

Six-Month Anniversary Celebration Dinner!

On October 27, the Greater Newburyport Village celebrated our 6-month anniversary of providing

member services with a dinner at the Mission Oak Grill. Over 50 members and volunteers had a great time!



Photos by Barbara Dowd

Membership Renewal Time

You should by now have received a mailing from the Village with membership information. Members can now renew for 2017, and Volunteers

are invited to join as Members. Please note the opportunity to receive a reduced rate by acting before the end of the year.

Upcoming Village Events

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

Nov. 9, 11:30 am*, Hope Church
“Newburyport Family Sails to Turkey and Back” with John and Lory Douglass, sailors and adventurers

Nov. 16, 6:30 pm, Nbpt Library
“The High Arctic: Research and Adventures” with Lon E. Hachmeister, Oceanographer

Dec. 7, 11:30 am*, Hope Church
“Championing the History of Amesbury’s Industry and People” with John Mayer, Executive Director, Amesbury Carriage Museum

**Bring a lunch at 11:30 – talks start at 12:00.*

Greater Newburyport Village Members and Volunteers Only:

Nov. 17, 6 to 7:30 pm
Meet-up and Gallery Tour
Paula Estey Gallery
3 Harris Street
Newburyport, MA
www.paulaesteygallery.com
Please RSVP by Nov. 12

Dec. 8, 6 pm
Dinner on the Wharf at Michael's Harborside
1 Tournament Wharf, Newburyport
Join Us and Bring a Friend!
Get connected and enjoy our community of good folks with a view of the harbor. (Separate checks.)
Please RSVP by Dec. 1

RSVP - see “How to Contact” on next page.

See the Village website for more detail on all events.

Behind the Scene with the Village Concierge

The Village Concierge is the person who fields member requests for services and coordinates with Good Neighbor Volunteers to give members a needed hand with many different things. Many Village members are already familiar with the Concierge, but not everyone fully understands the process.

To date, Kate Murray has mostly filled the Concierge role, assisted by Bill and Bernie Jaros. To request a service, a member simply calls the Village phone number or sends an email (see below, right). The Concierge matches the request with an available volunteer who has offered to help with that specific kind of task. (More than 20 volunteers have already been vetted and undergone orientation.) The

volunteer then contacts the member to coordinate schedules. Although we cannot always guarantee a volunteer is available at a certain time, the system has been working very well, and members receiving services have only positive comments.

What services can a member request? Walking your dog if you're ill, taking your old BBQ grill to the recycling center, setting up your new smart TV, moving some boxes of books to your attic, giving you a ride to a doctor's appointment or a movie, watering your garden, checking your home while away, taking your lawn mower to have the blade sharpened, referring you to a recommended professional like an electrician or plumber. These are just a few of

the almost 200 service requests Good Neighbor Volunteers have met since the program began.

The process is also building a sense of community as members and volunteers work together in what our mission statement refers to as a "network of neighborly support." Think of the Concierge as a link to your best neighbors: when you need some help with something, just ask and most likely she or he knows a neighbor who can help out. As one volunteer explains in the story below, volunteers also tell us how much they enjoy meeting new people and how good it feels to lend a hand. So don't be shy! As a member, let us know when you need assistance. And more volunteers are always welcome.

Meet Good Neighbor Volunteer Mike Prendergast

As one of the Village's most active volunteers lending a helping hand to others, Mike has met a lot of members since the Village began providing services in March. A former technical illustrator, Mike first got involved with the Village by volunteering to design the original Village brochure (and this newsletter). He and his wife, photographer Barbara Dowd, are both charter members. They joined, he says, because even after more than 40 years in Newburyport, they enjoy new social interactions, and because "we'll all need help at some point."



Having cared for their 1840s Greek Revival home for decades, Mike knows a thing or two about the challenges of home maintenance, one of the types of services he helps Village members with. Somehow he also finds time to play concertina in regular Irish music sessions, do volunteer teaching of conversational English to recent immigrants, take classes in Russian language, and hang out with his son, a professional dog trainer in Newburyport. Mike and Barbara also like to travel, and

recently spoke at a Village Talk about their month as volunteer rangers in Utah last winter.

As a Good Neighbor Volunteer, Mike works with the Village Concierge (see story above). He's helped a member move to a new residence, installed thermostats, carted off junk and recycling, done landscaping and watered gardens, and much more. Mike says that while helping people is rewarding in itself, getting to know fun and interesting new people in a relaxed setting is a large part of the enjoyment.

Our Mission

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

Remember!

Don't forget to RSVP for the Nov. 17 Meet-up and Gallery Tour at 6 pm. Here's an opportunity for an intimate, personal tour of some good contemporary art. Join other Village members and volunteers for a fun evening among uplifting artworks.

How to Contact the Village

For member services and RSVPs:
call 978-206-1821
or email:
services@greaternewburyportvillage.org

For information:
call number above or email:
info@greaternewburyportvillage.org
or visit our website:
www.greaternewburyportvillage.org