

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Looking Forward to Greeting All Volunteers!

As a volunteer of the Greater Newburyport Village, you should have received by now your invitation to our Volunteer Appreciation Gathering on October 30 at the VASA restaurant. No hidden agenda, no long speeches, just good food and drinks and, most of all, the good company of outstanding people!

We hope you know how important volunteers are to the Village. Indeed, volunteers are the bedrock of the whole Village movement. Now with about a hundred members in our own Village, many of whom are volunteers, and more than thirty additional volunteers, our Village has met some three hundred service requests already this year. Only with all our volunteers can we fulfill our mission, as stated on the second page of this newsletter. Some volunteers directly assist members, while others work behind the scene. Please come and celebrate our success as a result of both groups!

And by the way, although the food is officially called hors-d'oeuvres, it will be plentiful, varied, healthy (and some very tasty even if less so), so you should really think of this as dinner! All volunteers present could win some exciting raffle prizes, including a stay at the Mountain Club on Loon next October.



Meet Member Ellie Bailey by Bill Franz



Recently on a walk, my wife and I saw the Coffin House was open for tours. The Coffin House is an Historic New England property with its original footprint dating from 1678; it sits prominently at 14 High Road at the Newbury-Newburyport town lines.

We'd long been curious and were delighted at the opportunity to view the house and learn its history. Inside we were surprised to find Ellie Bailey, one of our active Village members, who we learned is a guide and staff person with Historic New England. A retired teacher and

genealogist, Ellie has lived in the Newburyport area for 25 years. In addition to Historic New England, she volunteers at the Joppa Flats Audubon Center and the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, and serves on the Ring's Island Water District Commission. We were lucky to have her as a tour guide.

Ellie showed us around the rooms of the house from the original structure of the house in the 17th century through changes in modes of living in the 18th and 19th centuries. When the Coffin family donated the house, they left everything in place for the benefit of people like us who enjoy seeing 200-year-old wallpaper, family portraits, furnishings, and farming and household implements spanning hundreds of years. It is a treasure.

Many thanks to Ellie for a terrific tour. There is still one more time left for a visit this year: the Coffin House is open the first and third Saturdays of the month from June 1 through October 15, from 11 to 5 pm, the last tour starting at 4 pm.

Upcoming Events

See Website for more info!

Village Talks Open to the Public at Newburyport Senior/Community Center:

October 17, 1-2 pm, "The Life & Times of Abraham Lincoln" with Lee Thomas, local educator and historian.

For Village Members:

October 4, 6:30-8:30 pm in Boston, West End Urban Renewal Meet-Up. Advance registration was required.

October 17, 5:30-7:30 pm, Village Appetizer Potluck and Gallery Talk, at Paula Estey Gallery. RSVP by Oct. 12.

For Village Members and Volunteers:

October 22, 7-8:30 pm, Village FYI: C-10 Info Session: Living Near Seabrook Station, at the home of Lois Ascher. Limited attendance. (See page 2.)

For Village Volunteers:

October 30, 6-8 pm, VASA restaurant. Volunteer Appreciation Gathering with appetizers, beer, and wine. Watch for your invitation and RSVP by mail return card.

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

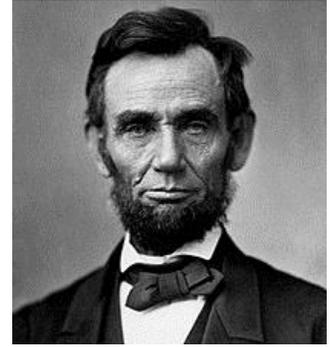
Village Talk: The Life and Times of Abraham Lincoln with Lee Thomas

**Wednesday, October 17, 1-2 pm,
Newburyport Senior/Community Center**

Lee Thomas is a local educator and historian with a B.A. in American History from UMass Amherst and master's degrees from UMass Lowell and Salem State. A teacher in Massachusetts for 35 years, now while in retirement Lee does history presentations around New England, including a one man show as Teddy Roosevelt.

His presentation on the life and times of Abraham Lincoln includes photographs and music from Lincoln's lifetime, from his birth in Kentucky, through his youth in Illinois and Indiana, to his family and presidency, with an opportunity for questions.

Village Talks are open to the public as well as Village members and volunteers.



Important Tip from a Village Volunteer

Recently a volunteer offered help to a Village member seeking to get a new Massachusetts "Real ID"—and what a complicated, lengthy process that turned out to be! We tell the story here both as a testament to the dedication of our volunteers and to offer tips to others on how to avoid a real hassle with this new process.

In case you don't yet know, a regular Massachusetts driver's license will not, after October 2020, be accepted as a valid ID to fly within the U.S. or enter federal buildings. A passport will suffice, but not everyone has a passport or thinks to bring it on a domestic flight, so most state residents will need to get a Real ID in the form of the special driver's license or ID. This is what our Village member was dutifully trying to do, with the help of a volunteer who drove her (with a pile of paperwork) to the Haverhill RMV.

It would take pages to tell the full story, so we'll just say, when the dust finally settled, the volunteer had made three roundtrips to Haverhill with the member, stood in innumerable long lines, and put up with lots of bureaucracy. But they finally got the job done!

The main issue was that, not only do you have to go in person for this ID, but you have to have just the right forms of identification—one possible one being your original Social Security card. Not a copy—and not, get this, laminated! As our member's card happened to be. (Has your flimsy paper card held together in your own wallet for 50 or 60 or 80 years?) Certain other documents are acceptable instead of the card, but not everyone has them. (For full information, you must go online to the mass.gov website to learn what documents to bring.)

Lesson #1: Don't laminate your Social Security card! If you have, get a replacement.
Lesson #2: Village volunteers are wonderful people who go beyond the call of duty.

Village FYI – A New Kind of Member/Volunteer Event

On October 22 we're trying a new event, an informational session we're calling a "Village FYI." Members and volunteers have told us of their interest in learning about important community issues they might otherwise know little about, and such gatherings seem a perfect venue for Villagers to meet and learn together. In this evening session in a member's home, we'll hear about safety issues when living near the Seabrook nuclear power plant. Many people who live in our local communities don't think about the plant very often, much less what it could mean for their family's health and safety, or the beautiful region we call home. C-10's Executive Director, Natalie Hildt Treat, will talk to us about why and how they monitor radiation, offer updates on the group's legal fight for tougher federal oversight of the plant's concrete troubles, and answer questions about what living near Seabrook means to you. More information and advance registration on the Village website.



Village Members enjoying the September Essex River cruise

Haven't yet joined the Village? Isn't it time?

Give us a call to learn more about the many benefits of membership—home help, social events, educational opportunities, and so much more! Or browse our website to see everything going on.

More Events Coming Save the Date!

Watch for the November newsletter for more information on the following events.

On **November 1**, Village members are invited to a Village "Going Deeper" (Series introduction) discussion of issues of aging, 4-5:30 pm at the Senior/Community Center.

On **November 13**, Village members and volunteers and guests are invited to the Village Dinner at The Grog at 6 pm.

On **November 14**, the Village Talk (open to the public) will feature local writer and reporter Dyke Hendrickson presenting on Nautical Newburyport and the Coast Guard, 1-2 pm at the Senior/Community Center.

Our Mission

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