



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

www.villageneighbors.org

P.O.Box 501, Shutesbury, MA 01072

generalinfo@villageneighbors.org

July / August 2022, Issue 20

LifePath Announces the New Farm to Home Food Program

LifePath is pleased to have been chosen as the recipient of a **Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant** of \$300,000, administered through the Community Foundation of Western Mass, to pilot a program designed to address food insecurity to eligible individuals residing in the LifePath service area.

The Farm to Home Food Program will provide \$50 worth of food each month to eligible participants.

In partnership with Mass Food Delivery of South Deerfield, participants are able to order food from locally grown and sourced farms and food producers and have the food delivered directly to their homes on a monthly basis. Providing food security, direct-to-home access to fresh food, choice in selecting foods that meet dietary preferences, and supporting local farms, are the primary goals of the program. The program expects to serve 400 individuals through March of 2023.

Deb Luekens, Program Manager, reports an overwhelmingly positive response from early participants and praises Mass Food Delivery for their role in processing and delivering each order. Early feedback from Deb includes comments such as "A woman I referred received her first delivery last Friday and was so excited about the quality of the food," "Food delivered, what a nice delivery driver!," and "What a wonderful program. My first order of food was fresh and wonderful."

Barbara Bodzin, Executive Director, says, "I have such gratitude to the Community Foundation of Western Mass for enabling us to pilot this valuable new program at a time when food insecurity in our region is on the rise."

Participants for the program must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be 60 years or older or under 60 and living with a disability;
- Live in Franklin County, Athol, Petersham, Phillipston, or Royalston;
- Have an annual income of up to \$34,000 for an individual or \$48,958 for a household of 2 or more;
- Be able to prepare their own meals or have someone who assists in meal preparation.

Participants who are not set up with a computer or internet service to submit online orders can request a volunteer who will assist them in placing their monthly orders.

Applications can be submitted online at <https://lifepathma.org/services/services-for-elders/farm-to-home-food-program> or by phone to **877-590-2540**.



Member Creative Corner

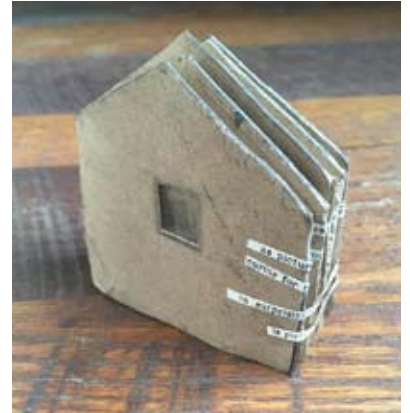
Jeannette Stockton

Jeannette went to art school, became an art teacher, retired, and is back to making art - investigations of various images and themes in both mixed media 2-d and 3-d works.

She has her first one woman show in decades at **Club George**, 89 Massasoit Street, Northampton, **July 30 from 5-8**.

Jeannette is President of the VN Board and a very active member of our PR Committee.

Peeping into
Small books and structures
Hidden spaces
Strokes and lines creating
new points of view of
humans in space



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

Volunteer Spotlight

Dina Stander

When our first president, **David Dann**, asked **Dina Stander** to join the **Services Committee** in 2018, she agreed to serve because she knew that David would only ask her if he felt that she was needed and could do the job. And for the past four years Dina has done the job and done it well. First as a member of the committee and most recently as its chair, Dina has helped guide the committee to make sure Village Neighbors provides services to all its members to the best of its ability and to especially help out those members who are particularly vulnerable. The committee will sorely miss Dina's expertise and sympathetic understanding. She was always willing to take on tasks that made the job of the committee and the call managers easier.

The Board would like to thank Dina for her hard work and dedication to VN. She will be hard to replace.

To find out about joining the VN Services Committee, please contact **413-345-6894 ext.1** or email servicerequests@villageneighbors.org

Need a Ride?

One of the main requests to Village Neighbors has been for rides to appointments, meetings, luncheons, etc. We try very hard to fill these requests and members are always grateful when a volunteer drives them to and from an appointment.

There are also other services in the area that provide rides. Wendell and New Salem residents can make use of the **Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA)**. To access this service **Wendell** and **New Salem** residents need to fill out a very short Demand Response Application which is available at www.frta.org or by calling **413-774-2262**. Rides cost from \$1.75 to \$2.75 per ride (not round trip) depending on how far you need to go.

Shutesbury residents do not have access to this service yet but their town is looking into getting it for its residents. **Leverett** residents do not have this service either because they are in an area served by the **Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVRTA)** and their town is looking into getting this service for its residents.

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, August 27th, at 1 PM

Wendell Deja Brew 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 **August 1st**. All nominees will be vetted before the election.

We thank Patty Scutari for use of the space.

Writing To Remember Coming Back Again

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.

Dates: **Tuesdays, August 23rd - Sept 27th**

Time: **10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Tuition: **FREE**

Call to register with Ruth **978-544-6534**

Generously sponsored by the Leverett, Shutesbury, Wendell, and New Salem Councils on Aging, Village Neighbors, and the Mass Cultural Council



Why Join the Village Neighbors Board or Committees?

A Letter from VN Board President, Jeannette Stockton

Last year, the Village Neighbors board asked if I'd be interested in joining their work. They needed more board members and I was looking for a way to get involved in my community. Another volunteer board member, **Judy Raphael**, who joined at the same time, told me "I like being on the **Village Neighbors Board of Directors** because I can directly contribute to the welfare of the elder population of our four member towns."

Village Neighbors is a volunteer effort helping people with necessary services so they can stay at home as they age. VN has become the communication, assistance and activities center for many members in our communities. Our volunteer base and board are made up of interesting and thoughtful people, each of whom bring their own talents and experiences to the workings of the organization, and all of whom would appreciate being joined by other civic minded and capable people.

Many people who work with VN prefer to work directly serving our members. This is a direct service organization after all, but setting policy, running our various committees and making administrative decisions is also needed.

I want you to know I started at the margins, but I soon bought into this village concept, seeing how it helps those in need, and after connecting with fellow board members, members, and volunteers I stepped in with my heart as well. Sharing and caring make you feel good and are good for your heart and body. Sharing yourself with this caring organization that needs your heart and body too will be worthwhile.

Why not get in touch?

Music on the Wendell Common

Village Neighbors welcomes you back to another summer concert with Doug Tanner's group, the Catalytics on **July 30th 5:00-7:00 PM**.

Bring a picnic, bring a chair.

They'll be performing their truly enjoyable music on the Wendell Common. We'll hear them perform for free while sitting back, seeing neighbors, and enjoying the evening's start.

Rain date is July 31st. Call **413-374-3271** after 3:00 PM to confirm.

Village Neighbors is actively recruiting new volunteers now!

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Tuesday, July 12th, 6:30 PM

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

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



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***



July / August 2022, Issue 20

P.O. Box 501
Shutesbury, MA 01072

Visit VN's Facebook Page

for new weekly posts,
information and activities.

Don't forget to **Like** us and
spread the word.

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

Working Together to Create Community!