the food service sector, will invest a combined $2.5 million and create 140 new jobs.

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THE GLOBAL COMPANIES
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1-Gig Data District downtown – and nationally recognized
utility service, businesses seek to make Conway home.
That's one of the reasons Conway Corp stays at the forefront
of digital innovation. It's growth for Conway, powered by us.
What brought you to Conway?
When looking at where I wanted to attend college after graduation in Mountain Home, I focused on smaller schools that emphasized more individualized instruction with excellent faculty-to-student ratios. Hendrix College easily met these criteria, and I knew it was the perfect place to make my home for four years.

Describe your role with Conway Corp.
I graduated from Hendrix in 1997 not with a degree in computer science, but in physical education with thoughts of teaching and coaching. I took education courses at UCA in December 1998, around the time when the movie Patch Adams came out. Despite only seeing the movie one time, it struck a nerve. Robin Williams’ character focused his attention on being passionate, dedicated, and loving what you do with your life – no matter what. This changed my own life course and contributed to who I am today. What I realized was that technology drove, excited, and motivated me. I found its evolution and impact on our daily lives remarkable.

I began working for Conway Corp in October 1999 as a customer service representative answering calls about a relatively new service we were offering: Internet provided via a cable modem. I had been given the opportunity to be on the ground floor of the Internet’s takeoff in Conway (and the country, really). Three years later, I began managing the Internet service, and by 2007, I oversaw both the broadband and video services. Voice services were added to my area in 2009. In 2011, I became Conway Corp’s first Chief Technology Officer.

In this role, I oversee and manage our information systems, application development, broadband, voice, and video teams. A main facet of my job is to keep my eye to the future with an understanding of the present. I often ask myself, “How do today’s decisions impact tomorrow’s service offerings?” Of course, the technology sector changes quickly; attempting to predict what’s coming is tricky, so flexibility is important. I have been incredibly blessed to manage a team filled with great people from diverse backgrounds, knowledge bases, skill sets, and risk tolerances who share a passion for providing excellent services to our customers.

What excites you about your job?
I get excited about my job because what my team and I do has a direct, positive impact on our customers’ daily lives. Our customers have evolved to expect the same reliability out of their technology services as their utilities. The decisions we make can have a real impact on this expectation. I am also excited to challenge ourselves to deploy next-generation and forward-thinking technologies in a way that minimizes the impact and disruption to our customers. The chance to work with so many different technologies and learn how they function is another exciting bonus; it’s never boring and always changing.

What are your long-term goals for Conway’s tech infrastructure?
Long-term, we will continue to evolve the HFC (Hybrid-Fiber-Coax) cable plant by deploying and integrating fiber optics deeper into the system. The continued evolution of the plant will be critical for many years to come, as the technologies continue to change and customers’ needs adapt as well. Another long-term
goal is to evaluate how we make the transition between our wired and wireless networks throughout the community work in a more integrated and seamless manner.

How has Conway Corp been able to quickly adopt technological advances for so long (starting with cable, then fiber, now high-speed access)? What’s the secret? I agree that Conway Corp is unique in its ability to quickly adapt to and introduce new technologies. Conway Corp remains a local company serving our neighbors, friends, and families. We aren’t a big conglomerate that has a bureaucracy that can slow down change. Conway Corp also benefits from excellent leadership that trusts its decision makers and allows our area to investigate several options in a short amount of time. Finally, in the technology area specifically, our team is flexible, curious, and customer-focused. That is a huge benefit.

What went into creating the Data District? What do you think broader access to highest-speed tech infrastructure means to Conway? The Data District was about three years in the making. When the Federal Building downtown started renovations, we recognized that we had a unique opportunity to carefully place equipment throughout the area that would immediately upgrade services for existing customers. It also allowed us to plan services that additional customers in the area might want. We wanted to leverage new technologies available while maximizing our infrastructure to keep costs manageable. I believe the Data District presents an opportunity for startups, tech businesses, and entrepreneurs to locate in the heart of Conway and to take advantage of dense workspace areas with no concern about high-speed access capacity.

What’s next on the technology front for Conway Corp? We recently launched our new home security and automation service. Looking down the road a bit, we’ll continue to evolve our system architecture and service delivery mechanisms to leverage the changes in technology in order to provide the best services for our customers. The growth of video being provided via the Internet has really put consumers in the driver’s seat when it comes to how they access content. This will be an area we’ll be watching to see how to best accommodate our customers’ wants and needs. On the broadband side, an update to the DOCSIS standard (3.1) will eventually make it possible to provide speeds up to 1 Gigabit per second (Gbps) to customers using a cable modem.
The Northwoods community is located in Mayflower, Arkansas, a short drive from Conway, Maumelle or Little Rock. Residents enjoy a convenient location near great schools and recreation, affordable home prices, refreshed interiors with a variety of square footage and floor plans to choose from. Come by today to tour available homes, or call us at (501)-932-6348 to schedule an appointment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Information Center:
8 Starlite Road North
Mayflower, AR 72106
(501) 932-6348
www.northwoodsmayflower.com

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Phillips Morse
Carolyn Cobb
(501) 258-6909

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Conway has been committed to quality education since its incorporation in the 1870s. Captain W.W. Martin, the first president of the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce (known then as the Conway Board of Trade), was instrumental in recruiting Hendrix College to the city in 1890. In 1929, Conway Corporation, the city-owned utility system, was established to promote education and to aid educational institutions located in Conway. Even Toad Suck Daze has its roots in education. The three-day festival provides funds for college scholarships and pre-K education.

Today, Conway offers a variety of educational opportunities to suit any need. Its public and parochial elementary and secondary schools and three colleges have enjoyed much success over the years.
In September 2015, Conway High School announced 10 students were named semifinalists in the 2016 National Merit® Scholarship Program. The seniors now have the opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than $32 million dollars.

Congratulations to Conway High School’s 10 National Merit® Semifinalists:
Timothy Ablondi, Zachary Arnold, Samuel Cloyd, David Desrochers, Allison Dombek, Jennie (Rachel) Lance, Juan Melendez, Matthew Sweere, Joshua Vines, and Bradley Wickliffe.

Established in 1955, the National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. Each September, approximately two-thirds of the high scorers on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) qualify as Semifinalists. The Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to go on to become Finalists. Ninety percent of the Semifinalists will attain Finalist standing, with half of the Finalists winning a merit scholarship.

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is a nationwide standard for academic achievement. Read the Ask the Expert with Conway Schools’ Dr. Charlotte Green to learn more about the district’s pursuit of excellence.
PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS AT A GLANCE

St. Joseph School has provided quality, Catholic education to students in Conway since 1879. Its ultimate goal is to integrate faith and learning in order to develop the whole person: soul, mind, and body. St. Joseph Catholic School is accredited by the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association and is under the direction of the Diocese of Little Rock.

Conway Christian School, established in 1992, provides a comprehensive educational program for students. The interdenominational, college preparatory school strives to provide an environment where students can grow spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. Conway Christian School is accredited by the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association and the Association of Christian Schools International.
There’s a New Bear in Town.

OK, we’ll admit it’s not your typical bank name. But Bear State isn’t your typical bank. Our focus is totally on you. Everything we bring to our banking relationships, from our handy mobile banking app to a checking account with roadside assistance and cell phone replacement, was designed for your convenience, designed to make it easier for you to get through your busy day. Stop in and check out our new digs at 2885 Prince St!

