

HISTORIC MOUNT PLEASANT NEWSLETTER LIVING IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT: DECK THE HALLS!

December 2023

Our Historic Mount Pleasant (HMP) Newsletter strives to inform community members by illuminating <u>historic</u> <u>district permit requirements</u>, technical issues and solutions, and other aspects of the historic district, including its history.

What is Permitted?

In the Mount Pleasant historic district, changing the exterior appearance of your home usually requires a building permit and clearance from the DC <u>Historic Preservation Office (HPO)</u>. Even if you grew up in an historic district, odds are that you will need help navigating the seemingly arcane and detailed requirements for almost anything more permanent than holiday lights. But if you're just decorating for the holidays, there is no need to worry about permits.

Most maintenance and interior work will not require HPO review and approval. Small projects, like in-kind replacement of deteriorated elements (e.g., roofing, windows and doors, front steps and other site elements and repointing masonry) can be approved over the counter by HPO staff. But, major work, including significant demolition and changes to the exterior of a building, must be approved by the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB), which is advised by the HPO.



It is vital that your architect or contractor is familiar with historic district requirements. Work in an historic district not approved by the HPRB or HPO is unlawful even if you have obtained a building permit for alterations, repairs, or construction. The <u>Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978</u> establishes criminal penalties for willful violations, including fines of up to \$1,000 for each day a violation continues. Anyone who does work in violation of the act is required to restore the building or structure and its site to its appearance prior to the violation.

Fortunately, it's easy to avoid these problems. The <u>HPO can provide technical assistance</u> early in the planning stages through informal discussions with a preservation specialist on topics like products, services, or renovation

techniques. They will also explain preservation standards and the review process, identify any potential preservation or design concerns, and work collaboratively to explore mutually agreeable solutions.

Often, the HPO will ask the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) and the neighborhood historic preservation organization for comments on the proposed work. In Mount Pleasant, the HMP Design Review Committee is available to review all cases going to the HPO and HPRB and encourages applicants to contact us early in the project development so we can identify potential issues, provide technical advice, and facilitate approvals. The Committee also welcomes questions about preservation-related work that does not require a permit.

So go ahead and be creative with your decorations. No one will be reviewing and judging them – unless you decide to enter a <u>Best Holiday Lights</u> competition like the one recently judged for Mt. Pleasant Street businesses by the Village and <u>DC's Main Streets</u>. <u>Last year's winners</u> included Overall Best in Show, Purple Patch Restaurant.

MT. PLEASANT HISTORY

Electric Christmas Lights

In 1882, Edward Hibberd Johnson, the vice president of the Edison Electric Light Company decorated the tree in his New York City home with specially-made electric bulbs. The New York Times later wrote, "A BRILLIANT CHRISTMAS TREE, HOW AN ELECTRICIAN AMUSED HIS CHILDREN... Mr. Johnson has been experimenting with house lighting by electricity for some time past."

Early versions were only for the rich, but General Electric (GE) made electric tree lights more affordable in 1903 with pre-assembled sets – still expensive at \$12. Department stores in the larger, electrified cities would rent outfits for the season for \$1.50. Called "festoons," the GE sets consisted of eight green, pre-wired porcelain sockets, eight miniature Edison colored-glass lamps, and a screw-in plug for easy attachment to a nearby wall or ceiling light socket. Interestingly, the 2-pronged electrical plugs we use today were developed to facilitate connecting strings of Christmas light festoons.

X mas Lights

On the Lawin

Commemorating The Light of the World, Christmas is truly the season of light. Beautiful brightening of the home, to gladden everyone IN it, is accepted as appropriate for this hallowed holiday.

But go just a step further! Extend your brightening activities to the EXTERIOR as well as the interior of your home. Utilize the nature-nourished trees and shrubbery of your own premises to spread Christmas joy through that mystic element of electricity which, more than any other, symbolizes this holy season.

Joyous green of verdant shrubbery—beautiful background of white snow—colorful strands of electric lights—could YOU pass premises so pleasant without feeling that the provider of such an eye-treat was keeping Christmas unselfishly for the benefit of everyone?

A few flood lights, some inexpensive strands of colorful electric lamps and easily-obtainable weather-proof cord are are all that is required!

An illuminating Engineer of this Company will gladly give you practical plans for the completion of Christmas cheer through economical exterior lighting. Just phone Main Ten Thousand and ask for an Illuminating Engineer of

The Potomac Electric Power Company

—Matchless Service—

MAIN TEN THOUSAND

In 1923, President Calvin Coolidge pushed the

button to light the <u>first National Christmas Tree</u> in Washington D.C., a 48-foot balsam fir covered with 2,500 specially-manufactured electric bulbs. By 1926, the Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco), with the clever slogan, <u>Matchless Service</u>, was encouraging Washingtonians to "Utilize the nature-nourished trees and shrubbery of your own premises to spread Christmas joy through that mystic element of electricity which, more than any other, symbolizes this holy season." The only problem was that these early sets were <u>small, dangerous and extremely impractical for the average family</u>. In 1927, GE introduced true outdoor lighting and, along with local electric companies, began to sponsor neighborhood "decorating with color-light" contests to promote business. In this century - until this year - the National Zoo's ZooLights, were <u>"Powered by Pepco."</u>

We Have a Winner!

