



## Mount Pleasant Village Newsletter

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[www.mountpleasantvillage.org](http://www.mountpleasantvillage.org)

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## **Hello Neighbor Takes Off!**

The Hello Neighbor campaign is launched, as of May 1. Volunteers staffed tables at the Farmers' Market and the corner of Irving St. and Mt. Pleasant St. NW, distributing "hello" buttons in four languages, along with signature face masks and information. You can follow the news about Hello Neighbor on our Instagram feed, [\*\*#helloneighbormtp\*\*](#), and we will soon add an easy way to view photos of neighborhood events.

Yard signs are available too, and two banners (one in Spanish and one in English) have been distributed to each cluster. You can see these in Lamont Plaza as well. The banners will move from house to house during the summer - let your cluster coordinator know if you are interested displaying one. Yard signs are smaller and suitable for tight spaces.



Phil Fenty with his banner on Kenyon Street

During the summer, a grant from the Washington Homes Foundation will allow us to support events in neighborhoods that can bring different generations together. We can fund food, entertainment and giveaways (balloons, small toys, etc.). Have an idea for an event in your alley? A block party? Let your cluster coordinator know!

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## Consulting Social Worker Available to Village Members

Sometimes life throws us a few curveballs. When such things happen, a social worker can be a great help!



The Village has contracted with Iona Senior Services to facilitate the use of a social worker when a member has questions about aging or needs to plan for a change in circumstances. Our Iona social worker is **Lisa Rindner MSW, LCSW**. Lisa has been at Iona since 2003 and has many years' experience supporting members of other Villages in DC.

Consultation with the social worker is supported by Village funds and can assist you with many needs, including:

- Planning modifications for aging in your Mt. Pleasant home.
- Identifying home health and other resources to find solutions for living with health issues or limitations with certain daily activities.
- Navigating a return home after a hospital stay, including finding a rehab facility to transition to your return home.
- Smoothing the path when you are facing expected or unexpected challenges in your life or when you need someone to talk to about a problem.

### ***IMPORTANT***

All requests for service are confidential and you do not need to discuss your reason for wanting a consult with anyone except the social worker.

#### **HOW TO REQUEST A CONSULT WITH LISA RINDNER**

**Step 1:** Contact either your cluster coordinator or Bill Emmet ([president@mountpleasantvillage.org](mailto:president@mountpleasantvillage.org), 401-578-1529)

**Step 2:** The person you contact will forward your name and contact information only to Lisa.

**Step 3:** Lisa will then contact you to arrange a consultation and follow-up (as needed)

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## **Village Picnic Returns - Save the Date!**

On September 12, we will once again gather in Rock Creek Park at a picnic site near Peirce Mill for the annual Village picnic. Families, kids, friends are

all welcome at this late afternoon event. More information will be provided closer to the date.

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## Ask Not...It's All About the Community

*by Village President Bill Emmet*

Mount Pleasant Village, like the other Villages in the District and across the nation, is dedicated to helping people age safely and happily in their community. For many in Mount Pleasant, this comes from a particular sense of belonging in this community. Many have spent decades here raising their



children and, some, watching them settle to raise their own families in the place they feel most at home. Others maintained their ties to Mount Pleasant even as their jobs took them to other parts of the country and the world. Still others have come to the neighborhood relatively recently, finding here the friendship and support, intellectual curiosity, and rare combination of city and nature that characterizes this place. If one must settle somewhere for life's later years, they reason, few settings offer as rich a combination of attributes and benefits as does Mount Pleasant.

Perhaps it's because many of us grew up to the sound of JFK's clarion call, but recent times have shown that our relationship with Mount Pleasant is not just about what the community can do for us; it's also very much about what we can do for the community. The events of 2020 seriously challenged our community's economic and spiritual health. That's why it's so encouraging to see that many Villagers have worked hard to sustain and enhance Mount Pleasant's communal well-being since the pandemic hit.

This affection for Mount Pleasant has found expression in various Village activities. The Partnership Committee's recognition and support of Mount Pleasant Street businesses and the ever popular Meet the Street restaurant outings are among Villagers' efforts to maintain Mount Pleasant's vibrancy.



The Village Diversity Committee was a major force in organizing the program to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the disturbances that took place on Mount Pleasant Street in May 1991. Tutoring of students impacted by the long absence of in-person teaching and the celebration of the end of the school year demonstrate the strong tie between the Village and the staff, students, and parents of Bancroft Elementary School.

Most Villagers are aware of all that has been accomplished by *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* (NHN), the ad hoc collaboration of the Village and Mount Pleasant's Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 1D). At the height of the COVID crisis, NHN was organizing distribution of food to over 1,000 households a week, a number that has declined in the last month or two thanks to improving conditions. Similarly, NHN volunteers have secured hundreds of vaccination appointments for community members flummoxed by DC Health's overburdened and sometimes confusing system. And all along, NHN has responded to a slow but steady trickle of requests for service from Villagers and others seeking assistance with transportation or household tasks.

But if any single initiative has captured the Village's current spirit, it is the Hello Neighbor campaign that has swept over the neighborhood in the past few weeks. Originally conceived as a way to acknowledge our diversity and respond to the guardedness of those we'd encounter on Mount Pleasant's pandemic-preoccupied streets, Hello Neighbor is all about celebrating one



another and letting each other know we share feelings for this place and those who live here.

The Village has the good fortune to be able to draw on resources from DC's Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) and the Washington Home Foundation to make Hello Neighbor a reality. The banners, the yard signs, masks, and buttons are already ubiquitous across the neighborhood, and, most important, people are indeed smiling at each other and saying "hello." The civic spirit displayed by so many Village members is having an effect. To all who are participating - perhaps just by pinning one of the campaign's little green buttons to your shirt or jacket - thank you! We all benefit! As we move into the summer, our Village is helping to make sure Mount Pleasant is a place in which all - young and old, black, brown, Asian or white, saying "hello" in any language - are welcome and happy to live.



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## Villagers Are Gathering Again





The meditation group is meeting on the Fenty's back porch. A gathering of the Kenyon Street cluster (catered by Dos Gringos) gave people a chance to see the whole faces of their friends after more than a year. Leo Sanchez hosted a Cinco de Mayo party on his porch. It's so great to be gathering again!

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## Welcome New Members!

Mel & Sadye Doxie - Newton Street NW

David Neigus - 19th Street NW

Sonya Robbins Hoffman - Lamont Street NW

Elissa Parker & Robert Greenstein - 19th Street NW

Mark Simon & Thea Lee - Monroe Street NW

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## Join Mount Pleasant Village!

**Membership Fee:** \$50 annually per individual. For more information, contact Michael Burke at [membership@mountpleasantvillage.org](mailto:membership@mountpleasantvillage.org).

**Donate:** Make a tax-deductible donation by sending a check to Mount Pleasant Village at 1735 Lamont Street NW, Washington, DC 20010 or clicking the “Donate Now” button on our home page ([mountpleasantvillage.org](http://mountpleasantvillage.org)).

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The newsletter is a cooperative effort! If you have questions, comments, or news to share, contact: [info@mountpleasantvillage.org](mailto:info@mountpleasantvillage.org)

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