



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

volunteers@villageneighbors.org
membership@villageneighbors.org

May / June 2019, Issue 1



The VILLAGE NEIGHBORS 2nd ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS & BBQ

June 23, 2019 • 3 pm

The Shutesbury Athletic Club

282 Wendell Rd, Shutesbury

The Meeting will be followed by a Barbecue.

Members and Volunteers can get to know each other while enjoying good food and good conversation.

We will end with a **Memorial Service** for **David Dann** led by Dina Stander. All are Welcome!

Please RSVP for the Barbecue and let us know if you can bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert.

If you need a ride to the event

Please Call

1-413-345-6894

Or contact us at

servicerequests@villageneighbors.org



*With the loss of our President, **David Dann**, this is a particularly important election.*

We hope you will consider joining the board and assisting in our mission to help aging adults in our community. Volunteering for Village Neighbors gives you the opportunity to create the Aging in Place community you want to live in.

Board members are elected for two-year terms. They are asked to attend monthly meetings and participate in one of our ongoing committees:

**Membership/Volunteer
PR/Events • Service • IT**

Committee overviews and brief bios for our present board members are available at www.villageneighbors.org

If you are interested in running for the Board of Directors please email a brief biography, why you are interested in working with Village Neighbors, and contact information to

Fay Zipkowitz

and the Nominating Committee
before June 16th

or mail to **Fay** at **Village Neighbors**
P.O. Box 501, Shutesbury, MA 01072

All Nominees' information will be printed and available to our membership at the Annual Meeting, June 23rd, prior to elections.

To vote in the elections, please check in at the Membership table when you arrive at the meeting to receive your paper ballot.



DAVID CARPI DANN

*We are SO deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend and Village Neighbors President, **David Dann**.*

Preparing for a Board Meeting on Thursday morning and sharing stories of his recent trip to China visiting family, he collapsed at Town Hall.

How can we as Village Neighbors community support his wife **Sandy Olken-Dann** and his children **Elijah, Elena, Jonah** and their families?

AT THE TOWN HALL there is a Bulletin Board for leaving notes and cards. You could also send mail to

Town Clerk, 1 Cooleyville Rd. Shutesbury, MA 01072.

As time goes on Sandy may want more support in the form of meals, visits, calls, but we will wait until we know more.

In the meantime, if you think you would be interested in helping out please call or write to us below at service request and leave your contact information and what you can do.

We will honor David at the Village Neighbors Annual Meeting/Barbecue, Sunday, June 23, at the Shutesbury Athletic Club from 3-6. All are welcome. The family will hold a memorial service in August.

Let's remember David as the calm, steady, strong leader that he was and all he did to make this community a better place to live and thrive in.

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A 'pillar of our community' died suddenly. David Dann was the kindest of human beings with a smile and encouragement for every one. He brought people together in wonderful combinations and folded us into his projects with steady work ethic, always towards the common good. His ability to make big things seem possible leaves some dismay in his wake. How are we going to get all this work done? The answer, which I hear in his voice (which seems to resonate from my middle now): "we'll get it done together. Don't worry."

Dina Stander

"Grieving is like breathing, but we act like we have to hold our breath. It's a natural process and if you pretend like you don't have to do it or that it doesn't exist, you'll end up choking or passing out."

Dr. Shatavia Alexander Thomas



Creating Village Neighbors

----- Timeline -----

Phase I : January 2016- February 2017

How did we start?

