



*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**

## **Village Neighbors**

*Working Together to Create Community!*

September / October 2021, Issue 15

### **A Letter To Our Vital Volunteers**

*From Nancy Spittle - VN Member / Volunteer Committee*

**We at Village Neighbors would like to say THANK YOU to all our volunteers who have attended a volunteer orientation and provided a service to one of our members.**

We appreciate your role in fostering community support to help our seniors stay in their homes as we age. If you have been offering rides to folks no longer able to drive, helping with a minor home repair, doing pet care or yard work when someone is unable, or making a friendly visit **YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS INVALUABLE TO OUR MEMBERS AND OUR TOWNS.**

If you have joined VN as a volunteer but not “found the time” to respond to a request by a member or to support one of our committees, please take a moment to consider the satisfaction and feeling of positive purpose that you will feel if you do so. If we each give 2 or 3 hours a month or a week, the social safety net for all of us is strengthened. Consider what commitment you would like to make, and call VN to update the services you are willing to offer (choose “service requests” or “volunteers” extensions to leave a message).

The CoVID pandemic still affects how we relate to each other, even though most of us have been fortunate to have the vaccine. We have had to scale back in-person activities, but have still been able to provide responses to member’s requests, and offer some limited social and educational events. If you are able to help out, please let us know.

Email: [volunteers@villageneighbors.org](mailto:volunteers@villageneighbors.org)

Phone: **1-413-345-6894**

### **Free Small Home Repairs Accepting Applications**

**Over 40 member households have received the wonderful benefits of both volunteer labor and free materials for small repair projects in their homes.**

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Church Street Fund and individual VN member contributions, we will be able to continue our work for members this Fall. 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.

An application for Free Home Repairs has been included with this newsletter. Please fill it out and mail to:

**Bert Fernández  
6 Old Egypt Rd., Shutesbury, MA 01072**

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**.*



## Upcoming Events

### September Social at the SAC

We welcome Village Neighbors members, family and friends to our outdoor social

**September 26th, 2:00 pm**

At the **Shutesbury Athletic Club**

Under the pavilion, rain or shine.

The Village Neighbors' program will start with the **Eventide Singers** singing songs you know. Our **Writing to Remember** folks may share a bit of writing and then we welcome **Ron and Adrian Meck's** music to round out our event.

We'll have snacks and you're invited to bring a easy-finger-food snack if you'd like. Food will be served by our masked and gloved volunteers, with proper distancing and CoVid precautions. The bar will be open.

Then we'll be circling up to listen in SAC folding chairs or you can bring your own. We'd like to know if you're coming, if you're bringing a snack and if this or any other type of event, such as another hike, interests you. Kindly respond to [pr@villageneighbors.org](mailto:pr@villageneighbors.org) or call **413-345-6894**. **See you September 26th!**

If you need a ride to this event please contact us at **413-345-6894** or email [servicerequests@villageneighbors.org](mailto:servicerequests@villageneighbors.org)

### Music on the Wendell Common

On August 21st Village Neighbors gathered outside for a music moment on the Wendell Common.

Entertainment was provided by **Doug Tanner and the Wranglers** and a lovely afternoon was enjoyed by all.



**Please DONATE to Village Neighbors** and support our 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**

### New Dementia Friendly Training for Volunteers

**Lifepath** is inviting volunteers from Village Neighbors and other Villages to increase our basic knowledge of dementia and to develop comfort and skill in relating to our neighbors with cognitive loss. Please see registration information below and join us.

Join us for a virtual education program on **Dementia Friendly Practices** on

**Wednesday, September 8 at 3pm- 4:30pm**

The information covered includes an overview of Alzheimer's and other types of dementia, how the brain and body are affected by dementia, some of the behavioral and communication challenges faced by those living with the disease, and helpful strategies for working with this population.

To register for this program, visit: <https://action.alz.org/MTG/76238385> or call **800-272-3900** or email Meghan Lemay at [mlemay@alz.org](mailto:mlemay@alz.org)

***This program is organized by the Age-Friendly Project and the Alzheimer's Association***

### Podcast Recommendation From a VN Member

#### ***Alzheimer Speaks Radio***

Alzheimer's Speaks Radio is about "Sound Information, Not Sound Bites." We are true talk radio with a mission to raise all voices around the world - big and small. From, a person diagnosed with a form of dementia or MCI, to family and friends, care partners, authors, researchers, support services, education, entertainment, advocacy work, to technology platforms, devices and support; all voices are welcome to have an interesting and respectful conversation with our host Lori La Bey

<https://www.blogtalkradio.com/alzheimersspeaks>

### Remote Employment Training Opportunity for Older Adults

If you are a resident of Massachusetts, over the age of 55, unemployed, and interested in working remotely, you may be eligible for an exciting, new and innovative skills training program.

