

Town Hall Meeting Helps Village Move Ahead

Some 40 Village members gathered on a recent Saturday to talk about how Village life is going and what is best and what could be better.

President Paul Harrington started off with the positive statistics for the last year.

We now have 104 members (an almost 40% increase) and 45 volunteers (over 50% increase), and have provided 410 member services (almost 35% increase). On the social and cultural side, we had 36 social events with increasing variety, two new interest groups, and the new Going Deeper series of discussions. All in all, everyone says they feel the Village is continuing to develop well and in the right directions. Positive feedback from participants included the good support system the Village provides, the wide variety of events for members and volunteers, successful — **continued on page 2**



Meet Members Ben and Clarice Andreozzi



Active Newburyport residents for 52 years, Ben and Clarice remember when the area was much different from what it is today. A Newburyport without restaurants is hard to imagine now! Clarice, from Maine, and Ben, from Ipswich, met while teaching in Auburn, Maine schools. Over the years Clarice taught math, science, and reading, while Ben taught social studies.

Recently celebrated as 21-year Mass Audubon volunteers at Joppa Flats, they reminisce about leading junior high students through local marshes and on Plum Island when there was no Audubon Learning Center. Back then, Ben and Clarice took volunteer environmental training classes in a room at the Police Station. Learn about their contributions to Audubon at <https://blogs.massaudubon.org/theflats/volunteer-spotlight-ben-and-clarice/>.

Charter Members of the Greater Newburyport Village (remembering back when “Ben Franklin” visited the Village!), Clarice and Ben are quick to express their satisfaction with the services they’ve received. Without family nearby, they and their family members find comfort in knowing that their Village Good Neighbors are only a phone call away. As well, the Village is grateful to Ben and Clarice for giving good feedback to the Village for future planning, such as at the recent Town Hall. Both also volunteer for the Village.

This energetic couple share many interests. When we visited recently, they were readying plants and garden supplies for their volunteer work beautifying areas of Newburyport. If you see them around town or at a Village function, ask about their volunteer and teaching efforts and you’re sure to hear some delightful memories and stories past and present.

Upcoming Events

See Website for more info!

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

June 19, 1-2 pm. “If This House Could Talk” with Jack Santos, Local Historian.

July 17, 1-2 pm. “Whaleboats and Whaling” with Graham McKay, Executive Director, Lowell’s Boat Shop.

For Village Members and Volunteers:

June 4, 6-7:30 pm, Village Dinner at Loretta’s, Newburyport. (Separate checks as usual.) RSVP by May 31.

July 16, 6-7:30 pm, Village Dinner at Ristorante Molise Amesbury. (Separate checks as usual.) RSVP by July 12.

For Village Members Only:

June 20, 6-8 pm, Lobster Bake on Plum Island. RSVP and choose your meal by June 3.

June 21, 11:30 am, Tour of Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm. Bring a lunch. \$8 admission. RSVP by June 14.

July 24, 11 am, Tour of the Lowell Boat Shop. Bring a lunch. \$6 admission. RSVP by July 17.

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

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communications through email, the website, and other means, quick responses by the Concierge and volunteers when services are requested, and much more. Specific praise was given to events such as the Essex River Tour, the Village dinners, the Village Talks, wine and cheese get-togethers for new members, the Going Deeper Series of discussions, and other events for both volunteers and members.

Following a coffee break with tasty and healthful snacks, participants broke out into smaller groups to share their thoughts about what they like best about the Village and what things the Village might be doing better. Lots of ideas were generated that will lead to further discussions and improvements. Here are a few of the group's suggestions:

- Reach out to all members more frequently
 - Use questionnaires to gather member feedback
 - Seek news ways to increase member connections
 - Put the Village vendors list online
 - Communicate more fully the member services the Village provides, such as help with seasonal tasks (installing window air-conditioners, raking leaves)
 - Lots of good suggestions for group events, such as more Boston tours, theater and symphony, area museums, holiday crafts and arts, educational sessions on aging issues, and more
- The Village Board and Programs and Events Committee will be further discussing these ideas.

Recent Village Events



A crowd of members and volunteers gathered at the Dalton House potluck



A Blackburnian Warbler spotted on the bird walk with Bill Gette (photo by member Mary Herlihy)



Well-attended Village Talk by Jeff Briggs about creating Boston's Greenway Carousel

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.

Upcoming Village Talks

June 19 - "If This House Could Talk" - Local historian Jack Santos will tell us fascinating stories of Newburyport's lovely old houses.

July 17 - "Whaleboats and Whaling" - learn about the history and evolution of whaleboats and whaling with Graham McKay, Marine



Archeologist, Boat builder, and Executive Director of Lowell's Boat Shop in Amesbury. Graham oversees the museum's operations and program offerings, as well as the boatbuilding operations. He also teaches several boatbuilding classes and instructs the museum's high school Apprentice Program. **Special for Village Members Only:** On July 24 we'll be treated to a private tour of the historic boat shop (\$6 admission) with bring-your-own lunch. We'll see and learn about boats currently under construction and experience the museum of 200-plus years of history told through video and exhibits. Watch for more information by email and in next month's newsletter.

Our Village's Mission

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