

Coastal Neighbors Network July Newsletter

Coastal Neighbors Network

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VILLAGE MATTERS

Beautiful gardens and gorgeous vistas were in full bloom for the Coastal Neighbors Network 2021 Garden Tour on June 30. Lots more photos below.

Fun Events for Your Calendar

Watch our weekly updates for details on all events.

July 22, 3-5pm: Croquet anyone?

Our informal croquet tournament was a big success in 2019. After a Covid hiatus, we're bringing it back on July 22, hosted once again by Lisa and Andy Mellgard at Salt Marsh Farm, their home in Dartmouth. A few members of the Marion Mallet Club will be on hand to provide pointers, but the emphasis is on fun - no experience or expertise required! After a vigorous (or leisurely) round of croquet, you can enjoy home-made scones (with clotted cream and jam, of course) and iced tea and lemonade. Please register by July 18.

September 12, 4-6pm, Annual Celebration & Gathering

We come together to celebrate the mission and growth of Coastal Neighbors Network, honor the dedicated volunteers who serve our members, and enjoy one another's company. Join us at the Dartmouth YMCA for an evening of hors d'oeuvres and light refreshments. Music will be provided by the singing-guitar duo Sarah & Sy.

Coming Up This Fall

More great events are in the planning stages. Tony Melli, proprietor of Olio di Melli and known locally for his imported Tuscan oils, will give a tutorial on the production of olive oils in Italy - along with a tasting. And we're reprising the very popular Poetry Smackdown - recitations of your own work or poetry you love, plus a great potluck supper!

Garden Tour Highlights

Everything Coming Up Roses...Lillies, Poppies, Hydrangea and More!

More than 350 people strolled through nine beautiful gardens on Westport Point, admiring a wide variety of plantings - from a secluded Japanese garden with dry stone riverbed to roses planted in memory of past beloved dogs, a lane dedicated to shade loving plants, raised beds for cut flowers and vegetables, and old trees lovingly restored. All this enhanced by expansive views of the Westport River and harbor. Kudos go to the dedicated committee, chaired by Gay Gillespie and Chris Ash, and to the 58 volunteers who helped with everything from parking to greeting. And special thanks to the garden

owners who graciously opened their gardens and shared their knowledge and gardening expertise. Enjoy these scenes from a wonderful day!



It takes a village to orchestrate a Garden Tour! Here are a few of the 50+ volunteers who helped make it happen. Top left: Co-chairs Chris Ash and Gay Gillespie with Board President Steve Kiechel. Top right: Joan Tripp, Susan Resenhouse, Sarah Van Vleck. Middle left: Susan McLaren, Sarah Bartlett. Middle right: Gloria George Dowd, Margot

Hand, Dianne Burns. Bottom left: Kevin Horst, Cheryl Cantin. Bottom right: Rosemary & Tony Melli, Susan Hankin.



Top left: Artists from the Westport Art Group set out their easels to capture the beauty of each garden. Top right: Pastor Kate Galop and church members Buzz & Nancy Brownlee invited visitors to tour the beautiful 1844 Gothic Revival church. Bottom left: the Westport Council on Aging bus shuttled passengers from the last stop at Paquachuck Inn to the parking lot, a service greatly appreciated! Bottom right: beauty everywhere you look!

Many thanks to our photographers: Larry Culpepper, Garden Tour volunteer; and Lauren Houle, Lauren Houle Photography.



How Do You Explain Coastal Neighbors to Friends? Share the video!

One of your fellow Coastal Neighbors members, Pat Cashmore, and a dedicated volunteer, Kevin Horst, star in our new video. In a quick, 5-minute conversation, they share their perspectives on the benefits of membership and the rewards of volunteering.

Pat says: “I’ve lived in my house for 30 years, and being able to stay here is important to me. I don’t think I could do it without help from Coastal Neighbors. My aging has been quite smooth, but as you get older things start to come up - I have a balance problem, arthritis and have trouble lifting. The volunteers help with these kinds of practical things. And these people become part of your network, part of your daily life. They become friends.”

