



CAPITOL HILL VILLAGE



The **Capitol Hill Village News** will be sent to you every month to let you know what's happening, alert you to who's who, and ask for your participation in other features. We are interested in your feedback, as we want you to find Capitol Hill Village News enjoyable and worth reading.

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Launch Celebration!

Capitol Hill Village has been in business since October 1, 2007. Our public launch event October 6th was a big success. Thank you to all who made the event possible and gratitude to those who attended.
[details](#)

The Rest of October and November Calendars

Join and meet other members. Transportation is available to any event or activity.
[details](#)

Executive Director's Message

Capitol Hill Village members have given themselves the gift of peace of mind. Will you be with family and friends for Thanksgiving? Please let them know what you have chosen to do. If you haven't joined Capitol Hill Village, consider (as one member put it) "defanging" your family's concerns about you by joining.
[details](#)

Meet Capitol Hill Village Charter Members

Jim Warren and Marge Warren took the lead in presenting capsule personal pictures to Capitol Hill Village. Members: Try it yourself and send your short bio to news@capitolhillvillage.org
[details](#)

Memorable Gifts for Yourself and Others

The holidays soon will be here. Birthdays and other special occasions often justify gift giving. Do you find you are receiving and giving gifts with less meaning? The idea described came from a member, who responded after reading the News on MEMORABLE GIFTS last month. We have ideas to spend less AND give/get more satisfaction.
[details](#)

Home Maintenance

Tim Burr, a home maintenance expert, as well as a Capitol Hill Village member and volunteer, offers you Fall Furnace Fixup
[details](#)

Home Inspection

Also regarding your home, consider this: Capitol Hill Village can offer you a preventive maintenance and safety inspection, which will identify what needs to be fixed or replaced, and when.
[details](#)

Capitol Hill Village Launch Event

Capitol Hill Village held its launch celebration on Saturday afternoon, October 6th, a beautiful sunny day. With the help of more than 50 volunteers -- led by launch coordinators CHV Board Member Judy Canning, Executive Director Gail Kohn, and Volunteer Director Lois Kauffman -- the outdoor playground of historic Friendship House was transformed into several centers of activity. The crowd swelled to over 200, counting many members (some new that day), volunteers and interested persons.



Here's part of the crowd, resting in the shade.

The Shackbreakers blues band is remembered fondly by those who attended.

Persons interested in membership, volunteering and contributing were able to have their questions answered.

"It was a beautiful day," said Don Heffernan, one of CHV's newest members and also a volunteer. "And it was wonderful to see the number and diversity of those who want to join and work with Capitol Hill Village."

Under the shade of a stately water oak, Shackbreakers Blues Band was the big show, interspersed with congratulatory remarks and free door prize drawings. Cookies made by members, Ben and Jerry's ice cream contributed by Karen and Robert Reed, plenty of fruit, and beverages were enjoyed by all. DC Council Chairman Vincent C. Gray and Capitol Hill's City Councilman Tommy Wells provided enthusiastic comments about the remain-in-the-neighborhood concept of Capitol Hill Village, then stayed for the fun.

Those who attended had opportunities to learn about membership, complete a future CHV event preference survey, decide if they wanted to join other contributors and volunteers, and learn about the many Capitol Hill businesses that intend to continue supporting Capitol Hill Village and its members with contributions and discounts.

CHV President Geoff Lewis thanked individuals who carried Capitol Hill Village successfully to its launch and beyond, as well as sponsors and contributors who made the event possible. Six sponsored the event with \$1,000 contributions:

- Capitol Hill Auto Service Center
- Frager's Hardware
- Grubbs Pharmacy & Medical Equipment
- Home Care Assistance
- National Capital Bank
- Yarmouth Management Services

Other Capitol Hill businesses added to the launch event fun by contributing door prizes, including attorney Bradford P. Johnson, who gave preparation/update of one last will and testament; Eastern Market Bower Cheese, a certificate for a two-pound block of cheddar cheese; Small Business Data Solutions, two hours of computer consulting; and Capitol Hill Day School, not only a week of day camp but also two stuffed animals adoption.

Marty's contributed two \$25 certificates to be used by the lucky winner for dining; Trover Shop gave a \$50 certificate for books, greeting cards or other items; Randolph Cree offered both a gift bag of hair care items and a hair cut and style; DC Access provided a 50% discount on a wireless internet installation; Surroundings gave a stunning bouquet; and Distad's BP contributed a 3,000-mile auto check-up as well as \$100 to Capitol Hill Village.

A private tour for four of the National Building Museum attracted special attention, as did the Sycamore Island picnic for four, both contributed by a Capitol Hill Village charter member, who is also a founding donor and board member. The finest door prize was a bottle of Heidsieck Monopole Diamant Bleu 1996 champagne from Schneider's of Capitol Hill, which also gave Capitol Hill Village \$500. Winners went home extra happy.

