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Mount Pleasant Village Newsletter



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www.MountPleasantVillage.org

Hello Neighbor: More than a Sign

“Hello Neighbor” is a phrase that has become associated with Mount Pleasant Village over the past several years, at least within the borders of our rather well-defined neighborhood. It’s a phrase that can certainly be interpreted in different ways by those who use or hear it, but its broad intent is to acknowledge and welcome anyone who lives here.



The “Hello Neighbor” campaign was mounted by the Village’s Diversity Committee as it became evident that we all were vulnerable to the growing effects of social isolation as the COVID pandemic tightened its grip on our lives. Small green buttons emblazoned with “Hello,” “Hola,” “Bonjour,” and greetings in a number of other languages showed up

on many lapels and shirtfronts. Bright artwork depicting familiar Mount Pleasant scenes soon graced yards, walls, fences, and windows on every block of the neighborhood. For many of us, these artifacts provided a sense of belonging and identity. Even if you didn't know who lived in a particular house, seeing a "Hello Neighbor" sign in its yard assured you they shared something with you – pride in the community or, possibly, Village membership. Many loved the "Hello Neighbor" yard signs because they demonstrated the owners belonged to the special Mount Pleasant tribe. And by spreading the "Hello Neighbor" message, the committee's goal was to make the Village as inclusive as possible.

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



Bill Emmet, President, Mount Pleasant Village

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The Enduring Flavors of Guatemala



Joseph Corado and Magda Roca, partners in Corado's at 3217 Mount Pleasant Street.

By the time the Covid-19 pandemic subsided in Mt. Pleasant, Corado's Restaurant had a bright new look inside and out. The remodel produced walls decorated with photos of the chef, Joseph Corado, an oil painting of his end of the business district, and a dozen decorative souvenir plates and casitas from a dozen countries donated by friends and family. Chinese lanterns of blue and white for Guatemala, and red, yellow and green for Bolivia dangle from the ceiling.

The pale old brick exterior at 3326 Mt. Pleasant Street NW has turned brilliant

orange with a lighter golden trim as the setting for chairs and two ice cream parlor tables and under new lighting, an awning for outdoor dining, and a small red neon-lit declaration of Corado's Restaurant that has served Mt. Pleasant for 40 years.

"The environment is more happy," said Magda, Joseph's business partner of the last 20 years.

Neighbor Leo Sanchez and I met Joseph and Magda over coffee to see how Corado's has endured the exodus of a large Latino population, Mt. Pleasant's three-day street violence in 1991, and the pandemic. There are two reasons Corado's endured: Magda, who has a progressive business acumen; and Joseph, who has for four decades devoted his attention to cooking all of the food, and especially the dishes from his native Guatemala.

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



David Arnold

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The Village in Community: Third Annual Mount Pleasant Village PRIDE Alley Concert and Cookout

(Photos by Larry Rickards)



Drag Queen Tara Hoot poses for fans



Villager Leo Sanchez



Will Stephens Quintet featuring Jessica Boykin-Settles (voice) Hope Udobi (keys), Sarah Hughes (sax), Percy White (bass) and Will Stephens (drums)





Martha Sipple and Carol Wolchok



Laura Breedon and Nancy Shia



Clinica del Pueblo outreach table

The Village in Community: Trip to Glenstone

Eighteen Villagers enjoyed a major survey of work by artist Ellsworth Kelly and the company of their fellow Villagers on a trip to Glenstone, the private contemporary art museum in Potomac.



From left to right, Villagers Mary Anne Gibbons, Carol Munday, Silvia Sturm, Farzin Illich, Martha Sipple, Jodi Crandall, Leo Sanchez, Alan Johnson, Carol Falk, Jan Fenty, Laverne Saleh, Phil Fenty, Carolyn Kari, Anne Stauffer, Bill Panici, Laura Breeden, Kevin Killeen, Viola Baecher, and Julie Byrne

The Village in Community - George Floyd Memorial

(Photos by Larry Rickards)



Villager Aaron Meyers



Villager Judy Fisher



Local activist Lucy Murphy



Villager Rick Reinhard



The audience of Villagers and friends



"You Go First, Long Beach Island" by Rebecca Shannon, acrylic on paper

Reclaim Your Backyard!



