



An Update from The Village Board of Directors:

The Mount Pleasant Village for aging-in-community is a member-run, grassroots network with a focus on neighbor-to-neighbor support, services and activities. In these uncertain political times, a Village, such as ours, that depends on cooperation, caring and respect, is to be especially valued. We are one of twelve Villages in Washington, D.C., and one of the three that are run by all volunteers, without paid staff. This is a great accomplishment. This year these twelve Villages have together submitted a grant proposal to the D.C. Office on Aging to support greater communications among our respective members.

Our Village Board of twelve directors and its Committee of Committees (Finance, Programs, Helping Hands, Membership, Diversity, Communications, Governance) serve as the Mount Pleasant Village coordinating body, assuring policies and procedures are in place to support our activities. The Board’s all-day retreat will be held September 8 to plan for 2019, our fifth year in operation. From this “coordination hub,” members suggest, plan, organize and implement projects of interest to them, from book clubs to yoga, and coffee groups to meditation. Through these activities, we get know each other and the businesses and agencies that support our community. We now are almost 200 members strong – an active and involved group of members.

This year we hired Claire Thompson, at six hours a week, to help us manage and update our website. There are already improvements to the site. Please give it a try at [www: mountpleasantvillage.org](http://www.mountpleasantvillage.org). In addition, Emma Klingenstein is working as a summer intern with Nancy Mills on a project

Upcoming Events

Mah Jong
Resumes September 17

For Other Activities and Events
see the calendar on the Village website
www.mountpleasantvillage.org

addressing social isolation, fragility and unmet needs.

Mary Hill Rojas
President, Board of Directors
Mount Pleasant Village

Activity for Fun and a Healthy Brain: Free Mah Jong Sessions Resume September 17

Join a dedicated group of Villagers to learn/play the unique board game of Mah Jong. Renowned Mah Jong teacher and Village board member Bob Hoffman (Hoff) is offering free lessons for Villagers. Both beginners and experienced players are welcome. Mah Jong is a unique table game that uses beautiful tiles arranged in certain patterns. It is easy to learn and offers a lot of fun and camaraderie. All materials will be provided for free. NEW Monday night sessions will begin at 5pm on Monday, September 17, at 1735 Lamont Street NW. Contact Hoff with questions: (hoffharmonica@gmail.com) or 202-320-6252.

Bancroft Elementary School Officially Reopens

After more than two years of expansion and renovation work, Bancroft Elementary School held its ribbon-cutting ceremony and official reopening on August 16. Fall classes are now being held in the renovated facility. The original building was constructed in 1923, with additions in 1932, 1938, 1961, and 1973. Although the buildings were adjoining, they consisted of various misaligned levels and presented a number of operational challenges. The renovation was intended to make the various buildings on campus more unified both operationally and administratively. To achieve this goal demolition and rebuilding of some of the buildings was necessary. Buildings not demolished were renovated and provided with features such as ramps and elevators that improve the lateral and vertical transport between the buildings. In addition, classrooms and spaces such as a media center, indoor play areas, an auditorium, and art room were added. The electrical, mechanical and life safety systems of the entire building were upgraded to meet the current building code requirements.

In addition to the “bricks and mortar” renovations, the interior of the school has been made “welcoming” and “inviting” by the use of bright and cheery colors, murals that reflect the diversity of the student population (and, in some cases, the faces of actual students), and a wall of over 540 tiles, each made from the drawings of students. Tile and painted artwork can be found throughout the building’s stairways and in niches along hallways.

While finishing work continues on the school, principal Arthur Mola has offered a guided tour when the renovation is completed.

Photos by Lawrence Rickards



Bancroft Principal Arthur Mola Welcomes Guests



Principal Mola, Nubia Binyam & Caleb Cruz Listen to remarks by Mayor Muriel Bowser



The Official Ribbon Cutting



Ceramic tiles based on student art work



One of the murals



Ceramic tiles based on student art work



Meet-the-Street Dining Event at Purple Patch Restaurant

Villagers recently met at the Purple Patch restaurant to enjoy a taste of the Philippines as well as American specialties. Patrice Cleary, Filipino-born owner of the Purple Patch, talked about the circuitous path that led to her founding of the restaurant. She grew up helping her restaurant chef mother and learning to fix the specialties now served in Mount Pleasant. Instead of immediately entering the food industry, Patrice spent eight years in the Marine Corps, then a stint in investment banking, before realizing that her first love is cooking and serving delicious dishes. She helped set up Tonic, and when that restaurant closed she took over the space and founded Purple Patch, adding her unique flavors to the neighborhood. The restaurant's reputation for dining brought out a Village crowd that almost filled the house. It was a lively and fun outing.

Photos by Katie Tyler



Severina Rivera with
Purple Patch owner
Patrice Cleary



David Alfuth and
Raymond DiPhillips



Jan & Phil Fenty



Cecile Srodes and
Louise Meyer



Elinor Hart and
Susan Hansen

From the Membership Committee

Welcome New Members: The Village welcomes the following new members since July 1:

- * Dorothy Marschak, Lanier Place
- * Emma Klingenstein, Klinge Road
- * Renee Poussaint, Adams Mill Road
- * Mildred Veney, Ingleside Terrace

Volunteers Needed: The Membership Committee needs additional members to help with many planned activities, including outreach to new members, organizing small neighborhood block events, staffing membership tables at the Farmers' Market and other community events, and more. It's a great way to get to know other Village members and make new friends. Time involved is a meeting every one or two months, plus specific events. If you are interested, please contact Katie Tyler at katherine.e.tyler@gmail.com or Cecile Srodes at Cecile_Srodes@comcast.net.

