

Spring 2013



**CLEVELAND PARK
VILLAGE**

CLEVELAND PARK VILLAGE NEWS

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

IN THIS ISSUE:

[Cleveland Park Village
Opens for Business May 1](#)

[What Is Cleveland Park
Village? Is it Right for You?](#)

[The Story of Cleveland Park
Village](#)

[Meet Our New Executive
Director: Susan Hester](#)

[How Does the Cleveland
Park Village Work?](#)

[Orientation Sessions
Scheduled For Volunteers
and Members](#)

[We're Out Talking to
People: at City Fitness](#)

[What Does 'Community'
Mean to You?](#)

[Volunteer Profile:
Noah Nash](#)

[Member Profile:
Marcia Kass](#)

[Join the Cleveland Park
Village Now!](#)

[Members of the
Cleveland Park Village
Board of Directors](#)

Cleveland Park Village Opens For Business May 1

WASHINGTON DC - Cleveland Park Village begins operations May 1 to help neighbors in Cleveland Park and Woodley Park age safely and confidently in their own homes.

"Our Village reflects our shared commitment to community," said Barbara Stevens, president of Cleveland Park Village Board of Directors. Surveys show that 90 percent of people over 65 want to stay put as they age, and the Village will engage volunteers to help members do just that, she added.

"We have hired our executive director; we almost have an office. We have members who are ready to receive services and share interests, celebrations and experiences with one another, and a cadre of volunteers eager to help," she said.

"We are ready to go!"

For More Information

- Contact Barbara Munday to schedule an information gathering in your living room, building lobby, religious center, or clubhouse: 202-244-6942 or email blmunday@gmail.com
- Visit our website: www.ClevelandParkVillage.org or call 202-615-5853
- Keep up-to-date on Cleveland ParkVillage progress and doings: Sign up at info@ClevelandParkVillage.org
- Check out the nationwide movement: The Village to Village Network: www.vtvnetwork.org
- Get information on all the Washington Villages: washingtonareavillages@gmail.com

Get in touch:

info@ClevelandParkVillage.org or 202-615-5853

VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

Noah Nash



At 17, Noah Nash may be one of the Cleveland Park Village's youngest volunteers, but he is among the most enthusiastic.

"My grandmother lives by herself in Connecticut and she has an informal support system, with neighbors who take good care of her," said Nash, a junior at Sidwell Friends, where he studies urban history, Chinese language and American literature.

"It's my responsibility as a member of the Cleveland Park community to help like that, to help care for people who need it."

Nash said he learned about the Village through his father, Rick Nash, an active Cleveland Park resident. What kind of volunteer work will Noah do? "Whatever's needed," he said. "I just want to help where I can."

--

Get in touch:
info@ClevelandParkVillage.org
or 202-615-5853

What Is Cleveland Park Village? Is it Right for You?

With luck, you're getting older every day. It's a lot better than the alternative, as the joke says – and with more luck, you love your home here in northwest Washington's Cleveland Park or Woodley Park neighborhoods. But will you be able to stay in your home as you age?

A Cleveland Park Village membership will help secure you in your own home. And it will keep you engaged in city life.

With roots in the nonprofit Village movement that now has some 100 groups operating or forming nationwide, the Cleveland Park Village operates on the understanding that a satisfying urban life requires a home that's affordable, accessible and livable. That means access to transportation, shopping, household services and health care, and connections to other people for social events, fun and games – companionship, in other words.

With a full-time executive director, the Village screens, trains and manages a network of volunteers who help turn the home of each member into that satisfying place to stay.

Neighbors of all ages, backgrounds and abilities can discover ways to support one another and create community. Members with modest incomes are welcome.

The Story of Cleveland Park Village

The Cleveland Park Village has had a long gestation. Conceived in conversations around kitchen tables for several years and taking root two years ago, the vision was of Cleveland Park as a thriving community of people of all ages who connect to one another to create quality lives for the long term.

"We love our homes in Cleveland Park and want to stay in them as we age. It's that simple—and that hard," said Elizabeth Fox, an early sparkplug as Village membership coordinator and coordinator of the DC Senior Advisory Coalition.