Summer is here, and that means that mosquitoes are descending on our yards and porches. They are part of our urban environment, and have learned to co-habit with us humans very successfully, especially the Tiger Mosquito, which bites throughout the day. While pesticide sprays are partially effective at reducing mosquito populations, they take with them many beneficial insects such as bumblebees and other pollinators. Your best approach is to make your yard less attractive as a habitat and breeding ground.



On May 18th Capital Nature co-hosted a backyard workshop on natural mosquito management with DC Master Naturalist and MP resident Deirdre Joy. Several Village members joined in. We came away with some helpful tips:

- You can prevent female mosquitoes from laying eggs by removing standing water in containers, drains, downspouts, gutters, tarps, and barrels. Look for non-obvious places where just a few tablespoons of water can create a breeding area. See more [tips here](#).
- Mosquito eggs take 5 to 10 days to turn from eggs to biting insects (2 to 3 days to hatch in water, and 3 to 7 days to go from larvae stage to flight). Experts recommend a weekly sweep of your yard. Think Mosquito Monday or Sweep Sunday, to find and remove standing water in these places.
- If you like keeping water for birds or fish ponds, no worries. You can manage that. Treat standing water in pools, birdbaths, rainbarrels and ponds with BTI [Mosquito Dunks](#). BTI Mosquito Dunks are non-toxic EPA-approved pods that kill mosquitoes (and only mosquitoes) at the larvae stage with a naturally-occurring bacteria. They last 30 days. You can also employ bubblers to keep pond water moving.
- Consider placing [Gravid Aedes Traps](#) (GATs) or build your own [Bucket of Doom](#) in your yard. These traps draw female mosquitoes but keep eggs from being laid or maturing. More info here by [UNC Charlotte](#).
- English Ivy is a favorite rest area for mosquitoes, and it is an invasive. Remove as much english ivy as you can from your yard. Consider planting [aromatic plants](#) such as mints, bee balms, and lavender, beloved by butterflies and bees, but repellent to mosquitoes.

The best overall approach for mosquito management is if you and your neighbors take measures together, in front and back yards, and manage your properties weekly. Residents on Rosemount Avenue have been doing this for years, notes Deirdre. Finally, keeping air moving with fans is a great way to keep mosquitoes away when you are in or around your home. The moving air currents will keep mosquitoes from lighting and

making you part of their daily meal.

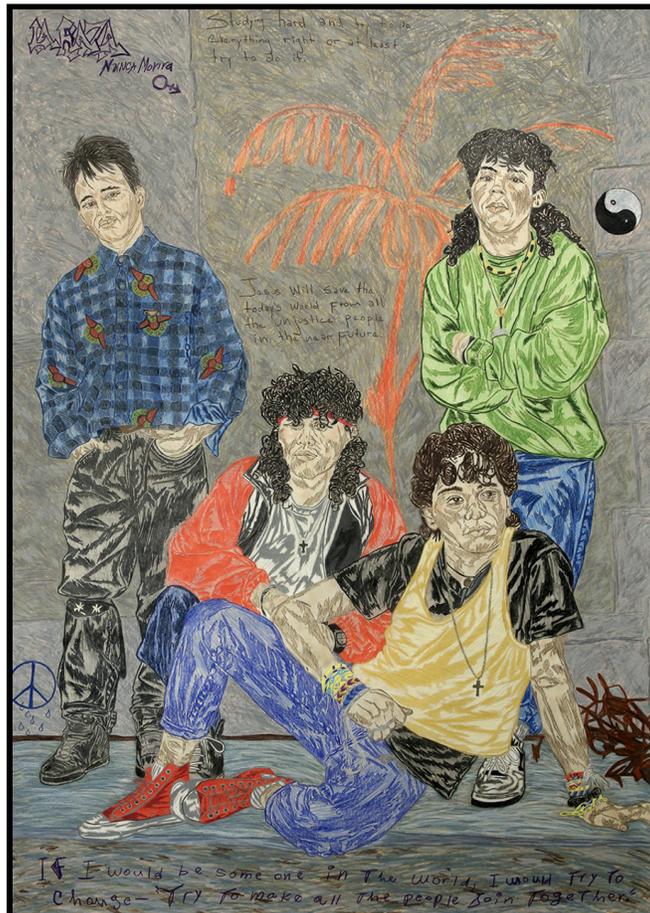
You can find the very handy **Community-Driven Mosquito Control** one-pager provided by Deirdre [here](#). Feel free to share these tips on nature-friendly mosquito management with friends and neighbors!

