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Mount Pleasant Village Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 7 - December 2020

www.mountpleasantvillage.org

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Reliable Sources for COVID-19 Information

The following are valuable resources for information on the COVID-19 pandemic:

- [Centers for Disease Control](#)
- [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#)
- [District Government](#)
- [Mount Pleasant Village Website](#)

To Request Assistance

The Village/Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative provides volunteers to help with shopping, pharmacy pick-ups, and other tasks, as well as masks and food aid. To request assistance, call **202-573-7548** (please leave a voice message) or email request@anc-volunteering.org.

The annual meeting of the Village membership is an occasion to connect with each other, share our successes and meet the volunteer leaders of the Village. This usually happens in the public meeting room of the Mount Pleasant Library (where it all began in 2015), but this year, we met on Zoom. More than 80 members attended the 90-minute meeting, chaired by Bill Emmet, Board President. Although, as we all know by now, Zoom is a poor substitute for the bustle and cheer of face-to-face connections, it was very encouraging to see so many familiar (and new) faces.

The meeting was recorded, and you can view it at this link:

<https://bit.ly/3n6A6tD>, passcode **Bik\$2y*t**.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The certification of our board election, with all candidates on the ballot winning seats. There were no challenges to the wisdom of our electors or the integrity of the process. Kudos to the Governance Committee for a very thoughtful job, and congratulations to the new board members!
- A video montage (thank you, Rick Reinhard!) that conveys how quickly we have turned, as an organization, to online and socially distanced operations while staying engaged with each other and the Mount Pleasant community.
- A presentation by Ilana Xuman, Executive Director of Leading Age DC, a nonprofit advocacy organization working with groups that serve seniors. Ilana focused on how we can build resiliency and stay connected, and why this is so important. Some resources she mentioned are below.
- Breakout rooms! Zoom supports breaking large groups into smaller ones for conversation – we had a lot of fun with this feature.

Staying Resilient in Troubled Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/18/health/resilience-relationships-trauma.html?smid=em-share>

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podcast "Together Apart"

Congratulations to Our New Board Members!

- Alice Kelly
- David Arnold
- Jill Eden
- Jesse Bump
- Larry Rickards
- Leo Sanchez
- Martha Sipple
- Michelle Hannahs
- Tess Almolsch

Shop Local! Shop Smart!



'Tis the Season... to help keep local and small businesses alive! And we have

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The **Meet the Street Map** (by Mount Pleasant Village). This excellent publication lists all of the businesses along Mount Pleasant Street and includes phone numbers as well as map locations. The map was mailed to members in November. Contact Jan Fenty, janfenty@gmail.com, if you did not receive yours.

East by Midwest <https://eastbymidwest.com/support-black-owned-businesses-washington-dc/> Easy to use and sorted by business type. Focus on black-owned businesses.

Shop in the District <https://shopinthedistrict.com/> District businesses can be searched by neighborhood and price; select items are featured.

DC Shop Small <https://www.dshopsmall.com/> Search using keywords/categories with a map to show locations. Categories include books, cards/stationery, home goods, art, jewelry and more.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

Beth of Each Peach Market holds our Map and Each Peach gift cards



The RESTAURANTS Act

by Josephine Escalante, Co-Chair, Partnerships Committee

struggle with the dual concerns of the safety of their staff and the survivability of their business. Currently before the Senate, the **Real Economic Support That Acknowledges Unique Restaurant Assistance Needed To Survive (RESTAURANTS) Act**, if passed, would provide \$120 billion in relief through a grant program administered by the Treasury Department.

On December 7th, Patrice Cleary, owner of Purple Patch and faithful Village Partner, posted on their Facebook page:

Last year Purple Patch employed 74 people. For the 24 that I have managed to keep on staff, I remind them that this is about safety and survival right now and at any moment we can close. With #covid_19 numbers going up and hospitals being overwhelmed with patients I am fearful that we may not be able to make it through the winter, despite all the safety measures that we have taken to try to stay open.

She urges individuals to support the RESTAURANTS Act.