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Conway’s private colleges offer two new programs to help make higher education more affordable: the Hendrix Arkansas Advantage and the Mustang Advantage at Central Baptist College.

**Hendrix Arkansas Advantage**
Hendrix.edu/ArkansasAdvantage

The Hendrix Arkansas Advantage, launched in 2014, covers 100 percent of demonstrated financial need for Arkansas high school seniors. In its first year, the program benefited 160 new students at Hendrix College – or 40 percent of the freshman class.

**Mustang Advantage**
CBC.edu/MustangAdvantage

Central Baptist College offers the Mustang Advantage Loan Repayment Assistance Program to all incoming freshmen and transfers. The Mustang Advantage program provides substantial assistance to students and parents, helping with up to 100 percent of student loans.

Central Baptist College, Hendrix College, and the University of Central Arkansas each appeared on U.S. News & World Report’s 2016 Best Colleges rankings.

**UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS**
No. 29: “Top Public Schools” (Regional Universities, South)
No. 68: “Best Regional Universities” (South)

**HENDRIX COLLEGE**
No. 10: “Most Innovative Schools” (Liberal Arts Colleges)
No. 82: “Best National Liberal Arts Colleges”

**CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE**
No. 71: “Best Regional Colleges” (South)
Central Baptist College is a four-year, private, liberal arts college affiliated with the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas.

Hendrix College is a four-year, private college of liberal arts affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

The University of Central Arkansas is a four-year, state-run institution granting bachelor’s, master’s, specialist, and doctoral degrees.
EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY, WHATEVER IT TAKES

Dr. Charlotte Green discusses challenges, the pursuit for excellence, and offers advice for parents new to the school system.

**What brought you to Conway?**
I am originally from Cleveland, Arkansas, in Conway County, which is about 40 minutes away. Although UCA officially brought me to Conway, I visited often as a child because I attended church here, and my sister lived in Conway. After graduating, I was blessed to get a job in the Conway School District. I knew Conway was a great place to raise a family, it was close to home, and I had good support system nearby. So like many UCA alumni, I stayed.

**Describe your role in Conway Public Schools.**
As the supervisor for the Office of Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement, I assist with curriculum development in the College Board Advanced Placement Courses as well as the development and implementation of our district’s K-12 Gifted and Talented Program. I also support the partnership between Conway Public Schools and the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce – a preschool initiative known as Arkansas Preschool Plus.

In this role, I provide privately owned, early childhood development centers in our community with professional development for preschool teachers. I also assist with putting education materials in private centers and serve as the affiliate for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, a project that mails one book a month to children in our community before they attend school.

Our office is also committed to increasing the number of students who take advanced-level course work. Research reveals that students who take advance-level course work are more likely to graduate from college.

**What is Conway Public Schools doing to pursue excellence?**
We keep our purpose in front of us with the motto “every child, every day, whatever it takes.” At a glance that may seem like a cute statement, but when you pause and realize what it says, it conveys a resolve that our district has accepted. Conway Schools has resolved to provide quality education to every child within our district. Keeping the student first creates a culture that pursues excellence.

**What advice would you give parents who are new to Conway Public Schools?**
Conway Public Schools is a 7A school, and 7A classification is the largest in our state. Oftentimes, larger schools scare parents because of the perception that they are impersonal and unable to meet the needs of their child because the
district is too large. I understand that every child is different and respect parents’ need to make decisions that are best for their child and family. I would tell the parent that although Conway is a district of thousands of children, we know their children are their main concern. And our district has struck a balance between meeting the needs of all but zoning in on the one.

What is the most important thing parents can do to help their child succeed at school? Considering that 85 percent of the brain is developed by age 5, I would say the most important thing a parent can do to help their child have intentionality during the early years:
- Be intentional where you enroll your child for preschool.
- Be intentional in the communication parenting style and ensure that you are talking to your preschooler.
- Be intentional with the relationship you build with your preschooler.

If preschoolers have thriving environments, their brains will grow properly and prepare them for the academic rigor they will receive at Conway Public Schools.

What do you think is the “secret sauce” that has helped Conway Public Schools be so successful? That’s an easy one – our teachers.
One of the best things about Conway is the way its people reach out to each other, whether in the face of crises or long-term need. The city’s many churches and service organizations make it possible for individuals and families to connect with and give back to the place they call home.

Local Nonprofit Organizations

Disaster Relief
AMERICAN RED CROSS OF GREATER ARKANSAS
813 Parkway Avenue
501-329-3571
RedCross.org/Arkansas

Shelters & Housing Assistance
BETHELHEM HOUSE
1115 Parkway Avenue
501-329-4862
BethlehemHouse.net

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF FAULKNER COUNTY
825 Parkway Avenue, Suite A
501-513-3244
HabitatFaulknerCo.wordpress.com

HAVEN HOUSE
(Help for Abuse Victims in Emergency Need)
501-327-1701
CAInc.org/Faulkner.htm

SOARING WINGS RANCH
501-849-2253
SWRanch.org

WOMEN’S SHELTER OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
501-329-7405
ConwayWomensShelter.com

Programs for Children & Youth
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
1105 Deer Street, Suite 14
501-336-9505
BBBSCA.org

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA – QUAPAW AREA COUNCIL
3220 Cantrell Road (Little Rock)
501-664-4780
QuapawBSA.org

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF FAULKNER COUNTY
1405 Robins Street
501-329-8849
BGCFaulkner.org

CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY ALLIANCE OF NORTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS
574 Locust Street
501-328-3347
HopeAndJustice.org

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
2740 College Avenue
501-733-1627
CommunityConnectionsAR.org

COMMUNITY SERVICE INC.
818 North Creek Drive
501-327-9788
CSIYouth.com

CONWAY CRADLE CARE
2400 Prince Street
501-730-0017
CradleCare.org

GIRL SCOUTS DIAMONDS OF ARKANSAS, OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS – FAULKNER COUNTY CHAPTER
501-758-1020
GirlScoutsDiamonds.org

Programs for Seniors
FAULKNER COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING (CONWAY SENIOR WELLNESS & ACTIVITY CENTER)
705 East Siebenmorgen Road
501-327-2895
FCSeniors.com

Health & Wellness
CHI ST. VINCENT INTERFAITH CLINIC
830 North Creek Drive
501-932-0559

LIFE CHOICES INC.
609 LOCUST STREET, 2ND FLOOR
501-329-5944
LifeChoicesInc.org

Conway Neighbors

Linda Tyler

HOW DO YOU ENJOY THE OUTDOORS IN CENTRAL ARKANSAS?
I enjoy the outdoors by walking in “our” woods behind our home, sitting on the deck and looking out over the woods and hillsides, or maybe – if I’m really motivated – a walk on the walking track in Conway.
I’M LOOKING FOR...

Are you looking for ways to get involved in — or give back to — your community?

From the numerous community service organizations that organize fundraising events to the many churches whose members gather and deliver food and clothing to families in need, Conway residents prove time and again that generosity is a passion the community takes seriously.

Search our membership directory at conwaychamber.org/directory or scan the QR code to locate houses of worship and nonprofits in the Conway area.
Houses of Worship
Conway is home to numerous churches offering traditional and contemporary worship styles in different denominations. This list includes local churches that are members of the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce.

