

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

Neighbors Driving Neighbors is looking forward to another year of growth and neighborly connection.

## Driver Spotlight: Allan Harville

Meet one of our founding drivers, Allan Harville, and find out what “drives” him to volunteer his time to NDN.



Allan and Libby Harville at home in Vienna

*NDN: Please tell me about yourself.*

AH: I am 82, healthy, semi-retired and live in Vienna with my wife, Libby, who is on the board of NDN. I am a proud member of the Mill Stream Grange and love to do odd jobs which gets me out into the community daily. My interests are reading, fixing things and cribbage, as well as other board and card games.

*NDN: How did you become aware of/interested in Neighbors Driving Neighbors?*

AH: My old friend, Dr. Dan Onion, who was one of the founders of NDN, asked me, and I was happy to join “the cause” and contribute in any way.

*NDN: What about volunteer driving appealed to you?*

AH: I really like the combination of socializing and community service. You get to chat with your friends and neighbors while also doing a good turn. Can't beat that combination.

*NDN: Can you describe the volunteer driving experience?*

AH: I enjoy driving for NDN. It has been pleasurable. And I do it when I can. No obligation, which makes it easy. I also get to meet new neighbors from the towns we serve like Belgrade, Fayette, Rome and now Readfield.

*NDN: Is there a memorable rider or trip you'd like to share (without naming names)?*

AH: I enjoy most all of my rides, but I'd have to say that older people are the most interesting!

*NDN: What advice would you give to anyone thinking about volunteering as a driver for NDN?*

AH: I would tell anyone thinking of volunteering that it is a great experience that helps many individuals. And you might get a lot of fun and satisfaction out of it too. Also, the administration is very helpful and makes things easy for drivers too.

### DO YOU LIKE TO DRIVE AND HELP OTHERS?

Our volunteer drivers enjoy the flexible time commitment, great socialization and many thanks from the riders. Call, email or visit our website to volunteer. Thank you!



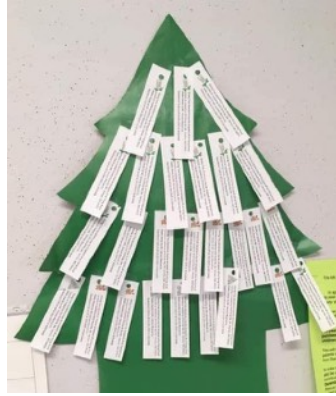
## In Memoriam

Our community and NDN suffered two great losses in 2023.

One of the founding members of NDN, **Pat Onion** and her husband, Dr. Dan Onion, helped to make NDN a success from the start. Professionally, she taught for 34 years at Colby, serving as chair, co-chair and associate chair of the English department. In Farmington and Vienna, she helped produce and acted in local theater productions, including the Mt. Vernon Christmas Revels. Her creativity, passion and drive fueled not only her personal and professional work but also her dedication to NDN.

**Pat Rawson**, also there from the beginning, helped spread the word about NDN's mission. A devoted teacher and long-time volunteer EMT, Pat served as a mentor and adviser to hundreds of students. As an EMT, Pat saved countless lives. With her Rescue colleagues, she started the annual "Giving Tree" tradition in 1990. In addition to NDN, she served on multiple town committees including Aging in Place, Community Partnerships, the Mt. Vernon Community Center and the Travis Mills Foundation.

## Cheerful Gifts, Grateful Hearts



*One of the "Giving Trees" around town.  
Photo credit: Leslie Grenier*

Continuing a decades-long tradition (started by community member Pat Rawson—see sidebar), several NDN volunteers participated in the Mt. Vernon/Vienna Giving Tree "cheerful gifts" distribution in December, delivering baskets to older community members who might otherwise be spending the holiday season alone. Participant and NDN board member Libby Harville noted, "All gifts are

donated from the community. New this year is that the JULIETS (Just Us Ladies Into Eating Together) brought lots of homemade cookies to the December breakfast. We bought Christmas containers and filled 40+ to be given with the cheerful gift bags." In addition, Leslie Grenier, organizer of the Giving Tree, crocheted more than 40 little animals or ornaments that also went into each bag. All routes had 3 or 4 deliveries to allow the driver to take a few minutes for a visit with the person.

Another participant, NDN board member Sandy Colt, said, "This outing put me in the happiest of Christmas spirits! I enjoyed a long visit with an older man who inspired me with his stories of overcoming adversities. Witnessing his independence, humor, and can-do attitude left me amazed and grateful for the experience. I came home smiling and grateful to have been given the opportunity to be welcomed into such kind people's homes, where I received gifts of warmth and friendship in return for my bags of simple presents."

What better way to celebrate the season of giving!



### A Look Ahead

**Saturday in July DATE TBD:** Community Breakfast, Mt. Vernon Community Center

**Month of July:** Annual Auction Online on [BiddingOwl.com](https://www.biddingowl.com) after July 1

