

Mount Pleasant Village Volunteers: Ready for Duty

The Village held its first Volunteer Orientation Program May 22 at the Stoddard Baptist Home, with 36 participants. The workshop, organized by the Village Volunteer Committee chaired by Elinor Hart, was to help volunteers match their expectations to the realities of providing services to their neighbors.



Presenters Janean Mann, from the Northwest Neighbors Village, and Mike Gould and Kirk Perrow, Dupont Circle Village, shared their experiences as both board members and volunteers. They stressed the

satisfaction and rewards of village service and described how villages make a difference in the lives of recipients, helping them obtain needed services, making better assistance decisions, feeling happy in their community, and in staying independent in their own homes.

Mount Pleasant Village President Katie Tyler described the partnership with Iona Senior Services, which will help Village members with complex medical and service issues that are beyond what can be provided by volunteers. Volunteer Coordinator Rob Fleming described how members are matched with volunteers online.



Upcoming Events

Solas Nua's *Wild Sky*

June 1-4, 8:00 pm

Mount Pleasant Village Alley Sale

Saturday, June 11, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Mount Pleasant Village-Peirce Mill Picnic

Sunday, June 19, time TBD

Village Regulars

Walk with the Walking Group

Note New Time and Place:

Meet M-W-F, 7:30 am, park at 18th & Lamont

Coffee at Dos Gringos

Thursdays 9:30—11:00 am

Happy Hour and Game Night, Tuesdays, 5-7 at Marx Café

Tuesdays, June 7 and 21

at Habit Café

Tuesdays, June 14 and 28

Follow us on 

Courtney Arnold and Amy Tinto discussed some of the “Dos and Don’ts” of volunteering, how to work effectively with recipients, avoid becoming over-extended, and anticipate and avoid unsafe situations.

How to Become a Mount Pleasant Village Service Volunteer

If helping your neighbors and creating a strong sense of community has appeal, the Village is recruiting additional members as volunteers. Become a Village volunteer in four easy steps:

- Become a member of Mount Pleasant Village
- Complete the volunteer application (available at www.mountpleasantvillage.org)
- Be vetted by Verified Volunteers (free to applicants)
- Participate in a Volunteer Orientation Program.

For information, contact Elinor Hart at volunteer@mountpleasantvillage.org.

Meet the Villagers: Rob Fleming, Village Board Member & Service Coordinator



Rob Fleming is a Mount Pleasant Village board member and Service Coordinator for its *Lend a Hand* program connecting members who need services with volunteers who provide them. He has lived here since 1985 and is proud of doing most of the renovation work on his Irving St. house. Over the years, he has worked with many neighborhood organizations, helping run Mount Pleasant Day festivals, maintain Lamont Park, build the Bancroft School playground and wire the school for the Internet.

With degrees in Communication and Science Policy, he has conducted telecommunications policy research for the White House, planning and program evaluation for the Commerce Department, and managed a politically-sensitive grant program. His work with the Carter Transition Team helped establish the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

During three terms as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, he chaired the Public Safety Committee and drafted policies on alcoholic beverage control and pay phones. He founded the Mount Pleasant Orange Hat patrol, which helped close down three drug markets, and ran workshops on Street Safety for Women. He was a founding board member of Neighbors' Consejo and the DC Recovery Community Alliance, and co-founded a family advocacy group at his mother's retirement community. He is active in the Washington Area Village Exchange Information Technology Committee.

In recovery from alcoholism for over 30 years, he has been an aftercare counselor and recovery advocate. His biggest concern is how to reduce DC's alcohol and drug abuse problem, the worst in the nation. He has advised the DC Bar Association, the Mayor's Interagency Task Force on Substance Abuse, and the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration, and testified often before the DC Council on substance abuse issues.

Volunteers Needed for the Village's June 19 Potluck Picnic at Peirce Mill

Volunteers are needed to help plan and organize this first Village picnic at Peirce Mill in Rock Creek Park. Contact Katie Tyler at president@mountpleasantvillage.org or 202-468-0364.