Kevin says: “I’ve been very fortunate in my life - I was able to retire recently after 30 years with the same company and wanted to give back to the community. This is a great way to do it - it’s rewarding helping and getting to know the members. The process is also convenient and flexible; you can select assignments based on your availability. The best part is that you feel you’re doing something meaningful for wonderful people.”

[View/share the Video](#)



The Salt Marsh Sparrow: A Canary in the Coal Mine

A group of Coastal Neighbors members gathered at the Mass Audubon Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary on May 12 to learn about a modest - but important - little bird, the Salt Marsh Sparrow. Gina Purtell, Program Manager at Audubon, gave a fascinating presentation on why this sparrow is the “canary in the coal mine” for the health of coastal ecosystems. Here are a few high points:

- Salt marshes are one of the world’s most productive ecosystems, providing nurseries for fish and shellfish, habitat for birds, and protection for our coast.
 - Coastal ecosystems (salt marshes, mangroves and seagrasses) account for 10X greater annual carbon sequestration than terrestrial forest systems!
 - The big threat to marshes and our little bird: sea level rise. Models predict 90% losses of tidal marshes by 2100.
 - The salt marsh sparrow is a decidedly hard-working bird. The female raises multiple egg clutches, and re-nests rapidly when nests are destroyed by spring tides.
 - When temporary flooding occurs, a “basket lid” on the nest prevents some eggs from floating out. Still, 48% of nests fail to produce a nestling.
 - Our salt marsh sparrow is more vulnerable to extinction than the polar bear! In 1998, the estimated global population was 212,000 - down to 60,000 by 2011.
 - There are many ways to help: take action to reduce our carbon footprint, advocate for coastal resilience measures, support coastal land protection projects through Mass Audubon and other organizations.
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Gallery Tour

Dedee Shattuck Gallery in Westport welcomed a Coastal Neighbors group to its June exhibit "Foragers." Guided by gallery manager Monica Lopes, the group explored the work of eight artists who engage with the wilderness to create their art, using a wide variety of media and approaches. Lunch outside on the Partners patio rounded out the afternoon. Becky Vercollone's comment caught the spirit of the event: "For me as a new member and new Dartmouth resident, this was wonderful way to meet a great group of people around a shared interest. "



Daffodil Delivery

Driving down Chase Road in Dartmouth this Spring, you may have stopped to admire and perhaps take photos of the yellow daffodils lining the road. All 50,000 of them have been planted over the past ten years by Silverbrook Farm owners Andy Pollock (who is also Coastal Neighbors Executive Director!) and his husband Jeff Schmalz. They wanted to share the beauty by bringing bouquets to residents of local assisted living facilities. So

Coastal Neighbors volunteers spent a few hours gathering daffodils into bright yellow bouquets for personal delivery.

The Member Perspective: Reliable, Sociable, Capable Help

By Nonie Walder, Coastal Neighbors Member

When I retired from teaching at Dartmouth High, I felt free to tool around town by myself, whenever and wherever I pleased. Now, however, I'm not driving and must depend on others to do small errands and chores. Enter Coastal Neighbors Network! Coastal Neighbors is made up of wonderful neighbor-like people who regularly take me to and from my medical appointments. I have found them to be reliable (to the minute!), sociable, capable -- the kind of people I would like to call "friends." My children, near and far, are so relieved and pleased that I'm being happily looked-after. I heartedly recommend Coastal Neighbors to all over-the-hill oldies-but-goodies in Dartmouth and Westport!

The Volunteer Perspective: Simple, Caring Acts

By Laura Hunt, Coastal Neighbors Volunteer

I was born and raised in Dartmouth and have spent most of my adult life in this beautiful town. I've been on the receiving end of many acts of kindness and thoughtful gestures from my friends and neighbors. What great joy it's been connecting with wonderful people I may otherwise not have known by volunteering with Coastal Neighbors. My circle of friends has grown. Nourishing others' spirits through simple, caring acts makes my own heart soar too. Working from home during Covid has made me appreciate the space I've inhabited over many years all the more. It is such a privilege and a pleasure to enable someone else to enjoy the comfort of their own home a little longer.

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

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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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