Is Your Membership Current? If you have received a reminder but have not renewed, please do so. The Village needs your support, including financial support. Renewal is easy on the website home page – click the "Renew" button.

Response Rates to the Recent Villages Survey

Our Village's ad hoc Information Gathering Group, survey analysis sub-group (comprised of Eileen Coffey, Fred O'Regan, Julianne Byrne, Nancy Mills, and Severina Rivera), is very happy to report that it has received the final numbers concerning the participation rates of Mount Pleasant Village members in both the recent longer multi-village survey and in the accompanying, much-shorter, Mount Pleasant-specific survey. Our final count was as follows:

- 103 of our 185 members (55.6%) submitted responses to the multi-village survey. (We had earlier thought that more of our members had participated but it turned out that some of our members had erroneously submitted more than one survey. After removing the duplicates, the survey analysis firm, Sharp-Insight, was able to identify 103 distinct Mount Pleasant Village submitters.
- 101 of our 185 members (54.6%) submitted responses to the Mount Pleasant Village-specific survey questions.

Our Village has many reasons to be proud of these participation rates. Ten (10) Villages in the District – representing 2,225 members – chose to participate in the multi-village survey. A total of 421 persons (18.9% of the combined membership) submitted survey responses. Mount Pleasant Village's 185-person membership represents about 8% of that 2,225-member total; yet our 103 participants represents 24.5% of the total responses. Only the initiating village – Capitol Hill – had a larger share of the respondents.

Sharp-Insight will soon be sharing with all the participating Villages their report on the results of the multi-village survey. The survey analysis sub-group has only very recently, however, received the actual raw data responses from Mount Pleasant members to the multi-village survey AND the Mount Pleasant-specific one. The group is now busily engaged in tabulating and analyzing that data in order to prepare a report to the Village Board and membership. It looks forward to sharing the information gleaned from the survey and to the deliberations on the implications of that information for future Village programming.

Coming in September: *La Fiesta del Barrio*

This year, Village partner *La Clinica del Pueblo* will celebrate its 35th anniversary of providing community health and wellness programs to a primarily Latino population in the District and Maryland. Villagers are invited to join in the celebration and fundraiser *La Fiesta del Barrio*, to be held Sunday, September 16, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, at their *La Casa* location (3166 Mt. Pleasant Street). *La Fiesta* will include dancing, music, art, an interactive mural, vendors, and activities to showcase healthy behaviors and lifestyles. In addition, Rick Reinhard's photo exhibition, *La Esquina*, will be on display. *La Fiesta* tickets may be purchased online by clicking on the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/la-fiesta-del-barrio-tickets-45982873011?aff=es2>. The Village has been building a supportive relationship with *La Clinica* for more than a year. One way that we may help support them is by volunteering to staff their registration tables during *La Fiesta*. You do NOT need to speak Spanish to volunteer. Volunteers are needed for two shifts, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and 1:00 to 4:00 pm. For further information or to volunteer, contact Rick Reinhard at rick@rickreinhard.com.



Coming in October: Book Discussion of *Chocolate City*

Villagers are invited to a Village-wide book reading and discussion of *Chocolate City*, the vividly detailed, and beautifully written, account of first four centuries of the District of Columbia. The book discussion will be on Sunday, October 28, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Mount Pleasant Library. We are announcing this event well in advance to allow time for Villagers to obtain and read a copy of the book. The D.C. Library system has 50 copies of *Chocolate City*, and copies can be reserved at the Mount Pleasant Library or online. We anticipate a fascinating and stimulating discussion session with author George Derek Musgrove and interviewer and moderator Kay Wright Lewis.



Help Wanted for Village Committees

Mount Pleasant Village is operated on an all-volunteer model. Working on a Village committee provides an opportunity to meet and make new friends, share your experiences and help build our vibrant organization. For more information, please contact the Committee Chairs listed below:

- The **Communications Committee** needs help with the monthly newsletter. Contact Larry Rickards at communications@mountpleasantvillage.org.
- The **Diversity Committee**: contact Judy Byron at judy@judybyron.com for information.
- The **Governance Committee** would like help with writing policies and procedures and in developing the Village governance structure. The committee has also begun work to form a **Development Committee** to raise the Village's visibility/funding, and is looking for those with non-profit experience. Contact Tom Conway at thomasbconway@gmail.com.
- The **Membership Committee** is looking for help with programs to increase and maintain Village membership. Contact Cecile Srodes or Katie Tyler at membership@mountpleasantvillage.org.
- The **Program Committee** is looking for leadership with cultural and social programs. Contact Bonnie Cain at events@mountpleasantvillage.org.
- The **Volunteer Committee**: is seeking help with volunteer management for the Village *Helping Hands*. Contact Elinor Hart at volunteer@mountpleasantvillage.org.

Helping Hands Program: Ready for Jobs Large and Small

Helping Hands volunteers are ready to provide that helpful assistance that can help your life move more smoothly. If you are a Village member and need a ride to medical services, gardening chores, or small home repairs, and so forth, you can request assistance by:

- **Phone**: Call the *Helping Hands* Hotline 202-854-8381 to leave information about the help you need;
- **Email**: Send an email to helpinghands@mountpleasantvillage.org, describing what you need; or
- **Online**: Login to the Village website at www.mountpleasantvillage.org, and click on the blue "Get Help" button on the home page.

JOIN MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE

Membership Fee: \$50 annually for an individual; \$100 for a couple. For more information, contact Cecile Srodes at membership@mountpleasantvillage.org.

Donor: Make a tax-deductible donation to Mount Pleasant Village at 1735 Lamont Street NW, Washington, DC 20010.

Contact us. If you have questions, comments or news to share, contact news@mountpleasantvillage.org.