



Disaster Preparedness

Fire season is here, heralded by thousands of lightning strikes and fires. Some evacuations are underway around the state, complicated by the challenges of COVID-19. Rolling blackouts are occurring as the State's power grid is stretched in an enduring heatwave. Please review your emergency plans and read on to learn about new resources to help you and your villages be ready.

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From the Executive Director



Charlotte

The heat and fire season is upon us with threats of poor air quality, disruption of power, and potential evacuation. Over the past week we've witnessed the explosion of several fires in Northern and Southern California. Fueled by record heat, some remain out of control.

The COVID-19 pandemic and county and state health orders are shaping plans for emergency shelters and cooling centers. Villages have an important role in preparing and supporting members and volunteers during this period of disruption.

This month's **Tales from the Village** describes the Sierra Foothills Village emergency preparedness program and contains several links to support your village's work in this area. Please read it and bookmark those links, and consider participating in one of their workshops. This Village's collaboration with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services Listos program and local agencies is a model for how we all might build community resilience.

Please read the detailed [notes](#) from last December's Zoom call on *Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)*. Villages shared their responses to fires and PSPS along with information about their community partners. We included links to the Medical Baseline Program that supports any older adults reliant on medical equipment requiring electricity.

Our movement's robust response to the COVID-19 pandemic adds to your arsenal of information and suggestions about the heat and fire season. You are calling each other regularly and getting members and volunteers together on Zoom calls. How about:

- Adding a program on "Go Bags" or "Stay Boxes" as a doable next step
- Making follow-up outreach calls to help people walk through their personal emergency plans
- Inviting local partners to attend a Zoom call about emergency preparedness to ensure that your village community gets connected to the emergency response system, and your village is recognized as a valuable community asset
- Asking your members and volunteers to sign up to receive **Flex Alert notifications** from your utility provider to help California conserve energy during times of high grid stress

It is likely that your members and volunteers are not known to the agencies responsible for public safety because most don't utilize the senior services offered through the Area Agencies on Aging and the counties. These agencies want to know your people so that they can offer valuable information in real time through email, text, and phone.

Announcement

The [Alfred N. Rupe Foundation](#) awarded us a \$50,000 grant to build our movement's capacity to support dementia caregivers and to start new villages. We'll partner with the Pasadena Village's Caregiver Support Group this fall to make its model available to you through a toolkit, webinars, and a learning cohort. Next year, we'll concentrate on seeding new villages. Support for new villages will include memberships in Village to Village Network. Stay tuned for more information.

The final session, “Financial Sustainability”, featured Jan Masaoka, CEO of the California Association of Nonprofits. She emphasized the value of volunteer organizations, advised villages to amplify the fundraising strategies that have worked well for them, rather than getting into something new, and confirmed the importance of focusing on current and emerging needs of volunteers and members during the pandemic. She assured us that growth is not the benchmark of success and advised that we *not* invest time and energy in long range strategic planning. She stressed the importance of the statewide organization, Village Movement California, as the backbone for villages’ long term sustainability.

Session recordings and Closed Captioning are now posted on the [website](#). Please complete the evaluation [survey](#) if you attended to help us plan future programs.

Diversity & Inclusion

Sankofa Stories: An Update from Our Partners at Sistahs Aging With Grace & Elegance

By Carlene Davis, Co-director



As part of our ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, Village Movement California has partnered with [Sistahs Aging with Grace & Elegance](#) (Sage Sistahs) to support their Sankofa Village Storytelling Project – an exploration of how Black women navigate the hope, beauty, trials, and tribulations of aging-in-place and community.

The Sankofa Village Story Project is primarily focused on Black women who reside in historically Black-majority communities in Los Angeles County. One of the project’s goals is to provide a platform for exploring the ways California-based Villages might adapt and expand to increase diversity and equity within the movement – particularly as it relates to the inclusion of older and aging Black women.

The first phase of the Sankofa Village Storytelling Project is expected to be completed in late-Fall. At that time, Sistahs Aging with Grace & Elegance will partner with Village Movement California to engage member villages in facilitated conversations to share and reflect on the initial learnings from the Sankofa Village Storytelling Project. For more information on the Sankofa Village Storytelling Project, please visit the project website: www.sankofastories.com. Learn more about Sage Sistahs [here](#).

