

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Partial Reopening of the Village

Massachusetts has begun the reopening of businesses. It is nice to see some activity starting around town. However, I remind our members that vigilance about your health safety should remain a highest priority.

Please continue wearing masks and keeping distance as we venture out. This is especially important as many of us will be gathering with relatives and friends on the Fourth. Remember also the importance of washing hands and keeping sanitizers and wipes available. As the state and our communities start reopening, the Village board has considered what services we can provide our members while ensuring the safety of both members and volunteers. You will find our current guidelines for reopening in this newsletter. Please look these over and call the Concierge with *anything* you need. If it falls outside the guidelines, we will assist you in finding alternative ways to address your request.

Please remain safe and vigilant with your health, and with the health of your family and friends.



- Paul Harrington
President, GNV

Limited Reopening Guidelines for the Greater Newburyport Village

June 25, 2020

The State of Massachusetts is in Phase 2 of the COVID-19 recovery plan, which includes personal services with mandated social distancing. As a result, the Greater Newburyport Village is clarifying the level at which Village volunteers may deliver personal services during this phase. We must be flexible throughout the reopening process and follow all recommendations from the CDC, the State of Massachusetts, and the Newburyport Public Health office.

Volunteer and Member Participation

Volunteers and members can choose whether to participate in requesting or providing personal services; each person should select the level of participation they feel is comfortable and safe. Members understand that service requests are filled based on volunteer availability. As the Greater Newburyport Village starts to reopen, volunteer availability may limit the number of service requests to which we can respond.

As we start resuming services on a limited basis, we want our volunteers and members to feel safe and remain healthy. We all should practice physical distancing; we all should avoid contact such as hugs and handshakes. Volunteers may provide balance assistance for members if required.

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Upcoming Events See Website for more info!

The Village has suspended traditional programs and events for now. Check your Tuesday Update email for more information.

For members and volunteers:

Weds. July 1, 1-2 pm, Village Talk on Zoom:
"Boston's Molasses Flood: Municipal Planning in a Just Society," with Prof. Lois Ascher (see page 2).

Weds. July 15, 1-2 pm, Village Talk on Zoom:
"Rebuild of a Shallop for the Plimouth Plantation," with Lowell's Boat Shop director Graham McKay.

Every Tuesday Chair Yoga 10-11 am: continuing on Zoom through the summer. Check your Tuesday Village Update email for how to enter the Zoom session.

For members:

Weekly Zoom Village Happy Hour, Fridays 5-6 pm continuing indefinitely. Please register by Tuesday if you plan to join on Friday.

To Contact the Village

For information:

call 978-206-1821

email:

info@greaternewburyportvillage.org

visit our website:

www.greaternewburyportvillage.org

For member services:

call 978-206-1821

email a service request to:

services@greaternewburyportvillage.org

Limited Reopening Guidelines for the Greater Newburyport Village (continued from page 1)

Members requesting services inside their home must meet these requirements:

- You need to have had no exposure to anyone who had COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms over the last 14 days.
- You need to have been practicing social distancing.
- You should wipe and disinfect surfaces before and after the volunteer provides the service.
- You should follow all CDC safety recommendations, which includes maintaining safe distances and wearing a mask during the service.

Volunteers providing services inside a member's home must meet these requirements:

- You need to have had no exposure to anyone who had COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms over the last 14 days.
- You need to have been practicing social distancing.
- You need to follow all CDC safety recommendations, which includes maintaining safe distances and wearing a mask during the service. Gloves are advisable.

Services to be provided at this first phase of reopening:

- Volunteers may be available for window air conditioner installation, which is the only in-home service provided at this time.
- Other services we can provide at this time are in-store shopping, medication pick-up and delivery, gardening assistance, trash and recycling help, pet walking, remote technology assistance, home watch if you are away, and check-in phone calls.

Services on hold at this first phase of reopening: Since all Villagers are more susceptible to the effects of the COVID-19 virus, being in an enclosed space such as a home or an automobile is still dangerous for both volunteers and members.

- Transportation of members remains on hold.
- In-home/in-person services remain on hold with the exception of window AC installation.

Managing Contact Information

- When volunteers have completed a request, they will inform the Concierge of exact times, service locations, and other relevant information related to the service request.
- Information related to a service request may be shared with public health officials if requested for tracking/tracing of COVID-19.

Please call the Concierge at 978-206-1821 if you have questions or concerns.

Update from the Newburyport Chamber Music Festival from David Yang, NCMF Artistic Director

We aren't cancelling NCMF summer 2020, but instead of our usual events we'll have a kind of summer version of Christmas caroling. From Friday, August 14 to Sunday, August 16 a string quartet will stroll through Newburyport and neighboring towns playing mini-concerts for free. If you happen to open your window or are watering or sitting on your porch sipping a martini you might find four musicians sorely in need of a haircut playing for you. It might be solo Bach or a Haydn quartet, Telemann, Mozart...if you are lucky you could catch Barber's *Adagio*. Then we'll move on.

A schedule of times we'll be in specific neighborhoods will be posted in a few weeks at newburyportchambermusic.org.

Our Mission

To promote living well and independently through community engagement and neighborly support.

Village Talk: Boston's Molasses Flood

Village member and Urban Culture Studies Professor Lois Ascher returns to our Village Talks to present on Boston's Molasses Flood.

Many people have heard of the Molasses Flood. Yet as much as it appears to be a chapter out of the *Twilight Zone*, the Molasses Flood was far more. Lois's talk will discuss both the flood itself and the cultural conditions that drove the catastrophe. The decisions made around the tank's siting, its construction, lack of due diligence, and its maintenance reveal local and global concerns of the time: war, recession, a pandemic, and particularly conflicts with immigration. The talk will conclude with some thoughts on why there is no real memorial, and some considerations about providing one.

To attend on Zoom, look for the link in the June 23 Tuesday Update email.

Save the dates:

Weds. July 29, 1 pm, Village Talk: "Fungi - Foundation of the Forest," with David Moon.

Weds. August 12, 1 pm, Village Talk: "Journey Across Southern Africa" with Paula Wright.

More info in next month's newsletter.

We Want To Know

If you know a member or volunteer who is facing surgery, a loss, or an important milestone, let the Village know so we can acknowledge it appropriately and offer help as needed. Please call 978-206-1821 or email membership@greaternewburyportvillage.org