
Coastal Neighbors Network Newsletter - June 2022

Coastal Neighbors Network

Tue, Jun 28, 2022 at 6:29
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VILLAGE MATTERS

The Spindle Rock River Rats set an upbeat tone for a welcome-back potluck supper one glorious evening in June. Lots more photos below of this and other Coastal Neighbors events.

Community Yard Sale - July 2

Join us on July 2 for a Coastal Neighbors Community Yard Sale, 9:00AM-12:00PM, at Silverbrook Farm, [592 Chase Road, Dartmouth](#). There are lots of ways to participate:

- Shop for bargains and great “finds.”
- Donate items for us to sell. Drop off items at Silverbrook Farm between 1:00 and 7:00PM on July 1. All proceeds will go to Coastal Neighbors Network. Unsold items will be donated to Gifts to Give or the dumpster.
- Set up your own table with items for sale. You will keep all your proceeds. We request a \$20 contribution for the dumpster and trip to Gifts to Give with excess unsold items. Please arrive at 8:00AM to set up and be sure to bring everything you need: table, chair, cash for making change or your Venmo ID, umbrella or sun shade in case it's hot, drink and snacks. We'll provide specific instructions by email.
- Volunteer to help out on the Yard Sale day. It will be lots of fun!

More Fun Events for Your Calendar

Watch the weekly email updates for details. Register [HERE](#).

July 14, 3:00PM-4:00PM: What Are You Reading?

Davoll's General Store, [1228 Russells Mills Rd., Dartmouth](#)

Join us for this different kind of book group where we share tips on books we've read and loved. Bring along a favorite or recently read book and enjoy the discussion.

August 12, 12:00PM-2:00PM: Coastal Neighbors Adventurers, Lunch & Fort Tabor Museum

Fort Taber Museum in New Bedford has been hailed as the “biggest little military museum in the country.” We'll start with lunch at the Dough Company, a fun café and eatery at Killburn Mills, then tour the museum's fascinating exhibits. There's a parking fee at the Museum, so you're encouraged to carpool (we'll meet at Silverbrook Farm, [592 Chase Rd., Dartmouth](#), at 11:30am, to carpool).

August 18, 3:00PM-4:00PM: What Are You Reading?

Davoll's General Store, [1228 Russells Mills Rd., Dartmouth](#)

Another monthly meeting where book lovers share what they're reading.

September 8, 11:00AM-12:30PM: Coastal Neighbors Adventurers, Nature Walk Plus Ice Cream

What could be better? A relaxed and convivial walk at Westport Wood Conservation Park...topped off by ice cream at Wood's, a beloved Adamsville ice cream and food stand. We'll meet at 11:00AM at the Park, 573 Adamsville Road.

September 10, 10:00AM-12:00PM: Annual Celebration, Volunteer Recognition and Brunch

Dartmouth YMCA, 276 Gulf Road, Dartmouth

Join us for a celebration of the mission and growth of Coastal Neighbors Network accompanied by brunch with mimosas and fine musical entertainment. We'll honor the dedicated volunteers who serve our members and enjoy one another's company. Watch our weekly email updates for full information.

As Our Organization Grows

Executive Director Andy Pollock Now Full-Time!



It's a sure sign that our small organization, founded by far-sighted volunteers just five years ago, is maturing and growing: Andy Pollock, our part-time Executive Director from the very beginning, is now managing Coastal Neighbors full-time! "I believe strongly in the Village concept, and I love the people we serve and the people who volunteer. They have become friends--family," he says.

You undoubtedly know Andy--he's the guy who's always there when you call or email or attend an event, welcoming you with a smile and eagerness to help. But you may not be familiar with his impressive background. A Dartmouth native, Andy was raised right where he lives now, on Silverbrook Farm, then a horse farm operated by his parents. A proud product of the Dartmouth public schools (his mom was an art teacher), he went on to receive a BS from Penn State and an MBA

from the University of Maine. He is also trained as a Certified Nursing Assistant.