Calvary Church
1832 Robinson Avenue
501-960-5200
CalvaryChurchOfConway.com

Conway’s First Baptist Church
1719 Robinson Avenue
501-329-5648
ConwayFBC.com

First United Methodist Church
1610 Prince Street
501-329-3801
ConwayFUMC.org

Four Winds Church
2005 Dave Ward Drive
501-329-FOUR
FWCConway.org

Grace United Methodist Church
1075 Hogan Lane
501-329-6056
GraceConway.org

New Life Church
633 South Country Club Road
501-328-5433
NewLifeChurch.tv

OneChurch
1073 Front Street
OneChurchConway.com

Peace Lutheran Church
800 South Donaghey Avenue
501-329-3854
PeaceConway.org

Second Baptist Church
2600 Dave Ward Drive
501-327-6565
2BC.tv

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1115 College Avenue
501-327-6568
SJParish.org

Civic Clubs

Conway Kiwanis Club
Meeting Time: Wednesday at noon
Meeting Place: China Town
201 Skyline Drive #12A
ConwayKiwanis.org

Conway Noon Optimist Club
Meeting Time: Tuesday at noon
Meeting Place: Golden Corral
814 Oak Street
Optimist.org

Conway Noon Rotary Club
Meeting Time: Thursday at noon
Meeting Place: The Hole in the Wall at The Old Gin | 1016 Markham Street
ConwayRotaryClub.org

Conway Morning Rotary Club
Meeting Time: Tuesday at 7 a.m.
Meeting Place: UCA Christian Cafeteria | 201 Donaghey Avenue
ConwayMorningRotary.weebly.com

Photographing Conway for over 45 years!
VOLUNTEER CONWAY makes it easy for residents to find ways to help others. The organization connects volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and the community by coordinating service activities that benefit good causes. Since 2011, volunteers have clocked more than 8,000 hours.

Volunteer Conway maintains VolunteerHub, an online tool that allows any community member to choose when, where, and for whom they would like to volunteer. Volunteer Conway also organizes the annual “Big Event,” a community-wide volunteer effort. In October 2015, approximately 500 volunteers participated in the fifth annual Big Event.
WELCOME HOME!

SAT | 7:00PM
SUN | 9:30AM
    | 11:15AM

@NLCONWAY
New Life Church started in our home in Conway nearly 15 years ago. We moved our family here, began small groups, and talked about the Word of God.

Today, we invite you and your family to our weekend services. Our heart is that everyone experiences the love of God and the hope of Jesus.

*Pastor Rick and Michelle Bezet*
In Conway, residents enjoy a relaxed lifestyle combined with the powerful energy of a college town.

Conway offers an eclectic mix of housing from which residents may choose – from modern apartments to historic homes. With its central location in The Natural State, low cost of living, and strong economy, Conway is the type of community people dream of when choosing a place to relocate and raise a family. Residents enjoy a relaxed lifestyle combined with the powerful energy of a college town.

Conway offers mixed-use neighborhoods that offer apartments, town homes, and garden homes within walking distance of restaurants, shops, and offices. Mixed-use neighborhoods are the newest housing trend. These neighborhoods offer apartments, town homes, and garden homes among the single-family residences in older sections of town. For those who enjoy urban living, downtown Conway offers an increasing number of apartments, lofts, and studios above the retail establishments.

Conway also has numerous apartment complexes in every quadrant of the city, as well as a selection of duplexes scattered among the single-family residences in older sections of town.
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Trinity Development, Inc.
1307 Main Street
Conway, AR 72034
501.336.0050
TRINITYDEVELOPMENTINC.COM

High Point Park
Retirement Communities

Although it is the City of Colleges, Conway also attracts many retirees. The city offers senior adults top-notch health care and a variety of cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities. Housing options are available for retirees, including single-family homes, age-restricted residential communities, and active retirement complexes.

Utilities and Public Services

Conway Corporation
1307 PRAIRIE STREET | 501-450-6000
CONWAYCORP.COM

Conway Corporation is a private, nonprofit corporation that operates the city-owned electric, water, wastewater, cable television, broadband Internet, telephone, and home security and home automation services within the city limits. The municipal utility allows residents to enjoy reliable service and reasonable rates.

Conway Corporation has been part of the Conway community since 1929. It was created with the purpose of giving financial help to Conway colleges. The company has stayed true to its original mission of supporting education and serving the community.

City of Conway Sanitation and Recycling Department
4550 HIGHWAY 64 WEST | 501-450-6155
CONWAYSANITATION.ORG

Conway Sanitation provides a 96-gallon trash container to each home within the city limits. It also offers a convenient and free curbside recycling program. See the "Is It Recyclable?" box on page 44 for information about recycling in Conway.

CenterPoint Energy
817 NORTH CREEK DRIVE | 800-992-7552
CENTERPOINTENERGY.COM

CenterPoint Energy provides natural gas services to residential and business customers in Conway.

Entergy Arkansas
112 OAK STREET | 800-368-3749
ENTERGY-ARKANSAS.COM

Entergy Arkansas provides electricity to residences outside of Conway’s city limits.

Conway+ Neighbors

Jerry Adams

DESCRIBE A PERFECT SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN CONWAY. A perfect Saturday afternoon would include playing a round of golf at Conway Country Club or kayaking on Beaverfork Lake.
DIRECTORY SEARCH

Businesses that are members of the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce are listed in an online membership directory.

I’M LOOKING FOR...

Are you thinking about tackling that home renovation project?

Search our membership directory at conwaychamber.org/directory or scan the QR code to find Conway-area businesses specializing in cabinets and flooring, landscaping and irrigation, lighting and home décor, painting, and other services.
WHERE YOU GET THAT WINNING FEELING

The new Cherokee Casino Roland is a fantastic place to test your luck. With over 850 electronic games and nine table games, our 170,000-square-foot casino is full of excitement.

Plus, the new hotel is opening soon! Decked out with 120 rooms, including suites with Whirlpool tubs; free wi-fi; pool and hot tub access; and plasma TVs, you’re sure to feel right at home at the place where everybody knows your game.

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ROLAND

I-40 Exit 325, Roland, OK
800.256.2338 • CherokeeCasino.com
CONWAY’S RECYCLING PROGRAM is a co-mingled program, meaning all recyclables—except glass—can be mixed together in a blue, city-provided, recycling cart. All recyclables must be bagged prior to placing in the blue bins.

Glass cannot be co-mingled in the recycling carts. A recycling bin for glass is available to Conway residents at no charge and is picked up on the same day as garbage.

The following items can be recycled in Conway’s co-mingled recycling program:

- **CARDBOARD** (pasteboard and corrugated)
- **NEWSPAPER**
- **OFFICE PAPER**
- **PLASTIC BOTTLES/CONTAINERS (Coded #1 through #2)**
- **ALUMINUM** (cans, pie tins)
- **STEEL CANS**
- **PLASTIC BAGS**
- **STYROFOAM**

*Art is all around*

Downtown Conway is home to multiple murals; life-sized sculptures; traveling art exhibits; and temporary, large-scale installations. City Hall at Oak and Front Streets has the mural “Aurora Rising” on its southern exterior wall. Inside City Hall, you will usually find seasonal artwork from Conway students.

