

TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
DELAWARE

OCTOBER 5, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Carol S. Houck, Town Manager

SUBJECT: New Tenant – Town Hall – 32 West Avenue
Office Space, South Coastal Village Volunteers

Background

Our Town Hall facility located at 32 West Avenue currently has an ongoing tenant relationship with the University of Delaware Osher Lifelong Learning Program. Osher has traditionally occupied various areas of Town Hall on Monday, Wednesday, and sometimes Thursday. However, the Lifelong Learning Program has only been operating remotely since the start of the pandemic. Currently, the UD plans to continue to only offer Osher courses remotely through May 2021, the end of the Spring semester.

Recently, the newly formed South Coastal Village Volunteers (SCVV) organization (currently a branch of the Greater Lewes Community Volunteers, a nonprofit approved 501(c)(3) volunteer organization serving Lewes, Rehoboth, and Milton) approached me regarding the availability of office space. There are more than 200 similar groups around the country. Both the vision and mission of the Village seems to align well with our Town and information learned from our recent Comprehensive Plan update:

Vision – To bring together neighbors helping neighbors in a volunteer-based community of mutual support so that, as we grow older, we can live independently in our homes and remain active in our communities for as long as possible.

Mission - To provide support, services, and social interaction for older people to enhance the lives of our members and the quality of life for all in our community.

Please see the attached information regarding the SCVV for reference.

Details of Tenant Engagement

I identified an office space in Town Hall and met with SCVV representatives to show it to them. They felt the space, location and two days a week availability (Tuesdays and Fridays when Osher is not typically there) was suitable for their operations which will include interviewing volunteers

to perform services, registering members, fund raising planning for the program, record storage, etc. The SCVV would be granted use of one office, restroom facilities, kitchen, internet access and parking two days a week.

My intent is to enter an agreement like that which has been established with Osher, for a period beginning November 1, 2020 through May 2021 with the following fees for usage:

November and December 2020: no rent charged to allow the organization to be more formally implemented and office space prepared.

January 2021 through May 2021: \$300 a month – payable on the 1st of each month to the Town of Ocean View, DE.

In April 2021, we hope to have had a successful experience and to renegotiate a permanent lease agreement under similar terms.

Intent to Initiate Lease

It is my intent to initiate a lease under the above noted terms with SCVV (currently operating under the 501(c)(3) of the Greater Lewes Village Volunteers) effective November 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021.

I would like to know that Mayor and Council support this engagement effort.

South Coastal Village Volunteers

Vision - to bring together neighbors helping neighbors in a **volunteer based** community of mutual support so that, as we grow older, we can live independently in our homes **and remain active in our communities** for as long as possible

Mission – to provide support, services and social interaction for older people to enhance the lives of our members and the quality of life for all in our community

Current status – Concerned citizens in the Bethany Beach/Ocean View/Millville area are forming a **non-profit** Village where neighbors help each other to continue to lead vibrant, active and healthy lives. The cornerstone of the Village is “one-stop shopping” for needed services. A volunteer corps will respond to members’ requests and a group of screened vendors and merchants will offer discounts for their services.

A small planning group has been established and is developing start-up plans and fund raising concepts. The Village will be funded partly by an annual fee for members (e.g., \$500) and partly by fundraising efforts which will guarantee up to 25 hours of volunteer time each month.

Key tasks - *Network with existing contacts *Coordinate/collaborate with existing service agencies to assess what gaps in services need to be filled *Analyze demographic data and conduct a survey to assess community’s needs and to seek volunteers *Develop a start-up plan and budget *Join national Village to Village Network to collaborate with existing Villages *Reach out to local clubs, organizations, churches, government agencies and the Chamber of Commerce

Member Services Under Consideration –

***Transportation** for medical and personal appointments, social or cultural events, grocery shopping

* **Household services** such as care of plants and gardening, balancing checkbooks, simple repairs and projects, **and access to vetted and discounted service providers**

***Running errands** such as picking up groceries and medicine, shopping for gifts and clothing

***Visits to the home** to provide conversation and companionship, respite for caregivers

***Technology assistance** to program mobile phone, television remotes, e-mail and other simple computer functions

***Telephone check-in** to inquire about well-being and needs and for friendly conversation



SOUTH COASTAL VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS

Who are we?

We are neighbors helping neighbors within the zip codes of Bethany Beach, Millville and Ocean View, Delaware. We are a branch of Village Volunteers, a nonprofit approved 501(c)(3) volunteer organization serving Lewes, Rehoboth and Milton.

Who are the South Coastal Village Members?

Members are older adults who choose to live independently in their community. They are assisted by volunteers to do things they may need help with, to take them to appointments and shopping, to visit and to call.

Why become a member?

- To live as independently as possible as you grow older
- To have the ability to manage your appointments and your schedule
- To be actively engaged in a community of mutual support
- To have access to vetted vendors who will perform discounted services

Who is eligible to become a member?

Older adults who reside in Bethany, Ocean View or Millville zip codes and are able to walk under their own power or with the assistance of a cane or walker are eligible.

Levels of Membership*

Full Membership: Eligible for all services and programs of The Village

\$500 for an individual per year

\$750 per household per year

We provide individuals up to 25 hours of service per month (the cost comes to approximately \$1.67 per hour or \$2.50 per hour for a household serving 2 or more seniors).

