

**Rustic Ridge Association
President's Letter
June 1, 2015**

The laurel bushes are in bloom and the thrushes are singing. It is time for everyone to enjoy the Ridge. After the winter we had, summer will be such a joy!

We are grateful to Joe Chromey who did such an outstanding job on Ridge Security over the winter. He notified us about fallen branches, roof damages and dropped lines. There is more branch litter than usual, but fortunately all other issues have been resolved.

Please mark your calendars for this summer's Ridge celebrations.

Saturday July 4th, Fourth of July parade features Alan Abel on percussion. Meet at the flagpole at 9:30 AM, wear your best 4th of July outfits, and make noise. The parade will be followed by a reception at the Ziegenhagens, 7 Linden Ave. Practice your harmonies because Janet, our "Abel" conductor, will lead us in singing patriotic tunes.

Saturday July 4th Lobster Fest, 6:30 PM at the Northfield Pool. You can choose lobster or no lobster meals. Details will follow in a separate invitation. Bring your bathing suits and take a plunge. Swimming is available all evening.

Saturday, August 1st. Annual Rustic Ridge Association Meeting. The meeting will be held on Saturday August 1st at 9:30 AM at the Trinitarian Congregational Church.

Saturday, August 1st. Ridge Picnic, 6:30 PM at the Northfield Pool. In case of rain, we have an alternate venue option at the Trinitarian Congregational Church basement hall. Bring your own picnic dinner. One gas grill is available and there will be a cash bar again this year.

Sunday, August 2nd. Ridge Sunday, 10 AM at the Trinitarian Congregational Church. Program to be announced, but as always there will be music!

What's happening on the Ridge?

North Lane repairs with new pavement, culverts and clearing were finished last fall. We hope to have the guardrail completed this season.

Trash collection. Steve Severance will collect trash Saturday afternoons from Memorial Day through Labor Day. An additional collection will be done over Columbus Day weekend on Saturday October 10th.

Youth activities. Catherine Broadhead and Julie Hawken have planned a wonderful youth activities program so please let them know when your youngsters are in residence. We hope to offer badges for the "Rustic Ridge Ranger" program, a big hit last year, and maybe Tim Powell will return for another ghost story night.

Tennis Courts. The National Christian Foundation has given us the opportunity to use the Northfield Campus Moore Cottage tennis courts again this year. Thank you to the

“Friends of Northfield Tennis”, donors from the Ridge and town, who generously raised funds to maintain the courts. We look forward to seeing you out on the courts!

Northfield Golf Club has been doing well under the management of the Snow family and the course is in great shape even if your golf may not be. For more information contact <http://www.northfieldgolfclub.com>

The Northfield pool will open June 13th. Hours are Monday through Sunday 12noon to 7PM. Get in shape with water aerobics classes and have lunch at the pool. For membership information, contact <http://www.northfieldgolfclub.com>

Town updates

Northfield Campus. The vistas from the Northfield Campus and Roundtop are constant reminders for the beauty of this place. There is still no news about a new occupant for the campus, but the National Christian Foundation is actively seeking options and we appreciate their dedicated stewardship of this property that is such an important past legacy and future vision for our community.

As you turn onto Main Street you may see some familiar scenes and a few new changes. Look for your neighbors on Mim’s porch and get in line at the Creamie. Then you may notice the transitions in town. **Fairview Gardens** has closed as the owners have moved on to other opportunities. **Northfield Coffee and Books** is also closing and a new business is being planned for that space.

The **Trinitarian Church** looks the same but it has changes inside as it welcomes Rev Julie Olmstead, the new settled pastor.

The **Town** has a strong **environmental focus** as plans are made for open space, conservation, wetlands protection, and the Schell Bridge. You will notice “Stop the Pipeline” signs in town. These reflect the active debate and protest about the Kinder Morgan gas pipeline that is proposed for western MA and southern NH. More information is available at the Town of Northfield website <http://www.northfield.ma.us>

Northfield Mt Hermon Forest and the Grandin Reservoir. The Trust for Public Land continues to facilitate conservation efforts for this 1600-acre forest adjacent to the Ridge. The state of Massachusetts has expressed interest in holding the conservation easement for the land, and (great news!), there is a potential buyer for the East Northfield Water Co. As you can imagine the deal is complex and it has been difficult to complete surveys on the multiple land parcels deeded from the 1800’s, but even with these delays, we see progress!

Respectively submitted,
Lucy Hann Livingston