



Mount Pleasant Village Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 7, December 1, 2015

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Village President Addresses ANC 1D; ANC to Review Grants Policy



Katie Tyler, President of Mount Pleasant Village, addressed the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission, ANC 1D, at its regular meeting November

17, introducing the Village to commissioners and calling for a long-term constructive relationship with the ANC.

“We believe that the work we are doing serves an essential public purpose that is worthy of your support, and we anticipate submitting a formal proposal for funding in early 2016,” she said. “We have the interests of the Mt Pleasant community at the heart of our work, and we look forward to a long-term constructive relationship with the ANC.”

In other business, the ANC adopted a resolution to set up a Grants Committee to “make recommendations for a fair and equitable grant system, specific to Mount Pleasant, that the ANC can adopt for the coming year.” The Committee, which will report to the Chair, will research and develop a set of guidelines for the ANC to use in determining how it can fairly and equitably fund a growing number of requests from neighborhood groups and individuals.

At the ANC’s December 15th meeting, Tyler will deliver a presentation addressing the Village concept, how we have shaped our Village to reflect the unique characteristics of our neighborhood, the benefits we offer Mount Pleasant residents, and our plans for moving forward to build up the Village programs, activities and services. **Villagers are encouraged to attend the ANC meeting in the Library at 7:00 pm on December 15th to show support.**

Upcoming Events

Bancroft School PTO Christmas Tree Sale

Saturday, Dec. 5 and Sunday, Dec. 6

Bancroft Reading Partners Training

December 5, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Mayor’s Holiday Party for Seniors

Thursday, December 10, 10-2, DC Armory

Village to Present at ANC December Meeting

Tuesday Dec. 15, 7:00 pm, Mt. Pleasant Library

Brianne Nadeau’s Ward 1 Holiday Celebration

Wednesday Dec. 16, 1-3 pm, Girard Rec Center

Village Regulars

Walk with the Walking Group

Meet M-W-F, 8:30 am, Lamont Park

Coffee at Dos Gringos

Thursdays 9:30—11:00 am

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

Tuesdays, December 1 and 15

at Habit Café

Tuesdays, December 8 and 22

#GivingTuesday, December 1

#GivingTuesday is celebrated around the world on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving as a global day dedicated to giving back.

Please consider giving a tax-deductible donation to Mount Pleasant Village this year.

**Send your check to Mount Pleasant Village
1735 Lamont St. NW, Washington, DC 20010**

It Takes a Village ... and We Have One!

Meet the Villagers: “Hoff” Hoffman, Board Co-Secretary



Hoff jammin' with Ethan

Bob “Hoff” Hoffman has been a Mount Pleasant resident since 1975 and now serves as co-secretary of Mount Pleasant Village. He has two grown sons, who were born in DC and raised in Mt. Pleasant, attended Deal Junior High and Wilson Senior High, and returned to DC after college to launch successful careers. One of Hoff’s favorite hobbies is hanging out with his 3-year-old grandson, Ethan, who lives near him on Kenyon Street and attends Bancroft Elementary School. Hoff is very involved with the Bancroft community and serves as the school’s volunteer chess coach, a reading mentor, and the community member of the Bancroft Local School Advisory Team.

Hoff retired in 2013 after 25 years as an attorney and administrator at the national office of AARP. He had previously served as a legal services lawyer and public defender in New York City. He enjoys music and playing his blues harmonica. He is a designer/collector of crafts, and claims to own the world’s largest collection of harmonica cases, which he designed and commissioned from artists/crafters from Mount Pleasant and around the world. The collection was exhibited in a large gallery show in April and is highlighted in two recently published books.

An ardent member of the Village Board, Hoff served as emcee of the recent ribbon-cutting for the official opening of Mount Pleasant Village. “Although I have lived in the neighborhood for 40 years, the Village has been the best catalyst for getting to know my neighbors and appreciate our local community,” he told the crowd.

A Seed is Sown: Urban Farming Interest Group Shares Local Gardening Tips

An enthusiastic cohort of Villagers led by John Carhart came together November 23rd to form a Village interest group to share their experiences with gardening in Mount Pleasant. They discussed the promise and practice of growing micro-greens, arugula, beans, tomatoes, and other living things; different ways to get water to gardening projects; raised beds and various planting alternatives; the need for proper light, and interest in finding ways to deal with excess shade from our untrimmed trees. Future meetings will feature advice and guidance from local gardening experts. Contact jcarhart@jcarhartarch.com to join the group and learn more.

