



## Growing Villages

Village Movement California’s inclusion in the California Master Plan for Aging has broadened our sphere of influence and widened the opportunity for establishing new villages and expanding existing ones. Read on to learn about our outreach efforts.

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## From the Executive Director



*Charlotte*

Over the past month and a half, I’ve been talking with village leaders, partner organizations, county aging services executives, funders, and community activists about expanding existing villages and building new ones. The California Master Plan for Aging’s village objective to “promote and adapt the village model of volunteerism and services to reflect the strengths of communities”

has raised awareness and demand for what we offer to California's Older adults and their communities.

Two weeks ago, we co-hosted a statewide conversation with Pazit Aviv, Montgomery County's Village Coordinator (Maryland), and eight people who are interested in starting villages. We met people from Kern, San Joaquin, Sonoma, and Yolo Counties. I shared Village Movement California's plan to build a network model of village development that will bring existing organizations and service systems together with the village model and movement. Some topics we discussed were the power of vision to attract leaders and the value of naming and including the community's assets when building and running a village. We'll be reconvening the group in October to share progress and explore challenges.

At the end of August, we will co-sponsor a stakeholder meeting in Stockton with the Community Health Department of St. Joseph's Hospital. I worked in Stockton and San Joaquin County for many years, and I look forward to returning to learn about the needs of their older adults, and to discuss the village movement.

I am thrilled that our message about the power of community to transform the experience of aging resonates with many people. Our collective work to start and sustain villages over the past decade places us in a strong position to accelerate the growth of our movement, deepen its impact, and secure its sustainability.

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*Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion will return*

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## Introducing California Phones

By Carol Haig, Editor

Has using a standard telephone become difficult? Perhaps you or someone you know is having trouble hearing, seeing, speaking, moving, or remembering and could benefit from a telephone adapted to their needs. The [California Telephone Access Program \(CTAP\)](#) has a wide variety of specialized phones available at no cost to any California resident who is in need. The goal of the CTAP Program is to provide a phone that works for you. There is no age or income requirement.

California Phones was a sponsor of our recent annual Conference. Carmen Garcia, Outreach Specialist from the Fresno office, is California Phones' liaison to Village Movement California and spoke with many conference participants. She encourages California villages to let their members and volunteers know about this opportunity to make using their phone easier.

## How to Qualify

Qualifying for a telephone through CTAP is simple. Applicants must meet these requirements:

- Live in California
- Have telephone service
- Have their doctor/medical provider approve their need

Qualifying medical conditions can range from mild to severe loss of:

- Hearing
- Vision
- Memory
- Speech
- Mobility

The application is available on the [California Phones](#) website. Just complete your portion of the form, take it to your doctor/medical provider for approval and signature, and submit it.

## Choosing a Phone

Browse the *Specialized Products* section of the [California Phones](#) website to see the many types of telephones offered and the features available for each. Do visit the *About* section of the website to see video testimonials from customers who talk about the specialized phones they've received and the benefits they experience.

Customers can visit a local California Phones service center to look at the phones and discuss their needs with an advisor. Service centers are in:

- [Berkeley](#)
- [Fresno](#)
- [Glendale](#)
- [Marina](#)
- [Orange](#)
- [Redding](#)
- [Riverside](#)
- [Sacramento](#)
- [San Diego](#)
- [San Francisco](#)
- [San Jose](#)
- [Santa Barbara](#)
- [West Covina](#)

Customers can pick up their phone at a service center or receive it by mail with full instructions for set-up and use. Field Advisors are available to help with set-up and troubleshooting over the phone if needed. They also make house calls.

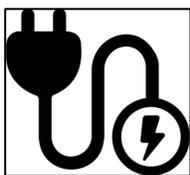
Most of the phones provided require a landline connection. If the selected CTAP phone is cordless, California Phones provides new batteries when needed. For cellphone users, there is now a special amplifier available with Bluetooth for customers with hearing loss.

## Become a California Phones User

There are currently 730,000 Californians using these specialized phones. Join them and take advantage of this free service, paid for by a monthly surcharge on the telephone bills of all Californians shown on your phone bill as: *CA Relay Service and Telecommunications Fund*. We are all contributors to this program, so take advantage of it.

## Host a California Phones Session

California Phones also hosts events in partnership with various non-profit organizations where customers can come to learn about the phones and select one to meet their needs. Would your village like to host such a session? It's a great way to let your members and volunteers in on a wonderful program. Looking to grow your membership and attract more volunteers? Plan to invite the larger community as well. Please call Carmen Garcia at [559.283.1230](tel:559.283.1230) for more information.



### Energy Upgrade California Time of Use Program

By Charlotte Dickson

The stark evidence of climate change begs the question: What can we do? One opportunity is available through the [Energy Upgrade California Time of Use](#) program now in full swing in both PG&E and So Cal Edison territories.

You may have seen billboards, social media, and advertisements saying “Keep it Golden. Power Down 4 – 9.” The *Time of Use* program is sponsored by the California Public Utilities Commission to inform customers that using sustainable energy sources available during daytime hours can lower electric bills. Conversely, rates from 4:00 – 9:00 pm will be more expensive since they rely on fossil fuels.

