



Celebrate the Joy of Making your Life Easier

LET THE VILLAGE HELP YOU THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

We would like to remind members that the Village is here to support you and help with many tasks you may find yourself dealing with anytime, and especially during the holidays. Our volunteers are here to make things easier and are eager to know how they can be of service to you. Here are just a few of the things the Village can help with. We are happy to assist in other areas if we can - call us at **(805) 372-1826** and ask!

- *Change the furnace filter*
- *Hang holiday decorations*
- *Set up/decorate Christmas Tree*
- *Help with holiday shopping*
- *Prepare for visiting family*
- *Take down holiday decorations*
- *Check/replace smoke alarm batteries*
- *Help clear out closets*
- *Take items to donation/recycling sites*



Enjoy the Gifts of our Village -

During the Holidays and Every Day!



Our Village brings people together, helps solve problems and works to improve lives. We are fortunate to share as a Village the gifts of a caring **community**, a local **support** network of neighbors and lasting **friendship**. And not just at the holidays - all year long! We wish members, volunteers and your families a happy and healthy holiday season and a great new year!

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See Insert for
Upcoming Events

Everyone Loves a Village Celebration!



Everyone Loves a Celebration!

Whether it's an Octoberfeast potluck at Lori's house or a Thanksgiving dinner at Country Harvest, our Village knows how to socialize, enjoy a wonderful meal and have a great time.



Carr Brown, Barb Kellams, Deborah Mason get in the Halloween spirit; Bill Cobb inspects the potluck buffet; Barb Balke, Michaela Johnson, Billie Sontag, and Barb Kellams display their favorite dishes.

Barbara Jimerson, Lori Bliss and other members enjoying Thanksgiving dinner; Susie Johnson shows off her holiday wear.



Then a nice stroll to walk it off....

Barb Kellams, Susan Webber, Susan Armstrong, Sharon Chernoff and Maryann Gitt (not shown) enjoy a stroll and coffee at the Oaks Mall.



Photos courtesy of
Maryann Gitt

CVV Holiday Reminders:

For more info or to sign up, go online or call (805) 372-1826

December 11th Member & Volunteer Holiday Party

- join us for a free catered dinner, music, games and door prizes!

Holiday gift basket donations for Senior Concerns - drop off at Goebel

Center Lobby by 12/9 or bring to the 12/11 CVV holiday Party

Shop at Barnes & Noble - let us wrap your gifts to help us raise money for CVV



Tech Tip: Free Phones to Help You Stay Connected

By Vanessa Renna

FREE Specialized Phones Help You Communicate Better

If it is getting a bit harder for you or someone you know to use your home or mobile phone, you should know the State of California offers **free** phones to make it easier for you to stay connected. Over half a million Californians use these specialized phones from the California Public Utilities Commission's Deaf & Disabled Telecommunications Program which is supported by a small surcharge included on all California telephone bills.

These specialized phones support difficulties with hearing, speech, mobility, vision or memory. Their unique features - including amplification, photo or bigger buttons,



flashing lights or talking keypads, headsets and neck loops, visual displays of spoken words, speaker-phone, programmable memory-dialing and various accessories - give you the extra support you may need to stay engaged in the conversation.

Most phones are hearing-aid compatible and there are no additional service costs beyond your regular telephone service.

California residents with telephone service and a doctor who will approve the need are eligible. To apply, there is a simple, 3-step process - 1) fill out the application form from their website, 2) have your doctor sign the application, 3) you mail or fax the form. Once approved, you call California Phones to discuss which phone is best for you.

For more information, go to www.californiaphones.org or call their Contact Center at **1-800-806-1191**.



Meet Tom Middleton - Member & Volunteer

By Maryann Gitt

Getting to know Tom is full of surprises. As soon as you learn of one thing he has done, another comes along. His accomplishments are many. A B.S. in Science Engineering (UCLA) and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (USC) led him into an

Engineering career, retiring in 2013 from Raytheon. His specialty was designing and managing development of Automatic Test Systems that certified electronic systems for fault free correct construction and operation. During this time, he and his wife raised a family of 3 children, one cat and 2 birds. Soccer practices for his son led Tom to become an AYSO Referee for at least 20 years.

After retiring, Tom became a Member of the Ventura County Civil Grand jury from 2013-2015. Then in 2016 he was certified in the UC Master Gardener program. Today you can find him offering gardening support in the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden and also volunteering as the Master Gardener in the South African Garden at the Goebel.

Tom has been involved in the Tax Preparation program

at the Goebel Center, the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and as a Volunteer in Policing (VIP) helping to keep our city safe. As a member of Conejo Valley Village, you may also see him at many CVV events and/or talk with him on the phone when he does Call Manager duty and gives advice regarding CVV issues.

Tom enjoys meeting new people and having conversations with them. He also loves helping people in the CVV community who need a little extra help to remain comfortably in their homes. After his wife died, volunteer activities have helped fill the void of his social life.

"I get a lot of satisfaction from being with and learning from the members of the Conejo Valley Village." Tom, we enjoy learning from you, and appreciate you sharing your skills and experience with CVV. You are a terrific asset to CVV and our community. Here's to many more adventures in 2018!

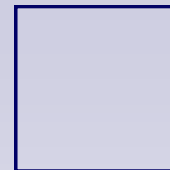
"I get a lot of satisfaction from being with and learning from members of CVV"



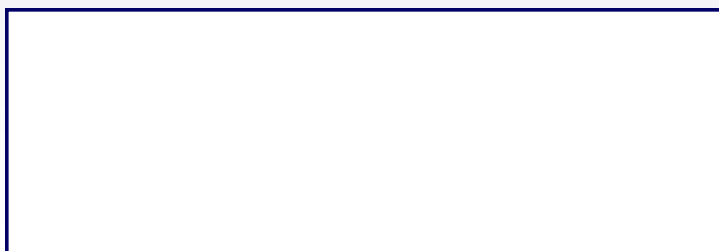
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Website: www.conejovalleyvillage.org

The mission of Conejo Valley Village is to help seniors remain independent in their homes and stay active in our community.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors Stay Independent, Active and Connected



Conejo Valley Village is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). Donations are tax-deductible.

VILLAGE CONNECTIONS

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Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers: Please email your total Administrative volunteer hours estimated through the end of the month by the **25th** to volunteerhours@conejovalleyvillage.org. Thanks for all you do for CVV!



LIKE TO TALK ON THE PHONE?

We need some volunteers to call members (especially

those who do not use computers) periodically to remind them about events. Great way to meet and get to know people in the Village and learn how we can help one another. The personal touch is much appreciated! Call a Call Manager for more information if you are interested!

Work at our CVV table at the Conejo Park & Recreation District's

2018 Wellness Fest

WED. JAN 17, 9am - 1pm
Goebel Center

This community health and wellness event is a great opportunity to share how CVV helps seniors stay active.

Two volunteers needed for each 1-hour shift (9, 10, 11 am and noon)
Call to sign up at **(805) 372-1826**

SAVE

THE DATE!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

**CVV All Volunteer
Program Meeting
4 - 6 pm
Goebel Center**

More details to come in
our January newsletter