

# What Do We Talk About When We Talk About a Village?

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By Betty Lukas

This is a lesson in fulfillment.

It's a little lecture on relationships and how a specific relationship called a village is being created on the Peninsula.

In case you've forgotten what the dictionary says, a village is a "group of houses larger than a hamlet and smaller than a city." In the broader sense, a village consists of a group of villagers who generally share the same goals and generally have the same values and needs.

Such is the case of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Village, an about-to-be-born community designed to embrace older residents on the Hill who wish to stay in their homes and stay connected to the community. The Village will soon be offering services and a social life that allows them to do just that.

The Palos Verdes Village is not novel. It is part of a national movement launched in the Beacon Hill community of Boston in 2002 for residents who wanted to remain in their own homes and communities as they grew older. More than 140 such villages are now operating across the country.

The possibility of one for the Peninsula emerged in 2013 when leaders of the local branch of the AAUW heard about it and arranged to test the local waters with a meeting in May 2014 at the Palos Verdes Peninsula Library. More than 100 showed up and got seats. Another hundred were turned away, but showed up at the next hastily scheduled meeting. One hundred were turned away from THAT meeting. "The interest and the need were clear. We were well on our way," Sherry May, Village president, said in recalling that dramatic series of events.

Even more encouraging was the response to the remarks: More than 230 filled out surveys indicating interest in a village, and 120 offered to participate in its development. And 150 said they'd been interested in joining.

At the moment, several Village committees are working on the complicated details related to every professional business. Peninsula Seniors and H.E.L.P.,

as founding partners, are bringing their experience to the task. They're spreading the news at several current and upcoming community meetings.

Already incorporated and with other important tasks accomplished — all essential to successful village life — Palos Verdes Village aims to welcome its first members in late 2015. Bank on it.

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