- 6-10 neighbors got together to discuss "Aging in Place."
- Library had group read of Being Mortal by Atul Gawande
- Aging-in-Place Task Force, subcommittee of Shutesbury Council on Aging, received \$1000 from COA to explore interest in Village to Village model
- 5/5/2016 - Guest speaker from Monadnock at Home, rural New Hampshire village came to talk about their village
- 12-15 folks from Shutesbury, Leverett, Pelham, Wendell joined the task force and began meeting monthly

Early Decisions:

- Paid for introductory membership to VTV
- Visited with Nauset Neighbors to learn more
- Discussed and decided on a name and mission statement
- Began using Village 101 Toolkit
- Decided to run on volunteer help, with virtual office

Problems:

- No representative from Pelham
- Discussions with 15 people slow things down; Steering Committee formed

Phase II: March 2017- October 2018

- Grant opportunity from Dept of Housing and Community Development, with Lifepath as fiscal conduit, gave more possibilities. \$15000 received over 18 months.
- Task Force members split into working committees to focus on tasks to be done: IT, Member/Volunteer, PR, Governance

Problems:

- More IT expertise needed
- Travels, health problems of members occur
- Pelham drops out, New Salem shows interest and has active representatives, so is included in VN

Accomplishments during Phase II:

- Membership defined, application and interview form developed, fee structure fixed, member handbook developed, scope of services determined.
- Volunteer defined, with emphasis on all members being volunteers as able; volunteer application developed, vetting determined, handbook and orientation program determined. Initial volunteer orientation was for Task Force members.
- Secured nonprofit 501c(3) status, developed bylaws and incorporated, established P.O. Box, opened bank account, purchased insurance policy; established policies for CORI checks and volunteer drivers; drafted a budget.
- Developed webpage, selected GoDaddy to handle email; selected Club Express as website host to allow us to track members, volunteers and services; Grasshopper to allow use of phone number without an office; began teaching Committee members to use parts of Club Express relevant to their work.
- Designed logo, brochures for publicity; set up tables at town events in each town to get the word out, sent brochure to every home in all 4 towns prior to opening date, planned opening gala event with food and music, purchased VN banner and made triptych for table display at events, notified media.

October 14, 2018

Opening event at the Shutesbury Athletic Club was a great success!



See you at the June 23rd BBQ!

Thanks to the SHUTESBURY ATHLETIC CLUB for their generous support!

Upcoming Events

Aging In Place Seminars – Spring 2019

The New Salem Aging In Place Task Force is pleased to present its 4th Annual Spring AIP Seminars to provide information to New Salem residents (and members and volunteers of Village Neighbors) about programs, services and activities designed to allow folks to remain living in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

Wednesday, June 19th, 7:00-8:30pm • New Salem Public Library - Community Room

When Do I Need to Go? (or call an Ambulance) And, What Can I Expect When I Get There (at the Emergency Dept)!?

Roxanne Dunn, Director of the Emergency Dept. at Athol Memorial Hospital will provide information on these two very important questions in relationship to such circumstances as Stroke, Heart Attack, a fall with possible broken bones, etc. May seniors, and younger folks as well, are reluctant to call for an ambulance – but in some instances, delaying for even an hour or so can have catastrophic effects on one's future health status and ability to remain living independently in their home or community.

These seminars are co-sponsored by the Friends of the New Salem Library, the New Salem Council on Aging, Village Neighbors, and the Central Congregational Church of New Salem.

If you need a ride

Please Call

1-413-345-6894

Or contact us at

**servicerequests@
villageneighbors.org**

Volunteer Opportunities

The Village Neighbors Team Needs You!

What are your interests and skills? Join the fun and make a difference...

It takes a village to make a Village!



Membership / Volunteer Committee

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

--- CONTACT ---

Membership / Volunteer

**membership@
villageneighbors.org**



Service Committee

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

--- CONTACT ---

Service

**servicerequests@
villageneighbors.org**



IT Committee

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

--- CONTACT ---

IT

**generalinfo@
villageneighbors.org**



Events / PR Committee

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

--- CONTACT ---

Event / PR

**pr@
villageneighbors.org**

Thanks to the **Wendell Full Moon Coffee House** for the amazing Village Neighbors fundraiser they put on April 19th, 2019. Everyone danced the evening away to **Pamela Means'** excellent performance and ate the scrumptious treats donated by our members.

A Special Thanks to the **Leverett Village Coop** for the beautiful gift basket, Paul Lyons of **Paul's Handy Man Services** and Tracy McNaughton of **Fresh Air House Cleaning** for the gift certificates that made our raffle a great success!