And By the Way. . .

Several Villagers recently asked Janet Miller, DC/DDOT "Urban Forester," how we can best support our urban canopy. She referred the Villagers to a timely article in the Casey Trees newsletter, which we share with you [here](#).



Stella Tarnay, Capital Nature
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"The Latin American Youth Center" from Villager Judy Byron's series "We are Your Sons and Daughters", woodcut rubbing, ed.3 (68" x 48"). For more on the series, visit Judy's

[website.](#)

A Village Voice

Villager Cathy Sunshine has lived in Mt. Pleasant since 1978. Her blog, Third Age, explores the experiences of women in midlife and beyond, touching on themes such as political activism, volunteering, downsizing, and caregiving. This post from 2022 highlights Mt. Pleasant and its "robust cashless economy of giving, lending, borrowing, and requesting everything from books to furniture to pizza." If you enjoy Cathy's writing, you can subscribe to her blog for free at <https://thirdage.substack.com>.

Buy nothing. Read everything.

I love my neighborhood's cashless economy.



A Little Free Library at 19th and Lamont Streets NW in Mount Pleasant

It won't surprise you to learn that I live in a blue neighborhood. My section of Washington, DC, called Mt. Pleasant, just east of the National Zoo, may have the highest concentration of returned Peace Corps volunteers of any place in the country. (I don't have data, but I've heard that claim, and it seems like half the people I know here were in Peace Corps, as I was.) In 2020, Mt. Pleasant voters cast 93% of their votes for Biden, 4% for Trump. Yard signs proclaim "Hello Neighbor, Hola Vecino," "Black Lives Matter," and "Statehood for the People of DC."



I could say much more about the history of this quirky (albeit gentrifying) urban enclave and the changes I've seen over the years. But I want to tell you about just one expression of its ethos: its robust cashless economy of giving, lending, borrowing, and requesting everything from books to furniture to pizza ("less one slice ... didn't realize it was going to be filled with meat toppings. Not my thing. Still hot!"). This continuous circulation of mostly used goods takes place through two main vehicles: the Buy Nothing group and the Little Free Libraries. Both have become a larger part of my life here than I would have imagined.

What does this have to do with women's third age? As we begin downsizing, we realize – at least I do – that much of the clutter consists of things we bought because we briefly needed or wanted them at one point in time. Decades later, they're still here, uselessly taking up space. Why did we acquire this stuff? Didn't we realize how it would pile up? Did we need every item? If so, did we need to *buy* it? Why didn't we find one with life left in it that someone else was ready to pass along? Or better yet, borrow it, use it, and return it?

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



Cathy Sunshine

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Where am I?



Villager Bob Phelps walks and peddles his way through the neighborhood snapping pictures. Identify the location of the picture and win a small coffee at Dos Gringos! **To enter, email shannonrl20010@gmail.com.**



Rebecca Shannon

Interim Editor

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Do you have a photo, artwork, poem or personal story you would like to share? Want to tell everyone about a book you read or a trip you took? If so, please email the interim editor, Rebecca Shannon, at shannonrl20010@gmail.com.

Join Mount Pleasant Village!

Membership Fee: \$50* annually per individual. For more information, contact Michael Burke at membership@mountpleasantvillage.org. Membership forms can be downloaded [here](#).

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).

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

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