The national nonprofit Village movement (more than 100 Villages operating and organizing) provided basic guidelines and advice, and a survey in Spring 2011 assessed the local demand.

Meeting a real need

Volunteers delivered the survey door-to-door to 2,500 houses and apartments in the neighborhood. It got more than 350 enthusiastic responses: the need is real. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a Village to age in place.

Fox recruited her college friend and neighbor Stevens, a career administrator in higher education, and the effort took off.

"We never thought we'd be talking about aging in place all those years ago," Stevens said. "And now it's all we talk about."

MEMBER PROFILE:

Marcia Kass



Marcia Kass performing at a DC club

It's open-mike night at the Ulah Bistro in DC's trendy U Street corridor, and Marcia Kass has left her snug studio apartment in Cleveland Park to get up on the stage, pick up a microphone and sing before a crowd of yuppies. They're cheering.

"Songs I grew up with when I started, like Linda Ronstadt, and now Broadway tunes and some standards from the '30s, and some new ones too," she said. At 65, the retired business journalist leads a full, active life and doesn't see herself needing Cleveland Park Village services any time soon. But she joined anyway last October as a full member.

"While I'm healthy I expect I'll be a volunteer first, doing small errands in the neighborhood, picking up a few groceries, reading for someone," she said. "I'm on my own now. If I'm going to stay here for the rest of my life I'll need a support system, and I need to create it myself. I see joining up as putting my money where my mouth is."

During her 30 years in Cleveland Park, her 206-unit building on Connecticut Avenue has become "probably 80 percent young people" who don't think much about aging yet. But they still might be recruited as volunteers.

Ms. Kass relishes being able to walk to just about everything she needs—including the Metro that takes her to and from her Monday nights at Ulah Bistro. "Why am I staying put?" she said: "Location, location, location."

Most Washingtonians know the mundane work of building an organization: planning meetings, information sessions, arguments, leafleting, house-parties, meet-and-greet events, telephone calls, fundraising, mailings. Those things continue as the opening day gets closer.

Cleveland Park Village is ready to go!

Meet our New Executive Director: Susan Hester

Veteran health and education activist Susan Hester takes office this month as founding Executive Director of Cleveland Park Village.



Photo by Sandy Douglass

"For the first year, my vision for Cleveland Park Village has four aspects," she told a gathering at the Cleveland Park Congregational Church in March. "To make it a reliable neighborhood resource; to create a corps of dependable volunteers; to become a visible neighborhood presence; and to enhance community spirit."

A North Carolina native, Hester, 63, has lived in Washington since she arrived in 1980 as a chapter coordinator for the National Organization for Women (NOW). With a master's degree in public administration from the University of Iowa, Hester worked previously in her family's private education business, Hester's Creative Schools, managing the business's ten preschools serving more than 1,000 families.

Hester's resume showcases the skills she will need in her new job. She was development director for the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) in its major growth years from 1982-87; then a fundraising consultant; and then founder in 1990 and executive director of the Mautner Project for Lesbians With Cancer.

There she launched programs of education, advocacy, research and training, including the National Breast Cancer Coalition. She has also served as executive director of the Wendt Center for Loss and Healing.

Hester has won many awards for her service to the Washington community, including in 2011 the Barbara Seaman Award for Activism in Women's Health, from the National Women's Health Network. Her knowledge of health care, organizational development, fundraising and management bode well for the future of Cleveland Park Village.

How Does Cleveland Park Village Work?

ORIENTATION SESSIONS SCHEDULED FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS

Volunteer Coordinators Carol Lynn Bamford and Jenny Dieterle will bring Members and Volunteers together for an orientation session so all will hear the same basic information and have the same expectations about working together.

All Volunteers are required to attend one of the following group orientation sessions. All Members who are ready to access services are urged to attend a session as well. If this is not possible, Members should call the office to make an individual arrangement.

