



# Village Neighbors

*Working Together to Create Community!*

A rural community of neighbors  
helping aging adults lead  
independent and  
engaged lives at home.

**Leverett + New Salem +  
Shutesbury + Wendell**

**1-413-345-6894**

[pr@villageneighbors.org](mailto:pr@villageneighbors.org)

[www.villageneighbors.org](http://www.villageneighbors.org)

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September / October 2023, Issue 27

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## **VN Small Home Repairs Renewed for 2023/2024 Season**

*If you have small repairs that need attention in your home, free assistance is available from the Village Neighbors Small Home Repairs Program.*

**The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts** has generously renewed our grant for **Small Home Repairs** again for 2023/2024. The amazing team of volunteers who have been working to assist our members in keeping their homes safe and in good repair will be back to work this Fall.

An application has been included with the mailing to all member households this month. When you complete it and mail it back to us, the team will contact you. It's as easy as that!

If you are a member and need a repair application please call **413-345-6894** or email [pr@villageneighbors.org](mailto:pr@villageneighbors.org)

If you are interested in becoming a Village Neighbors Member (membership is free), contact [membership@villageneighbors.org](mailto:membership@villageneighbors.org)

*Special Thanks to our Generous Sponsor, **The Church Street Fund**, administered by the **Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts**.*



**Upcoming Events**

## 2 More Spots Available for September

### Writing To Remember Workshop

*Sign up for the next session now!*

#### **New Session**

**Tuesdays 10am - Noon**

**September 5th - October 10th, 2023**

**Ruth Flohr's** inspiring memoir writing program **Writing to Remember** will be offered again for **FREE** with the generous sponsorship by **Mass Cultural Grants** from *Leverett, Shutesbury, Wendell and New Salem*.

In this memoir writing class you will discover the inspiration and tools to effectively begin writing your life-story. This class is open to fledgling writers as well as seasoned writers.

This method includes instruction, reading memoir samples, discussion, and impromptu writing exercises with feedback. There will also be an online forum with writing resources and a platform to post your stories. For more information or to sign up for the next round of workshops, please contact **Ruth Flohr** at **978-544-6534** to register.



*Village Neighbors sponsored*

### **CRIBBAGE Continues**

**Thursday, Sept. 7th and Monday,**

**September 18th • 2:30 at the**

**Wendell Senior Center**

31 Wendell Depot Road, Wendell

Contact Elizabeth for more information [pr@villageneighbors.org](mailto:pr@villageneighbors.org) or call **1-413-345-6894** and leave a message for **Public Relations**, or or just *show up and play a hand...*

## Local Libraries Offering Exciting New Fall

# Programs

Our local libraries - **Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell** - offer a wealth of *fitness, craft and instructive programs* year round, both in person and remotely. Below are just a few highlights coming up this month. All programs are free and open to the general public, but may require registration. Please contact the library directly to find out more.

## Leverett Library

75 Montague Rd, Leverett

1-413-548-9220 • <https://leverettlibrary.org/>

email: [leverettlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:leverettlibrary@gmail.com)

## Mahjong

**Thursdays, 1:45pm – 4:00pm**

Come play the fun and fantastic game of Mah Jong at the Leverett Library. No experience necessary! Interested parties should contact Judi Kolenda at: [kolendajudi@gmail.com](mailto:kolendajudi@gmail.com)

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## New Salem Library

23 S Main St, New Salem

1-978-544-6334 • [nsfriendsoflibrary.weebly.com](http://nsfriendsoflibrary.weebly.com)

## Local Author Series

**Thursdays (Monthly) 7-8 pm**

**At the library and on Zoom**

Launching this fall with three exciting readings / Q&A's. Authors from around our region will visit to read from their works and chat with us. As well, the library will order copies of the books as they are available (it already has the first one). You will also be able to purchase them right from the author. We'd love to fill the seats and support our western Mass. authors!

Mark your calendars for the first three—and note October's is a young adult novel, so please share with any young adults you know! More details are on our website, including the Zoom link, at [nsfriendsoflibrary.weebly.com](http://nsfriendsoflibrary.weebly.com).

**Thursday, September 14**

**Celia Jeffries**, from Florence, will read from her debut novel, ***Blue Desert***.

Alice George is a headstrong young British woman who finds herself living among the Tuareg, a tribe of nomadic warriors. While the outside world faces the catastrophe of World War I... [read more](#)

Celia is a writer, editor, and teacher whose work has appeared in literary journals and publications, including *Writer's Chronicle*, *Puerto del Sol*, and the anthology *Beyond the Yellow Wallpaper*. Her work has taken her from North America to Africa, and many places in between. *Blue Desert* is her first novel and was a finalist for both the Sarton Historical Fiction award and the IPNE Literary Fiction award, and was the February 2023 Editor's Choice by the Historical Novel Society.

