



Village Neighbors

Working Together to Create Community!

May / June 2021, Issue 13

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

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

1-413-345-6894

www.villageneighbors.org

P.O.Box 501, Shutesbury, MA 01072

pr@villageneighbors.org

Free Home Repairs Spring Update

*Do you have any small repair projects in your home
that need attention?*

Village Neighbors would like help.

The **Small Repairs team** will be out again this spring providing both volunteer labor and free materials for small repair projects in your home. Projects include minor home repairs that do not require building permits. We will give priority to projects that deal with safety concerns in member's homes, but will respond to all requests we feel capable of handling.

Our volunteers receive professional guidance and consultation support from a local licensed contractor to ensure Village Neighbors' work is effective, safe and on target for you. We are meticulous about following COVID era guidelines when working in your home.

Applications for our spring and early summer repairs were mailed to member households with the March newsletter. If you need help with this application or another copy, contact pr@villageneighbors.org. **Please return applications by June 1st to be included in this round of repairs.** A member of our team will contact you to review your needs.

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



VN Health Rides Available Again

Village Neighbors fully vaccinated drivers are available for health 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 to a vaccination clinic, call VN to make a request at **413-345-6894** or email servicerequests@villageneighbors.org.

We are eager to hear from **volunteers** who want to resume driving. Please contact us at **413-345-6894** or volunteers@villageneighbors.org and submit most recent driving license and Coverage Selections page of your auto insurance. We will also need to see your COVID vaccination card showing a completed vaccination. We will send a copy of our new policy for limited driving at this time.

Membership Renewal Letters Coming to Your Mailbox Soon

It's that time of year again for members to renew their membership to Village Neighbors. Be on the lookout for a mailing asking you to renew your membership and update your contact information. Remember there is no membership fee but we do need to update your membership and your information.

Writing To Remember

A Memoir Writing Class With Ruth Flohr

In this memoir writing class we 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.

Each Tuesday for six weeks we will meet on Zoom to explore the following topics:

Getting Started, Memory Techniques, Creating a Writing Space, Story Structure, Memoir Themes, and Writing Voice.

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.

We are offering 2 sessions covering the same material.

Dates: Tuesdays, May 25 to June 29
Tuesdays, August 17 to September 21

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Tuition: FREE

For more information or to reserve your spot call Ruth Flohr at 978-544-6534 or email pr@villageneighbors.org.

*Generously sponsored by **Mass Cultural Grants** from Leverett, Shutesbury, Wendell and New Salem.*



Village Neighbors' Visioning 2021

In March the board and committee members of Village Neighbors took part in a visioning meeting where they developed a handbook for committee members.

The meeting was led by member/volunteer **Calla Crafts** who used her background in board development to help the members work through the needs and requirements of each committee. Her work with the board and committees was greatly appreciated.

Hiking With Your Neighbors

Join Village Neighbors members and volunteers and sign up for the hike many of you requested. We'll meet in Petersham and walk on a flat trails 2-3 miles. The walk will take us to a perfect picnic spot at Feldman's Cascade, so bring a portable lunch. See the map you'll receive at this link: <https://www.nqta.org/gnome-trail>.

Please register on the VN Events Calendar: www.villageneighbors.org. Include your phone number so we can call with details. We meet at 11 am on June 13th. By 9:30 am we'll declare June 20th if rain. We're happy to partner with North Quabbin Trails Association for this event. You can contact them directly at **978-549-1747** for any trail questions.

VN Events Calendar

The Village Neighbors Calendar has many interesting opportunities listed to connect with safely on Zoom and in person. To see and reply to these listings, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to www.villageneighbors.org
2. At the bottom of the banner, click on the far right link which says Event Calendar (You do NOT need to login.).
3. Select the month you want to view that month's activities.

If you have events of interest to our four-towns' seniors that you would like us to post, please send date, time, place and description to pr@villageneighbors.org

VN Electronic Notifications

If you are a VN member or volunteer and are not receiving the electronic newsletter or Event Notifications, they may be diverting to your spam or promotions folder. To receive these messages directly to your inbox, please select the senders name in the top-left corner of the email, and then click "Add to Contacts." Emails from a subscriber's contacts always go to the Primary inbox. **If you wish to stop receiving them, click the highlighted unsubscribe link at the bottom of the communication.**

Thank You Volunteers!



On Sunday, April 18th, after postponement from April 11th, more than 50 people came out for a great time on **Village Neighbors Volunteer Appreciation Day!**

After so long apart, we talked and danced in the mild April breeze to **Ann Ferguson** followed by **Doug Tanner and the Wranglers**, all Village Neighbors members. Twenty-two volunteers who drive, repair homes, and work on Village Neighbors committees and the board can now remember the occasion with their new Village Neighbors T-shirts.

Our gracious hosts, **Leverett Village Coop**, happily saw brisk business during the event, providing lunch and afternoon snacks to so many, realizing the mutual benefit of our Memorandum of Agreement. The cashier said she had never seen so many people there and the kitchen sold out of some items!

We hope you can join us on the upcoming 2 mile flat hike and in the writing groups. Look for invitations to these events in your email and on our calendar, found on the Village Neighbors website

www.villageneighbors.org



Above: Village Neighbors IT coordinator Mary-Ellen Kennedy (far left) greets Board Member Jeannette Stockton (center left) while Membership/Volunteer representative Nancy Spittle (center right) chats with volunteer writer Johanna Hall over Village Neighbors programs.

Left: Village Neighbors Board Member Judy Rafael (JR) (center) approaches Fay Zipkowitz about a T-shirt while enjoying the Wranglers.

Right: Beth Bone of the Public Relations committee organizes T-shirts displayed above Jeannette Stockton's hand-painted banner.



Village Neighbors is actively recruiting new volunteers now!

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Zoom Meeting Wednesday, May 12th, 6:30 PM

At the orientation you will learn about the organization and find out about the wide range of volunteer activities that you can choose from. ***We can have a few attendees in person at the Wendell Senior Center***, others will participate by zoom. **WE REQUEST THAT THOSE WHO ATTEND IN PERSON BE FULLY VACCINATED.** Please RSVP to **Genie Casey** at generalinfo@villageneighbors.org by **May 8th** to register, and indicate how you will attend. She will send a zoom invitation and will email your application and volunteer handbook for you to print out before the one-hour orientation, or they can be mailed to you.

Looking for Two Volunteers to Serve on our Fundraising Committee

While Village Neighbors is a volunteer-run organization, we do have expenses to pay (currently about \$12,000 per year), and need to find creative and effective ways to raise funds from our community and from state and federal funding sources. The committee meets once a month and committee members work to implement the creative fundraising ideas we come up with. Committee members need to have a compelling belief in the value of what Village Neighbors contributes to our community and a willingness to ask for support from individuals, businesses, and grant sources. Contact Don Stone (destone99@gmail.com) if you are interested or want more information.

Village Neighbors is a community volunteer-run organization, part of the Village-to-Village national network, dedicated to helping aging adults lead independent and engaged lives at home.

**We offer FREE Membership for anyone over 60 in our 4 Towns:
Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell.**

Call or email today to find out more about membership, services and volunteering.

1-413-345-6894 or email generalinfo@villageneighbors.org

Visit our website to view the list of free services we offer www.villageneighbors.org



Is Your Garden Springing?

Volunteers from your town are available to help with gardening and spring plantings! They will bring their own tools and maintain safe social distancing protocols. **Give us a call 1-413-345-6894**

or email servicerequests@villageneighbors.org



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P.O. Box 501
Shutesbury, MA 01072

*Recycle this newsletter,
pass it along to
someone you think
would be interested in
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