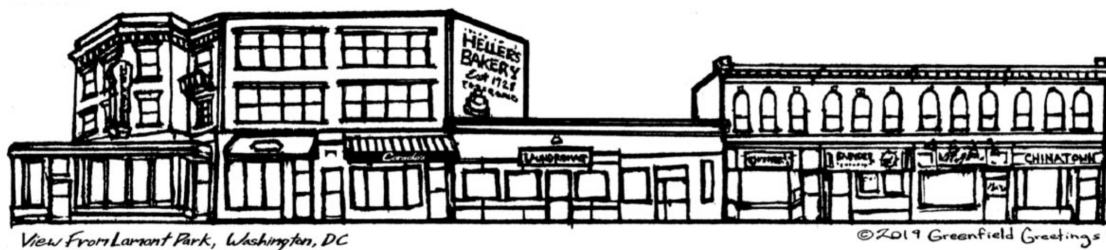


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## Mount Pleasant Village Newsletter



## Volume 9, Issue 2 - April 2023

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

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## Welcome New Members!

Katie Ries and Fred Solowey

Kilbourne Place NW

Jonathan Herz and Steven Hill  
Lamont Street NW

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## Report on the Recommendations of the Communications Task Force

The Communications Task Force, formed last summer after the April 30, 2022, board retreat, has completed its work. Perhaps the biggest finding was the effort it takes to manage the ambitious scope of the Village's communications agenda. As a result of this comprehensive review, major refinements and some new services are in the works to support better information-sharing with, and among, Village members.

The Task Force concluded that to grow and thrive, the Village must communicate its value to both current and potential members, including the broader community of DC Villages, political leaders, Mount Pleasant residents, and local businesses. We will use both existing (e.g., the newsletter) and new (e.g., social media) techniques to expand our audience.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of this article on the Village website.

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## A Visit to Ruby Dair

by Olivia Cadaval and Michelle Hannahs

Ruby Dair lived in Mt Pleasant for more than 50 years. Her parents migrated from Hong Kong, and Ruby was born in Washington, DC. Recently, she had a stroke, and her daughter moved her to Heartlands Senior Living Village in Ellicott City, MD, to be closer to where the daughter lives. Ruby's brother-in-law, Donald Dair, who lived with her in their home on Irving Street, will be moving to Houston where his son lives.

On Wednesday, April 5, Michelle and I went to visit Ruby in her new home. We found her sitting patiently outside a lovely dining hall, waiting eagerly for the music program. The program included hearing music and discussing the artists and lyrics. She then invited us to have lunch with her.



The Heartlands Senior Living Village is quite nice, with lots of light, lovely furnished rooms and, best of all, continuous programs throughout the day that Ruby greatly appreciates. We were very pleased to see her doing so well enjoying her new surroundings and told her so as we left. She agreed, but she quietly told us that nonetheless she missed Mount Pleasant very much, her friends, neighbors, stores, her home. She was very happy to see us. Our visit reinforced her connection to Mount Pleasant and the Village.

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## Second Annual Village-Sponsored Neighborhood Clean-up



**Saturday, April 29, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon**

Meet at Lamont Plaza to join in on the annual neighborhood clean-up! We will have a limited number of grabbers, rakes, shovels, brooms, plastic gloves, and garbage bags. Come for as long as you wish. For more information, email Rebecca Shannon at [shannonrl20010@gmail.com](mailto:shannonrl20010@gmail.com).

## Katie Tyler - Keeping the Village Running

Mount Pleasant Village has grown enough since its founding in 2015 that there are many members who may not be aware that the first Village President was Katie Tyler. So much of what the Village has become can be traced back to the vision and organization that Katie brought to those early days. From founding mother to (currently) Cluster Coordinator, Katie has poured her energy into making the all-volunteer Village a success.

Katie stepped down as President in 2018 but continued to contribute to the Village's growth and success as co-chair of the Membership Committee. In that role, she received membership applications and often conducted interviews of prospective members. She was a reliable presence at Village information tables at neighborhood events. She assembled and distributed welcome packages. And she even served as de facto postmistress, receiving and distributing the Village mail that came to her home address.