Update: Master Plan for Aging

Work on the Master Plan for Aging (MPA) has resumed after it was paused by the focus on the COVID-19 pandemic. On August 11, the MPA's Stakeholder Advisory Committee met over Zoom to discuss initial recommendations from four Master Plan work groups. The work groups mirror the sections of the plan:



- Long Term Services & Supports
- Livable Communities and Purpose
- Health & Well Being
- Economic Security & Safety

We learned that villages will be named as a best practice in the *Livable Communities & Purpose Section*. Villages' inclusion in the Master Plan will lay the groundwork for Village Movement California to advocate for State support of our members, a key to long term sustainability. This is an example of what we can accomplish together through our statewide organization, Village Movement California.

The recommendations will be finalized on September 15, and a review period will follow. Stay tuned for ways you can help secure our place in the plan. In the meantime, check out the [website](#).

R.I.P. Judy Macias – Sadly taken from us August 11, 2020



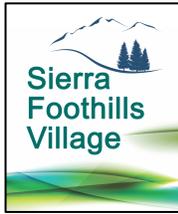
Judy fought hard to battle a serious illness but on August 11, 2020 she passed away. We are much saddened. We will miss Judy's initiative, persistence and creativity. She was incredible in her dedication to non-profits, especially her "Baby" [Village of the Coastside](#). She will be missed as a visionary leader, an inspiration, a mentor and especially as a friend. She made a difference in many lives and was a treasure for the community.

Letters/cards of condolence may be addressed to: The Macias Family, 871 San Ramon Avenue, Moss Beach, CA 94038; email: mmacias1@comcast.net.

Tales From the Village

Partnering for Emergency Preparedness: Sierra Foothills Village

By Carol Haig, Editor



“We’re in your neighborhood” says Valarie Bush, Executive Director of [Sierra Foothills Village](#), as she explains the village concept to prospective members and volunteers. Based in Nevada City, CA, this growing village is intent on helping members and volunteers build strong friendships as everyone pitches in to help each other in the largely rural communities within Nevada County.

Since COVID-19 upended their lives, Sierra Foothills Village is focused on supporting their members, providing transportation and other services for all who need them, and otherwise pivoting to keep everyone connected in new and different ways. These include volunteers helping members prepare both Go Bags and Stay Boxes for emergencies.

Listos

In August of 2019, Governor Newsom established [Listos California](#). Meaning ‘ready’ in Spanish, Listos oversees 50m in grants to build resilience in communities at high risk for wildfires and other disasters. Says Newsome, “We’re empowering non-profit organizations and emergency responders to work together to prepare for emergencies because California is at its best when we look out for each other.” See if your county has a Listos Community Based Organization Partner [here](#).

Valarie’s predecessor, Erin Noel, secured a \$35,000 grant for Sierra Foothills Village to offer training to all interested community members on preparing for a disaster—fire, earthquake, flood, etc. Six other local organizations, providing a range of community services, also received grants. Listos trained trainers from each to hold classes in their communities and provided the materials.

COVID-19’s arrival meant figuring out how to do outreach and deliver the program. The grant funds are being used to develop all the online resources for training, provide the promotion, deliver the training, and train trainers for emergency preparedness.

The Training

Valarie is a trained Emergency Preparedness presenter. During the class, participants also have an opportunity to learn about Sierra Foothills Village and how they support the community. It is important for villages seen as an important resource and valued as part of the local community.

All six participating organizations combine their individual attendance counts and report the total number of participants to Listos, an excellent example of a village building relationships with other community service providers.

Currently, the class is one hour and is offered weekly on Zoom. Focused on how to create your own emergency preparedness plan, topics covered include how to:

- Sign up for local emergency alert system
- Identify five trusted allies
- Prepare list of medical needs and medicines
- Obtain and scan copies of important documents
- Assemble a *Carry with You Always, Grab & Go Bag, Stay Box*
- Identify and test evacuation route

Related materials are some of the most comprehensive we've seen and you can download them for use by your village members and volunteers:

- [Ready Set Go Handbook](#)
- [Disaster Ready Guide](#)
- Personal Profile – [4 Steps to Emergency Preparedness for All](#)

Other resources are also listed [here](#).