Upcoming Event: Mount Pleasant Village Alley Sale Fundraiser June 11



Show your support for Mount Pleasant Village by participating in its annual Alley Sale, Saturday, June 11, 10-3, in the 1700 block alley between Park and Lamont Streets. Now is the time to organize closets, spare rooms, attics and garages, and to convert your clutter into other people's treasures. It will be a wonderful chance to find (or give away) gently used children's items, books, music, furniture, appliances, and lovely decorative items. Call Katie Tyler, 202-468-0364, to arrange donation pickups June 7-9, or to drop off donated goods between June 7 and 11. (No clothing, please). Volunteers are needed to help set up and staff tables and for end-of-day clean up.

Villagers Get a New Understanding of George Washington at Mount Vernon



A rainy day did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 18 Mount Pleasant Village members who ventured out May 5 for an insider's tour of Mount Vernon estate. The group had a wonderful educational experience and learned a lot about George Washington as a visionary farmer and entrepreneur.

Arranged and led by Mount Vernon archaeology intern Lily Carhart (right), daughter of Village members Brenda Krieger and John Carhart, the day began with a film and tour of the archeology lab. Lily and an archaeologist colleague provided a briefing about the current excavation work on the slave cemetery and other sites on the property.



At the one-acre kitchen garden the group was joined by Dean Norton (right), Director of Horticulture, who discussed the history of Mount Vernon's gardens and their reconstruction over the years. Produce from the kitchen garden is used for meals at the Mount Vernon Inn and donated to local food banks.



Some members visited the Pioneer Farm, while others toured the Grist Mill & Distillery and viewed the mansion. The group learned some lesser-known facts about the entrepreneur George Washington – that he operated the largest distillery in the colonies, producing rye whiskey and brandy; that the white flour from his grist mill was shipped internationally; and a major source of income was harvesting shad from the Potomac, which was salted and preserved, and shipped all over the world.



Villagers (above) experience the view once enjoyed by George Washington.

Wild Sky Performances in Mt Pleasant Get Rave Reviews; Run Extended June 1-4



Villagers Darlene and Paddy Meskell hosted four sold-out performances of the new Irish play *Wild Sky* in their home May 5-8 to rave reviews. "Bravo! I was enchanted," said one Villager. The play, which explores the complex blend of art, politics, and energy that led up to the events of Ireland's 1916 Easter Rising, features traditional Irish music, and more. The production, by Village partner Solas Nua, has been extended to include four additional performances at the Friends Meeting House of Washington, 2111 Florida Avenue, NW, on June 1-4 at 8:00 pm. [Click here](#) for tickets.

Upcoming Event: Learn Mah Jong with Other Villagers Thursday June 2

Learn to play Mah Jong with Mount Pleasant neighbors. In this fun and interesting table game, similar to gin rummy, four players arrange a series of tiles to match up with a designated "hand" on a standard Mah Jong card. Village Board Member Bob Hoffman (Hoff) will offer free lessons for beginners and all equipment needed to play. The group will meet on June 2 at 5:00 pm, at 1753 Lamont Street. Contact Hoff at 202-320-6252 or Hoffharmonica@gmail.com.

Visit the Mount Pleasant Village Website for Additional Events and Activities

There are many more Village sponsored events, activities and interest group meetings than can be included in the Newsletter. For additional information on meeting dates and times, go to www.mountpleasantvillage.org and click on "Upcoming Events" and "Interest Groups".

Join in the Planning of Future Mount Pleasant Village Outings and Activities

Mount Pleasant Village members are encouraged to help plan activities that would interest themselves and others. Anyone interested in organizing an outing should contact Bonnie Cain, chair of the Village Events Committee, at events@mountpleasantvillage.org. She will provide guidance on organizing, add to the Village calendar, and publicize to members.

JOIN MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE

Individual Introductory Membership Fee: \$50 annually. For information, contact Brenda Krieger at membership@mountpleasantvillage.org.

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

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

Visit our website at www.mountpleasantvillage.org