



# Mount Pleasant Village Newsletter

Issue 1: May 25th, 2015

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**Mount Pleasant Village:** A new, community-based non-profit organization that mobilizes multi-generational resources to enrich the lives of neighborhood residents. Our neighbor-to-neighbor volunteer services and social, wellness, educational and cultural programs help members remain independent in our homes as we age. Our Village is part of a nationwide movement that began in Boston in 2001 to help seniors remain in their homes as they age. Capitol Hill Village became the first of about a dozen in Washington, D.C., in 2006. Mount Pleasant Village boundaries generally correspond to those of ANC 1D.

**Upcoming Events**  
**Plain Talk about Medicare and Social Security**  
June 27 at 12:30 pm  
Mount Pleasant Library  
**Alley Sale @ 1700 block**  
June 20 from 10:00 – 2:00  
between Park & Lamont

**Members Needed to Help Construct Our Village.** The Village was incorporated in March 2015 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and awaits IRS approval for tax-exempt status. We have adopted By-Laws and elected a Board of Directors. Now we need members to volunteer: to help with communications—website, social media, newsletters, graphic design; financial management and other back-office services; fundraising—writing grants, holding fundraisers; events management and, of course, coordinating volunteers - soon, we'll be calling for volunteers to help provide direct services and facilitate information. Membership – recruitment and interviewing.



*Mount Pleasant Village Board Members and Members*

**The Newly Elected Mount Pleasant Village Board** was introduced at a community meeting April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Library. Around 60 individuals attended, including representatives of At-large DC Councilmember Elissa Silverman and Ward One Councilmember Brianne Nadeau. Secretary Mary Rojas compiled these notes from the meeting:

- **The Mount Pleasant Village Board** is currently made up of 12 neighborhood residents. Village By-Laws call for a maximum 15-member board, with members elected to staggered 2-year terms at an annual meeting of Village members. The next election is in April 2016.
- **Officers Elected:** Katie Tyler was elected President; Brenda Krieger and Bonnie Cain, Vice Presidents; Rebecca Shannon, Treasurer; and Mary Rojas and Bob (Hoff) Hoffman will share the duties of Secretary.

- **Membership:** Mount Pleasant Village was established as a volunteer organization, reflecting the demographics and personality of the neighborhood, with services to be provided and activities led by volunteer members.
- **Membership Dues:** Annual membership fees are \$50 per person, including volunteers.
- **Membership Outreach:** With more than 50 members already, the Village is growing fast. We are reaching out to neighbors of all ages to spread the word about the benefits the Village offers. Members are hosting gatherings in their homes and maintaining a presence at the Farmers' Market and other local events. Contact Brenda Krieger at [mpvillagemembership@gmail.com](mailto:mpvillagemembership@gmail.com).
- **Services:** While not yet prepared to deliver services, in the future, the Village will coordinate services for members, e.g., transportation to doctors' appointments, shoveling sidewalks, simple home maintenance and computer help. The Board will interview members to determine what services are most needed; and who can provide them. Contact Elinor Hart at [hart1651@juno.com](mailto:hart1651@juno.com).
- **Programs:** To date we have had a presentation by the DC Department of Aging; two film showings at Marx Café; discounted tickets to the Gala Theatre; and a trip to view Board member Bob (Hoff) Hoffman's harmonica case collection. We plan to sponsor a regular stream of activities, including group walks and cycles; exercise and wellness classes; outings to museums and cultural events; films in the neighborhood; lectures and presentations from neighbors, experts, academicians, and other personalities. [bonnieicain@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieicain@gmail.com).

### Village Members View World's Largest Collection of Harmonica Cases. Bob

**Hoffman**, aka Hoff the Harmonica Case Man, long-time Mount Pleasant resident and Village Board member, started collecting hand-crafted harmonica cases about 10 years ago. His collection now numbers more than 500 cleverly designed hand-crafted containers, and has been referred to the *Guinness Book of World Records*. Hundreds of harmonica cases were displayed at the Gallery O on H Street for a week in April. Hoff, retired from AARP, conducted a fascinating tour of his collection for a large group of Villagers and several lucky drop-ins. Harmonica cases lined two floors of walls and shelves in the gallery (L) and included designs that were carved,



beaded, molded, sewn, wired, welded and 3D printed. They were fashioned of materials like leather, glass, wood, clay, stone, paper, glass, metal, forks and spoons and an ostrich egg. Here (R) Hoff shows off the first case he designed. Check out *City Paper's* terrific article on the exhibit: <http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/artsdesk/visual-arts/2015/04/16/the-worlds-largest-collection-of-handcrafted-harmonica-cases-is-in-mount-pleasant/> See the collection on YouTube at Hoff the Harmonica Case Man. **Note:** Hoff is looking to commission artists/crafters from Mount Pleasant to create new cases for his collection. He can be reached at [hoffharmonica@gmail.com](mailto:hoffharmonica@gmail.com).

**Contact us.** If you have questions or comments, please email [MPVillageinfo@gmail.com](mailto:MPVillageinfo@gmail.com). If you have comments on this newsletter or news to share in the next one, contact Darlene Meskell, Communications Chair, at [dmeskell@gmail.com](mailto:dmeskell@gmail.com)