Wednesday April 17:

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Location:

Cleveland Park Club
3433 33rd Place, NW (off
Highland Place)
near Cleveland Park Metro,
parking in neighborhood

Sunday April 21:

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Location:

Stanford in Washington
2661 Connecticut Ave., NW
Near Woodley Park Metro,
parking in neighborhood

Thursday April 25:

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Location:

The Methodist Home
4901 Connecticut Ave., NW
One block south of Politics &
Prose, onsite parking available

Saturday April 27:

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location:

The Cleveland Park Library,
2nd Floor
3310 Connecticut Ave, NW
Near Cleveland Park Metro,
parking in neighborhood

With Cleveland Park Village, you can volunteer to provide someone with transportation to appointments and to cultural and social events, and get this help yourself when you need it later. With a little training, perhaps you can help a member with grocery and other shopping, home tasks or cleaning, furniture moving, yard work, editing, pet care, snow shoveling, financial advice or computer problems – and get similar help yourself.

If members and volunteers want it, our Village can mean dinner outings, book groups, museum visits, movie nights, tax preparation, exercise classes, balance lessons. It can mean travel clubs, wine tastings, gardening advice, story-telling sessions, scrapbooking, art and photography workshops, de-cluttering help, pickups for your donated books and household items.

Other Villages do all these things and more. Ours will be unique – just what its members and volunteers want it to be.

The Washington area has 20 Villages operating or in development. More than 100 operate or are organizing nationwide. The Village movement, in short, can make aging in place more feasible and more meaningful.

With Cleveland Park Village, a social event or help for the problems of daily life is just a phone call away.

Operational details:

1. Volunteers must complete a background check and take part in a two-hour orientation session before providing service.
2. Members will have an informational interview to confirm understanding of procedures, available services and likely requests.
3. To volunteer, or to request service: Call 202-614-5853, or email info@ClevelandParkVillage.org. Office volunteers and the Executive Director will coordinate the request with an available volunteer. Both member and volunteer will be asked for feedback afterward.

Cleveland Park Village Service Area

The Village service area is bounded roughly by Upton and Tilden Streets on the north, Rock Creek Park and the National Zoo on the east, Calvert Street and Massachusetts Avenue on the south and the Glover-Archibald Trail on the west.

Join the Cleveland Park Village Now!

Membership:

Individual \$500 per year
Household \$750 per year
(max three people)
Supported Membership
(call for information)

Associate:

\$250 per year: Support the Village and stay informed about Village activity with your \$250 tax-deductible donation

Get in touch:

info@ClevelandParkVillage.org
or 202-615-5853

Be a Volunteer!

The three Ws and an H:

Who are you? Sign up now!

What kind of help or service can you provide?

When during a week can you provide it? We'll take any time you can offer.

How can we contact you to arrange training?

Get in touch:

info@ClevelandParkVillage.org
or 202-615-5853

We're Out Talking to People: at City Fitness

More than 50 Cleveland Park and Woodley Park residents crowded an exercise studio at City Fitness Gym on Feb. 20 to hear how Cleveland Park Village might change their lives.

City Fitness co-owner Dega Schembri welcomed everyone as they sat in cozy pairs on step-class exercise benches. Board member Jinny Stern, a Charter Cleveland Park Village member, told the group about the 15-year-old national network of more than 100 Villages – and counting.

“We have a really good mix now and it’s just a matter of tying it together,” said Cleveland Park Village Membership Coordinator Elizabeth Fox. “We’re going to do some of the things older people need to stay in their homes.”



Susie Taylor, president of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association, said her members thought those things included exercise groups, cooking classes, transportation to appointments and social events, computer assistance, and help with some home tasks.

Fox agreed, and said Cleveland Park Village would match vetted volunteers to members’ requests, and would help members find reliable professional services as well: roofers, financial advisers, plumbers and so on.

Marcia Kass, a Wilshire Park resident and recent Village member, pointed out that the annual membership fees fund rent, communications, public outreach and an executive director. “It’s a real bargain at the price,” she said.

The alternative to the Village’s free assistance from volunteers would be the tech tutor she found, for example, who charges \$100 per hour with a three-hour minimum; assistants for small household tasks who charge \$15 for 15 minutes; or a driver who charges \$60 to take a shopper from Cleveland Park to Friendship Heights and back, with a half-hour wait.

“We don’t promise the world,” Fox said, “but we’ll name the things the community wants and we’ll sign up volunteers to do those things.”