**Subsidized memberships for lower-income families are available based upon documented need.*

Supporting Membership: Includes access to all programs and vendors

\$250 / individual or couple. \$200 of the \$250 is a considered a charitable contribution. Please consult your tax professional.

How do I become a member? Please email southcoastalvillage@gmail.com



Lewes 19958, Milton 19968, Rehoboth Beach 19971

South Coastal Village Volunteers is a branch of Village Volunteers, an IRS approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
EIN 45-4573582 For more information, visit our website: www.villagevolunteer.org



SOUTH COASTAL VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER

South Coastal Village Volunteers invites you to volunteer and support older adults in our community so they can age in place.

Volunteer Your Way - You decide the type of services you would like to perform as well as the days and hours you would like to volunteer. We appreciate all that you have to offer and we will work with you to find the best fit for your contributions. We will provide orientation, training, and more.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Transportation –

Driving members to medical appointments, social or cultural events, the hairdresser or barber, grocery stores and errands.

Assisting with grocery shopping, clothing and gift shopping, and picking up prescriptions. Volunteers who elect to be drivers must provide a current driver's license and proof of insurance and must keep these current.

Taking care of minor household organization, minor household repairs, occasional pet care, and plant care,

Assisting with managing accounts and balancing checkbooks,

Friendly Visits or Calls –

Providing conversation and companionship, respite for caregivers,

Assisting with puzzles or playing a game, sharing stories, photos, and memories.

Home Maintenance –

Changing hard-to-reach light bulbs, hanging pictures, checking smoke alarms, moving outdoor furniture, providing simple repairs and minor yard work.

Technology - Helping with computer, printer, email, programmable thermostats, smart phones, and more.

SCVV Office Assistance, Events and Programs - Answering phones, matching volunteers to member service requests, managing emails, data entry, and more.

HOW DO I BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

In order to keep our members safe and allow peace of mind, we require all volunteers to: complete an application (online or paper), to provide a minimum of two references, agree to a background check (performed on all potential volunteers); and to pay a \$17.00 fee for the background check. Please be assured that all information you provide to the Village will be held in strict confidence.

Please email southcoastalvillage@gmail.com for more information.



Lewes 19958, Milton 19968, Rehoboth Beach 19971

www.villagevolunteer.org



South Coastal Village Volunteers

southcoastalvillage@gmail.com PO Box 1453, Bethany Beach, DE 19930

South Coastal Village Volunteers Newsletter – March 2020

Welcome: Thank you for your interest in the South Coastal Village Volunteers. We are working to form an organization to bring neighbors together so that volunteers can provide needed services to enable senior members to live independently in their homes and to remain active in our community for as long as possible. Our area covers Bethany Beach, Ocean View and Millville. The current coronavirus crisis has highlighted the need for an organization such as ours.

Membership: Members will pay an annual fee which will entitle them to up to twenty-five hours of volunteer services monthly. This amounts to as little as \$1.67 an hour for services they will be eligible to receive from our enlisted volunteers. Transportation to appointments and shopping, grocery shopping, performance of simple household tasks, and help with technology are some of the services that will be available, along with home visits and telephone checks. A list of vetted service providers who will give a discount in services such as electricians, HVAC technicians, roofers, and handymen will be given to members for when they need to hire contractors.

Village Movement: There is a growing movement of Village organizations nationwide, and we are tapping into that network for assistance in forming our Village. In addition, we are working closely with the Village Volunteers who have been operating in Lewes since 2014 and have expanded to include Rehoboth and Milton. We are taking advantage of their experience and advice and exploring the possibility of becoming a “spoke” in their “hub” to enable us to get up and running more expeditiously and with less cost.

Organizers: Our Steering Committee, consisting of Elizabeth Bolton, Jack and Joan Gordon, Kathy Green, Ron Kerchner, Lois Pastore, Chris Powers, Karen Taylor and Claudia Thayne has been meeting regularly with lots of energy and enthusiasm. We have an e-mail address (southcoastalvillage@gmail.com) and a P O Box (1453, Bethany Beach, DE 19930), and we'll have a bank account very soon. We have reached out to a number of local organizations for assistance and collaboration. We are trying to let our community know about the South Coastal Village through local press, HOAs, service organizations, clubs and churches. Please help us by spreading the word to your friends and neighbors and letting us know of any group that might be helpful to us.

Survey: We are working on formulating a survey to assess the needs of our community. This survey, which we hope will reach a large number of people, will help us to determine the need for membership and the interest in volunteering. We believe that the Bethany-Ocean View-Millville area, with its plethora of retirees of all ages, has many older seniors who could benefit from the services immediately and many younger retirees who have the time and interest to give back to the community now and who will want to avail themselves of our services later.

Strategic Partners: We are in the process of forming a group of Strategic Partners to advise us or to contribute a skill to assist in our organization and operation. In the not-too-distant future, we will form a Board of Directors to govern the organization as we begin to offer services. We also need donations to help offset the costs of formalizing the Village.

Help us: Please let us know if you can help in any way. Would you like to join our Steering Committee or become a Strategic Partner and bring a special skill to our group? Are you willing to make a donation towards getting us established? Please contact us at southcoastalvillage@gmail.com or call Ron Kerchner at 609-424-7281 to get more information or to get involved.

Stay well during this difficult time. We will keep you informed of our progress periodically.