Village-cosponsored Discussion Series Attracts Dozens to Sunday Meetings

On three Sundays in November, the Village undertook its first collaborative venture promoting community discussions on issues with particular resonance for our members. Each week, around 60 participants engaged in interactive discussions at All Souls Unitarian Church around issues raised in the book *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. The talks, cosponsored by the Village, the Church and Unitarian Silver Souls, explored the medical experience of decline and mortality, end-of-life choices, palliative care, and how to talk with friends and families about these issues. The concerns of caretakers also engendered a lively exchange of helpful information. The collaboration was so successful that similar meetings are being planned in the future.

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Portraits of our People: Villagers Enjoy National Portrait Gallery Tour



Village members were treated to a docent-led highlights tour of the National Portrait Gallery November 10. Among the portraits viewed were those of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, George Washington Carver, scientist and peanut promoter, Julia Ward Howe, poet and author of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and Sequoyah (left) who developed a written version of the Cherokee language that is taught today. One of many member suggestions, the tour was instigated by Villager David Alfuth. [Send ideas for Village outings to **bonniejain@gmail.com**](mailto:bonniejain@gmail.com).

Partnerships and Opportunities

Bancroft Elementary School Seeks Volunteer Reading Mentors

Several Villagers are donating an hour a week at Bancroft School to help children learn to read. Additional tutors are needed to work with students each day Monday-Thursday from 3:40-4:25 or 4:30-5:15. To sign up, [attend a training/orientation at Bancroft on Saturday, December 5, 10-11 am](#). (This has been rescheduled from November 21, with apologies to anyone who showed up then and found the session cancelled.) To RSVP and for information, contact Naomi Shachter, (443) 794-2225 at naomi.shachter@readingpartners.org.

Village Leaders Build a Relationship with the DC Office on Aging

Village Board members Katie Tyler, Susan Rees and Brenda Krieger met November 9th with the DC Office on Aging to discuss DCOA policies that could benefit Village members. At the meeting with Brian Footer, DCOA's Director of Policy Planning and Evaluation, the Mount Pleasant team described the progress made in establishing the Village and our needs for additional resources. In particular, they asked that DCOA use its influence to leverage city-owned property for use by senior programs, since the lack of facilities in Mount Pleasant limits the amount of meeting and events space available to us. DCOA and the Village agreed to develop a formal partnership.

Mayor's Holiday Party for Seniors: Thursday, Dec. 10th at the Armory

Mayor Muriel Bowser, the DC Office on Aging, and the DCOA Senior Service Network will hold a Holiday Celebration at the DC Armory, 2001 East Capitol Street SE, from 10:00-2:00, Thursday, December 10. There will be live entertainment, dancing, health screenings, safety and health info, immunizations, food, giveaways, and exhibits! [Call \(202\) 724-5626 to reserve tickets](#).

Councilmember Brianne Nadeau's Holiday Celebration: Wednesday, Dec. 16th

Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau will host a holiday celebration for the Ward, with snacks and entertainment, and featuring a senior-focused resource fair to promote a better understanding of the wide array of services available to DC seniors. It will be held from 1:00 – 3:00 on Wednesday, December 16th at the Girard Street Recreation Center, 1480 Girard St. NW.

Iona Senior Services to Advise the Village and Villagers

The Village has entered a partnership with Iona Senior Services, www.iona.org, a 40-year-old DC-funded nonprofit that provides advocacy, education and direct services to DC seniors. Under the agreement, the Village Board and members can receive discounted services and gain access to Iona's experience in addressing the physical and psycho-social needs of seniors, case management and support groups for villages across the District. Iona has also produced a compendium of information about DC services for seniors that will be distributed to Villagers.

GALA Hispanic Theatre's 4th Annual Film Festival December 9th to 13th

[GALA Theatre](http://GALATheatre.org) at 3333 14th Street NW, is holding its 4th Annual Film Festival, "Reel Time at



GALA," from Thursday December 9 to Sunday December 13, offering outstanding films from Mexico, Chile and Argentina. Five contemporary films focus on timely and provocative social and political issues, while two classic films represent the best from Mexico's Golden Age. The festival also includes an art exhibition by Max Sir, an award-winning Chilean painter, prize drawings, receptions and post-film discussions with actors, directors and cinema experts. All films are in Spanish with English subtitles. Tickets are \$10.00 and available [online](#) and at the door. Mexican films are free.

JOIN MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE

Individual Introductory Membership Fee: \$50 annually. For information, contact Brenda Krieger at mpvillagemembership@gmail.com.

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

Contact us. If you have questions or comments or news to share, contact dmeskell@gmail.com.
Check out Mount Pleasant Village, Inc. on Facebook:



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