

• WATERFRONT •  
VILLAGE



# The Navigator

**A neighborhood-based membership organization  
of paid staff, volunteers, and vendors  
supporting Southwest Waterfront and Navy Yard residents  
who wish to age in place.**

Issue 45 - November 2020

## Village to Host First Obituary-Writing Class

For most of us, the last public statement in print about our lives will be the obituary that the funeral home places on its website or shares with a newspaper.

"Obituaries are often the last word, and I don't know why more people don't make them a priority on par with wills, deeds and beneficiary forms," said Christine Gutekunst, a former reporter with the Scranton Tribune who wrote the newspaper's obituaries for public figures.

Writing your own obituary gives you a chance to communicate one last time on the things that mattered most to you, she added. Too often the job of writing the obituary is passed off to people who didn't know the deceased well or weren't aware of which achievements had personal significance.



"While it might be easy to ask your daughter-in-law with the English degree to prepare your obituary, she might not be in the best position to communicate your perspective on your life," Gutekunst added.

Jamie Passaro, who wrote a 25-page guide on self-prepared obituaries and still provides professional assistance to clients on their obituaries, makes a case that there are four reasons to write your own obituary: 1) It is fun as it will force you to think about the events and people that shaped your life; 2) It relieves your family of the burden; 3) You get the last word on what will be stated and ensures that you support the content; and 4) The quality of the obituary likely will be better since it will not be rushed and no one knows you as well as you do.

The two part obituary-writing workshop is scheduled for November 19 and December 3 at 4:00 p.m. The first session will focus on the structure and approach to the obituary, while the second will be a review and group evaluation of each participant's draft obituary. Class size is limited to 12 participants. Additional sessions may be scheduled to meet demand.

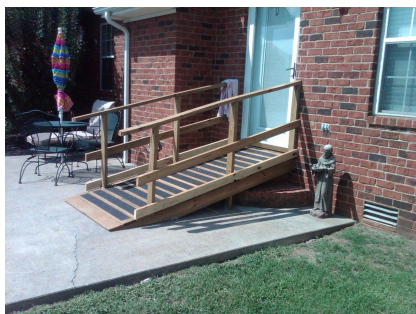
## Need a Ballot Delivered? What You Need to Know Before Election Day



The Waterfront Village will provide pick-up and delivery services for members who want their ballots deposited in the drop box on M Street between 4th and 6th Streets SW. You can arrange for this service by calling the Village office at 202-656-1834 or by sending an email to [info@dcwaterfrontvillage.org](mailto:info@dcwaterfrontvillage.org).

All registered voters were sent a mail-in ballot for the 2020 election. It is very important that you complete it properly if you plan to submit it in a dropbox. Instructions on using the mail-in ballot can be found [here](#) or by visiting the Bureau of Elections website.

If you want to vote in person, Nationals Park opened as an Early Voting Center earlier this week. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily. In addition, both Nationals Park and the Greenleaf Recreation Center will serve as voting sites on November 3 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.. While instructions for social distancing will be provided and enforced, large crowds are expected at the polls this year.



## Grants Available for Mobility Modifications in Homes

The District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development is offering DC residents loans and grants of up to \$75,000 for home repairs. Under the Single Family Residential Rehabilitation Program

(SFRRP), the first \$10,000 of a recipient's loan may be permanently deferred if the head of household is 62 years or older.

The program is designed to address DC building code violations, threats to health and safety, and roof repairs or replacement. Eligibility does depend on income level. For more information, [click here](#) or enter the following address into your browser: <http://dhcd.dc.gov/service/single-family-residential-rehabilitation-program-sfrp>.

## FREE Tablet Computers for Qualified Village Members

The Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) is initiating a pilot program this fall, distributing 500 tablets city-wide to seniors who don't have internet access and would like to.



The 13 D.C. Villages will be getting 50 devices to distribute among our members. Each Village is trying to determine if its members are eligible and interested. There are a number of criteria which must be met to qualify for one of the tablets, including income. To qualify, household income must be under \$70,500 for one person or under \$80,600 for a two-person household.

Right now, Executive Director Len Bechtel would like to hear from any our members who may be interested in applying for one of the tablets. We can review other criteria by phone.

The tablets will come with built-in internet access. Terrific, Inc, DACL's lead agency for Ward 2, will be managing the program. When the tablets are distributed they will conduct introductory sessions to make sure everyone knows how to use them. After that, there will be a helpdesk available at Terrific, Inc to handle any problems.

