



# The Village Movement Presentations & Picnic Lunch

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Carondelet Hospitality Center

## AGENDA

**10:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions**

Ken Harris, Executive Director, Albany Guardian Society

**10:10 a.m. New York State Aging In Place Supports & Initiatives**

Greg Olsen, Acting Director, New York State Office for the Aging

**10:30 a.m. Villages National Movement Update**

Barbara Sullivan, National Director, Village to Village Network

**11:15 a.m. Panel Discussion**

- **Rhinebeck At Home: All Member Volunteer Village**  
Nina Lynch, President & Anne Brueckner, Vice President
- **Shenendehowa Neighbors Connecting: Partnerships & Linkages**  
Nancy Varley, President
- **Neighbors of Northern Columbia County: Rural Village**  
Karen McGraw, President

**12:00 p.m. The Benefits of Village Membership**

Althea Pestine-Stevens, MPAff, PhD, Consultant

**12:15 p.m. Capital Region Villages Collaborative Update**

Ken Harris, Executive Director, Albany Guardian Society

**12:25 p.m. Villages Technical Assistance Center Update**

Betsy Mulvey, Project Director

**12:30 p.m. Wrap up & Picnic Lunch**

# The Village Movement

## Capital Region Villages Collaborative

### Speaker Information



#### **Anne Brueckner, Vice President**

Rhinebeck at Home, Rhinebeck, New York

Anne moved to the Mid-Hudson Valley in 2011 after spending 35 years as a business researcher and analyst in New York City. Eager to continue to lead a productive life, she joined with a core group of about eight people to help get the budding aging-in-place organization Rhinebeck at Home off the ground. Thanks to Rhinebeck at Home, she is enjoying the challenge of helping a new community-focused business and is getting to know hundreds of people. She is finding these years the most purposeful and rewarding of her life.



#### **Ken Harris, Executive Director**

Albany Guardian Society, Albany, New York

**ALBANY GUARDIAN SOCIETY** Ken is the executive director of Albany Guardian Society, one of the oldest not-for-profit charitable foundations in the Capital District of New York State. Founded in 1852, its mission is to engage in a wide range of programs including education, research, information and community engagement that will improve the quality of life for seniors, family members, and their caregivers. Ken has overall responsibility for operations, management and strategic planning of Albany Guardian Society.



#### **Barbara Hughes Sullivan, Executive Director**

Village to Village Network, St. Louis, Missouri

In 2001, Barbara joined Paul Spring Retirement Community to head the marketing/business development team. She focused on senior issues and continued her education in the area of eldercare and obtained her certification with the Commonwealth of Virginia, Board of Long-Term Care Administrators. In 2007, she was an advisor in the growing village movement to help seniors age in place and community. She served on the Mount Vernon At Home (MVAH) Board of Directors from 2008 to January 2010 and was appointed as Executive Director of MVAH in August of 2010. In June of 2018, she was hired as the National director of the Village to Village Network, the national association that represents Villages in 45 states and six countries. Barbara served as Co-President of WAVE, Washington Area Village Exchange, a regional coalition of villages in the Washington Metropolitan area.



#### **Nina Lynch, President**

Rhinebeck at Home, Rhinebeck, New York

Nina Lynch was involved in both volunteer and paid employment in the field of aging services for over 45 years, the last 19 of which were as aging information services specialist at Dutchess County Office for the Aging. After retiring in 2011, Nina worked with other community members to found Rhinebeck at Home. She is active as a certified Health Insurance Information and Counseling Assistance Program (HIICAP) volunteer.



**Karen McGraw, President**

Neighbors of Northern Columbia County, Valatie, New York

Karen retired as a public school superintendent after over 35 years in education.

Since retiring she has been a volunteer in the community among such organizations as Habitat for Humanity and the North Chatham Free Library. Her most significant volunteer effort however is as co-founder of NNCC, an organization addressing needs of seniors in a rural community to support members' independence, allowing them to age at home and in the community. During the formative years of this grass roots effort, her administrative skills are useful in her role as president.

