



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

September / October 2019, Issue 3

Upcoming Events

Check our calendar at

www.villageneighbors.org

for other events of interest this month.

*If you are interested or
have signed up to **Volunteer**
for Village Neighbors,
please attend the*

Village Neighbors Volunteer Orientation

Thursday, September 19th • 3:15 pm

Leverett Public Library
75 Montague Rd, Leverett MA

Learn more about us and how you can join. Help to develop support and engagement for seniors in Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell. Bring a copy of your auto insurance coverage selections page and your driver's license if you want to offer rides.

For more information please contact
membership
@villageneighbors.org

If you **NEED A RIDE** or for **MORE INFORMATION**
please call **1-413-345-6894** or email
servicerequests@villageneighbors.org

Who responds when you request a service?



**Meet one of our
Call Managers**

Jody Shapiro
Service Committee

Jody Shapiro, a semi-retired folklorist and counselor, became involved with Village Neighbors when she saw a display recruiting members and volunteers at Shutesbury Town Meeting two years ago. As she began chatting with Paula, the VN representative at the table, Jody's partner Sanford trotted up to them and said, "I knew it! I knew Jody would want to do this!"

Jody is a member of the Service Committee and one of VN's two Call Managers. She is also a passionate copy editor, and enjoys helping dot all the i's and cross all the t's in the VN newsletter. A self-described goofball and amateur songwriter, Jody found herself spontaneously composing what would become the VN jingle. She wanted it to be a real "earworm": catchy enough to remind members to call VN "when you need a hand," and inspire more neighbors to volunteer. She has a dream of a small troupe of volunteers performing the jingle live around the four villages at Town Meeting, Old Home Day, and similar community events.

*If you're interested in lending your voice to these performances, please contact **Jody** at*
servicerequests@villageneighbors.org

PLEASE NOTE: The time on the September 12th event has been corrected from the July newsletter. The correct time is 3pm.

September 12th

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MEDICARE FRAUD

Thursday, September 12, 3pm
at the Leverett Public Library **Open to All**

Free information workshop and discussion on how to prevent, detect and report health care errors, fraud and abuse. Tools will be provided to become a more informed and engaged health care consumer including information about new Medicare cards. Meet a representative of the Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol Program.

For more information and to reserve your seat please contact

Fay Zipkowitz, member of the Leverett Council on Aging, at **413 548-1022** or at the_czarina@fastmail.fm.

Find out more at www.masmp.org

September 21st



CELEBRATE SHUTESBURY!

Shutesbury Town Common, 10am-2pm

All are welcome!!

Bring your family, your friends, your talents and your cheer to Celebrate Shutesbury 2019!

Food, Music, Friends and Fun!

VN is looking for volunteers to greet neighbors and distribute information at Celebrate Shutesbury. If you can help please contact

Paula Lyons at pr@villageneighbors.org

October 5th



LEVERETT HARVEST FESTIVAL

Leverett Elementary School, 10am-2pm
85 Montague Road, Leverett

**Birds of Prey, Music and Magic, Vendors,
Food and More!**

Pancake Breakfast

by the Leverett Fire Department
8:00 am - 10:30 am

Become a Dementia Friend

October 1st

What is a Dementia Friend ?

Over 120,000 Massachusetts residents are living with dementia, and numbers will be growing as our communities age. Unfortunately, lack of information, fear and isolation often impact people affected and their caregivers in our communities. A Dementia Friendly community is one that is safe, respectful and inclusive of those affected, in the same way that we include fellow citizens of different ages and abilities.

This interactive workshop will present basic information about dementia, what its effects are and how it differs from normal aging, some skills to help communication with those with dementia, and some ways to become more comfortable with including folks with dementia in our social life. We can affirm that it is possible to have a good quality of life with dementia, and that people with dementia are a valuable part of our communities. Join us!

BECOMING A DEMENTIA FRIEND

Tuesday October 1, 2019 @ 6:30
Wendell Senior Center



If you need a ride to an event or for other personal needs like shopping, meeting a friend or going to the movies, etc.,

please call

1-413-345-6894

or contact the Call Managers

servicerequests@villageneighbors.org

Village Neighbors FAQ's (*Frequently Asked Questions*)

Why should I join Village Neighbors?

I already have neighbors...

Community is based on friends and neighbors helping each other out, but what about elders in the backwoods who may not be able to reach a friend when need arises? Village Neighbors is just a phone call away. We will connect the member in need of services with one of our 70+ vetted volunteers who are interested in providing the needed service. New friends are made and assistance is always available.

Why does Village Neighbors cost \$75?

Where does the money go...