*Diverse tastes abound*

Downtown Conway is home to award-winning Greek, Italian, Mexican, pizza, and seafood. A five-minute walk offers almost anything to satisfy your cravings. On Monday nights, you can “Rock, Paper, Scissors” your server at US Pizza (710 Front Street) for half off your pizza.

*What’s that sound?*

Live music is alive and well downtown. Kings Live Music (1020 Front Street) has regular live acts Wednesday through Saturday. JJ’s Grill (1010 Main Street) has free live music nightly.

*Look what I found!*

Oak Street between Harkrider and Parkway Streets offers four blocks of walkable, first-class retail. Locally owned retailers offer clothing, jewelry, antiques, gourmet foods, art, novelties, and more. Fletcher Smith Jewelers (1115 Oak Street) is the oldest jewelry store in Arkansas. They opened in downtown Conway 110 years ago!

*Something fresh ground*

You don’t have to walk far to get a great cup of coffee in downtown Conway. Or maybe you want to take advantage of free Wi-Fi and a cool vibe away from the office. Try Zêtêo Coffee (911 Oak Street) or Blue Sail Coffee (1028 Front Street).
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A natural networker, Ashley Lemieux has brought numerous families together for fun and fellowship.

What brought you to Conway?
After my husband, Jim, graduated from the University of Arkansas in December 1999, he was offered three jobs: one in northwest Arkansas, one in northeast Arkansas, and one in central Arkansas. We chose the central Arkansas job at Acxiom Corporation in Conway because it was centrally located between each of our parents, and because the people we knew who worked for Acxiom highly encouraged us to come to Conway — promising he would like the company, and we would fall in love with the city. They were right.

What are some of your favorite kid activities in central Arkansas?
There are several! In 2003, I started a community playgroup called the “Playgroup Pals” in Conway. Through leading this group over the past 12 years, I have discovered some amazing kid activities and places in central Arkansas. See “Ashley’s Picks” for a list of her favorite kid-friendly activities in central Arkansas.

What is your experience with the community of parents — particularly moms — in Conway?
I led an organization called “Mothers of Preschoolers” for seven years in Conway. This organization provides a place for mothers who have children ages birth through 5 years to attend meetings twice per month where they can find encouragement and equipping in parenting through community speakers, devotional speakers, crafts for moms, and discussion groups. In 2003, I started another organization in Conway called the Playgroup Pals. For 11 years, this playgroup met every Friday morning year-round at local businesses, parks, museums, and other venues in central Arkansas. The Playgroup Pals provided a safe and fun environment for children while also providing a place for moms to connect with other women and form a sense of community. Since my youngest child started kindergarten in the fall of 2015, the Playgroup Pals now meets only during the summer and school holiday breaks. In 2003, this playgroup started out with only three moms. By 2015, the Playgroup Pals includes more than 75 mothers and grandmothers from within our community.

Having four children of various ages (22, 14, 10, and 5) has kept me active in Conway Public Schools as a volunteer. I have served as the homeroom parent coordinator at my son’s elementary school and in the school office at Conway Junior High. These roles have provided me with opportunities to meet many families and school personnel. I am currently serving on the board of a local Junior Olympic Volleyball Club called Conway Juniors. This allows me stay active in my daughter’s world of sports while allowing me to work closely with other parents and leaders in our community.

ASHLEY LEMIEUX
Mother of Four and Founder of the Playgroup Pals
What is the best thing about raising a family in Conway?
In my opinion, the best thing about Conway is that it has grown to be a “larger” town but has kept its small-town feel. There is a strong sense of community among Conway residents. It has become and is becoming even more self-sufficient with many new businesses and retail chains opening each year. I love that I rarely have to leave Conway to find what I need!

What advice do you have for moms who are new to Conway?
Conway offers many ways for moms to connect. Bible Study Fellowship (BSF), MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), summer Bible studies for moms at First Presbyterian Church, the Faulkner County Library, and the Playgroup Pals are great places to meet and get to know other moms. Also — on beautiful days — head to Laurel Park located off Robinson Street, and you will run into lots of moms! Being part of a group gives great encouragement and support during the trials and joys of parenthood. Conway is full of amazing families. Making friends for you and your children will make living in Conway a blast! I have been in Conway now for almost 16 years, and I absolutely love it.
Caring for our community

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Respite care

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Heritage Living Center | 1175 Morningside Dr. | Conway, AR 72034
Since 2003, Ashley Lemieux has organized and led dozens of kids and moms on hundreds of “playgroups” around central Arkansas. These are some of her favorite playgroup destinations:

**Ashley’s Picks**

- **Church at Rock Creek (Little Rock):** Both members and non-members are welcome to enjoy an amazing, large indoor playground – for free!

- **Conway Fire Department, Central Fire Station (Conway):** The firefighters at the downtown fire station on Caldwell Street are friendly and allow children to see their fire trucks and sleeping quarters.

- **Conway Police Department (Conway):** Conway’s police officers have demonstrated to our playgroup a “mock attack” featuring the K-9 and an officer.

- **Conway Parks:** Conway has great parks scattered throughout our city. Laurel Park located off Robinson Street provides shade, great play equipment, and lots of space to run and/or play ball. Fifth Avenue Park, located off Fifth Avenue, is another great place to play. The park at Lake Beaverfork provides shade and newer park equipment, and it has the lake with a swim area and sand nearby. Toad Suck Park offers multiple playgrounds located throughout the park and lots of shade. It is a great place for fishing, too. Gatlin Park, located off Tyler Street behind the tennis courts, has been upgraded with new equipment. It is a sunny park, which is great for cool fall or spring mornings. One of my kids’ favorite parks is located at the City of Colleges Softball Complex on Siebenmorgen Road. This park is also sunny and provides warmth on chilly days. There are many more; just get out and visit some of our terrific parks in town!

- **Funland Amusement Park (North Little Rock):** This seasonal attraction within Burns Park includes a miniature Ferris wheel, a teacup ride, the Scrambler, the Tilt-A-Whirl, a carousel, and other attractions for young children.

- **Heifer Ranch (Perryville):** This working farm offers interactive and educational programs that teach kids about ways to help provide basic needs to families in poverty.

- **Hogwild Family Fun Center (Conway):** Located on Old Morrilton Highway, Hogwild offers many fun activities for children, teens, and adults, including laser tag, bumper cars, arcade games, inflatables, and more.

- **Larry’s Pizza (Conway):** Larry’s is a hit for families because it offers great pizza and a large, indoor play maze for kids through age 12.

- **Museum of Discovery (Little Rock):** This place intersects science, imagination, and fun. On the first Sunday of each month, the first 100 customers enter for only $1 each. Next door to the Museum of Discovery is the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center. Entrance to it is free.

- **The Public Libraries of Faulkner and Van Buren Counties (Conway):** The Conway Public Library on Tyler Street hosts several activities for kids, including weekly preschool story times, children’s concerts, free Spanish classes, and summer programs.

See a full list of Conway’s Parks in the Conway+Leisure section of this guide.
Conway Regional Health System provides inpatient and outpatient health care services to Faulkner County and the surrounding area. As a not-for-profit health system, Conway Regional is committed to reinvesting in health care services that benefit the communities it serves.

