

Special Report from the Greater Newburyport Village Town Hall

In our Village Town Hall on January 13, we celebrated the successful completion of our first full year, reviewed what we think is going well, shared thoughts on what we could do better, and brainstormed new ideas to continue to grow and to offer the kinds of services, home help, and activities our members and communities desire. Despite having to change the original date of the Town Hall because of a snowstorm, over 30 members and volunteers attended.

We agreed that we are doing well in many important areas, including Programs and Events, our Concierge/Services program, and our monthly newsletter. The Program and Events team continues to offer members and the public many interesting talks at the Newburyport Senior/Community Center, as well as other outings, excursions, and dinners for our members and volunteers. The Programs and Events team has offered more than 30 events since last January; some are for members and/or volunteers only, while others are open to the public. The Concierge/Services volunteers are fulfilling members' requests quickly, and Good Neighbor volunteers are communicating well with our Concierge about the service needs of our members.



Offering neighborly help at home and transportation when needed for our members is a very important aspect of why the Village is successful. Others praised the monthly newsletter (which you are now reading) for informing everyone about upcoming events and building a sense of who we are as members and volunteers of the Village.

We also felt some projects still need further work, such as additional efforts to build our online presence. In the future we plan to try using Facebook to organize impromptu events and are considering offering a Facebook class. We'd also like to make our website more user-friendly. If you are reading this and can help, please contact us! We would love to hear from you.

Finally, members contributed some new ideas for helping make the Village a larger part of the communities we serve. For example, we plan to explore opportunities to partner with area high schools to create a "Senior-to-Senior" program, in which members might partner with a high school senior to share knowledge. A Village member may need help with their home technology, for example, and high school seniors may gain from the special expertise that comes from a lifetime of experience, which many of our members would love to share. Please continue to share with the Board and other members your ideas for the Village's future!



Photos by Barbara Dowd

Upcoming Events

See Website for more info!

Village Talks & More Open to the Public:

Feb 21, 1 pm, Newburyport Senior/Community Center
"The History of Newburyport's South End" with Tom Horth.

March 21, 1 pm, Newburyport Senior/Community Center
"Rounder Records Part 3: The Studio" with Marian Leighton Levy and Ken Irwin.

Greater Newburyport Village Members & Volunteers Only:

Feb 15, 6 pm, Village Dinner,
The Jewel in the Crown, 23 Pleasant Street, Newburyport.
Please RSVP no later than Monday, February 12.

Greater Newburyport Village Members & Donors Only:

Feb 27, 6 to 7:30 pm, Cocktail Party at VASA. Invitations to come!

How to Contact the Village

For member services and RSVPs:

call 978-206-1821

or email a service request or RSVP to:
services@greaternewburyportvillage.org

For information:

call number above or email:
info@greaternewburyportvillage.org

or visit our website:

www.greaternewburyportvillage.org

or visit us on Facebook at:

fb.com/NewburyportVillage



Upcoming Village Talk: Newburyport's South End with Tom Horth

Tom Horth has researched the history of Newburyport's South End, as well as local transportation systems, as part of a Historical Society of Old Newbury project. He focused especially on the period between about 1850 and 1950 when the South End was the poor fishing and clamming part of town and streetcars were the cat's meow for

getting places. He'll tell some stories and show pictures of life in those days.



Villager News Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that Lidy de Hollander has accepted the role of Villager News Coordinator, a newly created position within the Member Care team whose aim is to strengthen the Greater Newburyport Village community by reaching out to Villagers whenever personal situations arise that the Village should acknowledge.

The Village wants to respond when a Villager—whether member or volunteer—becomes ill, has an accident, or suffers the loss of a close family member, or on the brighter side, when something truly wonderful happens and it is time to rejoice. Lidy will act as point person to receive news about our members and volunteers and to determine the appropriate way to respond that is meaningful to the Villager while respecting their need for privacy. When volunteering for this role, Lidy said, “Both my husband and I come from large families, and we have siblings and friends all over the world. Over the 43 years that we have lived abroad I reached out to them for major life events and holidays, and stayed in touch with all of them. The job seems to be a good fit for me.”

If ever you become aware of a situation in which the Village should reach out to someone, please contact Lidy by leaving a message with the Concierge or sending an email to services@greaternewburyportvillage.org.



Monthly Membership Program Launched

The Greater Newburyport Village has partnered with Anna Jacques Hospital to help discharged patients who could use our Good Neighbor Services. Often a discharged patient needs short-term help with driving assistance to return to the hospital for outpatient services or with household tasks and errands. In such cases, the person may not want or need a yearly membership, so this program allows month-by-month membership for senior citizens for up to six months, after which the Board may approve an extension.

Members of our Village marketing team made a presentation in January to the Hospital's case managers and social workers to explain the Monthly Membership Program and its benefits. Case managers were very interested and immediately saw how the Village offers significant help to many of their newly discharged clients. Our volunteers are now helping the first new member within this program with twice weekly outpatient visits and dog walking. We look forward to assisting other discharged outpatients in the future.

Study: Social Connectedness in Older Adults

The organization **Connect2Affect** (connect2affect.org) has lots of information to help older adults who feel lonely. For the nearly half of older adults in the U.S. who experience some degree of loneliness, they can help one stay or get socially active, nurture relationships, and find and take advantage of local resources.

Did you know?

... that Village members can request a wide variety of volunteer services such as:

- ✓ a ride to a doctor's appointment
- ✓ a recommendation for home repair expert
- ✓ taking out the trash while recovering from surgery
- ✓ helping you set up a new smart TV or phone
- ✓ picking up your prescription at a local pharmacy
- ✓ giving you a ride to a Village event
- ✓ doing household chores
- ✓ dropping clothing off at the cleaners
- ✓ checking on your home while you're traveling
- ✓ changing your smoke detector batteries

Just call us if a volunteer might be able to help!

Remember!

Check the Village website often for more detailed news about upcoming events. (See p. 1 “How to Contact”) Meet other Village members through Village events and by browsing the Member Portal Directory.

Our Mission

To promote living well and independently for a lifetime through community engagement and a network of neighborly support