Recently, Katie decided to step away from her Membership Committee position, leaving it in the capable hands of Michael Burke and new co-chair Josephine Escalante. Our Village's vitality and growth depend on this kind of successful turnover. Although Katie will no longer take care of day-to-day committee tasks, she will remain the first line of support for Michael and Josephine, just as she is a unique resource for all who put their time and energy into keeping Mount Pleasant Village thriving.

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## Coffee Hour Tuesdays at Dos Gringos





On a sunny Tuesday morning in April a helicopter thrashes the air high above the eight Villagers seated at their regular table at Dos Gringos on Mt. Pleasant Street. A small train of day care children walk down the sidewalk below the patio singing Christmas carols. They exchange waves, and it's a typical Tuesday at one of the Mt. Pleasant Village's longest-running weekly gatherings.

Officially, it's called Coffee Hour. But a couple of the regulars who speak German prefer to call it the Kaffee Klatsch. John Stewart also likes *Stammtisch*, which implies this table is reserved every Tuesday for these Villagers. They gather here for coffee at Alex Kramer's Mt. Pleasant café to keep up these personal friendships. These are important people in our lives, John says.

Coffee Hour is also a tradition that changes. Spring has come and the regulars have just moved outside to the patio. In rain or extreme heat they may move upstairs to the air-conditioned comfort inside the cafe. In the fall, they will return to the patio until winter, then move back inside again.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of this article on the Village website.

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## Village Supports Rent Relief for Woodner Residents



At its April 1 meeting, the Mount Pleasant Village Board endorsed a letter expressing support for the tenants of The Woodner, the apartment building on 16<sup>th</sup> Street at the northern edge of Mount Pleasant. The Woodner is the largest apartment building in DC and has a long and illustrious [history](#) (Jimmy Hoffa lived there!). Built in 1952, it was once an elegant hotel and apartment building – for whites only. Today its tenants reflect the diversity of Mount Pleasant.

[Click here](#) to read the letter sent to all members of the DC Council.

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## Broken Sidewalks Bugging You? Contact 311!



While most of us are delighted to call Mount Pleasant and DC home, that doesn't mean there aren't things in the neighborhood that occasionally annoy us. If you've ever seen an overflowing trash bin, a particularly capacious pothole, or popped out bricks in Lamont Plaza and along Mount Pleasant Street, you know exactly what we're talking about.

Rather than just fuming (as therapeutic as that can be), there **IS** something practical you can do to bring these nuisances and public safety concerns to the city's attention: **CALL, TEXT OR TWEET [311](#)**.

For anyone not familiar with it, 311 is a toll-free number for requesting assistance from DC city agencies for all kinds of issues. The 311 call center is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Because 311 is a toll-free number, you can even use a payphone, free of charge, to request city services!

[Click here](#) to read the rest of this article on the Village website.

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## Save the Date! Annual Village Picnic



The Annual Village Picnic in Rock Creek Park is coming **Saturday, September 9**. You won't want to miss this family-friendly event with amazing food, games, and face-painting for kids, and plenty of time to enjoy conversation with Villagers. More information to come as the date approaches.

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## Thanks for the Donations!

In the first three months of 2023, Mount Pleasant Village has received financial contributions from the following members and friends. Thanks to all!

Clare Feinson  
Mary Melnyk

### In memory of Robert "Hoff" Hoffman:

Bernard Arons  
John Burnim  
Kelly Clark  
Nora Duncan  
William Emmet  
Jan Fenty  
Jennifer Gindin  
Carol Godes  
Sara Waxman

Cynthia Godes  
Hannah Graee  
Brendan Herbert  
Susan Hoffman  
Elizabeth Prewitt  
Mary Rojas  
Richard Ferber  
Laura Breeden  
Erica Wood

And, as ever, we are grateful to the DC **Department of Aging and Community Living** and the **Washington Home Foundation** for their grants enabling Mount Pleasant Village

and all DC Villages to maintain their operations.

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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 3213 Mount Pleasant Street NW #2, Washington, DC 20010 or clicking the “Donate Now” button on our home page ([mountpleasantvillage.org](http://mountpleasantvillage.org)).

\*Dues can be supported through a “scholarship” fund if the cost is a hardship.

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