**CONWAY REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

- Established in Conway in 1921
- 154 beds
- 1,828 babies delivered in 2014
- 42,128 patients assisted in the ER in 2014
- 1,400 employees
- $60 million invested in technology and services over the last decade

The health system features an all-digital outpatient imaging center, an outpatient surgery center, a freestanding rehabilitation hospital, several primary care clinics, and one of the largest hospital-owned fitness centers in the nation.

Visit ConwayRegional.org for information related to health care in Faulkner County.
Exceptional Care close to home

Our Services:
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Long-term care
Hospice care
Respite care

Accepting Medicare, Medicaid, most private insurance and private pay

Please call for more information or stop by for a personal tour.

501.734.1400
Baptist Health Medical Center – Conway will open in fall 2016. Located on the west side of Interstate 40, the hospital will offer a full spectrum of comprehensive services, including labor and delivery, surgical care, cardiac care, orthopedic care, imaging services (MRI, PET, and CAT), respiratory care, physical therapy, and emergency services.

BAPTIST HEALTH MEDICAL CENTER – CONWAY
- 9th hospital for Baptist Health Medical Center
- $130 million construction project
- 400 employees will work at the Conway location
- 264,000 square feet located on 37 acres
- 111 beds
- 8 operating rooms

Businesses that are members of the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce are listed in an online membership directory.

I’M LOOKING FOR...
The doctor will see you now...
Residents of Conway and the surrounding area are able to choose among numerous family doctors, dentists, behavioral health specialists, chiropractors, physical therapists, and other health care professionals for their health care. In addition, a number of health care organizations in the area provide low-cost medical care to the uninsured and underinsured.

Search our membership directory at conwaychamber.org/directory or scan the QR code to locate health care providers in the Conway area.
WITH THE RISING COSTS of medical care and health insurance, many Conway employers have implemented wellness programs that are mutually beneficial to both the company and its employees.

Research has shown that companies with worksite wellness programs have reduced health care costs as well as employee absences and on-the-job injuries. Companies with worksite wellness programs may also experience an increase in productivity and employee morale.

CONWAY REGIONAL
Conway Regional’s leaders decided to take a proactive approach in 2012 to address health issues among employees in response to escalating medical insurance claims and increases in employee premiums.

In its third year, Conway Regional Health System’s Employee Health and Wellness Plan has begun to show lasting improvements in the overall health of the workforce. Improvements in employee health were a factor in Conway Regional being selected as the first organization in Faulkner County to achieve the Arkansas Governor’s Quality Award in 2014.

NABHOLZ CONSTRUCTION
Conway-based Nabholz Construction Services has received national recognition for its wellness program. The construction company introduced the Nabholz Wellness Program in January 2007, which has resulted in improved health for employees and below average increases in health insurance rates. In 2012, Nabholz was featured in the HBO documentary series The Weight of the Nation for the success of its wellness program.
HEALTHY EATING
In recent years, individuals and organizations across the country have embraced the local food movement to counteract American society’s reliance on fast and processed foods. “Locavores” advocate eating locally produced foods as a way to make healthier food choices, conserve energy, and support local farmers, among other reasons.

CONWAY LOCALLY GROWN
Established in 2008, Conway Locally Grown is an online farmers market that coordinates with local farmers to provide Conway with fresh, high-quality produce, eggs, meat, and dairy throughout the year. All products sold at Conway Locally Grown are produced within 150 miles and many are organic. Customers can place orders from 6 p.m. on Sundays to 10 p.m. on Tuesdays. Orders are delivered to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church every Friday. For more information, visit Conway.LocallyGrown.net.

FARMERS MARKETS
Conway also has two outdoor farmers markets. The Conway, Arkansas Farmers Market is open biweekly at 150 Amity Road and features more than 20 vendors, including local farmers, artisans, and live music. The market opens the second week of May and runs through October. The Downtown Conway Farmers and Crafts Market is located at 1132 Front Street and offers a variety of vegetables, baked goods, and handmade crafts. Its season also runs from May through October.

ACTIVE LIVING
Those looking to get in shape or maintain their active lifestyle can choose from several gyms and fitness centers that fit a variety of schedules, activity levels, and budgets. Conway also has a strong walking and running community.

The volunteer-based Conway Running Club is a member of the Road Runners Club of America and is dedicated to promoting running, walking, and other fitness-related activities in the Conway area. Runners of all paces and skill levels meet at regular times during the week for group runs. The cost of membership is $15 per year and covers the entire family.
When it comes to Conway business, we’re more than a lender. We’re your partner.

Business is the foundation of any community, and we’re personally dedicated to keeping Conway strong. From working capital and equipment financing to real estate development, we offer the services to help your business grow. But first, we take the time to understand your business and how it works. That level of service and attention – along with a tradition of sound, smart banking – is what makes Bank of the Ozarks the #1 performing bank in the nation for the fifth year in a row. Stop by any time to talk about what we can do for your business.

FOUR CONVENIENT CONWAY LOCATIONS
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501-548-0206

Bank of the Ozarks
You have a friend here.

As the fastest growing city in Arkansas and home to three colleges, Conway is ripe for having a thriving arts scene. Residents and visitors appreciate opportunities to attend diverse events hosted by a number of Conway-based arts and cultural organizations.

**Expand your knowledge.**
**Faulkner County Library**
1900 WEST TYLER STREET
501-327-7482
FCL.ORG
In addition to its wide range of books, research materials, electronic media, and other collections, Faulkner County Library hosts a variety of programs for children and adults. Panel discussions; musical programs; book discussions; story time; crafts; and classes in sign language, yoga, and knitting are just some of the regular programs you’ll find on the library’s calendar.

**Explore the history of The Natural State.**
**Faulkner County Museum**
801 LOCUST STREET
501-329-5918
FAULKNERCOUNTYMUSEUM.ORG
Faulkner County Museum displays the history of the area from prehistory to the present. Exhibits on sports memorabilia, antique tools, Native Americans, a model railroad, agriculture, and politics can be found in one of two historic buildings on the museum grounds.

**Appreciate art.**
**Baum Gallery**
201 DONAGHEY AVENUE
501-450-5793
UCA.EDU/ART/BAUM
The Baum Gallery is an educational art museum located in the west wing of McCastlain Hall at the University of Central Arkansas. The gallery, which is open to the public, develops free exhibitions and events that invite interaction and encourage dialogue about visual art and relevant topics.

**Art Galleries**
Independently owned galleries display and sell the works of local artists.

**Art on the Green**
1100 BOB COURTWAY DRIVE, SUITE 1
501-205-1922
ARTONTHEGREEN.NET

**Carmen’s Art and Antiques**
1022 OAK STREET
501-327-6978

**Flowers Galleri-E**
915 OAK STREET, SUITES 114 &115
501-428-8275
See live performances.
Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre
501-428-4165
ARKSHAKES.COM

Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, the state’s only professional Shakespeare company, brings to Conway professional performers from around the country and provides opportunities for local performers as well. AST produces a selection of the Bard’s plays, along with other productions, during its annual summer festival. The company operates under the aegis of the University of Central Arkansas Foundation.

Conway Community Arts Association – The Lantern Theatre
1021 VAN RONKLE
CONWAYARTS.ORG

Conway Community Arts Association is a volunteer-run, live theater group that provides professional and dynamic theatrical experiences throughout the year. The productions take place at The Lantern Theatre, and roles are filled by open audition.