**Operation ABLE of Greater Boston** in partnership with the **Executive Office of Elder Affairs** will soon be launching the

#### ABLE Remote Employment Skills Training Program

This **free** 20-week program funded by the US Department of Labor provides individuals over the age of 55 with the skills, experience, and understanding needed to be able to work effectively in a remote or hybrid environment. The program, which will be offered virtually, will include instruction in computers and job search as well as components in customer service, accounting, or medical administration.

Access to computers through a loaner laptop program may also be available for those participants lacking the necessary technology to study and work from their homes.

The first training cycle starts

**September 13, 2021**

with two more cohorts to start in the Winter and Spring.

If you are interested in applying and/or looking for more information, please contact **Mark Gyurina** at **Operation ABLE, 617-542-4180** or via email at [mgurina@operationable.net](mailto:mgurina@operationable.net)

### The Call Managers Team Welcomes New Volunteer

The Call Managers Team is very pleased to announce that **Barbara Franck** of New Salem is joining the team of Call Managers. We now have four people who are Call Managers: **Genie Casey, Mary-Ann Palmieri, Becca Wheeler,** and Barbara. Each Call Manager is on call for one week from 9-5, Monday through Friday.

***The Call Managers Team would like to recruit one more person to be a Call Manager.***

Call Managers handle calls from members requesting service and connect members with volunteers willing to do that service. It is a really rewarding job for a person interested in helping Village Neighbors fulfill one of its core missions: to provide service to members. If you are interested in this job, contact Village Neighbors at [servicerequests@villageneighbors.org](mailto:servicerequests@villageneighbors.org).

### VN Volunteers - Vaccinated Drivers Needed

*We are eager to hear from **volunteers** who want to resume driving.*

Please contact us at **413-345-6894** or [volunteers@villageneighbors.org](mailto: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.

### 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 [dina@dinapolizzi.com](mailto:dina@dinapolizzi.com). Please include the word "Newsletter" in your subject header.

If you have not been receiving the electronic version of the newsletter to your email, please check your "spam" or "promotions" folder, drag and drop the newsletter into your inbox and it should redirect all further newsletters to your inbox. Contact Dina if you need further assistance.

If you know of classes, events or articles of interest for our neighborhood seniors you would like to share in the newsletter, please send this info to Dina at [dina@dinapolizzi.com](mailto:dina@dinapolizzi.com)

**Village Neighbors is actively recruiting new volunteers now!**

**VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Thursday, September 16th, 6:30 PM**

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

We request that those who attend in person be fully vaccinated.

Please register early if you are attending by Zoom, so we can forward materials to you and give you the zoom link. Call **413-345-6894** or email [volunteers@villageneighbors.org](mailto:volunteers@villageneighbors.org)

**Wendell Senior Center:** 31 Wendell Depot Road, Wendell, MA

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### **Looking for Volunteers to Serve on Our Committees**

*VN Committee work is a rewarding and fun way to make a difference in your community!*

**Service Committee:** Answer requests from Members and connect them with Volunteers waiting to assist.

**CONTACT** [servicerequests@villageneighbors.org](mailto:servicerequests@villageneighbors.org)

**IT Committee:** Assisting with all things electronic including data and website management and communications **CONTACT** [generalinfo@villageneighbors.org](mailto:generalinfo@villageneighbors.org)

**Fundraising Committee:** Fundraising and grant management **CONTACT** [destone99@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:generalinfo@villageneighbors.org)

Visit our website to view the list of free services we offer [www.villageneighbors.org](http://www.villageneighbors.org)

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### **Autumn is Coming!**

### **Need Some Help With Your Garden?**

Volunteers are available to help with light yard chores and raking! They will bring their own tools and maintain safe social distancing protocols.

**Give us a call, volunteers are waiting to assist you!**

**1-413-345-6894** or [servicerequests@villageneighbors.org](mailto:servicerequests@villageneighbors.org)



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