

What Have Villagers Been Doing During COVID?



Bill Jaros writes: As your Village Concierge, I am normally pretty busy, but with COVID that work has diminished. So we have looked at other ways to entertain ourselves.

This summer Bernie and I took much advantage of Zoom. We reconnected with our Concord book club, which was timely since we have been discussing the current unrest in the country. Using Zoom, we also connected with neighbors, including new neighbors who we didn't know since they arrived after the virus broke out.

In addition, we decided to minimize things in our household. Getting rid of all the stuff we don't need—now that feels good!



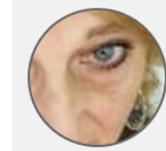
Joyce Cejka writes: Read lots of books. Ordered Netflix and HBO. Canceled HBO. Early on, cleaned, organized, and purged ... not anymore. Take daily walks and talks with another Village member ... keeping searching out different places to go ... up to at least 15 different walks including cemeteries. Zoom

chats and presentations ... Village P & E team meetings ... check out lots of stupid and also lots of fascinating YouTube stuff. Started doing children's jigsaw puzzles with 36 pieces or less ... now up to 300 pieces courtesy of Lidy ... I like the slower pace but get very excited about minor happenings, like rain.



Donna and Bill Franz write: This summer we put our condo on the market, sold it, and bought a single-family home in Newburyport. We spent our time keeping our home continually spotless so we could vacate it within 20 minutes for unexpected showings. We became experts at disinfecting the entire home

inside of ten minutes after strangers wandered through it. Now we're trying to become experts at unpacking all those boxes in our new home!



Lois Ascher writes: I have been writing a series called "Songs from the Surge," and the following is part of one entry. Nature has helped me to address the challenges of solitude and being sequestered. I walk in the woods, work in my garden, and celebrate each new frog who comes to make his home in my

pond. And yes, Thoreau lives in my head, permanently. And as Wordsworth wrote, "The child is father of the man;/And I could wish my days to be/ Bound each to each by natural piety."

One recent evening at twilight I arose from my somnolence and approached my garden. Picking up my shovel I began to dig, wearing jeans not meant for the garden. The urge was too great to change. The next morning, as I walked through the garden, some of which I planted the previous evening, I was filled with joy. I cannot recommend it highly enough: go out and dig in your garden. Go out and dig in the earth and feel the dirt underneath your fingernails. Go out in your boots and get muddy like a child. And even if you cannot dig, go out and smell the rich smell of the moist soil, the perfumed scent of fertility and growth. And then remember, that whatever happens, Nature goes on.

Upcoming Events See Website for more info!

The Village has suspended traditional programs and events for now. Check your Tuesday Update email for more information.

For members and volunteers:
Village Talks on Zoom:

Weds. Oct. 7, 4-5 pm, Ghlee Woodworth on Newburyport Clipper Heritage Trail (see page 2).

Weds. Oct. 21, 4-5 pm, John Mayor on Industrial History in Amesbury (see page 2).

Every Tuesday Chair Yoga 10-11 am: continuing on Zoom through December. Check your Tuesday Village Update email for how to enter the Zoom session.

For members:

Weekly Zoom Village Happy Hour, Fridays 5-6 pm continuing indefinitely. Please register by Tuesday if you plan to join on Friday.

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

The Village's Lanterns

On the first weekend in September, the Village celebrated the Lantern Festival at the Bartlet Mall by hanging lanterns on an elm tree in memory of our members who have passed away since our start in 2016. Village President Paul Harrington personalized lanterns for each of our former members. At dusk the candles lit up one lantern at a time, member Kitty Krajci read words of remembrance, and in a moment of silence, we held our former members in our thoughts. We remember and miss

Eunice Campbell
Alan Ward
Carole Clark
Annie Tunstall
David Jones



Standing Up to Racism

Village member Barbara Dowd is inviting other Village people to join her in an online course offered through Newburyport Adult & Community Education. Three 90-minute sessions, October 15, 22, and 29, will be co-facilitated by Katherine Gendron and Barbara Dowd. The course focuses on the role of white people working with people of color to dismantle racism and build a more just society. In this course, we will examine our own racial bias and awareness stories, learn ways to become allies in anti-racism work, and create action plans. One to two hours of pre-work are required. For information and registration: <https://newburyportadulted.org/product/standing-up-to-racism>.

Voting by Mail

Election Day is fast approaching, and some have concerns about voting in person at this time. Voting by mail is an option you might consider. To do that you need to complete a Vote by Mail Application by October 20 to ensure a timely return of your ballot. This form is available online at:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2020-Vote-by-Mail-Application.pdf>.

You can also check with your local Clerks Office at:

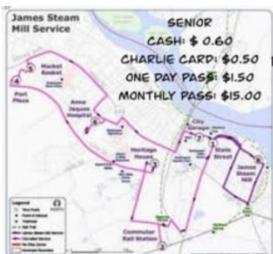
<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elev/ev-find-my-election-office.htm>.

If any member needs help with this, contact the Concierge at 978-206-1821.

Need Volunteer Help?

With the onset of fall weather and the need to prepare for winter, Village volunteers can help members with light garden work, window air conditioner removal, and other outside tasks (following strict Covid precautions). Call us at 978-206-1821 for help.

Helpful New Newburyport Bus Loop



Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) has just started a new in-town bus loop that may be helpful for Villagers. Stops include the James Steam Mill, downtown, Anna Jaques Hospital, Market Basket and Port Plaza, and the commuter rail station. Check the schedule at: <https://www.mvrta.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Route-57-schedule-for-website.pdf>

Our Mission

To promote living well and independently through community engagement and neighborly support.

Village Talks on Zoom:

Wednesday, October 7, 4 to 5 pm. In her latest book, *Newburyport Clipper Heritage Trail*, local historian Ghlee Woodworth tells the stories of people who have come before us, mariners, shipbuilders, soldiers, artisans, philanthropists, artists and many more, and of the city they created. Through her presentation, we'll see how ordinary and not so ordinary folk gave Newburyport its special character.

At the end of Ghlee's talk, members who register and attend will have a chance to win copies of *Newburyport Clipper Heritage Trail*, and her earlier book, *Tiptoe Through the Tombstones Oak Hill Cemetery*. Members must register by October 3.

Wednesday, October 21, 4 to 5 pm. Since its founding in 1986, the Amesbury Carriage Museum has expanded its focus to all of Amesbury's industrial history as well as its people. Join Executive Director John Mayor for a virtual tour of the Powwow River and hear how its water power drove Amesbury's industries. Illustrations will include maps drawn by Village member Mike Prendergast that show, in fascinating detail, many changes over time.

We Want To Know

If you know a member or volunteer who is facing surgery, a loss, or an important milestone, let the Village know so we can acknowledge it appropriately and offer help as needed. Please call 978-206-1821 or email membership@greaternewburyportvillage.org