Reynolds Performance Hall – UCA Public Appearances
201 DONAGHEY AVENUE
501-450-3682
UCA.EDU/PUBLICAPPEARANCES

UCA Public Appearances is an annual series under the auspices of the University of Central Arkansas College of Fine Arts and Communication. The organization develops and presents performing arts programming to Conway and the central Arkansas community. Performances take place in the 1,200-seat Donald W. Reynolds Performance Hall. Since it opened in 2000, Reynolds Performance Hall has hosted numerous celebrities as well as presented national and international tours. Read the Ask The Expert column on page 62 featuring UCA Public Appearances director Amanda Horton for a behind-the-scenes look at Reynolds Performance Hall.

DIRECTORY SEARCH

Businesses that are members of the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce are listed in an online membership directory.

I’M LOOKING FOR...
Are you interested in growing your art collection or taking lessons in the visual and performing arts?
Search our membership directory at conwaychamber.org/directory or scan the QR code to locate art galleries, individual artists, and dance and music studios in the Conway area.
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Grant W. Bennett, MD • Glenn McClendon, DPM

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Hendrix College Special Events
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501-339-6811
HENDRIX.EDU/EVENTS

Hendrix College hosts a variety of artists and performances throughout the year through a program called “Hendrix Special Events: Programs in the Fine and Performing Arts.” The performances are free to the campus community and the public. The many student productions, student recitals, and faculty recitals at Hendrix are also open to the public.

Community Singing Groups
The Conway Men’s Chorus and the Conway Women’s Chorus are made up of individuals who share the love of singing. Both groups rehearse regularly and perform in concerts open to the public.

Conway Women’s Chorus
501-339-7401
FAULKNERACADEMYOFARTS.ORG

Conway Men’s Chorus
501-327-5151
CONWAYMENSCHORUS.ORG

Listen to the music.
Conway Symphony Orchestra
501-450-3265
CONWAYSYMPhONY.ORG

Conway Symphony Orchestra performs a full season of six concerts, including a free outdoor community concert, a holiday performance, and a children’s concert. The CSO also offers a classroom program to local elementary and intermediate schools and has many ensemble performances throughout the year.
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jennerinpinkzebra@gmail.com

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501-327-7788
**Something for Everyone**

Hours of Operation

Monday – Thursday  
Lunch: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Dinner: 5 – 9:30 p.m.

Friday & Saturday  
Lunch: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Dinner: 5 – 10 p.m.

Sunday  
Lunch: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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For 15 years, UCA Public Appearances has developed and presented arts programming to central Arkansas in the 1,200-seat Donald W. Reynolds Performance Hall.

What brought you to Conway?
I graduated from UCA in 1995 with a degree in Speech Communication, so coming back to Conway was like coming home. The campus and city have grown immensely, but the cozy, small-town feel is still present. My degree program was in the Department of Speech, Theatre, and Mass Communications, so I am thrilled to be contributing back to the university that inspired and developed my love of performing arts.

What has been your personal favorite act at the Reynolds Performance Hall?
This is a hard question because I have genuinely enjoyed all of the performances at Reynolds during the last three years. One highlight has been Randy Newman, who performed with the Conway Symphony Orchestra. He is such an acclaimed legend in the music industry, and he really enjoyed working with our local symphony.

I was also thrilled to see the success of the Blue Man Group. With six tractor-trailer trucks full of scenery and equipment, the Blue Man Group was the largest and most technically challenging performance we have ever done. It was a huge show, and we executed it flawlessly.

And, I certainly can’t leave out Bill Nye, who was a sellout with 4,000 tickets distributed. His lecture was so big that we held it in the Farris Center so more of the community and student body could participate. It is no easy task to turn a basketball arena into a lecture hall, and our staff worked diligently to create a wonderful experience for our patrons.

What would be your “dream act” for UCA Public Appearances?
I try to dream realistically, and I keep a list going of artists we would like to see perform in Reynolds. Some names on the list that we have not been able to secure yet are Pentatonix, Jason Alexander, Alton Brown, and George Takei. There are also two legendary icons in the country music industry retiring in the next year – Kenny Rogers and Ronnie Milsap. Neither of these artists have performed in Reynolds, and I would love to get at least one of them to perform in our hall.

If I had to pick one personal dream act, it would be Norah Jones. She has a sound like no other, and she puts on an amazing concert.
Where do you see the Reynolds Performance Hall in five years?
Serving our community is a top priority at Reynolds Performance Hall, and this year we have added a new component to this mission. This is the inaugural year for a new series that will make high-quality, educationally driven performances available to local school districts. The Main Stage Education Series will increase access to the arts for Kindergarten through 12th grade students in central Arkansas. This series will expose students to professional, national touring companies that will link the arts and education through exciting performances.

We recently celebrated our 15th season with an added “Best of Reynolds,” where we brought back crowd favorites from the past 15 years. The community loved this series, and every one of the shows sold out. I see an extensive and even more exciting “Best of Reynolds” in our future to celebrate our 20th year.

What’s one thing you wished more people knew about the Reynolds Performance Hall?
Reynolds Performance Hall is an important asset not only to the UCA community, but all of central Arkansas. We strive to immerse our community in performing arts opportunities by providing national and international touring groups, musicians, and entertainers. Many cities much larger than Conway do not have access to these types of performances. My goal is for every community member to take part in an activity at Reynolds, whether it is through our school program, performing arts series, student performances, or community events.

“My goal is for every community member to take part in an activity at Reynolds, whether it is through our school program, performing arts series, student performances, or community events.”
Several events, festivals, and expos take place in Conway throughout the year, many of which benefit charitable causes and organizations. The following list is by no means exhaustive, but it provides a look at some of the community’s most established annual events.
1. **Toad Suck Daze**
   - **Date:** April 29-30 & May 1, 2016
   - **Location:** Downtown Conway
   - **Website:** ToadSuck.org
   
   Founded in 1981, the award-winning Toad Suck Daze festival provides funding for education initiatives in Faulkner County.

2. **Arkansas Outdoors Expo**
   - **Date:** July 22-24, 2016
   - **Location:** Conway Expo Center & Fairgrounds 2505 East Oak Street
   - **Website:** ArkansasOutdoorsExpo.com
   
   This three-day event features headline entertainment and activities focused on the great outdoors.

3. **Faulkner County Fair and Parade**
   - **Date:** September 2016
   - **Location:** Conway Expo Center & Fairgrounds 2505 East Oak Street
   - **Website:** FaulknerCountyFair.net
   
   A parade through downtown Conway kicks off the festivities. The weeklong fair features a variety of exhibits and other fair favorites.

4. **ArtsFest**
   - **Date:** September/October 2016
   - **Location:** Various locations around Conway
   - **Website:** ArtsinConway.org
   
   ArtsFest is a citywide, weeklong celebration of the arts organized by Conway Alliance for the Arts (CAFTA).
5 EcoFest
October 2016
Laurel Park
2310 Robinson Avenue
ConwayEcoFest.com
EcoFest is an interactive and educational community event designed to explore ways to experience and enjoy nature while learning how to practice good stewardship of the environment.

6 Soaring Wings of Conway
October 29, 2016
McGee Center (Start and Finish)
3800 College Avenue
SWMarathon.com
Soaring Wings of Conway consists of a marathon, half marathon, and two-person relay. The races benefit the Soaring Wings Christian Home and Ranch, an organization that provides a secure and loving home for up to 32 boys and girls.