Some Capitol Hill Village businesses announced future discounts for members when they present their CHV membership cards, newly acquired at the launch event.

Richard Worsnop was among those who joined at the launch event. Thinking about the day, he said, "It was gratifying to me to see how many people were there, eager for information about Capitol Hill Village, and having a good time together."

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October Events

You can still sign up! Contact us ASAP 202-543-1778 or info@capitolhillvillage.org

Wednesday, October 17 at 7:30 PM
"DC On Film"

Mike Canning, Movie Critic for the *Hill Rag*, will discuss, with film clips, movies set in DC. Home of Geoff Lewis, 504 6th St. SE ([members only](#))

Thursday, October 18 from 7-8 PM
Learn More About Capitol Hill Village

An informational meeting at Ebenezer's Coffeehouse (Corner of 2nd and F Streets NE) to brief those interested in an update on membership, including our volunteer-first approach and our success arranging special treatment from vetted vendors. Come too, just for the fun of it and bring a friend to learn about the Village. The meeting will be in the Coffeehouse's basement space. ([members and interested persons](#))

Wednesday, October 24 from 10:00 AM to 12 noon
"Fall Foliage Walk on Capitol Hill"

Margaret Messiaen, Capitol Hill Trees
Walking tour begins at Market Lunch in the Eastern Market at 10:00 AM and returns to Market Lunch at noon. ([members and interested persons](#))

Tuesday, October 30 at 10:00 AM

"Explore Your Interest in Genealogy" with Capitol Hill Village members Larry Molumby, Ivan Kauffman and Sharon House. Home of Sharon House, 536 6th St. SE ([members only](#))

November Calendar

Thursday, November 8 at 7:30 PM
"When I'm Sixty Four"

Sing Along with Parker Jayne at the piano — Beatles songs, Gershwin and others of your favorites. Home of Mary Procter, 324 G Street SE. ([members and interested persons](#))

Tuesday, November 13 at 10:30 AM

"Organizing your Stuff to Fit your Compact Townhouse"
Jill Lawrence, Jill-of-all-Trades organizing service at the Corner Store, 900 North Carolina Ave. SE. Come and Bring your Friends. ([members and interested persons](#))

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Executive Director's Message

The launch event gave me a special opportunity to see many of you whom I knew only via e-mail and telephone exchanges and meet others for the first time. I have heard from many of you that you enjoyed the Capitol Hill Village celebration. Please call or e-mail your thoughts, opinions and requests about Capitol Hill Village. Our membership increased on launch day and many of you left saying you were going to join. I hope you do so soon.

Capitol Hill Village members have the assurance that help is a phone call or e-mail away. Just to give you a feel for the kind of requests that have come to us since Capitol Hill Village opened, here's a list by category.

- At-home Assistance: Meal deliveries, books being organized, determine old coin values, housecleaning, grocery delivery, replace watch battery
- Gardening: Weeding, advice on tree selection, garden plant choices, raking
- Home Maintenance: Windows replaced, windows cleaned, change light bulbs, replace attic stairs, electrician needed for various projects, ramp needed, painting indoor rooms, leaky shower, list for handyman
- Technology: Re-establish Internet access
- Transportation: to and from doctors' offices, events at The Corner Store, Deborah Edge's home for the Medical Advocacy session, Friendship House, Capitol Hill Village office to volunteer

More of these tasks were performed by volunteers than by preferred vendors. Some still are under investigation and will be resolved, when the right volunteer or vendor is identified. For example, are you or do you know a numismatic enthusiast?

Holidays can be a time to enjoy your home and the neighborhood as well as to talk with loved ones about life and the future. If you have joined, we hope you will talk about Capitol Hill Village -- your new, reliable neighbor. If you haven't joined yet, do so before the turkey carcass becomes soup.

—Gail Kohn

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Meet Capitol Hill Village Charter Members

Abbreviated bio for Jim Warren, New Jersey native and Princeton '49
A lifelong interest in Greece began when serving there as an economist with the Marshall Plan (1950–1955). After that, many overseas postings for Standard Vacuum (Esso): Southeast Asia, Japan, Philippines, East Africa. Returned to Athens as General Manager of Exxon's marketing. Served as Assistant to the President of Bates College. Taught diplomats about modern Greece (1991–1994) at Foreign Service Institute. Presently, volunteer mentor to Greek PhD candidates and authors. 3 sons, 2 daughters.

Abbreviated bio for Marge Benjamin Warren, Manhattan native, Vassar '54 and MA U. of Penn. '65 (Jim's wife).
Textiles have been my passion for all of my adult life. But an interest in issues in NYC government beckoned: two decades were spent in the not-for-profit "good government" sector as researcher, lobbyist for public education, budget analysis, then grants administrator for Trinity Church Foundation. Lived in Greece 1978-80. Returned to NYC as a widow, and felt the time had come to indulge my interest in textiles, so I undertook an apprenticeship in costume restoration. Six visits to Japan in conjunction with continuing self-employment as designer reinterpreting and revivifying kimono silks. 2 sons.