Valarie invites you and your village members and volunteers to attend one of her Emergency Preparedness Zoom classes. Sign up [here](#). Contact Valarie Bush directly with your questions: valarie@sierrafoothillsvillage.org.

An Urgent Message

As we have discussed in previous Village Movement California webinars and [newsletter articles](#), most villages now have protocols in place for reaching everyone and helping them during a PSPS (Public Safety Power Shutoff). With COVID-19 affecting all Californians as fire season ramps up, it becomes clear that we may be on our own for long periods of time in the event of a PSPS, wildfire, or other disaster. There is no time to plan during an emergency, so making detailed plans now and updating those we already have are critical to safety and survival.

Please avail yourself and your village of the information and resources provided here. Then make your plans and rehearse them with your family so you can respond automatically in the event of an emergency. Be sure to identify and connect with your local emergency preparation and response resources.

VMC Promotional Video Project

The village marketing video is underway and we need your financial contribution. Village Movement California is partnering with Mission Minded to develop and produce a compelling video to help older adults connect to your vibrant communities. A video is a critical outreach tool when much of our work takes place online. The video will be similar to one Mission Minded created for San Francisco Village when an annual fundraising luncheon had to be moved online. The video spurred record donations. Take a [look!](#)



The Joseph and Vera Long Foundation provided core funding for the video with the expectation that matching funds be raised. The sliding scale ranges from \$50 to \$250 depending on the size of the village annual budget. Please contact Charlotte to make your contribution if you have not already done so, or complete this [form](#). charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org, 510-900-6380.

Senior Medicare Patrol



As we approach fall and Open Enrollment, Senior Medicare Patrol steps up its vigilance, looking out for health plan-related scams. They developed a helpful one-page novella telling how Medicare beneficiaries can protect themselves from enrollment fraud. It is available in both

[English](#) and [Spanish](#). Please share it with your members and volunteers.

Micki will present a webinar on August 27 covering this and more in details. See **Upcoming Events** below for registration information.

2020 Census

The U.S. Census Bureau recently announced they will end all outreach activities at the end of September, earlier than originally scheduled. An undercount will have a drastic impact on communities across the country.



The [On Lok Lifeways](#) organization recently co-hosted four webinars with the U.S. Census Bureau that included:

- Step-by-step instructions for filling out the 2020 Census form
- Where to get help if needed
- Special precautions the Census Bureau is taking during the COVID-19 pandemic as they shift to in-person follow up visits to households that haven't yet completed the Census

The webinars are available in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin. Here's the [direct link](#) to the recordings. Each webinar is approx. 30 minutes.

Upcoming Events



Weekly AARP Tele-Townhall Calls continue with helpful information during COVID-19. Calls take place every Thursday. Find detailed information and topics [HERE](#).



Village Movement CA Webinar: Update on COVID-19 and Medicare Scams

August 27, 1:00 – 2:00 pm: Senior Medicare Patrol Director Micki

Nozaki will lead a webinar focused on current Medicare and healthcare fraud trends. Register [HERE](#)



Zoom Call on State Support for Villages

September 17 1:00 – 2:30 pm: The California Senior Legislature and Village Movement California will host a Zoom call to explore how we might advance state legislation to sustain and grow the village

movement. Speakers will address how villages can meet the goals of the Master Plan for Aging, and participants will reflect on specific needs legislation might address.

Register [HERE](#)



National Virtual Village Gathering – 20/20 Clear Vision for the Future

October 6, 13, and 20, 2020

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register

Special COVID-19 Resources

Ask an Expert



A daily COVID-19 feature on the San Francisco Bay Area all-news radio station, KCBS, each Q&A session has a pandemic-related subject and compiles listener questions into a 20-minute discussion with a subject matter expert. All discussions are available in recorded and transcribed formats [here](#).

A recent program discussed [*Is it Safe to Go to the Dentist*](#), an increasingly important topic as shelter-in-place continues.

All newsletters are archived [here](#)

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