

What a Village Volunteer Can Do For You

One of the greatest benefits of Village membership is services provided by our Good Neighbor Volunteers. In fact, Volunteers are the bedrock of the more than 200 Villages across the country. The idea is simple and it works: those who can, do, and those in need, just ask. Many of our Members are also Volunteers—this means you may be the one who helps out, and sometimes you're the one asking for help. And then you get to know more people in your community while everyone's lives are made fuller and richer and more interesting! (And you can finally take care of those chores that you can't handle alone.) Bill Jaros, our Village Concierge, is easy to reach by email or phone for all service requests. As Bill says, "We have a great group of volunteers and many of them are eager to help, but many members are still hesitant to ask." Don't hesitate—just call Bill!

Who are our Volunteers? Moms with school-age children, recent retirees new to the area, lifetime residents of the community—people of all sorts! All have signed up to give you a needed ride, offer an extra pair of hands, help you garden or rake, set up your new technology that came with an instruction manual as big as a phone book, offer their experience with something they know and you don't, come just for a visit, walk your dog when you can't, check on your house while you are away—and much more. Like that ad for the credit card, "The possibilities are endless."

The best part of requesting a service is often meeting the Volunteer. You'll get to know lots of really nice folks who live near you, and the Village becomes your neighborhood. And isn't that actually the best kind of "help" we all really need?

Essex River Cruise for Members

On Thursday, September 13, we hope you will join us for this special member adventure, starting in Essex no later than 1:15 pm, lasting until 3. Since 1992, Essex River Cruises and Charters has offered interesting and informative narrated cruises through the unspoiled and pristine waters of the Essex River. We will have the entire boat, so it will be a great opportunity to enjoy this beautiful landscape with Village friends, old and new.

On this cruise you will fully enjoy the unspoiled charm of the area, *rain or shine*. The marsh itself is part of the Essex River estuary, an intriguing natural work in progress. Formed 15,000 years ago by melting glaciers of the last Ice Age, the marsh is a feeding ground for many species of beautiful birds and abundant wildlife. For generations it has sustained boat builders, fisherman, clambers, entrepreneurs and people of all sorts from the Agawam natives to the present residents. You'll hear some of their stories during your cruise. *(cont'd on page 2)*



Upcoming Events

See Website for more info!

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

September 19, 1-2 pm,
"Thinking Outside the Mailbox - Stamps and History" with Henry Lukas, Education Director at the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History. (See p. 2.)

Greater Newburyport Village Members Only:

September 13, 1-3 pm, Essex River Cruise. (See story at left.)
RSVP ASAP!

Greater Newburyport Village Volunteers:

October 30, 6-7:30 pm, VASA restaurant. Volunteer Appreciation Event with appetizers, beer, and wine.
(Watch for your invitation. Bring your spouse/partner or a friend who may be interested in volunteering.)

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
or RSVP online at
www.greaternewburyportvillage.org
(click Event Calendar, double-click the date, and click registration button)

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

Village Talk: Thinking Outside the Mailbox - Stamps and History

**Wednesday, September 19, 1-2 pm,
Newburyport Senior/Community Center**

Learn about the history of the U.S. postal system by viewing stamps issued since 1847, plus the very first postage stamp from England.

Henry Lukas, Education Director at the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History at Regis College in Weston, shares images of stamps and postal items

featuring famous people and events issued over the years. Lukas will



explain the wide variety of ways mail has been delivered since colonial times. Also, you will learn about unusual items transported by the Postal Service and famous men and women who were collectors. You don't have to be a stamp collector to enjoy this talk!

Village Walking Group Steps Out

A group of Village members have been meeting all summer every Thursday at 5:30 pm for fun and a little exercise. "We walk for an hour each week," says Bill Franz, the Walking Group Leader. "Wherever we are after 30 minutes, we simply turn around and come back. We don't go fast and we don't go far, but we enjoy each other's company." Initially the group started as a test of best practices and possible problems that might occur with Village member interest groups. Bill, who also heads up the Member Care team, explained, "We wanted to explore how to identify which Village members might have common interests, how to best communicate with each other, and how to reach out to other Village members, as well as what would we do, where would we go, how often would we meet, etc. The test seems to have worked. Twelve members have expressed interest in the walking group, and people show up when they can. As the group leader, I send out a weekly email to those interested about where we will meet and walk. Pets and children are also welcome. We hope that this will be the start of other interest groups." Members who are interested in joining can send an email to membership@greaternewburyportvillage.org or call the concierge at (978) 206-1821.

Our Mission

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

More Events Coming Save the Date!

October will be a busy month! Watch for the Village's October newsletter for more information on the following events.

On **October 4**, Village members are invited to a documentary film in Boston on the historic West End demolition. Watch for an email to members with more detail.

On **October 17**, the Village Talk at the Senior/Community Center features historian Lee Thomas on "The Life and Times of Abraham Lincoln."

On **October 17**, Village members and volunteers are invited to a potluck and gallery talk at the Paula Estey Gallery, 5:30-7:30 pm.

On **October 22**, Village members and volunteers are invited to the home of Village member Lois Ascher at 7 pm for an informal session to learn more about the C-10 Research and Education Foundation, an organization dedicated to the safety of citizens within the 10-mile radius of the Seabrook nuclear plant.

Village Interest Group Coordinator Needed

You may be the perfect candidate to become the Interest Group Coordinator for the Greater Newburyport Village if you like working with people, organizing groups, and helping others. In this volunteer position, you will work with Village members wanting to form an Interest Group to meet regularly with a common interest such as walking, crafts, cooking, or anything at all. In this role you will help members find others with the same interests, organize the group's first meeting, and provide support if needed. Once the group comes together, the Interest Group Leader takes over managing the schedule, communicating within the group, and organizing the get-togethers. Like other Villagers, you will feel the rewards of volunteering as you help out with this service when needed. If this volunteer position sounds interesting to you, call 978-206-1821 to learn more.

Essex River Cruise *(cont'd from first page)*

The walkway to and from the boat has a railing. The walkway does move slightly, as docks do, but the crew is senior friendly and will help anyone who needs assistance. If you have any further accessibility questions, please call Essex River Cruises at 978-768-6981.

Snacks and drinks will be available throughout the trip, and there is a bathroom onboard. The Rivers Bend restaurant (<https://riversbendessex.com>) is right across from the cruise depot if you are interested in having a bite to eat before or after the cruise. Eating there is not being organized by the Village so you are on your own for reservations, etc.

There is still room for more members, but you should RSVP soon! See the Village website for driving directions and more information, such as cancellation notice in case of extreme weather.