

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Eight Village volunteers recently gathered at a member's home for a spring cleanup. Shown here, from left to right, are Bill Franz, Lory Douglass, Nancy Rose, Anne Welch, Bonnie Amos, Marcia Cece, and Charlie Ebert (Bill Jaros was taking the picture). They got the job done (including filling 18 leaf bags!) while having a good time and getting to know each other better.



Meet Members Lidy and Wil de Hollander

In addition to each other, Wil particularly loves Heineken beer and Lidy her granddaughter, as is apparent only minutes into a pleasant lunch date. More on this in a moment.

About a year ago the de Hollanders moved into Newburyport's South End from their 32-year home in Amherst, NH. Wil had recently retired—well, sort of. One of their two daughters already lived in Newburyport, and they'd gotten to know the town well and were attracted to its beauty, its proximity to Plum Island and the ocean, and its vibrancy. "There's so much going on," Lidy says, "and we wanted to be part of it." Wil speaks happily of starting a new life in their new community.

Originally from Holland, Wil had worked for Heineken some 40 years ago. After 5 years in Scotland in the oil industry, he then worked some 35 years for Velcro Industries Ltd, retiring from his position as CEO. He remains active on the board, however, while saying he'll "eventually" retire completely to pursue other interests, including deep sea fishing and traveling worldwide.

Lidy spends much of her time with

her daughter, helping out in her store, Nine Streets NY, on Newburyport's Pleasant Street, as well as with her granddaughter and all their dogs. She stays in touch with friends and family around the world, traveling frequently, working out with a personal trainer, and enjoying new friends in town. Already they've come to two Village dinners and greatly enjoy meeting other Villagers.



After reading a story years ago about the original Beacon Hill Village, and being very impressed with the Village concept, Lidy says they were delighted recently to learn of the Greater Newburyport Village—and immediately sought more information, and joined. Wil has already put his name (cont'd)

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE: The Village Watch Party with Atul Gawande, author of *Being Mortal*, has been rescheduled for Monday, September 25, early evening. Newburyport Senior/Community Center. Open to the public. Watch for more detail.

Village Talk – Open to the Public:

May 17, 1 p.m., Newburyport Senior/Community Center
"Newburyport's Waterfront: Industrialization, Decay and Rebirth" With Skip and Marge Motes (see article on page 2)

Greater Newburyport Village Members & Volunteers Only:

May 18, 6 p.m., Member and Volunteer Dinner: Ristorante Molise, One Market Square, Amesbury. RSVP by May 13. (see article on page 2)

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

Remember!

Check the Village website often for more detailed news about upcoming events.

Lidy and Wil *(cont'd)*

on the volunteer list and looks forward to helping the Village grow in other ways. So far, they've especially appreciated the Village's social community, Wil says, "and the fact that you can receive Village services if some day needed is a real bonus." They're also interested in potential

other Village activities such as, for example, a group to play cards, dine out, and more.

Come meet this delightful, vibrant couple at a future Village dinner or other event. PS. If you've got a fishing boat, Wil wants to hear from you.

Our Mission

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

Thank You Letter to the Board

from Mary Dissette, former Executive Director, now a Member

I thought I'd share with you my recent experiences as a user of GNV services. Who knew 3 years ago as we were preparing the launch that I'd be such a good customer?

While I recently was recuperating from surgery, the Village proved a valuable support and helped alleviate the stresses of being temporarily disabled. My thanks go first to acting Village Concierge Bill Jaros for prompt and efficient fielding of my phone and email requests for help.

First, Bill arranged with volunteer Bonnie Amos to take over essential walking of our dog for 2 weeks. Bill generously pitched in himself when she needed a day off, as did volunteer Anne Welch. Bonnie was great, showing up every morning like clockwork and showing our hound a great time around the neighborhood. She was warm, friendly and reliable, and offered several times to lend a hand if there was anything I needed before she left. Bonnie also helped by driving my 15-year-old daughter to and from her guitar lesson.

My next challenge was getting to a doctor appointment that would take an unpredictable length of time. Volunteer Mark Rosen showed up right on time, delivered me to the doc, and 2 hours later when I called to say I was all done, he arrived within 10 minutes to take me home. I regret only that the ride was so short, as I was enjoying our chat.

My husband and I had also previously enjoyed some other Village benefits. Last fall, volunteer Charlie Ebert organized a group of Boy Scouts to rake our yard, something never before in 20 years so thoroughly done. Another time I needed chauffeuring to and from a medical appointment in Haverhill—always a nuisance!—and volunteer Sue Hammond graciously solved the problem.

So from where I sit, the Village is working just great! My little insight from this recent episode is that the help I needed was not so much for my personal care as for filling in for me with services that others depend on me for, like driving and dog walking. I very much appreciated everyone's help in minimizing the impact of my surgery on my family, as it can be so unsettling for a child when a parent is not functioning normally.

Overall I believe the Village's mission is being fulfilled in very real ways like these, and I hope all members realize how many different types of services are available. I confess that at first I felt some inhibitions about asking for and receiving services, and I bet a lot of people who could use a little help feel quite shy about asking for it. Please don't hesitate to ask—this is a primary aspect of what the Village is!

Thanks again to everyone involved,
Mary



May Village Dinner for Members and Volunteers

On Thursday, May 18th at 6:00 pm join your Village friends at Ristorante Molise, One Market Square at the circle in Amesbury Center. Sister owners Antonietta and Elisa say, "As in our homes, we use only the freshest ingredients in our Italian cuisine, and we prepare them with the heart and passion we have for our rich culture. When you dine at our restaurant, we want you to feel at home and have an authentic Italian dining experience."

Bring a friend and introduce them to the wonderful world of the Village!

Check out their menu at <http://www.ristorantemolise.com/>

Space is limited. Please RSVP by May 13 to 978-206-1821 or services@greaternewburyportvillage.org

Village Talk

May 17, 1 p.m., Newburyport Senior/Community Center - "Newburyport's Waterfront: Industrialization, Decay and Rebirth"

Local historians Skip and Marge Motes have studied, written and lectured on Newburyport's maritime heritage and emerging industrial waterfront. Drawing upon primary sources and the rich photographic resources of the waterfront, their presentation features selections from more than forty photographs and maps, as they take us on a unique journey from 1870 to the present – including intriguing history-detective discoveries uncovered in their thorough research.