After the presentation, 18 people signed up for more information on volunteering and 14 for more on membership. Many more such events are in the works.

Members of the Cleveland Park Village Board of Directors

Barbara Stevens,
President

Mary Worstell,
Secretary

Virginia Stern,
Assistant Secretary

William K. Ince,
Treasurer

Carol Lynn Bamford

Ruth R. Faden

Elizabeth Fox

Barbara Munday

Susan Williams O'Sullivan

Minturn Wright

Susie Taylor,
Advisor

Newsletter:

Joanne Omang, Editor

Patti Maurer,
Skinny Cat Designs,
Designer

What Does 'Community' Mean to You?

A member asked that question at a gathering of Cleveland Park Village founding volunteers and members in March at the Cleveland Park Congregational Church. Some of the answers:

- People connecting to and contributing to others around them and expecting that in return; a reciprocal relationship where no one is isolated;
- A shared humanity that supports everyone's independence and helps maintain their ability to contribute;
- Inter-generational communication and involvement, where children can learn what it's like to be a writer, a nurse, a teacher, an economist, and adults can share celebrations, interests and experiences; and
- A social center for exchanging news, meeting people, and discussing neighborhood issues and needs.

What does community mean to you?

Write or email the Cleveland Park Village News and let us know!

Get in touch:
info@ClevelandParkVillage.org

or 202-615-5853

"I can't wait 'til the Village gets going and helps me get to all these physical therapy appointments for my back."
--Claire Swain, Quebec House

"I assume that over the years, the balance will shift. I'm willing to jump in now while I am able to contribute more and need less, against the time in the future that I need more and can contribute less."
--Randi Rubovits Seitz, Woodley Place

"The only way I'm going out of my home is feet first."
--Patty Frakes, Tilden Gardens

"The people most in need of the Village are the people least likely to hear about it, so we need to spread the word."
--Minturn Wright, Cleveland Park Village Board member

Volunteer Application



CLEVELAND PARK VILLAGE

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Second Volunteer

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Street Address _____

Zip Code _____

Email(s) _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone (indicate owner) _____

I prefer to be contacted by:

____ Email ____ Home Phone ____ Cell Phone

____ **YES! I/we would like to volunteer**

Services I/we can provide

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| ____ Driver | ____ Social Leader |
| ____ In-Home Helper | ____ Tech Tutor |
| ____ Paperwork Assistant | ____ Village Management |
| ____ Shopper | ____ Visitor/Caller |
| ____ Other _____ | |

Availability

(circle choices)

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------|-----|-------|-----|
| ____ Weekday Morning | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri |
| ____ Weekday Afternoon | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri |
| ____ Weekday Evening | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri |
| ____ Saturday Morning | ____ Sunday Morning | | | | |
| ____ Saturday Afternoon | ____ Sunday Afternoon | | | | |

____ Flexible and will respond when possible

____ **YES! I/we want to join as a member.**

Please contact me/us for details.

____ **YES! I/we want to make a tax deductible donation** to help fund Supported Memberships and Village operations.

____ **YES! I/we want to stay informed** about the Village.
Please add me/us to your email list.

Cleveland Park Village, PO Box 11231, Washington, DC 20008
info@ClevelandParkVillage.org
202.615.5853

Membership Application



First Name _____

Last Name _____

Second Member

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Street Address _____

Zip Code _____

Email(s) _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone (indicate owner) _____

I prefer to be contacted by:

____ Email ____ Home Phone ____ Cell Phone

Membership

- ____ Individual Member \$500 annually
 ____ Household Member \$750 annually
 ____ Supported Member 50% for those with limited income.
 Call/email for information.
 ____ Associate \$250 annually,
 provides access to events and information.

Payment:

____ Payment enclosed. Check payable to
 Cleveland Park Village, PO Box 11231,
 Washington DC 20008

____ I will go online to ClevelandParkVillage.org and charge my
 membership using PayPal

Signature _____ Date _____

____ YES! I/We want to be a volunteer

____ YES! I/We want to make a tax deductible Donation to help fund
 Supported Memberships and Village operations

____ YES! I/We want to stay informed about the Village.

Please add me/us to your email list.