



Voice of the Village

August 2, 2016

Volume 1, Number 1

Welcome to Our New Village Newsletter

Replacing former email newsletters, our new *Voice of the Village* will offer the latest news about our Village and members, an updated calendar of events, special feature articles, and other updates. We hope you will get to know the Village better and the many benefits of membership.

This month's issue highlights the recent Village River Cruise on *Coastie* that delighted a number of Village members. Check out the fall schedule for the popular Lunch and Learn and Village Talks speaker series, always

full of interesting topics, and remember that you do not need to be a member of the Village to attend.

As we like to say, this is *your* Village. If you have an idea for a newsletter article or a suggestion for a group activity, or would like to share a Village experience we'd all enjoy hearing about, please let us know! We want this newsletter to be a way for members to share and to stay connected between our events and dinner meet-ups.

- Paul Harrington
President, GNV

Meet Volunteer Carole Bishop

About three years ago Carole became interested in the Greater Newburyport Village after filling out a city-wide survey about what services residents needed. As one who is "getting older"



and caring for a historic home, with her grown children too far away to help out much, Carole felt she might someday need Village services.

Carole then volunteered as part of the original team that built the Village mostly from scratch. For two years, with the planning group, she worked on how the Village could best be organized to meet member needs. Recently, Carole has helped build and manage the Village's Vendor Referral Program, in which members in need of a plumber, electrician, or other home professionals are referred to member-recommended local vendors. This valuable service may sound simple, but Carole and others have spent countless hours soliciting information, organizing a database, checking vendor licenses, and much more to make this program work.

In her free time Carole enjoys visiting her grandchildren, working out at the gym, reading, walking, church activities—and of course, Village events. When you see her at one of the upcoming events listed here at the right, say hello!

Upcoming Village Events

Members and Volunteers Only:
Join us for dinner at Not Your Average Joe's - Friendly Folks and Fine Food Guaranteed!

Tuesday, August 16, 6 pm
RSVP by August 12

Back by popular demand! Our July dinner was such a success we decided to do it again in August. We hope you'll join us. We'll be out back on the patio enjoying the warmth of the season, Village friends, creative cuisine, and refreshing cocktails. More detail on the Village website.

Lunch & Learn and Village Talks – Open to the Public:

Sept. 14, 6:30 pm, Library
"Calling All Cat Lovers: Get to Know The Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society" with MRFRS Executive Director Liz Pease

Sept. 28 11:30 am, Hope Church
"Elephant Orphans: A Glimpse into the Power of Love" with Dr. Mary Baures, author and trauma expert

Oct. 5, 11:30 am, Hope Church
"Scandal and Slander in the Quarterly Court" with Bethany Groff Dorau, Regional Manager of Historic New England

Oct. 26, 6:30 pm, Library
"Tour Cedar Mesa and Grand Gulch, Utah" with Village members Barbara Dowd and Mike Prendergast

See the Village website for more information on all events.

Check Out the Village Member Portal

Have you checked out the Village's Member Portal on our website yet? Take a look! Members should have received a log-in password.

The Portal is another way to receive information about your Village, but it's also a gateway to interacting more fully with other members. Start by building your own profile, complete with photo, list of interests, and perhaps a short bio. Give as much or

as little contact information as you prefer. (The Village webmaster will help you upload a photo or any other technical task here—just email us.) Then take a look at the membership directory to learn more about other members.

One of the great features here is finding and contacting others with similar interests. Want to start a book club, walking group, or restaurant

exploration? A few clicks will put you together with others seeking the same.

The Portal is so much more than we can describe here. Request member services, learn about volunteering opportunities (volunteers are now having a great time meeting and assisting other members), check out the latest event calendar, and more. See you there!

Village Members Special Events

River Cruise. A group of Village members enjoyed a Village river cruise on July 26, delighting in the cooler water environment on a hot summer day. Capt. Bill Taplin took the group on his eco-tour boat *Coastie*, cruising up river and entertaining everyone with local lore and stories mixed in with marine ecology and history. In the photo: members Susan Coolidge and Margo Casey, with



Photos by Barbara Dowd

Capt. Bill. A good time was had by all!

Upcoming Historic Tour

On Thursday, Sept. 8, from 10:30 am to noon, Village members are invited to a private, behind-the-scenes tour of Historic New England's Collections and Conservation Center in Haverhill. The storage center houses over 60,000 historic artifacts—a view of history you likely have never had before. Cost: \$15 (\$5 for Historic New England members). Please RSVP by Sept 1. See the Village website for more information.

Did you know?

... that Village members can request a wide variety of volunteer services such as:

- ✓ watering your garden when on vacation
- ✓ walking your dog when you're ill
- ✓ helping you learn a new smartphone
- ✓ getting a ride to a doctor appointment
- ✓ carting off stuff from your garage to the recycling center
- ✓ waiting for a delivery at your home if you're away
- ✓ picking up a prescription for you

Just call us if a volunteer might be able to help!

How to Contact the Village

For member services:

call 978-206-1821

or email a service request to:

services@greaternewburyportvillage.org

For general information:

Call number above or visit our website:

www.greaternewburyportvillage.org

Seeking a Few Good Pros

Thanks to our Village Builder Volunteers and Charter Members, our Vendor Referral list includes many business contractors covering a broad range of service categories. But the Village would love to hear from you with more vendor suggestions and reviews. There are some gaps on our list—for example, a member recently needed their driveway paved—and we are eager to hear about the experiences you or your neighbors may have had with local businesses. Please contact us to help us refine our Vendor Referral Program.

Remember!

Check the website often for more detailed news about upcoming events. Don't forget to RSVP for the August 16 dinner or the September 8 historic tour!

Meet other Village members through Village events and by browsing the Member Portal Directory

Have a special interest? Explore the "Shared Interests" section of the Portal to message and get together with others with the same interests.