*Coming Up:*

**October 26** Faith Shearin, ***Lost River, 1918***

**November 16** Michael Miller, ***High Bridge***

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## **Shutesbury Library:**

10 Cooleyville Rd, Shutesbury

1-413-259-1213 • Email: [library.director@shutesbury.org](mailto:library.director@shutesbury.org)

<https://sites.google.com/site/mnspearmemoriallibrary/home>

## **Fiber Arts Classes**

**Sunday, September 24th, 2 pm, Shutesbury Town Hall**

### **Slow Stitching as Mindful Practice**

Join us at the intersection of mindfulness and practical skill building via the practice of slow stitching. In this class we will explore slow-stitching techniques of hand embroidery, appliqué and fabric collage. While mindfully carving out time for ourselves to slow down and focus on the simple and calming effect of moving thread through cloth.

Please email [library.director@shutesbury.org](mailto:library.director@shutesbury.org) to register.

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## Wendell Library:

7 Wendell Depot Rd, Wendell

1-978-544-3559

<https://www.wendellmass.us/wendell-free-library.html>

## Free Wednesday Matinee Movie

**Every Wednesday at 1:00 PM.**

We will be showing a variety of critically acclaimed and award-winning feature films for adults, ranging from light comedy to intense drama, including both classic and recent films.

All are welcome, and friendly informal discussions after the movie are encouraged.

### September 6 - Charade

Dash around Paris in this mystery/suspense film with more than a touch of humor and romance. Starring Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant.

*Coming Up:*

**9/13: The Whale Rider**

**9/20: House of Sand and Fog**

**9/27: This Beautiful Fantastic**

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## Veteran's Tuesdays at the Leverett Village Co-op

***Come by for free coffee and  
camaraderie between 11:00 and 1:00.***

Delicious bakery items available daily: fresh pastries, muffins, cookies, breads. Our cooler cases are stocked with freshly made food to take home or eat in. Seating indoors or outdoor patio and picnic tables.

**180 Rattlesnake Gutter Rd, Leverett**

LEVERETT  
VILLAGE



CO-OP



# Village Neighbors at Wendell Old Home Day

Thanks to **Dot, Chris, Bert, Nancy and Elizabeth** who volunteered at Wendell Old Home Day August 12th.



## Village Neighbors' Member Handbook Update

Be on the look out for your new **Village Neighbors' Member Handbook**, being sent to your email next month. If you have not received a copy by November, or need a hard copy mailed to you, please contact [membership@villageneighbors.org](mailto:membership@villageneighbors.org) or call 1-413-345-6894

## VN Rides Available



Village Neighbors' fully vaccinated drivers are available for rides, with both driver and member observing COVID masking, distancing and ventilation protocols.

If you have put off needed dental, medical or therapy visits; or need a ride for shopping, a personal visit or to an event, call VN to make a request at **413-345-6894 ext.1** or email [servicerequests@villageneighbors.org](mailto:servicerequests@villageneighbors.org).

Contact **VN Services** 4 or 5 days advance if you need a ride or company for a night out.

## *Need a Hand with Your Garden?*

Volunteers from your town are available to help with garden care! They will bring their own tools and maintain safe social distancing protocols.

Give us a call **1-413-345-6894 ext.1** or email [servicerequests@villageneighbors.org](mailto:servicerequests@villageneighbors.org)



## VN Volunteer Opportunities

## HELP WANTED:

### Events and Public Relations Committee Needs Volunteers

The **VN Events and PR committee** is responsible for all event planning prep and promotions, press releases, public outreach, newsletter and monthly news emails, and social media. We need creative and sociable volunteers to help. Computer savvy is a plus, but not necessary.

If you're interested please contact [pr@villageneighbors.org](mailto:pr@villageneighbors.org) or call 1-413-345-6894

### Looking For Vaccinated Drivers

We are eager to hear from **volunteers** who want to resume driving our members. Please contact us at 413-345-6894 or [volunteers@villageneighbors.org](mailto:volunteers@villageneighbors.org) for more information.

### Are You interested in Providing a Seminar or Activity to VN Members?

Please contact [membership@villageneighbors.org](mailto:membership@villageneighbors.org). We can provide technical support to get your seminar up and running.

