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## March Newsletter from Coastal Neighbors Network

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**Coastal Neighbors Network**  
<admin@coastalneighborsnetwork.org>

Tue, Mar 16, 2021 at 5:59  
AM

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## VILLAGE MATTERS

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### Fun Events for Your Calendar

Watch our weekly updates for details.

**May 12, Picnic at Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, 12:00-2:00pm**

Join us for a bring-your-own picnic lunch at the Audubon wildlife sanctuary. Gina

Purtell, Program Manager, will provide an introduction to the Sanctuary's new all-person accessibility trail and its salt marsh restoration work. Bring your lunch and a chair. It's a great springtime opportunity to gather with friends.

### **June 30, Garden Tour: Peek at the Peak (Rain Date July 1)**

After a super successful launch in 2019 followed by a covid-induced hiatus last year, the Coastal Neighbors Garden Tour is back - this time in Westport! Eight beautiful gardens, all located on Westport Point, will be open to visitors. Chris Ash and Gay Gillespie are heading up the organizing committee. Volunteers are essential to the success of this event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris at: [chrisash856@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisash856@yahoo.com).

**March 20 Bonfire** - Registration closed. The response was enthusiastic, with the event fully subscribed quickly! You can add your name to a waiting list [HERE](#).

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### ***Samplings from Our Video Library***

## **Taking the Mystery out of Medicare**

- Should you enroll in Medicare as soon as you turn 65...or wait?
- What's the difference between a Medigap and Medicare Advantage plan?
- What about Part D for prescription drugs? And what's the "donut hole" anyway?
- Where can you get comparisons of all the supplemental insurance options?

Tune in to this Coastal Neighbors video to get some answers to these and other questions. Pat Foster, a Medicare counselor for SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone), talks with a group of members about this complex topic. [CLICK HERE](#)

### ***PLUS - Videos on a Host of Topics***

Fascinating conversations on: Beekeeping, the Westport River Watershed, DNRT Trails, Writing, Spiritual Direction and more - all [HERE](#)!

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## Help with Vaccine Appointments

The hottest ticket this season is a covid-19 vaccine appointment! In early February appointments opened up for people age 75+ ... but Andy Pollock, our Executive Director, began hearing from members about their frustration in registering. Recognizing a real need, Andy and a group of Board members sprang into action, literally overnight. They collaborated with the Councils on Aging in Westport and Dartmouth and were able to register 50 members and friends for vaccination at Dartmouth High School! Linda and Tom Bush (pictured here) had struggled for days to find a vaccine location with open slots. "Coastal Neighbors was simply a life-saver! We're so grateful," Linda said. As Massachusetts expands eligibility, Coastal Neighbors will monitor the situation and offer help when needed.







Scenes from the welcome celebration last fall.

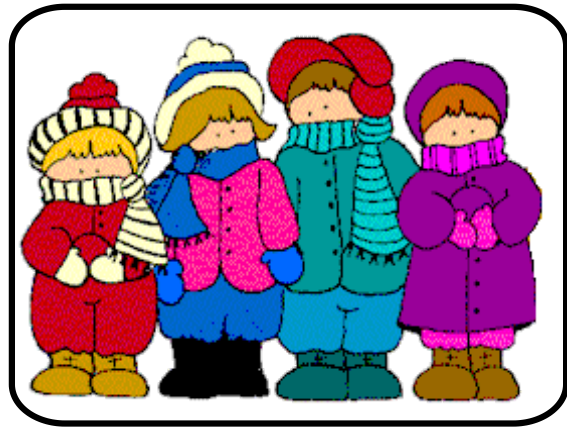
## Welcome Westport! Our Village Grows

Folks in Westport had been hearing about a new organization that was helping Dartmouth residents stay comfortably in their homes. Could those services be expanded to Westport? They reached out to Coastal Neighbor's Executive Director Andy Pollock and Board President Steve Kiechel - the response was enthusiastic. Last September, after several months of planning, Coastal Neighbors officially expanded into Westport. Here's what it took to make it happen:

- **Leadership** by a core group of Westport residents who have deep experience in the community, many of them as leaders of other local service organizations: Chris Ash, Sarah Bartlett, Liz Brinkerhoff, Irene Buck, Nancy Culpepper, Dan George, Gay Gillespie, and Tony and Rosemary Melli.
  - **Close collaboration** with the Westport Council on Aging and its Director, Beverly Bisch.
  - **Strong support** from local organizations, such as the Westport Fire Department, St. John the Baptist Church and Westport Point United Methodist Church.
  - **Informational meetings** at the Westport Grange before covid shutdowns and later via Zoom.
  - **Personal outreach** by the core group members to seniors in Westport, resulting in new members, volunteers and donors.
  - **A celebratory picnic** last fall to welcome Westport and bring people together.
  - **Westport members volunteering** to serve: Gay Gillespie was appointed to the Board, and Westport members now serve on a host of committees, including Events, Fundraising, Membership, Nominating and Technology.
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## Winter Coats, Chocolate Hearts

- Coastal Neighbors members and friends donated 100 warm winter coats to Mobile Ministries in New Bedford, an organization that provides emergency food, clothing and shelter to local folks who need it.
- Our members were delighted when volunteers rang their doorbells to deliver Valentine's Day chocolate hearts, locally made by Dorothy Cox Chocolate of Fairhaven.



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## Maximizing Your Donation with Gifts of Stock

Tip for those who have stock that has gained a lot of value and want to donate it to a qualified charitable organization like Coastal Neighbors: when you donate the stock instead of cash, the government doesn't tax the capital gain! Coastal Neighbors has set up a brokerage account that will accept stock donations trouble-free. Jed Cohen, CPA, our Assistant Treasurer, can provide complete information on how stock donations can be a win/win for both you and the charity. Contact Jed through the Coastal Neighbors office: 508-556-4004; [admin@coastalneighborsnetwork.org](mailto:admin@coastalneighborsnetwork.org)

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### *Provider Spotlight*

*Coastal Neighbors maintains a list of Preferred Providers, companies that members and friends have recommended as offering quality services at reasonable prices. We're starting a new feature to spotlight some of these companies.*

## Extra Set of Hands - Martha Yules

We all have those pesky projects on our to-do lists, cluttering up our houses and our minds! As we age, those small tasks get more and more difficult to tackle. Martha Yules founded Extra Set of Hands to help clients finish projects and find solutions for their organizational needs. She can help with:

- Furniture repair and painting
- Devising better storage options
- Cleaning out, sorting, repurposing, recycling responsibly, donating
- Plus garden maintenance, home watch while you're away, running errands and anything that needs doing!

Martha says: "I get so much satisfaction from seeing people discover more space, light and energy in their lives just by completing these small but important projects and finding a renewed sense of organization."

Contact Martha at: [Martha@marthayules.com](mailto:Martha@marthayules.com); 508-904-2372

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

**Coastal Neighbors Network - Board of Directors**

Steve Kiechel, President  
Chris Strasser, Treasurer  
Margot Hand, Secretary  
Jed Cohen  
Kate Fentress

Gay Gillespie  
Gretchen Graef  
Margaret Jones  
Mia Lahti  
Lisa Mellgard

Dock Murdock  
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.**

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