Please send your abbreviated bio. We want to archive information on a soon-to-be-developed website bulletin board available to members. The bulletin board idea is to help you find persons you want to know and perhaps, things you want to sell, trade or borrow. (Capitol Hill Village will facilitate contacts and help with transportation.)

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Memorable Gifts for Yourself and Others

Needlework is a personal love that I have found can be a route to continuing closer relationships with nieces, grandchildren, and other family members of many ages.

And cross-stitch kits are the simplest way to open this door to a craft that can lead to their exploring all sorts of needlecrafts in the future. The kits are good Christmas or birthday gifts, or can be ready-and-waiting for a several-day visit by the family.

I am sending cross-stitch kits to two middle-school-age nieces for Christmas, each getting a simple bookmark and then an only slightly more difficult round picture of a friendly frog or cool-fin fish. Many craft stores carry cross-stitch kits. My gifts will be stuffed in colorful bags I have made out of fabric scraps, closed by pulling a cord. Also in each bag will be a small pair of scissors for snipping floss or thread.

One key I learned from giving similar gifts to grandchildren is to have one of the projects in each bag (the easy bookmarks) already started with a couple of stitches. Depending on ages, some younger boys also are drawn to these crafts, although in this instance, I am making a larger bag out of scraps for my nephew to store his plastic airplane collection.

Since these are gifts I will be mailing to Florida, I also will include a more interesting cross-stitch project (and an extra package of appropriate needles) for their mother as a way to make it a family affair.

—Capitol Hill Village member Diane Brockett

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Home Maintenance

Tim Burr, a home maintenance expert as well as Capitol Hill Village member and volunteer, offers you a Checkup for Your Appliances.

You and I call whatever heats our house a furnace. The guys who fix them call them boilers, furnaces, or heat pumps. Whatever you call your heat source, now is the time to have it checked so it will do its job all winter.

You can tell what you have by looking at where your heat comes from or the utility source — gas, electric, or oil.

If you have radiators, you need to get the boiler checked and have the radiators bled. Because water is involved, this process may be done by a plumber. The heating technician or plumber will make sure the gas is burning cleanly, the chimney is drawing and no carbon monoxide is escaping, the pump is lubricated and working efficiently, and that there are no leaks. Bleeding the radiators will make sure that they are full of water and putting out the maximum quantity of heat.

If the heat comes out of a register, and the air coming out is really warm, you have a forced-air furnace. The technician will check filters (which you have been doing every month, right?), and make sure the gas is burning cleanly, the heat exchanger is not cracked, the chimney is drawing and no carbon monoxide is escaping, and that the fan motor is working efficiently. They also can adjust vents so heat is even throughout the house.

A heat pump also blows out air, but it is only slightly above the ambient temperature. It will show up on your electric bill, not the gas bill. The checks will be similar to those for a forced-air furnace, but also will include a check of the compressor.

Finally, if you have oil heat, the oil company should send out a technicians to adjust the burner, check the chimney, and depending on whether it is a forced air or radiator system, do appropriate tests to assure that the system is working efficiently. They also will check the tank for leaks. And, because cold weather is coming, this is the time to make sure you have a full tank of oil.

If you need assistance in getting a technician to check your heating system, give the office a call at 202-543-1778 or email us at info@capitolhillvillage.org.

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Home Inspection

No, the offer that follows is not for a home seller to negotiate with a buyer. This opportunity is available to Capitol Hill Village members only. Contact Capitol Hill Village homeinspection@capitolhillvillage.org. If you decide to have Richard Rashke come to your home, you will know if your home equipment and systems, or the structure itself, need attention right away as well as what may require planning ahead for future repairs.

Richard Rashke inspects homes for US Inspect, a national residential and commercial inspection company headquartered in Chantilly, Virginia. He lives on Capitol Hill and inspecting old homes is his specialty. In six years as a residential consultant, Mr. Rashke has inspected more than 2,000 residences including condos, townhouses, single-family homes and apartment buildings. His inspection reports are printed out on site with photographs. Mr. Rashke is licensed, insured, and certified with the National Association of Home Inspectors (NAHI).

In a special arrangement with Capitol Hill Village, the fee for this service is \$200.

Call if you are interested in talking with the member who tested Richard Rashke's services. Alice Norris was impressed with his knowledge of her home and how it works, the report he prepared before he left and his other literary pursuits. Mr. Rashke also is a journalist and a writer. We hope to hear from you, 202.543.1778 or e-mail homeinspection@capitolhillvillage.org to arrange for this Capitol Hill Village service.

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