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***Find ways you can help your neighbors and have some fun. Many of our Volunteers are also Members. Be part of the Village Neighbors Team!***

#### VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

**Tuesday**  
**September 26th**  
**6:30 PM**

**Hybrid** meeting both on **Zoom**  
and in person at the  
**Wendell Senior Center**  
2 Locke Village Road, Wendell



Village Neighbors is a  
volunteer run non-profit

At the orientation you will learn about the organization and find out about the wide range of volunteer activities that you can choose from.

Email

[volunteers@villageneighbors.org](mailto:volunteers@villageneighbors.org) or leave a phone message with a contact number at **413-345-6894 ext.3** to receive a Zoom link and additional information.

dedicated to helping our aging neighbors to lead independent and engaged lives at home.

**Please consider  
DONATING to Village  
Neighbors and Support  
Free Membership.**

You can donate online at  
[www.villageneighbors.org](http://www.villageneighbors.org)

or mail a check to  
**P.O.Box 501  
Shutesbury, MA 01072**

## **Your Village Neighbors Need YOU!**

Village Neighbors has grown quickly while meeting the new challenges posed through CoVid in our elderly community. We need Volunteers to assist members at home, and also behind the scenes in the committees that keep our organization working! Contribute as much or as little time as you want. Match your interests and skills to what's needed in the community.

***Join the fun and make a difference...***

### **Membership / Volunteer Committee**

[membership@villageneighbors.org](mailto:membership@villageneighbors.org)

- Recruit and welcome new members and volunteers
- Do new member intake visits
- Conduct volunteer orientations and trainings
- Create and coordinate social activities and programs
- Develop Dementia Friendly community outreach and training

***Volunteer Orientations*** are run by the **Membership/Volunteer Committee**. Join us at the **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION, Wednesday, May 15th, 6:30 pm on Zoom**, if you would like to experience this committee in action and find out more about what we do.

### **Service Committee / Call Managers**



## [servicerequests@villageneighbors.org](mailto:servicerequests@villageneighbors.org)

- Answer requests from Members and connect them with Volunteers waiting to assist
- Assess needs and services
- Train and oversee Call Managers
- Handle vendor services
- Work with the Membership/Volunteer Committee to triage concerns for members and volunteers

***Call Managers work from home to manage member requests.***

## Events / PR Committee

[pr@villageneighbors.org](mailto:pr@villageneighbors.org)

- Events
- Promotions
- Tabling at community events
- Newsletter
- Outreach and Press
- Social media
- Event Calendar

***Contact the Events/PR Committee to learn about opportunities to be involved in planning our next exciting event and connecting with our community.***

## Fund Raising Committee

[fundraising@villageneighbors.org](mailto:fundraising@villageneighbors.org)

- Provide the money for Village Neighbors to function and grow
- Research funding
- Develop fund raising events
- Develop funding circles (sources) - donations, members, volunteers, and contributors
- Research and apply for grants
- Recruit local sponsors -banks, businesses

***With Free membership, Village Neighbors counts on voluntary contributions, funding and grants to meet our income needs.***

***Volunteers are needed to make this happen!***

## IT Committee

- Provide assistance to members with all things electronic
- Website maintenance
- Email & Zoom communications

***In the 21st century, internet has become integral to daily life. IT assists members and committees to navigate the challenges.***

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## Contribute to the Village Neighbors Newsletter

If you are interested in contributing articles or information to the Village Neighbors newsletter, please contact the editor Dina Polizzi -

[dinawriter22@gmail.com](mailto:dinawriter22@gmail.com). We are looking for information of interest to persons over 60 in our four towns: **Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury, and Wendell**. As of this mailing, **Village Neighbors News** has a mailing list of 350 and is growing with every issue.

## Do You Wish to Discontinue Home Delivery of the VN News?

The VN bimonthly newsletter is emailed to all members and volunteers who have listed their email contact with us; it is direct mailed only to our members. If you no longer wish to receive the hard copy newsletter to your home, please let us know by emailing the VN Newsletter editor, **Dina Polizzi**, at [dinawriter22@gmail.com](mailto:dinawriter22@gmail.com). Please include the word "Newsletter" in your subject header.

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*Special Thanks to:*





**Massachusetts  
Councils On Aging**

VILLAGE NEIGHBORS | [villageneighbors.org](https://villageneighbors.org)



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Newsletter editing and design - **Dina Polizzi**

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