

June 2025 KNB Newz



Upcoming Events

Roche Bros. Settling Pond Cleanup, Sunday June 8, 9 - 11 am

KNB volunteers will be cleaning up the Roche Bros. Settling Pond and surrounding areas. If you'd like to join us, stop by the KNB tent in the Roche Bros. Plaza parking lot to sign in and we'll match you with an appropriate cleanup area. We'll provide the trash-collecting supplies and gear. If you plan to work near the pond, wear boots!

KNB at Farmers Market on June 21

Stop by the KNB tent between 9 am - 12 pm to meet friendly neighbors who are also KNB volunteers. Learn more about what we do and how you can help. Interested in volunteering? We'll outfit you with one of our amazing KNB t-shirts, hats and more. Please stop by and say hello.

Feature Article

KNB's Jayden Harris and Pat Conaway honored at KMB Clean Community Awards Dinner

Jayden Harris

On Thursday May 15 we assembled a good KNB team at the Keep Massachusetts Beautiful Clean Community Awards Dinner held in Framingham. Our own **Jayden Harris** was honored as one of the two Youth Volunteers of the Year. Jayden's Aunt Jenny came along with other members of his family.

Neil Rhein, Executive Director of Keep Massachusetts Beautiful, had this to say about Jayden:

A remarkable young man, Jayden (who is now 10 ya) has worked so hard for the past 3 years with Keep Natick Beautiful and is well on his way to earning full pension benefits! Jayden likes the tough jobs. He goes "Beyond the Guard Rail" and digs out trash and large objects like broken highway signs, bulky litter thrown down the embankments and steel posts half buried in mud and debris.

Every week, Jayden goes out with his Aunt Jenny (another Keep Natick Beautiful superstar) to clean up in West Natick. This includes highly littered areas like busy state roads such as Rte 135 and the Power Corridor (high tension wires), where people (sadly, at night) dump tires, lawnmowers, furniture, mattresses, and other litter. We're so fortunate to have Jayden and Jenny on our KNB TEAM.



Jayden Harris accepts his award and is congratulated by his Aunt Jenny and Pat

And as a last minute surprise, Carey Buttfield and Brian McPherson managed to have **Pat Conaway** (Keep Natick Beautiful's Founder and President) recognized for a Keep Massachusetts Beautiful Lifetime Achievement Award.

Pat Conaway

Longtime KNB members Carey Buttfield and Brian McPherson helped Keep Massachusetts Beautiful honor **Pat Conaway** by presenting him with KMB's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Brian and I want to recognize Pat for a lot more than just the founding of Keep Natick Beautiful. Maybe from all his years of chasing young kids around his classroom, Pat built up enormous energy reserves and endurance. Fortunately, he didn't let that energy go to waste after he retired. He went about setting out and monitoring roughly 60 buddy bins—side-by-side recycling and trash containers. Not just in Natick, but also Framingham and Wayland.

Those efforts caught the attention of Neil way down in Mansfield...and Keep Natick Beautiful became one of the first chapters of Keep Massachusetts Beautiful.

That, in itself, is certainly commendable, but Pat has done so much more. Just to name a few of the many things he's done to benefit the Town of Natick: for 18 years Pat was Director of Camp Arrowhead – a summer camp for young adults with various disabilities. Pat was also a Town Meeting member, a member of Natick's Sustainability Committee, and he also played a huge role in resurrecting the Natick Earth Day Festival on Natick Common. He was also nominated for Mass Recycle's "Massachusetts Recycler of the Year Award." And together, with other concerned citizens in Wayland, Framingham, Natick, and Ashland, formed the Lake Cochituate Watershed Council. Last but not least, Pat

was also the 2019 Keep Massachusetts Beautiful Chapter Leader of the Year.

We could go on and on. But, tonight, we thought it was high time, and long overdue, to recognize Pat Conaway for a "Lifetime Achievement Award."



*KNB Founder, Pat Conaway;
Harris & Pat Conaway, in action*

Award-winners Jayden

Recent Initiatives: Outstanding Efforts

Earth-Friendly Fair on Natick Town Common (5/3)

Lots of old and new friends stopped by the KNB text to learn about all the earth-friendly activities KNB sponsors. More than 20 people signed up to receive our newsletter. Thank you all for your interest in learning more about how you can help Keep Natick Beautiful.

KNB and SpK on the CRT (5/4)

Sounds like alphabet soup, but on a cloudy Sunday, ECO-NATICK DAY, both Keep Natick Beautiful and Spark Kindness showed up on our beautiful Cochituate Rail Trail to: Clean Up the Trail, Kindly! Michele Marotta (Spark Kindness) and Pat Conaway (KNB) brought pickers, gloves, and barrels, and orchestrated about 50 kids and adults in a huge effort to pick up paper, mattresses, sleeping bags, clothing, bottles, cans, steel rods, tires....you name it, they picked it up. The teamwork was inspiring, the results were amazing! - *Sally Hopkins*

Repair Cafe at Community-Senior Center (5/4)

On May 4 perhaps the most eclectic, versatile, and talented group of “fixers” ever provided free repairs. For the more than 80 people who came in, sad faces turned into exuberant grins as these fixers went about putting new sockets in lamps, making appliances hum, wooden things sturdy, garments wearable, blades ready to cut through any food item or overgrown outdoor vine, as well as bikes ready for the Pan Mass Challenge.



The crowd, anxious to get things fixed; Natick's own Vinny Tingley

If all goes well, Lucky Number 7 Repair Café will happen next spring. Meanwhile, Framingham will be staging one on Sunday June 22, 2 – 5 pm at Scott Hall, adjacent to the Framingham Common off Edgell Road. I'll be there “fixing” to fix some things. -
Carey Buttfeld

Natick High School Memorial Field Cleanup (5/18)

On a gorgeous Sunday morning, a crew of over 20 volunteers took part in Keep Natick Beautiful's annual cleanup at Natick's Memorial Field. An eight person **team from Target** swept the perimeter and grounds of the field itself, finding many discarded plastic water and drink containers under the bleachers and along the fence line.



Team Target with some of the litter they collected

More participants scoured the three surrounding parking lots, the Donahue Boat Landing, and the shore of Dug Pond. In all, 15 bags of trash, four bags of recycling, and various large plastic boards were collected. Two lucky volunteers even left with a practically new umbrella and a fishing pole!



KNB members and unofficial canine mascot, Jed

We are proud of this effort and thankful that we could do our part to ensure that our Memorial Field was ready for this year's Memorial Day. - *Matt McCormack*

Did You Know...

KNB Lawn Signs are Back!

Help promote KNB and our mission to Keep Natick Beautiful by planting one or more of these colorful lawn signs in your yard. We have two versions available (one with our FaceBook group on it).

Make arrangements to have one delivered or to pick one up at 69 Pond Street (Natick) by emailing Carey (careyb@keepnatickbeautiful.com)

KNB Volunteers

KNB volunteers are active all year long. Contact us if you have some time and would like to learn how you can help. [KNB Contact Us form](#).

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