If you are interested, send an email to [info@dcwaterfrontvillage.org](mailto:info@dcwaterfrontvillage.org) or call the office at 202-656-1834.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### TAILGATE PATIO LUNCH: November 6 at Noon



Cooler weather indicates that it is time to pull out your sweater and enjoy a fall day with friends. Do it in style at a Village patio lunch with a football tailgate theme. We request that you register for this event by Thursday, November 5 at 12:00 noon so that we can order individual meal bags to be prepared. The event will be held outdoors (dress appropriately) and will require social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be available.

## **Meditation for the Masses Mondays at 11:00 a.m.**

Join respected meditation leader Anandaropa for an hour of stress relief through a series of simple breathing and contemplative meditation exercises. Open to members at all physical levels, although ability to hear directions is necessary.



## **TED Talk Tuesday Tuesday, November 10 at 11:00 a.m.**

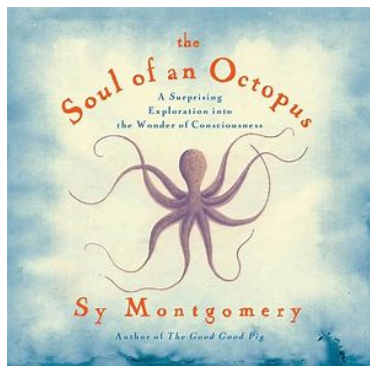
Watch thought-provoking TED talks and participate in lively discussions with your fellow members.



## **Technology Boot Camp Tuesday, November 10 and Wednesday, November 25 at 3:00 p.m.**

Lacking confidence in your ability to use videoconferencing platforms, or hoping to use your smart phone for more things? Join the Village for helpful hints on how to use

computers, smart phones, televisions, and tablets. Group discussions will give you great advice and assistance.



## **Book Club: *The Soul of an Octopus* Thursday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m.**

Sy Montgomery immerses readers into an intriguing, seductive world just beneath the ocean waves and the lives of the creatures living within. In this beautifully written book, she brings empathy, insight, and an enchanting sense of wonderment to the bonds we inherently share with other beings—even those seeming far different from us.





### **Village Happy Hour Fridays at 5:00 p.m.**

Village Happy Hour returns this month. After a long week, come unwind with your neighbors over drinks, snacks, and gossip.



### **Genealogy Interest Club Tuesday, November 17 at 3:00 p.m.**

Interested in learning more about your heritage? Join this member-run club for its monthly meeting for advice, encouragement and friendship!



### **Cooks Crew: Leftovers Saturday, November 21 at 4:00 p.m.**

This month our demonstration will be held on the weekend preceding Thanksgiving to give you ideas of what can be done with leftover poultry. These tips will come in handy whether with the remaining holiday bird or with leftovers from your rotisserie chicken. We will give you three options for making terrific new meals, with an emphasis on meals that are easy to make and tasty to eat.

### **Three easy ways to register for and attend WFV events:**

1. Log into our website and hit the Events tab to learn more, and then RSVP online\*
2. Email your request to: [events@dcwaterfrontvillage.org](mailto:events@dcwaterfrontvillage.org)
3. Call the Village at 202-656-1834
4. Check the Village's daily email for Zoom meeting links.

**\*Call 866-457-2582 weekdays 8:30 am - 7 pm for help with your online registrations**



## Are you planning to purchase your holiday gifts online this year?

When you use [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon will make a donation to Waterfront Village for many of your purchases from their website.

**Click below to learn more.**

**Thank you to our members renewing during the month of October:**

**Julie Farris  
Eva Whitaker  
Susan Klein  
Morris Klein  
Ellen Boneparth  
Michael Rosenthal  
Louisa Rowland  
Ellen Spencer  
Carol Cowgill  
Gale Kaufmann  
Rod Ross**



**Welcome to our new member:**

**Pege Gilgannon**

**Village Thanksgiving activities will be announced next week**

## For Causes You Cherish

While it's understandable to not want to talk about legacy plans, getting your inheritance wishes in order is one of the greatest gifts you can bestow upon our loved ones. If Waterfront Village is a cause you cherish, please call us on 202-656-1834 to get more information about the Village Legacy Society and planned giving opportunities.



[Website](#) [Benefits](#) [Donations](#) [Events](#) [Contact](#)



Waterfront Village is a member of the DC Villages collaborative and the Village to Village Network,  
operating under the guidance of the  
District of Columbia Department of Aging and Community Living.

Leonard Bechtel  
Executive Director

Anne Martin  
President

800 Maine Avenue SW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20024-2811  
202-656-1834 [info@dcwaterfrontvillage.org](mailto:info@dcwaterfrontvillage.org)  
[www.dewaterfrontvillage.org](http://www.dewaterfrontvillage.org)

Waterfront Village | 800 Maine Avenue SW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20024-2433  
[www.dewaterfrontvillage.org](http://www.dewaterfrontvillage.org)

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