7 Taste of Conway
October 2016
Conway Expo Center & Fairgrounds
2505 East Oak Street
ConwayChamber.org
Taste of Conway is part of the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce’s Business Expo. Local restaurants offer up a wide variety of samples from their menus.

8 Downtown Christmas Open House
November 13, 2016
Downtown Conway
DowntownConway.org
For more than 40 years, downtown merchants have opened their doors on Sunday afternoon for Christmas Open House, giving loyal customers a jump-start on the holiday shopping season.

9 Dazzle Daze
November 2016
Downtown Conway
ConwayRegional.org/DazzleDaze
Dazzle Daze is the annual fundraiser for the Conway Regional Women’s Council. This three-day shopping extravaganza features more than 85 merchants from around the country.

10 Conway Christmas Parade
December 2016
Downtown Conway
Conway’s annual Christmas Parade benefits the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Faulkner County.
THE FOUR R’s:  
Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Ribbit.

Did you know Toad Suck Daze supports education in Conway and Faulkner County? Toad Suck Daze awarded its first scholarship in 1985. Since then, 302 Faulkner County students have received scholarships. The festival’s mission to support education has expanded to include scholarship endowments as well as pre-K education through Arkansas Preschool Plus.

1985  
FIRST SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

302  
FAULKNER COUNTY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

$1.57 MILLION  
CONTRIBUTED TO EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN FAULKNER COUNTY

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

In addition to its support of education, Toad Suck Daze gives back to the community in other ways:

► From 2011-2015, Toad Suck Daze invested $50,000 to downtown Conway. These funds support beautification efforts downtown, including flowering hanging baskets.

► Toad Suck Daze donated $26,000 to the Conway Parks and Recreation Department for a new band shell that covers the stage at Simon Park.

► Conway’s three higher education institutions each received a $10,000 donation from Toad Suck Daze for various projects, including Central Baptist College’s bell tower, Hendrix College’s Wellness and Athletics Center, and the archives at the University of Central Arkansas.

AWARD WINNING FESTIVAL

Toad Suck Daze has won numerous Pinnacle Awards from the International Festivals and Events Association (IFEA). Here are a few of the most recent accolades:

$50,000 DONATED TO DOWNTOWN CONWAY

$26,000 DONATED TO CONWAY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

$30,000 RECEIVED BY CONWAY’S THREE INSTITUTIONS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS
Toad Suck Daze @ToadSuckDaze  April 27, 2015 | 6:13 a.m.
We’re thinking about our friends and neighbors in Mayflower and Vilonia today as they continue to rebuild
#Arkanstrong #OneYearLater

5 RETWEETS  5 LIKES

Hendrix College @hendrixcollege  May 2, 2015 | 10:20 a.m.
President Trubitt raced his 1st toad as a VIP @ToadSuckDaze. Thanks @Conway Chamber.
#community

13 RETWEETS  30 LIKES

Laura Grimes @chamberbrad  Sept. 23, 2016 | 12:21 a.m.
Only at a toadsmal conference for @ToadSuckDaze do I encounter one very large FROG!

2 RETWEETS  8 LIKES

Brad Lacy @chamberbrad  May 1, 2016 | 9:45 a.m.
Huge weekend for Conway: Toad Suck Daze, UCA graduation, 300 youth sports teams. Well over 200,000 people visiting the city.

12 RETWEETS  10 LIKES

Toad Suck Daze @ToadSuckDaze  May 3, 2015 | 6:48 p.m.
Congratulations to the winners of the 2015 World Championship Toad Races! #ToadSuck #ToadSuckDaze

2 RETWEETS  3 LIKES

stoby’s

Breakfast

Lunch

Delicious all day long

Dinner

Dessert
No matter where you find yourself in Conway, you are not far from a park or recreational facility.

The abundance of natural beauty in the area makes Conway a great place for an outdoor adventure. Possibilities for fishing, boating, swimming, or other water sports are nearby, as are hiking trails, picnic areas, and camping grounds. The area has several golf courses, including a driving range and a miniature golf course. Indoor and outdoor fitness opportunities abound at the city’s bicycle and walking trails, ball fields, sports centers, and tennis and basketball courts.

An abundance of natural beauty makes Conway a great place for an outdoor adventure.
Local Recreational Areas

At 6,700 acres, Lake Conway is the nation’s largest reservoir made by a game and fish commission. Built in 1951, it is a favorite of Arkansas anglers and contains bass, crappie, catfish, and bream.

Toad Suck Park, located on the Arkansas River at Toad Suck Lock and Dam, has a boat ramp, picnic areas, pavilions, a playground, ball fields, tent and RV campgrounds, and a restored metal towboat once used as a ferry. The river provides excellent boating or fishing with scenic views.

Woolly Hollow State Park, located 20 miles north of Conway on 40-acre Lake Bennett, boasts a historical log cabin built by the Woolly family in the mid-1800s. The 400-acre park has a swimming area, campsites for tents and RVs, hiking trails, and a picnic area with a pavilion. Fishing boats, paddleboats, kayaks, and canoes are available for rent.

1- A 25-ACRE PARK near Beaverfork Lake includes a fishing dock and other outdoor amenities.

2- CARDON SETTLEMENT PARK is a National Historic site.
City Parks and
Recreational Facilities
No matter where you find yourself in Conway, you are not far from a park or recreational facility. Conway Parks and Recreation Department maintains several parks, the expo center and fairgrounds, and two indoor sports centers.

In the Lifestyle section of this guide, Conway resident Ashley Lemieux gives her opinion on her favorite parks in Conway. Read “Ashley’s Picks” on page 49.
Get Smart

Conway is the smart choice for your next event. With more than 40,000 square feet of meeting and conference space, 150 restaurants and 1,200 hotel rooms you’re sure to find something that fits your event perfectly.

The next time you plan a meeting or event in central Arkansas, make the smart choice with Conway.

Conway Convention & Visitors Bureau
ConwayArk.com • 1.866.7CONWAY (726-6929)
START-UPS, SIT-DOWNS, AND SHOP-AROUNDS

As the home to a variety of employers, restaurants, and retailers, downtown Conway is the heart of our community’s economy. It’s a place where government, education, business, and entertainment intersect.

With St. Joseph Parish to the south, Hendrix College to the north and a little bit of everything in-between, downtown Conway has a lot to offer its visitors and residents:

- **400,000 square feet of office space** make it a regional employment hub.
- Its **20 restaurants** provide convenient and exciting dining options.
- And for **more than 100 years**, downtown Conway has been a destination for retail.
Start-ups
The downtown economy has changed a great deal over the last decade. Downtown is still a local hub for the government, finance, legal and media sectors. But recently, it has become the go-to destination for Conway’s emerging tech start-up scene.

Rock Pond Solutions, Eyenalyze, Metova, Black Oak Analytics, and other tech companies have opened or expanded in downtown Conway since 2012. Affordable real estate, quality tech infrastructure, and central Arkansas’s workforce all contribute to a fertile climate for start-up success.

One of the country’s fastest growing banks, Home Bancshares (NASDAQ: HOMB), calls downtown Conway home. We also have entrepreneurs working out of our many coffee shops. Large or small, downtown Conway has the energy and amenities to support a growing business.