**Betsy Mulvey, Project Director**

Villages Technical Assistance Center, Albany, New York

Betsy is the project director for the Villages Technical Assistance Center (VTAC). Started in 2019, VTAC is a partnership between the NYS Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) and Albany Guardian Society (AGS) which assists individuals and organizations in understanding the technical aspects of developing Villages in the Capital District. Prior to joining VTAC, she worked to develop quality measurement and improvement initiatives and health Information technology adoption and use incentive programs.



**Greg Olsen, Acting Director**

New York State Office for the Aging, Albany, New York

Greg is the acting director of the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA). He oversees the day-to-day operations of the office and the administration of federal and state-funded programs designed to assist the more than 3.7 million New York older adult residents. Greg also manages programs that assist family members and others involved with helping older adults needing greater levels of assistance. Prior to joining NYSOFA, Greg served as chief of staff and legislative and policy director for Assemblyman Steve Englebright, former chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Aging.

**Althea Pestine-Stevens, MPAff, PhD, Consultant**

Althea earned her doctorate degree in Summer 2019 from the University at Albany's School of Social Welfare. Her dissertation examined collaboration in aging-friendly community initiatives. She is particularly interested in social determinants of health and community-based approaches to helping seniors to age well in the places of their choosing. She also has a master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, with a portfolio in nonprofit studies. Althea works with the Albany Guardian Society to develop resources on how the Village Movement can support the needs of our senior communities in the Capital Region.



**Nancy Varley, President**

Shenendehowa Neighbors Connecting, Shenendehowa, New York

Nancy received a B.A. in French from the State University of New York at Albany in 1969, and a B.S. in Accounting from Siena College in 1990. Nancy worked as an auditor for the New York State Comptroller's Office and retired in 2012 as an Audit Manager. In April 2018, Nancy became the president of Shenendehowa Neighbors Connecting, a village in southern Saratoga County serving residents of the Shenendehowa School District.

## **The Village Movement**

The “Village” movement was founded in the spirit of “neighbors helping neighbors” while assisting each other to “age in place.” Villages are membership-driven, grassroots, not-for-profit organizations run by senior volunteers and/or paid staff that coordinate access to a variety of services, educational programs and social events. Village organizers and members are typically age 50 and older who form a non-profit membership organization to access services that support their goal of remaining independent for as long as possible. Geographically defined, Villages are developed in an area that ranges from an urban or suburban neighborhood, to a rural area with a multi-mile radius.



ALBANY GUARDIAN SOCIETY

### **Albany Guardian Society (AGS)**

Founded in 1852, AGS is a not-for-profit charitable foundation with a mission to engage in a wide range of endeavors including education, research, information, and community engagement that will improve the life of seniors, family members and/or caregivers of seniors.



### **New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA)**

NYSOFA’s mission is to help older New Yorkers be as independent as possible for as long as possible through advocacy, development and delivery of person-centered, consumer-oriented, and cost-effective policies, programs and services which support and empower older adults and their families, in partnership with the network of public and private organizations which serve them.



Capital Region  
Villages Collaborative

### **Capital Region Villages Collaborative (CRVC)**

Started in 2017, the CRVC is comprised of individuals, agencies, organizations, and Villages interested in forming, operating, and supporting Villages in the Capital Region surrounding Albany, New York. The CRVC convenes regular meetings with Village updates, networking opportunities, and educational presentations on aspects of developing and operating a Village. The CRVC provides resource materials, a listserv, and a website dedicated to developing Villages in the Capital Region. The CRVC meets at the Carondelet Conference Center in Latham every other month.

**Website Coming Soon: [www.CRVillages.org](http://www.CRVillages.org)**

### **Villages Technical Assistance Center (VTAC)**

Started in 2019, VTAC is a partnership between the NYS Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) and Albany Guardian Society (AGS) to assist individuals and organizations in understanding the technical aspects of developing Villages in the Capital District. VTAC will assist individuals and agencies interested in developing a Village with the technical assistance and support their efforts to recruit leaders, file for incorporation and secure tax exemption as well as collecting and disseminating best practice information and resources to operate and sustain a successful Village.

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For more information about Villages, please call Albany Guardian Society at 518-434-2140 or email [ags@albanyguardiansociety.org](mailto:ags@albanyguardiansociety.org).