Starting this summer, PG&E and SCE Customers will see changes in the way they are billed for electricity. Customers have choices about their rate plans. Here are fact sheets

from [PG&E](#) and [So Cal Edison](#). San Diego has already completed its transition to Time of Use.

Time of Use Tip of the Month: TURN OFF LIGHTS YOU AREN'T USING: Indoor and outdoor lighting consume a lot of electricity. Switch things off when not needed, especially during peak hours.

People have choices about how they respond to these changes, and how their electric bill will be calculated.

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## Caregiving in Villages

Every day in California hundreds more people become caregivers of loved ones, whether partners, friends, parents, or children. This is true in the village movement as our members age. Over the past year, we have offered a program to help villages support members who are providing care to a loved one. The program, assisted by a grant from the [Arthur N. Rupe Foundation](#), included a four-part workshop series, caregiver support group toolkit, web page, and a caregiver support learning community.

[This link](#) takes you to the web page with all the program's resources.

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## Request from Pasadena Village

Pasadena Village is looking for leadership training, not necessarily for board members, but for volunteers who want to be effective chairs or program committee participants. What resources or trainings can you recommend? Please contact Katie Brandon, [katie@pasadenavillage.org](mailto:katie@pasadenavillage.org).

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## Wildfire Season is Here!

Please make sure that your members and volunteers are signed up for alerts at all three levels: city, county, and utility company. Encourage those who rely on medical equipment powered by electricity to enroll in the *Medical Baseline Program* (see below). This program offers rate discounts, additional

alerts about Public Safety Power Shutoffs and other disruptions in electric service, and access to batteries, equipment, lodging, and meals during disruptions.

The [Disability Disaster Access & Resources Program](#) is the conduit to these resources:  
[PG&E Medical Baseline Program](#)  
[San Diego Gas and Electric Medical Baseline Program](#)  
[Southern Cal Edison Medical Baseline Program](#)

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## Village Movement California Expands on Social Media

Please follow and like us on Facebook at VillageMovementCalifornia! We'll follow and like you back! We are also on Twitter @villmovementCA and LinkedIn - Village Movement California.

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## Celebrate Older Adults!

Do you like celebrations? With a bit of research, it is likely you can find a designated day that recognizes a cause or event that resonates with you. Women's Equality Day, World Humanity Day, National Aviation Day, International Friendship Day, Grandparents Day are just a few possibilities. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed August 21 [National Senior Citizens Day](#) to raise awareness about the issues that affect this growing segment of the U.S. population. While we'd prefer it be called National Older Adults Day, the spirit of the designation is what is relevant to us in the Village Movement.

Reagan might have spoken directly of our villages when he said:

“For all they have achieved throughout life and for all they continue to accomplish, we owe older citizens our thanks and a heartfelt salute. We can best demonstrate our gratitude and esteem by making sure that our communities are good places in which to mature and grow older — places in which older people can participate to the fullest and can find the encouragement, acceptance, assistance, and services they need to continue to lead lives of independence and dignity.”

On the 21<sup>st</sup>, raise a glass to your village in salutation for all you have accomplished, all you are doing, and all you will do



## Gubernatorial Recall Election

Have you received your Voter Information Guide and election ballot yet? These are being mailed to all registered voters in California.

Voting is a privilege of citizenship in the United States. Have you decided how you will vote? Whatever your thoughts are about this Recall, we encourage you to exercise your right to vote. Please complete the ballot and return it as soon as you can.

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## Upcoming Events



### LGBT Inclusive Villages and Belonging

August 18 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Sponsored by Pasadena Village and Village Movement California



Join Sherrill Wayland from the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging for an engaging webinar that will explore the ways Villages can be LGBT inclusive and foster belonging for older adults from all backgrounds and orientations. Download and share the flyer [here](#). Register [here](#).



### How to Set up a Hybrid Gathering

August 19 10:00 – 11:30 am

Sponsored by Ashby Village and Village Movement California



To usher us into the post-pandemic future, Ashby Village and Village Movement California are offering a how-to workshop on *hybrid* gatherings that give people the option to attend either in person or by Zoom. The focus is on around-the-table gatherings like committee meetings and interest groups. Share the flyer [here](#). Register [here](#).



### Elder Action Meeting

September 21 2:00 – 4:00 pm

The Ashby Village Elder Action group invites all villagers interested in learning more about Elder Action to join us on Zoom as we discuss issues past and present. RSVP to [elderactionnow@gmail.com](mailto:elderactionnow@gmail.com).

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## COVID-19 Information & Resources



### Ask an Expert

This daily COVID-19 feature on the San Francisco Bay Area all-news radio station, KCBS, has resumed since the advent of the Delta variant. 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 and recorded [here](#).

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## Notices

Have an upcoming event you'd like to open to other villages? Send the information to the newsletter editor: [carolhaig@earthlink.net](mailto:carolhaig@earthlink.net)

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