LOCAL TIP Blue Sail Coffee at 1028 Front Street and Zetêo Coffee at 911 Oak Street offer free Wi-Fi for customers and great work space.

Shop-arounds
Conway’s downtown shopping scene is a perfect mix of old and new. Whether it is a jewelry store doing business on the same block for more than 100 years or a high-fashion boutique offering the latest trends, downtown Conway’s shopping is unmatched in service and selection. Approximately 40 retail businesses call downtown Conway home. In most of these businesses, the owner is on-hand to greet you – frequently by name – and provide a true shopping experience.

LOCAL TIP Oak Street from Court to Parkway has a ton of shopping options for clothes, antiques, and more.

Sit-downs
Downtown Conway’s restaurants represent every spot on the culinary and price spectrum. Award-winning steaks and local pizza joints are just around the corner from hearty Italian and sizzling Mexican favorites.

With 20 restaurants and almost 1,000 seats, downtown Conway is a great destination for visiting groups. If you’ve got something smaller in mind, park the car and walk past several options as you find that perfect table for two.

For breakfast, lunch, dinner, or just dessert and coffee, no visit downtown is complete without a stop at one of our great restaurants.
DOWNTOWN HEADS EAST

Downtown Conway challenges a lot of the conventional thinking about growth.

Can something grow without getting bigger? Downtown Conway has had roughly the same boundaries for generations. It’s a walkable and cozy scale that has stood the test of time. But make no mistake – there has been serious growth in our downtown.

When Rogers Plaza opened in 2013, it spurred a flurry of redevelopment and retail turnover never before seen in downtown Conway.

Over a 36-month period, 13 out of the 21 properties along Oak Street east of Chestnut Street will have been redeveloped or remodeled to accommodate new tenants.

Conway+ Neighbors

DESCRIBE A PERFECT SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN CONWAY. We start the day by visiting the farmers market and then head over to Bob’s Grill for breakfast. Early afternoon, we take in a little shopping downtown. Saturday night, we head over to UCA to watch the Bears play football.

OVER A 36-MONTH PERIOD, 13 OUT OF 21 DOWNTOWN PROPERTIES HAVE BEEN REDEVELOPED OR REMODELED.
**EAST TO WEST = OLD TO NEW**

If you start on Locust Street at the edge of town and head west, as a rule, the homes get newer.

“Old Conway” is bound by Locust Street on the east and Donaghey Avenue on the west. It includes a variety of architectural styles representing the 1910s to the mid-century. It’s adjacent to downtown and close to all three colleges. It’s also conveniently close to all of the shopping and dining options along Interstate 40.

“Midtown” is approximately bound by Donaghey Avenue on the east and Country Club on the west. The Bainbridge, Oak Forest, Tucker Creek, Parkwood, and Smoking Oaks subdivisions all offer traditional home styles from the 1970s and 80s. Other subdivisions like Windcrest, Scherman Heights, and Adamsbrooke are mingled in and were developed in the 1990s. The commercial development along Prince Street and Salem Road offer instant access to everyday conveniences.

“West Conway” has dozens of subdivisions with homes ranging in price from the mid-100s to over one million dollars. Subdivisions like Centennial, Sunderlin Park, Westin Park, St. John’s, Chapel Creek, and many more are all in west Conway. West Conway is the most purely residential part of town, but there are some commercial options along Hogan Road.

**LOOK SOUTH FOR A CONVENIENT COMMUTE**

In 2017, a new interstate exit will open just south of Conway. This means an easier commute for those residents who travel back and forth into Little Rock. The Cresthaven, Richland Hills, Southwind, Catherine Place, and other subdivisions south of Dave Ward Drive may all want to start taking advantage of a three-mile “head start” on their morning drive.
DON’T SHOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
If you’ve got school-aged children, where they go to school is a big deal. But in Conway, it’s almost impossible to pick an elementary school you won’t be happy with. Over the last 10 years, six out of our nine elementary schools have spent time at the top of our academic rankings. Benchmark exams, state-assigned letter grades, Blue Ribbon achievement awards – the recognition has been spread around. Changing district lines and overall district health make picking the “best” elementary school a fool’s errand. Pick the house you love and know there is a great school just around the corner.

These tips hopefully will let you start orienting yourself to the Conway house hunt. There are so many other great places to live beyond what’s mentioned here. Go to ConwayChamber.org and find a real estate agent to help you make a home in Conway.

In Conway, you can pick the house you love knowing there is a great school just around the corner.
Welcome to Mike's

Friendly service | Catering available | Open 7 days a week

FRESH, HAND-PREPARED FOOD

STEAKS: Hand-cut sterling silver beef aged 21 days and cooked on a wood-fire grill

SEAFOOD: Fresh fish, jumbo shrimp, succulent crab legs, lobster

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Private dining rooms seat 20 to 80 people for your special function

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Great Values on the Top Name Brands

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Visit our website at www.FFOHOME.com
What do the University of Central Arkansas, Conway Regional Health System, Conway Public Schools, Tucker Creek Trail, and Laurel Park have in common? They are all located in Conway’s “Midtown” district.

In the 1.5 square miles bound by Prince Street, Salem Road, Donaghey Avenue, and Dave Ward Drive, you will find established subdivisions, parks and trails, shopping and dining, and more than 3,000 jobs.

Midtown is eight to 10 blocks west of historic downtown and two miles west of interstate 40. It’s an exciting part of Conway as accessible to visitors as it is to residents.

**Conway+ Neighbors**

*Wes Pruitt*

WHERE DO YOU LIVE, AND WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD OR SUBDIVISION? I live in the Tucker Creek area. I love the large trees, big yards, and friendly neighbors. I love being within walking distance to parks.

Within 1.5 square miles, you will find established subdivisions, parks and trails, shopping and dining, and more than 3,000 jobs.
NEARBY COMMUNITIES

**Morrilton**
Population: 6,799  
County: Conway  
Median Home Price: $110,000

**Greenbrier**
Population: 5,111  
County: Faulkner  
Median Home Price: $114,000

**Vilonia**
Population: 4,226  
County: Faulkner  
Median Home Price: $133,000

**Maumelle**
Population: 17,736  
County: Pulaski  
Median Home Price: $195,000

**Mayflower**
Population: 2,234  
County: Faulkner  
Median Home Price: $114,000
Giving the Conway area another reason to smile

By offering affordable coverage and access to the nation’s largest network of dentists, Delta Dental of Arkansas continues to spread smiles across The Natural State.

Enroll with Delta Dental, the dental insurance experts, and let us put a smile on your face.

Insuring Healthy Smiles

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Ask about our residential or business interior decorating services for the holidays or any occasion.

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www.conwaysclassictouch.net

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WHEN YOUR FAVORITE PEOPLE AND PLACES COME TOGETHER. WE’RE HERE.

At First Security, it's an honor to serve friends and neighbors in and around Conway. We like the Conway community so much, in fact, that we have eight locations here to meet your financial needs. Our team appreciates your votes. And always your business. Stop by soon and see how First Security is here for you.

Thank you for voting us Best Bank in Faulkner County!
ConwayRegional.org is your first step for anything healthcare-related in Faulkner County. It’s the go-to place to:

- Look for a new doctor
- Find a specialist
- Search the health library to find answers to your health questions
- Discover our fitness classes
- Determine if you need to see a doctor with the symptom checker