



Village Neighbors

Working Together to Create Community!

May / June 2022, Issue 19

*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

♥ ♥ ♥ **Thank You Volunteers** ♥ ♥ ♥

Village Neighbors Volunteer Appreciation Day

Saturday, May 14th

12:30-2:30 Pm

Leverett Village Coop

Your Invited to join us for free food and music at our annual **Village Neighbors Volunteer Appreciation** event. We hope our members will attend as well, this is an opportunity to thank the volunteers who work so hard for you, our Village Neighbor members.

And to the many members who are also volunteers, we especially thank you! Your volunteerism and engagement helps build this Village Neighborhood of which you are truly a part.

We will have enough complimentary food for about 45 volunteers/ members so get there at 12:30 to enjoy! Delicious **Cincinnati style turkey or vegan, gluten-free chili with all the fixings and dessert**, prepared by our member **Deva Skydancer** will be on the menu.

We will also have Village Neighbors volunteers t-shirts. If you would like one, let pr@villageneighbors.org know your size.

The music under the pop-up tent will be provided by **Sawzapalooza**. We also welcome any volunteer or member who'd like to be an **opening act** like our member Ann Ferguson last year. Let us know your interest with an email pr@villageneighbors.org or call **413-345-6894 ext.4**



VN Volunteer Appreciation Day 2021



We are looking for some volunteers to help with this event: set-up, t-shirt distribution, and clean-up. Email pr@villageneighbors.org or call **413-345-6894 ext.4** to find out more.

Our rain date will be Sunday, May 15th. Masking is encouraged.

*We thank our partner, the **Leverett Coop** for their help with this event.*

*This event is funded by **Church Street Fund** through **LifePath**, our social service agency, sponsoring gratitude to our volunteers at this event.*



Member Creative Corner

Becca Wheeler

VN Member - Shutesbury

Becca has been a decorative painter in the Valley for 25 years. She especially likes painting up-cycled furniture and murals. Her work can be seen at the **Mill District Gallery and General Store**.

Becca is excited to be part of Village Neighbors as a **Call Manager**, and urges everyone to join this amazing community of volunteers and members!



Are You Interested in Sharing Your Art with Other Village Neighbors?

VN is accepting submissions of your creative projects for publication in our newsletter. Because of space limitations, we will only be able to print one piece per newsletter, but we will be adding a gallery to the VN website this year, and additional submissions will be highlighted there. For more information, please contact Dina Polizzi dina@dinapolizzi.com

News & Services

CoVid Updates

The current guidance on indoor mask use from CDC indicates that these people should be wearing masks indoors: the unvaccinated, the elderly and the immunocompromised.

Second boosters are now available in Massachusetts for those over 50 and those at particular risk: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/> You can use this website to make an appointment for a first or second booster shot or to get the initial vaccination.

Almost all of the Stop the Spread Covid testing sites in western Massachusetts are now closed. There are still testing options available in our area: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-test-search-results>

Home self-tests are available at most pharmacies; these are reimbursable by health insurers. Also, each household can get up to two orders of free tests from the federal government: <https://special.usps.com/testkits>. If you already placed your first order, you can now make a second order.

You should also be aware that there are treatments available for Covid patients. If you become ill with the virus, especially if you are at risk of serious illness, ask your health care provider about these treatments. More info is available at

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/treatments-for-covid-19#which-covid-19-treatments-are-available?>

Services Committee Report

Happy Spring from the Services Committee

We wanted to share with you the amazing scope of services and supports that our members and volunteers engage in together every month.

Through friendly check in calls, social visits, and weekly walks, Village Neighbors people are staying connected! **Volunteers** have been out raking, stacking wood, installing grab bars, fixing ceiling fans, changing screens, and making dump runs. **Members** have had help with setting up and using technology, ordering/delivering groceries, and transportation for medical appointments and other errands.

When you look at this list it is easy to see that together Village Neighbors members and volunteers enhance and strengthen a resilient community for elders in our four towns. **Don't hesitate to call us.** We can almost always find someone who can help, or make referrals to other resources that may fit right for you.

Call **413-345-6894 ext.1** or email servicerequests@villageneighbors.org

Please DONATE to Village Neighbors

and support our Free Membership. You can donate online at www.villageneighbors.org or mail a check to **P.O.Box 501, Shutesbury, MA 01072**

Upcoming Events

VN Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 11th, at 1 pm

Wendell Country Store Backyard Pavillion

Behind the Wendell Post Office

Masks are recommended, but not required. You're invited to stay and schmooze at your comfort level after we meet. Refreshments will be served.

The following members of the Board of Directors are up for reelection to a two-year term:

Mary-Ann Palmieri and Dina Polizzi

You may nominate yourself or another for the VN Board by emailing board@villageneighbors.org by **May 9th**. All nominees will be vetted before the election.

We thank Patty Scutari for use of the space.

The All Together Now Festival LifePath's 30th Annual Walkathon

Saturday, May 7th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

101 Munson Street, Greenfield

Do you like to walk and especially for an excellent cause?

LifePath funds grants for Village Neighbors including the Small Home Repairs initiative, and offers many services to our organization and members. Come celebrate with us at LifePath's 30th Annual Walkathon.

For information on this event

<https://lifepathma.org/events/lifepath-walkathon/walkathon-home>

Or call **Carol Foote**, LifePath Outreach and Development Director, at **413-829-9199**

VN Facebook Page Update

We have a new cover photo and a new moderator for the Village Neighbors' Facebook page. **Thank you Dina Stander.** New weekly posts will be added with information and activities to keep the page more lively going forward. Please visit now and then, send over suggestions, or go ahead and post something yourself! This page is a great community builder. Don't forget to **Like** us and spread the word.

<https://www.facebook.com/VillageNeighbor>

Local Libraries' Spring Classes

Check in with our Local Libraries for wonderful **events, gardening programs, classes, informative lectures, hikes and community reads**. Please contact hosting libraries for more information and registration details, most events are free and open to everyone.

Call VN if you need a ride or help navigating the website calendars - 413-345-6894 ext.1

Leverett Library:

413-548-9220

<https://www.leverettlibrary.org/>

New Salem Library:

978-544-6334

<https://www.newsalempubliclibrary.org/news-events>

M.N. Spear Memorial Library, Shutesbury:

413-259-1213

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

Wendell Free Library:

978-544-3559

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

Fitness Classes

Shutesbury Library is **currently offering four FREE weekly fitness classes open to everyone**. Email library.director@shutesbury.org to register or call **413-259-1214**

Gentle Yoga with Jeannette

Wednesdays, 9 am on Zoom

This program is co-sponsored by the Council on Aging

Therapeutic Yoga with Dr. Kathy Sward

Thursdays, 9 am on Zoom

This program is co-sponsored by the Council on Aging

Zumba Gold with Aimee

Fridays, 10 am on Zoom

This program is co-sponsored by the Council on Aging

Strength Training with Jay

Saturdays, 8:30 am on Zoom

Village Neighbors is actively recruiting new volunteers now!

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Monday, May 18th, 6:30 to 7:30 PM

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

Please RSVP by May 10th and to let us know how you will attend.

Email to volunteers@villageneighbors.org or by leaving a phone message at **413 345 6894 ext.3**

Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Us To Learn More

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 on 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. *Make a difference in the lives of your neighbors and our future...*

Membership
membership@villageneighbors.org

Services
servicerequests@villageneighbors.org

IT
generalinfo@villageneighbors.org

Events & PR
pr@villageneighbors.org

Fundraising
destone99@gmail.com

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 ext.1***

or email servicerequests@villageneighbors.org



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