

Coming Soon!

Join your Village friends, old and new, for a lively Village dinner on **Thursday, June 15, at 6 p.m.** at Andiamo Restaurant and Bar, 24 Winter Street, Newburyport. Space is limited, so please RSVP by June 13. Guests are welcome to come and learn more about the Village. Separate checks will be available.

Save the date for **Wednesday, July 19, at 5:30 p.m.** for the member, volunteer, and donor barbecue at the Newburyport Senior/Community Center. Celebrate with us at this free,

invitation-only, catered event where a good time is promised for all!

Are you aware of the National Village Movement and our own Greater Newburyport Village? Curious? Join us at the Newburyport Senior/Community Center on **Wednesday, June 28, at 1 p.m.** This interactive presentation will be a wonderful opportunity to become informed about a new approach to aging in America and what a Village can do for you. Greater Newburyport Village board members Bill Franz and Paul Harrington will lead the discussion.

Meet New Member Mary Olson

Mary joined the Village this April, about a year after moving to Newburyport from Portland, Oregon, with her husband of 48 years. They already knew Newburyport, as one of their daughters has lived here for over three years with their two granddaughters. Her other daughter lives in London.

Born in England, Mary met her American husband in Spain. They moved to his home state of California in 1968, then later back to England for 19 years, then back to California and then Portland for 12 years. She has travelled through much of Europe.

Mary learned about Villages first from neighbors back in Portland who had been working to start up a new Village, then from two local friends after moving here, and she joined not long after her husband passed away this winter. Her initial reason was to meet new people and participate in social events, though she was also reassured to know of Village services she may need some day. She has joined the Programs and Events team and looks



forward to helping arrange more outings like trips to museums or the theater, and even just “things to do with people” like group walks. “I like the overall concept of the Village,” she says, “people helping people, and the community feeling.”

One of her first Village experiences was enjoying the recent group dinner at VASA. Come over and say hello to Mary at the next one!

Upcoming Events

Check the Calendar on our website for more info

The Village Atul Guwande Watch Party is rescheduled for Sept 25 at 4:45 p.m. Newburyport Senior/Community Center. Open to the public. Watch for more details.

Village Talks – Open to the Public – all at 1 p.m., Newburyport Senior/Community Center, 331 High St.:

June 21

“Smart Phones and Tablets: Why Do We Need Them?” with Mike Olson. (See page 2 for details.)

June 28

“Our Village and the Village Movement.” (Information at left.)

July 19

“Dating Houses in Essex County and Newbury” with John Cole. (Details to come.)

Greater Newburyport Village Members & Volunteers Only:

June 15, 6 p.m., Village Dinner: Andiamo, 24 Winter Street, Newburyport. RSVP by June 13.

July 19, 5:30 p.m., Member, Volunteer, and Donor Barbecue Watch your mail/email for your invitation and more detail.

August 8, Boston West End Tour - Save the date, details 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

Greater Newburyport Village Updates Strategic Plan

Through most of the recent winter months, a team of seven Village members and board members met frequently to assess the Village's current status, identify its future needs, and write a new strategic plan to set goals and action steps to meet those goals. The strategic planning team consisted of Kate Derrick, Barbara Dowd, Bill Franz, Donna Franz, Mary Harada, Bill Jaros, and Kitty Krajci.

Following months of their work, the Board of Directors voted to accept the plan to help the Village move forward through the next three years.

The Strategic Plan includes many programs to continue growth and bring in more members and volunteers to maintain and support operations, to engage in social and cultural events, and to provide services.

The plan defines six goals along with

action steps and timetables: membership growth and retention, expanded membership options, enhanced member services and programs, robust organizational structure, strengthened communications, and rigorous financial planning. Watch for new programs in the following months to help the Village continue to grow into an ever more vibrant community.

Thanks to the Village

Expressing her gratitude to the Village Concierge for services received, Village member Rita Mihalek spoke with us about her recent experiences.

Why did you first decide to join the Village? Some 10 years ago when I was living in New York, my boss would rave about the Village concept, saying "If there was one near me, I'd join in a minute!" In 2009 I moved to Newburyport, and later I was thrilled to learn about the Greater Newburyport Village when it was just starting up. I joined immediately. As a single woman living alone, without any family nearby, I realized I might someday need some Village services, but at the time I was mostly seeking new friends and was very excited about the social opportunities. The Village is just such a wonderful idea, and I wanted to be part of it.

What happened that led to your need to request services from the Village? Late December last year I suffered a detached retina and was losing my vision, and in early January I had eye surgery. Since I needed overnight help for two weeks, my nephew flew in to help. For many weeks after my nephew left, I used an expensive car service for twice weekly trips to my doctor. Because of postsurgical complications I had to keep seeing the doctor frequently, so I finally called the Village. I think I had just been too self-conscious—as an independent, professional woman—to ask for help until then. From February on, I've had to see the doctor at least every other week, and Village volunteers have given me at least seven or eight rides so far.

Tell us about that experience. The volunteers were wonderful! Each trip to and from Danvers takes two to three hours, which felt like a lot to ask of anyone, but these special people never hesitated. They were always on-time, very considerate and helpful—I couldn't have been better cared for if they'd been my own family. In fact, that's how I think of the Village now, as my extended family offering unconditional support. Bill Jaros, the Village Concierge, gave me great peace of mind and made the arrangements so easy for me. And the volunteers who gave me rides—Kincade Webb, Linda Dahlberg, and Leigh Mansberger—are all such terrific people. It seems a sad thing to say that I met all these great people because I got sick, but that just drives home how much we need others in times of crisis.

Now that you're on the mend, how are you feeling about the future? The whole experience has only strengthened my belief in the Village and my commitment to my still-new community. As a single person moving to a new area where I knew few people, I confess I used to feel very vulnerable without family anywhere nearby. As a healthy, independent person still working full time, maybe I hadn't fully realized how important the Village really is, but now I've learned how critical it is for us all to help each other. I'm really looking forward, when I finally retire and have more time, to contribute more to my family of Villagers. I can only hope I might be able to help someone else as these volunteers continue to help me.

Talk: Smartphones and Tablets

On June 21 come hear Mike Olson discuss and demonstrate how today's technology has replaced traditional computers with powerful, portable, simpler devices. Learn how to expand your interactions with the tech-savvy generation in an easy, enjoyable way. Send and receive photos, emails, texts and more.



Mike is a retired electrical engineer living in Newbury Massachusetts. He spent 28 years in high-tech industries, most recently as Vice President of Engineering at Hittite Microwave (now Analog Devices). At the Newbury Town Library he holds Tech Help open sessions and maintains a Tech Help Facebook Group. He helps folks with their computers, smart phones, tablets, e-readers, GPS systems, and other technologies.

Our Mission

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