Jan Fenty, co-chair of the Partnerships Committee, picks up Thanksgiving dinner at Purple Patch

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Mount Pleasant Street establishments, restaurants and shops alike, with our business. Make your holiday shopping easier while helping our local businesses and Mount Pleasant Village Partners. Please consider purchasing a Gift Card from one or many Mt. Pleasant Street establishments. Gift Cards are a gift that gives twice – for the lucky recipient AND the business they support. Many businesses – Angelico's, Each Peach Market, Elle's, Mola, Purple Patch, Haydee's, Mount Desert Ice Cream, Revo Nails & Spa – offer gift cards. To find additional businesses offering gift cards, you can use your handy "Meet the Street" Map and contact a business in its directory to inquire.

Seniors and Crime – Risks and Remedies from the DC Attorney General's Office

By Rob Fleming, MPV representative to the WAVE

(Washington Area Villages Exchange, a network of 44 Villages)

A recent attempted email scam* involving a Villager highlights the importance of knowing what to watch out for, as thefts and scams are on the rise. At the quarterly WAVE meeting last month, the DC Attorney General's Office presented about COVID-related and other scams, as well as tenants' rights. DC AG Karl Racine introduced Amy Mix, lead attorney on the Senior Protection Team, and noted that he had upgraded this team from one and a half part-time attorneys to 30 Public Advocates, including 5-7 working on consumer issues.

Racine said that problems caused by COVID had triggered an anti-gouging statute. Under that statute, sellers of services cannot raise their prices more than ten percent. Sellers of products such as Personal Protective Equipment, gasoline, soap, or bleach cannot charge more than 165 percent over their usual prices. His office is receiving three times the usual number of complaints, most of them COVID-related.

Racine also said that he expects a "tsunami" of evictions as the moratorium expires (on November 30). This will be on top of the practice by some landlords of cutting utilities or maintenance so that tenants move out and the property can be re-rented at a higher base cost under rent control. He said that he would like to eliminate "street evictions" where a tenant's property is just left on the sidewalk.

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addresses that do not match those that show up when you move the cursor over them, and poor spelling or grammar in a message allegedly coming from someone you know. Also, she advised Villagers to be wary of someone who shows up at your door claiming to work for a neighbor or “just being in the neighborhood” and offering to inspect your roof, walls, etc. or do the work for less because they have materials left over.

Mix said that there are too many scams and cons to cover in a brief presentation, but she offered to come back and do a more detailed presentation for individual Villages if asked. In the meantime, she offered these phone numbers to call for more help:

Adult Protective Services – 202-541-3950
Elder Justice Program – 202-727-3807

**Recently, a Villager’s email contacts list was stolen and used for fraudulent pleas to buy a gift card on line. The scammer claimed that our neighbor had a problem with his bank and would pay people back soon but needed to have the gift card sent to a friend for a birthday present. People “all over the world” detected the scam and called our neighbor to check.*

Electronics Recycling!

This Saturday, 9 to 12:30, Lamont Plaza near the compost tent, in cooperation with the MP Library and MP Community Compost. DC Department of Public Works sponsors recycling of unwanted electronics, cameras, flip phones, televisions – the works. A complete list is at <https://bit.ly/dcecycle>. You can keep this trash (and associated pollution) out of the solid waste stream!

Another New Business in Mount Pleasant!

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Although Pear Plum Cafe did not survive the pandemic, **Bold Fork Books**, a store that focuses on cookbooks and kitchenware, is now open. For more info, [click here](#).

Shopping Carts Aid Families In Need

Hundreds of families receive food aid each week in Mount Pleasant at Bancroft School and Spanish Catholic Charities. MPV members noticed that many families struggled to get large cartons of food to their homes. And the Village shopping cart project was born!

More on this exciting initiative next month, but here's a photo of two key volunteers, Ross Hamory and Larry Rickards, unloading carts at Bancroft on December 4.



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Durya Durham - Newton Street NW

Andrea Heithoff - 19th Street NW

Haydee Vanegas - Hobart Street NW

JOIN MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE!

Membership Fee: \$50 annually per individual. For more information, contact Michael Burke at 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).

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



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