Village Neighbors maintains a virtual phone line, we don't have a physical office. The VN phone number is directed through a virtual phone system, our email system and our Club Express data base. Although these systems are manned by volunteers, there is an annual fee to maintain them all and to keep the systems running. We carry insurance to protect our members and volunteers in case of accidents. Mailing costs, community outreach and providing free activities can also be expensive. ***There is a fee waver for people who are on fixed income and cannot afford the annual membership.***

Please call **1-413-345-6894** or contact membership@villageneighbors.org to find out more about this.

Why do we have to be over 60 to receive benefits?

Village Neighbors is based on the [Village-to-Village](#) model, a growing national movement for helping seniors Age-in-Place, remain in their homes and retain their quality of life. We are incorporated under this model. Our four town community - Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell - has people of all ages that would benefit from community assistance, but we are limited to working with elders right now. Please consider volunteering, joining a committee or the VN Board, to help us organize and grow in a way that best suits our towns.

What benefits does Village Neighbors offer that are different from other local organizations?

1) Although some of our Councils on Aging offer Med rides, Village Neighbors will drive you anywhere you

need to go - take you and your pet to the vet, take you shopping, to events, visits, activities, etc.

2) We are available to help with small chores or fix-its, stacking wood, shoveling, setting up electronic devices in your home, and many other small chores that become difficult as we age.

3) We offer Dementia Friendly classes to assist individuals in our community who provide care for family and friends suffering from Dementia and Alzheimer's.

4) We can offer referrals to other organizations that may have specific services and assistance you may need.

5) We are developing activities based on member and volunteer interests that will offer more opportunities for elders to be actively engaged within in the community.

6) We are also developing a vetted local vendor list for larger repairs and services that may not be available through our volunteers.

How do I become a Volunteer?

Becoming a Volunteer is easy. Volunteers are all ages and pay no fee. All volunteers put in as much or as little time as they want. You will be asked to attend a Volunteer Orientation where you can specify what services you are interested in providing – driving, companionship, helping hands, committee work, etc.; and any community building activities you would like to develop or participate in. Being a Village Neighbors Volunteer brings with it the opportunity to add your vision to the community where we live, raise our families and hope to grow old. We are growing, and with your help and input, we can adapt our organization to what is needed in our specific hill-town community. Many of our members are also volunteers who have opted to pay the fee, even if they are not in need of services yet, in order to support this co-created vision of our community's future. To find out more about Volunteering come to a Village Neighbors event, call **1-413-345-6894** or contact volunteers@villageneighbors.org

If you have any questions about Village Neighbors, or want to find out about Volunteering or Membership, please contact us directly by calling **1-413-345-6894** or emailing generalinfo@villageneighbors.org

Village Neighbors is One Year Old - Come Celebrate!

Sunday, October 27, 2019 • 2-5 PM

AUTUMNAL COMMUNITY GATHERING

The Deja Brew

57 Lockes Village Rd, Wendell

All ages and everyone welcome!

If you're curious about Village Neighbors, this is a fun opportunity to meet members, volunteers and learn more about our programs.

Fall Snacks • Music • Halloween Mask Contest

RSVP Appreciated. *Would you like to bake a pie?*

pr@villageneighbors.org



Volunteer Opportunities

Be Part of the Village Neighbors Team!

Let us know if you would like to join with other members and volunteers around a shared interest!

The **Village Neighbors Board of Directors** is looking for new members to fill out the board. We have four dedicated members now who are working hard for the organization, but we need more people who could provide varied perspectives and expertise. Our bylaws recommend seven board members so if you would be interested in working on the board, or know of someone who might be interested, let us know.

Board members do not need to be members or residents of our four towns. It would be great if we could add people to the board who have legal, accounting, or social services experience. CONTACT ---generalinfo@villageneighbors.org

Volunteer Orientation! *Anyone can attend!* Thursday, Sept. 19th • 3:15 pm • Leverett Library



Membership / Volunteer Committee

- Welcome and interview new members and volunteers
- Social activities, trainings and programs

--- CONTACT ---

membership@villageneighbors.org



Service Committee

- Answer requests from Members and connect them with Volunteers waiting to assist.

--- CONTACT ---

servicerequests@villageneighbors.org



IT Committee

- Home assistance with electronics
- Training volunteers and members
- Database and web updates
- Social media

--- CONTACT ---

it@villageneighbors.org



Events / PR Committee

- Event planning
- Newsletter
- Event Calendar
- Outreach
- Social media

--- CONTACT ---

pr@villageneighbors.org

Beware of Census Fraud *The 2020 Census is coming...*

LifePath is starting a program to inform everyone about the dangers of scams relating to the upcoming census. One basic rule is **NEVER** respond to a phone call purporting to be from the census - they **NEVER** use the phone to communicate for census. Contact **LifePath** for more information. www.lifepathma.org