Andy's early career was in business, including partnership in a medical billing firm, followed by 15 years as a successful farmer and later as a nursing assistant. All along the way, he's felt called to "give back" in some way--through his Christian and Quaker traditions, volunteering with hospice, just reaching out to people in need. Another important aspect of giving back is his activism in LGBTQ advocacy. A gay man himself, Andy has been a leader for LGBTQ rights for decades, particularly here on the South Coast. He is the current President of the South Coast LGBTQ+ Network.

"We've been so fortunate to have Andy working with us since our first steps as an organization," says Coastal Neighbors' President Steve Kiechel. "We're excited that he's now leading us into the next chapter."

Partnership With ARAW

The Older and The Newer Join Forces to Help Neighbors

Coastal Neighbors Network, one of the area's youngest charitable organizations, is partnering with the Association for the Relief of Aged Women (ARAW), one of the oldest charities on the South Coast. Under a grant through ARAW's Community Partner program, ARAW beneficiaries in Dartmouth and Westport are now eligible, regardless of financial resources, to become Coastal Neighbors Service Members. That means our volunteers will answer their requests for transportation, tasks around the house, friendly visits and all the other services we offer. When ARAW was founded in 1856, its goal was "not alms alone, but a friend." That mission has remained the same through 156 years: to furnish financial assistance, provide friendship, and promote the welfare of elderly women in need. We at Coastal Neighbors are honored to be partners in carrying out that mission. For more information on ARAW: <https://www.arawofnb.org/>

Generous Scholarship Grant From BayCoast Bank

For the second year, BayCoast Bank has provided a generous grant of \$3,500 to Coastal Neighbors Network. The funding will go toward scholarships to support membership for people in the community who have limited means. The bank is pleased to be working with our program as we reach out to older people who need support.

In Memory of Friends

It is with deep sympathy that we honor the lives of several Coastal Neighbors members who have passed away recently. Our prayers and condolences go out to their families and friends.

Lucia Costa

Born in New Bedford, Lucia was a lifelong area resident and a communicant of St. Mary's Catholic Parish. She was a homemaker for her cherished family, husband Edward and three children. Lucia was also an artist, an expert seamstress and crafter. She will be remembered for her humor, her sparkling personality, and her unique ability to remember everyone's name and make them feel special.

Huntley Fitzpatrick

Huntley was a successful author of young adult fiction, known for her realistic contemporary teen romances. Along with her husband John and their six children, she was a longtime resident of Dartmouth. She noted in an interview how fond she was of her time here. "I've been really lucky to live in a relatively small town full of people who have welcomed first my growing family, and then my books," she said.

Jim Munger

Jim grew up in Saginaw, Michigan, where he started farming as a young boy and developed a love of farming and respect for the earth that stayed with him throughout his life. In his work as a professor for 30 years at Roger Williams College and later as a farmer in Dartmouth, Jim was an ambassador for water quality, climate change and the fate of our planet. He and his wife Carol raised four children. They were devoted members of the Allen's Neck Friends Meeting.

Penny Straker

Well-known in our area, Penny graduated from Barnstable High School and went on to study at the Yale School of Forestry. She owned and operated several businesses: creating and publishing knitting patterns, designing beautiful gardens, and restoring antique homes. Penny was a life-long equestrian and animal lover, and a devoted and loving mother to her two sons.

Ellie Vasta

Ellie was an explorer and a lover of the outdoors. She was well traveled, visiting nearly every state and many European countries, often with her husband Joe. She passed that love along to her son Joseph, step-daughter Jennifer and grandchildren. Following a successful legal career, including as Assistant Register of Probate for Plymouth County, Ellie and Joe owned and operated AlphaGraphics successfully for 29 years. A friend to many, Ellie could craft a good pun and always tell a joke to bring a smile.

