



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!

March / April 2021, Issue 12

VN Volunteer Health Rides to Resume Soon

Village Neighbors volunteer drivers have been our most frequent service provider since we began. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic has suspended this vital service for almost a year! We are now getting prepared, as vaccines are becoming available, to begin to drive members to vaccine clinics or to other health appointments.

Our new protocol at this time requires:

- volunteers be fully vaccinated
- both driver and rider sanitize hands
- both wear masks for the entire time
- the rider sits in the rear passenger side of the vehicle
- the front right and back left windows be open at least 4" to create an air flow between occupants

Both drivers and riders will have to agree to follow our policy to insure safe travel. As more volunteers get vaccinated, we can offer more rides.

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.

Members may call **413-345-6894** or email **servicerequests@villageneighbors.org** starting mid March to arrange a ride.

We are so looking forward to seeing some members in person, even if only seeing half a face!

VN Free Small Home Repairs Project Continues Into 2021

The **Small Repairs team** will be out again in the Spring bringing repairs to members' homes. Please fill out the enclosed application and return to **Village Neighbors, P.O.Box 501, 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**.*

VACCINATION HELP

LifePath, in its mission to help older people, people with disabilities, and caregivers stay independent, **is committed to helping those who want a COVID-19 vaccine to access one**. Please go to the **mass.gov** website for information about the COVID-19 vaccine, to find out when you are eligible to receive one, to find a vaccination location, and to register to be vaccinated. **If you do not have access to the internet, need assistance with registering, need transportation to a vaccination site, or are unable to leave your home, call our Vaccination Help Voicemail line at (413) 829-9285**



Village Neighbors Welcomes Two New Board Members



Judy (JR) Raphael

Hello all, I've lived in Leverett for the past 36 years. My friends call me JR but Judy is also fine with me. I am currently the Co-Chair (with Fay Zipkowitz) of the Leverett Council on Aging. I am also the COA Treasurer. I am part of the Planning Committee for our western MA OLOC chapter as well as a member of the Tech Crew for Zooms for National OLOC. (OLOC stands for: Old Lesbians Organizing for Change). I am on the Steering Committee for LifePath's Rainbow Elders. I am a retired educator (teacher, guidance counselor); a feminist since the mid 1960's; a political activist for the past 20+ years. I enjoy helping people and am passionate about health and wellness.

Jeannette Stockton

After 15 years or so of summer residency, former New Yorker Jeannette Stockton is now a full time resident of Shutesbury with her husband Glenn, also a volunteer and member of VN. As a 31 year veteran middle/ high art teacher, a staff developer for teachers, and a several times a week yoga teacher in her former life, she decided to join Village Neighbors as a volunteer to get helpfully involved in her new community. She is now also busy relearning piano, doing and teaching yoga, making art and learning to speak Spanish.



Jeannette and Glenn Stockton. Glenn is also a Village Neighbors Volunteer and active on the Small Home Repairs Team.

Internet Training for Volunteers and Members



Village Neighbors has been awarded a **Covid-19 Resiliency Grant by the Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA)** to expand our online presence and digital skills. This grant will help us improve the quality and quantity of on-line programming for volunteers and members. We will update our volunteer training curriculum, develop an ongoing schedule of new trainings and create more opportunities for virtual social connection, learning and entertainment for our members.

If you are interested in training, developing online events and classes, or need help in accessing those already available on the internet please call 1-413-345-6894 or email generalinfo@villageneighbors.org

Foot Care Home Visits Available Again in Shutesbury

We are now able to open up participation to new clients!

The **Shutesbury Council on Aging** home visit foot care program is staffed by FootCare by Nurses based in Greenfield. These are the same nurses that staffed our in-person clinic prior to the pandemic.

If you are interested in learning more about the foot care home visit program, please email coa@shutesbury.org or leave a message at 413-259-3796.

Please see our webpage at shutesbury.org for information about local resources.

