



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

www.villageneighbors.org

March / April 2023, Issue 24

Looking for a Volunteer Coordinator

Do you love people, enjoy networking and planning events?

The VN **Member / Volunteer Committee** is searching for someone to join our team as the **Volunteer Coordinator**. With new members and volunteers signing up every month, we need someone who will actively engage our volunteers according to their skills and what they would like to do. Our volunteers offer a wealth of life experience and knowledge that could be formulated into new programs and events that we can provide to members and our community.

With support from the member/volunteer committee, your duties could include

- Developing programs based on Member/Volunteer interests
- Oversee ongoing training opportunities for volunteers
- Leading Volunteer Orientations every other month with virtual, in person or hybrid meetings
- Working with other VN committees to help identify volunteers to meet organizational needs
- Communicating with volunteers about their VN experiences
- Assisting with recruitment of new volunteers

If you're interested in finding out more please contact Nancy Spittle at spittlenc@gmail.com or Genie Casey at gcaseybcasey@gmail.com.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead

Upcoming Events



Don't Forget to Set Your Clocks Ahead

March 12th, 2 am

Time to Spring Forward into the warmer weather and more daylight!

Delicious Quick and Easy Smoothies

Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Join “**The Organic Gourmet**” farm to table chef, cooking teacher, and cookbook author **Leslie Cerier** on Zoom.

In this smoothie demonstration on zoom, I will teach you how to make healthy, rich, nourishing smoothies from scratch:

- Fruit Smoothies for a Meal and Refreshing Drink
- Cacao Smoothies for Pick Me Up Snacks

And of course, I introduce Eco-Friendly tips for gathering organic ingredients to use for your health and pleasure.

Discover:

- The Healthy Sweeteners to Use
- How to Make Creamy Dairy and Dairy Free Smoothies
- Health Supportive Superfoods for Energy and Stamina
- And Much More

Time for Q&A

FREE

Sponsored by the Dunbarton Library

Email: leslie@lesliecerier.com to register

<https://www.lesliecerier.com/event/delicious-quick-and-easy-smoothies/>



Writing To Remember Workshop Begins Again in April

New Session

Tuesdays 10am - Noon

April 11th - May 16th, 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.



Save the Date:

Village Neighbors “Spring Fling” May 21st

Shutesbury Athletic Club

May 21, 2023

MEMBER ANNUAL MEETING

12:00-1:00 pm

Committee reports and annual Board elections

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

1:00-3:00 pm

Food and entertainment for all members, volunteers and guests.

Join us in celebrating our many volunteers who make service calls, do small repairs, give rides, tech support, and help in so many ways. Come meet and mingle with our wonderful members, our thoughtful volunteers, as well as some very special invited guests: local town officials, legislators and VN service affiliates.

Plus, you will learn about all the many ways that Village Neighbors supports seniors to age in place. We will have information about the services that we, and our partners such as our Franklin County's social service agency lifepathma.org, provide.

5 themed **Gift Baskets** of very useful items such as "Green" and "Emergency Preparedness" will be raffled off.

Members can receive 3 FREE raffle tickets by answering the 3 survey questions that will be sent in our upcoming monthly emails or postal mail, or at the door.

A volunteer will call to offer you a ride and/or assistance in filling out the FREE raffle ticket form.

RSVP by May 4th call 413 345 6894 and leave a message at Public Relations or General.

Or Email pr@villageneighbors.org

Or mail a note postmarked by May 4th to Village Neighbors, PO Box 501, Shutesbury, MA 01072

If you would like to bring a dessert, please let us know when you RSVP.

Successfully tested Covid safety protocols will be used: outside under the pavilion rain or shine, masking at food serving, rides with a masked volunteer and hand sanitizer.



Stay Healthy and Engaged in Your Community This Winter

Our local libraries offer a wide variety of fitness classes and events available on-line and in-person. Contact your library directly for more information.

Leverett Library

1-413-548-9220

Email:

leverettlibrary@gmail.com

<https://leverettlibrary.org/p/41/Calendar>

Shutesbury Library

1-413-259-1213

Email:

library.director@shutesbury.org

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

New Salem Library

1-978-544-6334

Email: n_salem@cwmars.org

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

Wendell Library

1-978-544-3559

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

Village Neighbors News

VN Small Home Repairs Application

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. 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 Spring.

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

If you need a Repair application or are interested in becoming a Village Neighbors Member (membership is free), please call **413-345-6894** or email generalinfo@villageneighbors.org

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



Special Thanks

Village Neighbors is a volunteer run organization, and many of our members are also volunteers. Service calls, rides, home repairs and assists, events, fundraising, and the committee work which keeps our organization going, are all dependant on the dedicated individuals who put in their time and effort. We so appreciate you and the contribution you make to keep our communities safe and rewarding for our seniors.

We would like to give special thanks to **Meryl Mandell** from Shutesbury who has donated her time to many members who needed technological assistance with phones, televisions/programming and a for a variety of computer help. Thank you for willingness to try your best to help our members to solve there tech issues often on short notice.

Mileage Reimbursement for Volunteer Driving

Volunteers can get reimbursed at 15 cents a mile for VN related rides and errands. Please contact volunteers@villageneighbors.org to apply.

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

Spring is Coming!

Volunteers are available to help with rides, errands, yard chores, and garden prep! They will bring their own tools and maintain safe social distancing protocols.



Give us a call, volunteers are here to assist you!

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

VN Volunteer Opportunities

HELP WANTED:

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 for more information.

Volunteer Coordinator

The VN **Member / Volunteer Committee** is searching for someone to join our team as the **Volunteer Coordinator**.

A description of this position is posted at the top of this email.

Please contact us at **413-345-6894** or volunteers@villageneighbors.org for more information.

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

Please contact membership@villageneighbors.org. We can provide technical support to get your seminar up and running.

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

Wednesday

March 15th

6:30 PM

Hybrid meeting both on **Zoom**
and in person at the
Wendell Senior Center

2 Locke Village Road, Wendell

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 or leave a phone message with a contact number at **413-345-6894 ext.3** to receive a Zoom link and additional information.



Village Neighbors is a
volunteer run non-profit
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

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

- 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, March 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

volunteers@villageneighbors.org

- 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.

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. 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. Please include the word "Newsletter" in your subject header.

Special Thanks to:



Massachusetts
Councils On Aging



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Newsletter editing and design - **[Dina Polizzi](#)**

Village Neighbors | P.O.Box 501, Shutesbury, MA 01072

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