Larry Walder

Born in New Bedford, Larry grew up in Dartmouth and then went west to Colorado for his undergraduate and MBA degrees. After a long, successful career as an insurance actuary, he earned a master's in Education and began a new career, teaching in the Chicago schools. Larry

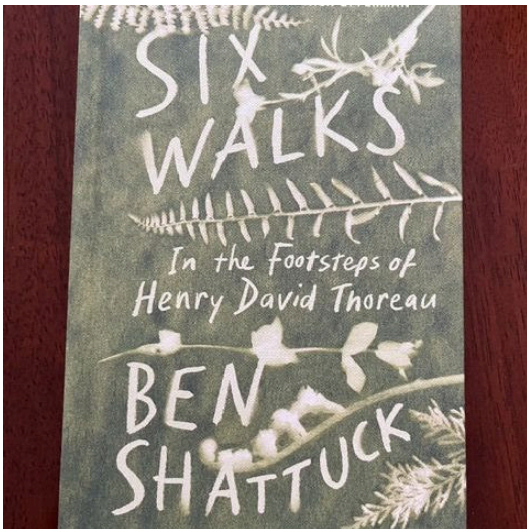
was known for his commitment to excellence, his kindness and generosity, his great sense of humor, and his devotion to family... and the Red Sox!

Spring Scenes: Nature Walks & Plant Swaps

With warmer weather and less stringent covid restrictions, we were able to bring back a robust menu of social events. Here are some highlights.



Potluck and Bluegrass - A convivial group of about 25 members were serenaded by the Spindle Rock River Rats (including Coastal Neighbors Board member Dock Murdock). It was a beautiful June evening at Allen's Neck Friends Meeting House for great food and sharing with friends.





Walking in Thoreau's Path - Author Ben Shattuck read excerpts from his new book, *Six Walks: In the Footsteps of Henry David Thoreau* at a special Coastal Neighbors event held at Davoll's General Store. In *Six Walks*, Ben retraces Thoreau's wanderings on Cape Cod, up Mount Katahdin and Mount Wachusett, and through the Allagash. Along the multi-year journey, he finds fascinating characters, inspiring landscapes and new insights about life. *Publishers Weekly* calls it "a resplendent debut." The *Wall Street Journal* named it best book of the spring.



Plant Swap and Nature Walk - It was a beautiful day in May for potting and swapping plants. Some plants were brought home and others put in containers to deliver to members. On another fine May morning, expert guide Fred Dabney led a group along the Quansett Trail at Audubon Allen's Pond Wildlife Sanctuary. The group traveled the western loop with beautiful views over a fresh water pond.

Meet Our New Board Members

We welcomed three additions to the Coastal Neighbors Board of Directors recently: Terry Cryan, Connie MacDonald and Tony Melli. A Dartmouth resident, Terry brings

nonprofit management and marketing experience through a long career working with Boston area hospitals and professional societies. She's served on the Coastal Neighbors membership and marketing committees over the past four years. Connie is a 45-year Westport resident married to a 3rd generation Westport native. She's a retired computer system engineer with specialization in computer security and system design. In retirement, Connie has shifted to local volunteer opportunities, including the Dartmouth YMCA Sharing the Harvest Farm, serving as a technology coordinator for the Westport Council on Aging, and now with Coastal Neighbors. Tony is well-known in Westport, having spent 34 years at the high school as Guidance Director, Athletic Director and Director of Student Activities. In retirement, Tony and his wife Rosemary became active in the Slow Food Movement and were instrumental in bringing local farmers to an international artisanal food exposition in Italy. Their import business, Olivo di Melli, is well-known locally and throughout the Boston area.

Feel free to give us feedback on Village Matters and/or submit an article for publication. We would LOVE to add you to our writing staff! Editor: Terry Cryan.

Coastal Neighbors Network - Board of Directors

Steve Kiechel, President	Gay Gillespie	Lisa Mellgard
Terry Cryan, Vice President	Margaret Jones	Tony Melli
Chris Strasser, Treasurer	Mia Lahti	Dock Murdock
Margot Hand, Secretary	Connie MacDonald	Sarah Van Vleck
		Paula Walsh



Caring | Community | Connection

Coastal Neighbors Network is a membership-based organization committed to supporting older residents, on a one-to-one basis, who wish to stay safe, independent, and connected in their community.