ATTN Google Email Users: If you are a VN member or volunteer and are not receiving the electronic newsletter, Google has been automatically diverting the VN newsletter to your Promotions folder. To receive it directly to your inbox drag the newsletter from your promotions folder to your inbox (it will always direct it there in the future) or hover over 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.

Community Outreach

Writing To Remember

This spring Village Neighbors will sponsor a life story writing class facilitated by Ruth Flohr, MA. In this 6-week class we will meet online once a week to write together, read to each other, learn story structure, and explore memory techniques for recalling your life stories. If you've got stories to tell, this class is for you.

Class is free to participants. For more information or to pre-register email Ruth at ruthwrrww@gmail.com. Starting date to be announced.

Special Thanks to the **Mass Cultural Council**



Dementia Friends Information Session

Tuesday, March 23, 2021
4:00 pm

Dementia Friends is a global movement that is changing the way people think, act, and talk about dementia. Developed by the Alzheimer's Society in the United Kingdom, the Dementia Friends initiative is underway in Massachusetts. Dementia Friends are folks who have attended a one-hour information session to learn five key messages about living with dementia, and the simple things we can all do to make a difference for people touched by dementia.

Presenter:

Nancy Spittle, RN, Village Neighbors

Zoom RSVPs:

generalinfo@villageneighbors.org



Village Neighbors supports the Dementia Friendly initiative in our towns, and aims to increase our inclusion of people with dementia and their caregivers in our community life.

Daylight Savings Time

The second Sunday in March is when Daylight Saving Time **begins** in most areas of the U.S., so in 2021 we'll "spring forward" one hour on **Sunday, March 14, 2021, at 2 a.m.** Be sure to set your clocks *ahead* one hour before bed on Saturday night!

VN Volunteer Appreciation Day

Sunday, April 11th
1:00-2:30 pm

(Rain Date April 18th)

Please join us outdoors on the Leverett Co-op lawn as we say **Thank You** to our **Village Neighbor Volunteers**. Each volunteer is invited to pick up a Free VN Volunteer T-Shirt.

Members can choose to sit in their cars and honk their horns, step outside and applaud, or create Thank You signs. Village Neighbor pens and magnets will be available for participating members. Please wear a single or double mask.

RSVP if you'd like to volunteer for the event, be present near the T-shirt table and/or take photos, or if you would like to play music.

Contact us at pr@villageneighbors.org
or call **413 345 6894**

If the weather is questionable, please call **413-374-3271** or the **Coop** at **367-9794** after 10:30 am 4/11, to check if event has moved to Rain Date 4/18.

The Leverett Village Co-op has partnered with **Village Neighbors** to support elders within our community. Read more about this partnership at [www.villageneighbors.org/News/Community Partners](http://www.villageneighbors.org/News/CommunityPartners)

Share Your Events With Our Community

VN's online calendar of events is coming soon to www.villageneighbors.org

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



Village Neighbors is actively recruiting new volunteers now, so we will be prepared to safely resume our Village activities as weather warms and more of us are vaccinated.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Zoom Meeting Thursday, March 11, 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. Please contact **Genie Casey** at generalinfo@villageneighbors.org by **March 6th** to register. 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.

Call Managers Needed to Serve Our Growing Membership

Call Managers (CM) are the front line people for VN. They receive calls from members with requests for services and connect them with volunteers who can provide those services. CMs work from home and fill requests Monday through Friday. Calls come in via voice mail to the VN number and CMs access those calls at their convenience throughout the day. CMs are on call one week out of the month. This is a perfect task for someone who likes helping people and prefers to work from home.

For more information call **Mary-Ann Palmieri** at **978-544-2611** or email volunteers@villageneighbors.org

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



Spring Is On Its Way, But It's Not Here Yet...

Volunteers from your town are available to help with shoveling and yard prep for 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



March / April 2021, Issue 12

P.O. Box 501
Shutesbury, MA 01072



Working Together to Create Community!