

Neighbors Driving Neighbors in Arrowsic and Georgetown



A New Volunteer Transportation Program

When Sheila Spear needed rides to medical appointments for her cancer treatment, her family, friends and neighbors stepped up. Along the way, Sheila repeatedly said how much she enjoyed these opportunities to chat with her friends. However, not everyone has such a dependable support network as Sheila did.



The volunteer group [Age-Friendly Communities of the Lower Kennebec](#) has developed a Volunteer Transportation Program matching riders who cannot drive themselves with vetted volunteer drivers to provide free rides to medical appointments and grocery shopping. Transportation is increasingly recognized as a growing need for older adults and essential to maintaining independence and health, no matter one's age.

In these programs volunteer drivers use their own vehicles to provide transportation from the rider's home to the destination. UMaine Center on Aging/Lifelong Maine and AARP Maine are giving us access to software that manages the logistics and to an excess liability insurance policy as well as background checks for drivers.



Drawing Livy Glaubitz

Georgetown ([Age-Friendly Georgetown](#)) and Arrowsic will be the first two communities where this new program is launched. The program coordinators, [Jim Peavey](#) for Georgetown and [Karin Sadtler](#) for Arrowsic, will interview riders and drivers, help with the application process, coordinate rides, and provide driver training.

Arrowsic currently has two drivers, and we are looking for additional ones. Based on experiences in other towns with similar programs we may need about ten drivers for Arrowsic over the coming years. As a driver you decide how often and when you are available. Please share this information with your family and friends who might want to drive a neighbor or might enjoy that ride!

–Karin Sadtler and Jim Peavey