

RUSTIC RIDGE ASSOCIATION
President's Report
August 4, 2018

Once-again this year we enjoyed considerable positive activity on the Rustic Ridge as well as on the Northfield Campus. On the Ridge, building on the successes of the past several summers, our dedicated volunteers planned a series of entertaining and informative activities for Ridge residents of all ages and especially families. These included a festive Fourth of July parade and reception at the Ziegenhagens, the Second Annual Cottage Crawl, Game Night at the Bubriski's, an evening at the Creamie, a tennis tournament, a ping-pong tournament, trips to Pisgah and our wonderful Lobsterfest dinner (thanks to Lucy Livingston). Catherine Broadhead has done an outstanding job of organizing many of these activities for yet another year with help from Jeannie Bubriski and Barbara Walker.

On the campus, the Moody Center will formally launch on October 23 this year, but it has already moved forward with plans for continuing the Moody legacy. Through online education and training courses and onsite education and inspiration programs, they are trying to make the Northfield campus the "epicenter of ministry education and innovation". There are plans to build a lodge, designate recreational and leisure space and even build adult living areas. The President, Emmitt Mitchell, has reached out to the Rustic Ridge Membership to develop a cooperative relationship and has invited our membership for a briefing on their plans and luncheon later today. In addition to the activities of the Moody Center on campus, the C.S. Lewis Study Center purchased D.L. Moody's home, Green Pastures, on the campus and is turning it into a study center for scholars. It has sponsored a series of programs and lectures this summer and hopes to have scholars working on projects, dissertations, music and art throughout the year. Thomas Aquinas College is working towards obtaining approval of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to grant degrees in Massachusetts so that it can open its New England Campus doors to students in the fall of 2019. So, after years of a silent campus, the place is alive with activity.

Unfortunately, our beloved Northfield Inn Pool closed for good this spring, despite the concerted efforts of many Ridge residents led by Margie Conner. Since 1959, many of us have enjoyed swimming and socializing there and we were all very sad to see it completely filled-in. The Snow family, which owns the Northfield Golf Course, plans to continue to host events there and at the knoll where the Northfield Inn once stood, so we hope to continue to have it as a gathering spot. However, many Ridge residents have branched out and tried community pools in Vernon and Greenfield and many have started returning to Spofford Lake.

As is our tradition, we gave 10% of our dues income this year to several local organizations. We gave grants totaling \$450 each to the Northfield EMS and to Loaves and Fishes. Our Executive Board meets this afternoon and a major topic of discussion will be what worthy organizations to contribute to for 2018.

It has been an honor to serve you these past two years and President and I am looking forward to turning over the “reins of power” to Margie Conner this morning. I want to thank the Executive Board and all of you who have volunteered to help these past few years. We could have accomplished nothing without your help.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Schoonover
President, Rustic Ridge Association