

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Staying Together In Trying Times

These have been very trying times for us all, especially during the recent weeks of staying home for social distancing, and it appears this will continue for some weeks. You should know the Village is here for you even though we can't come together in person.

The board and volunteer teams have been meeting using an online meeting program called Zoom. This video application allows us to gather face to face from our homes on the screens of our computers, smartphones, or tablets. We are finding other ways of using this program so Villagers can stay connected to each other.

Our Village mission includes providing volunteer services to members and to promote life-enhancing social and educational activities warding off social isolation. During this time of social distancing, fulfilling these commitments is very challenging. We do continue to provide volunteer services as best we can. We have partnered with Newburyport Youth Services, who have offered help during these times. We will strive to fulfill every reasonable request but will insist that the safety of both volunteers and members be a priority.

To address our social and educational activities we are planning to utilize the Zoom video conferencing tool as we have been using for board and team meetings. You will be hearing more about Zoom activities in coming days. We have technical folks who will help members learn how to use it so they can participate. The Programs and Events Team has already started with a Zoom yoga and meditation series. Recently we made phone calls to every Village household to check that everyone is OK. Our goal is that no one feels left alone and isolated. If you would like to have a call, please call the Concierge.

To help keep everyone informed, we'll now be sending out a weekly update of social and other activities. Watch for a regular email called Your Tuesday Village Update. Please visit the website and look at the new "Resources for Social Distancing" page. Here you can gain information on a wide range of things from how to have groceries delivered to cultural offerings, online entertainments, how to stay safe and healthy, and so much more. These resources are frequently updated

and expanded, so keep checking back.

Above, all please stay safe! Call if you need us! We will get through this together!

Paul Harrington
Greater Newburyport
Village President



Upcoming Events

See Website for more info!

As you know, the Village has had to suspend our traditional programs and events during this period of social distancing.

But we'll still be getting together – just virtually!

Stay tuned for upcoming announcements of programs and activities we can participate in together using Zoom videoconferencing.

Watch for the weekly Tuesday Village Update email.

Visit the Resources page on our website frequently for new information. Tell us about online programs and activities that you have discovered so we can add them too.

And when the crisis has passed, we'll be back with Village Talks, dinners, outings, and much more!

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

Thank You, Volunteers!

(A newsletter feature sharing comments from Village members who have received volunteer services.)

Dear Villagers, with my ambulatory limits, the organizing, dog walking, shopping volunteers have kept my life living. As a cheerleader emeritus, if my body permitted, I'd be out there yelling, "Give me a V, give me an I ..." And always the volunteers do their things with warmth and efficiency. I am deeply grateful for my Village membership.

Our Mission

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

News from Members



Village member and volunteer Mary Olson has found an important way for people with sewing skills to stay busy these days. No doubt you've seen the media stories of healthcare workers running out of face masks. Homemade masks can be a valuable resource for backup use when they run out of the standard hospital masks, and our own Ana Jacques Hospital gratefully receives these cloth masks. Mary has been making them and shares with other sewers the video instructions she's found online. If you enjoy sewing, check out the links in the Village website on the new Resources

page. Included there is information from the Anna Jaques Community Health Foundation Office and how to drop off the masks. Thanks, Mary!

If you are a member or volunteer, we'd like to hear and share what else you're up to! Send a brief description to services@greaternewburyportvillage.org and as space allows, we'll include it here in our monthly newsletter.

A Haiku Celebration for Poetry Month

In these times of maximum stress, we urge you to take a therapeutic break from all the worry and enjoy a haiku reading from member Ann McCrea. In last month's newsletter we told you about Villager Voices, the new webpage that holds various types of recordings from our Villagers. Ann's recording about haiku, with accompanying visual images, is a new addition. To access it, go to the Greater Newburyport Village homepage and click Villager Voices under the About Us menu. One click on Ann's picture will start the video. We think you will not only enjoy her recording but you may find that your stress level is reduced and there's a smile on your face. Why not take Ann's advice and write your own haiku? And if you'd like to share it, send it to membership@greaternewburyportvillage.org.



*Haiku Readings
& Thoughts*

by Ann McCrea



Using Zoom to communicate by video and audio isn't difficult, as these four Villagers recently discovered. The Village will help you learn how to use it on your computer, tablet, or phone. (Clockwise from upper left: Donna Franz, Tom Lochhaas, Kate Derrick, and Bill Franz.)

Safety Issues

Please follow these procedures to keep yourselves safe:

- If you feel ill and have a fever, call your primary care doctor and follow their instructions.
- If you test positive for the coronavirus, please notify us (978-206-1821).
- Keep washing your hands frequently (for 20 seconds), avoid touching your face, and remain in your home as much as possible.

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.