The <u>December 17, 1930 Evening Star</u> displayed the Brighter Washington Christmas Committee of the Electric League cups to be awarded for outdoor Christmas lighting in two categories: the most artistic residential community and the most outstanding business section or community. The board of judges included an architect, the president of the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company, and the president of the Federation of Citizens' Associations.

The following year, the Mount Pleasant Citizens'
Association Electric League Cup was awarded to
William S. Hodges of 1707 Irving St. NW "for having
the most attractive lighting about his house."

The November 30, 1931, Washington Times, noted that the "Chanukah Fete" was celebrated "various synagogues throughout the week," but with candles, not electric lights.

WINS ON HOME LIGHTING

William S. Hodges, 1707 Irving Street, Is Awarded First Prize.

William S. Hodges, 1707 Irving street, yesterday was awarded first prize by a Mount Pleasant Citizens' Association committee for having the most attractive Christmas exterior lighting about his house.

The Electric League cup will be presented Mr. Hodges at the association meeting Saturday evening, January 9.

Honorable mention was accorded the residence of Hamlin R. Cochran, 1642 Hobart street, and the Presbyterian Home, 1818 Newton street.

The members of the committee making the award were Dr. A. A. Chenay (chairman), Mrs. Elizabeth M. Byers. Raymond J. Bowen, William T. Talbott and J. T. Miller.



Miss Virginia K. Thayer, secretary to one of the members of the Brighter Washington Christmas Committee of the Electric League, exhibits the cups to be awarded for outdoor Christmas lighting, the large cup being for the most artistic residential community and the smaller one for the most outstanding business section or community. The board of judges includes Robert F. Beresford, architect; Lloyd B. Wilson, president of the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co., and Dr. George C. Havenner, president of the Federation of Citizens' Associations.



On the same "Chanukah Fete" page, note the Eastern Air ad: \$20 for "A Day in NEW YORK and home for dinner, Via 18-passenger Curtiss Condors, with a crew of 3 – pilot, co-pilot and hostess," and "The Inauguration of Xmas Lights On Central 7th Street."

Below are:

- 1. The Evening Star December 17, 1930 article on the Electric League cups.
- 2. The Evening Star December 30, 1931 article about the best Christmas decorations in Mt. Pleasant.
- 3. The Washington Times November 30, 1931 article about the "Chanukah Fete."

GROUPS ARE NAMED BY DR. C. H. MARVIN

Recently Appointed Commis sion for District Holds Organization Session.

MRS. PHILIP S. SMITH APPOINTED SECRETARY

mission headed by Cano Rudelph, for-mer District Commissioner.

Dr. Marrin ameuniced the appoint-ment of John Poole as treasure and Mrs. Phillip Bildney Smith, pecretary. ANY SPECIAL MINISTRAL CONTRACT

POLICE COMMENDED AWARD CONTRACT

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Congratulated Proc. table Services of Serv

LOCAL ACTORS' CHANCE

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING AWARDS READY | SERIES OF HOLD-UPS [

Quick-Thinking Taxi Driver Causes Arrest by Proposing

AFTER POLICE QUERIES

LAID TO BOY, 18, F TRAPPED BY VICTIM

Crime Partnership.

CONFESSION CLAIMED

SUES FOR TREE'S DEATH

When the proper services and the services of the proper services of the p

SELECTING CHRISTMAS TREES FOR WHITE HOUSE



River Victim

Pvts. Lewis and Murphy Are Commissioners Authorize Congratulated as Coroner's Construction of Crosby

that When Gun Kept for Protection Falls From Pecket.

The response is also survived by a 14Therepes is also survived by a 14There is a survived by the survived

CAPITAL HAS PART IN PAYING TRIBUTE TO SIMON BOLIVAR

Centennial of Death of Liberator of South America Observed Here.

ENVOYS ATTEND MASS HELD AT LOCAL CHURCH

Uniform of Patriot to Be Shown at Ceremonies Tenight at George-town University.

With the National Capital taking the lead, the United States today was joining with Latin American countries in consumentariant the restential of the death of Slimon Bolivar, the great liberator of his native Versecule and also of Coolemboa, Peru, Beundor, Bolivia and Panama.

FIVE PERSONS HURT
IN MOTOR MISHAPS
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TOURLES DATIONS

PARTY SERVICE AND MINISTRATE OF THE PARTY SERVICE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY SERVICE

AUCTION SALES FT TURE DAYS.
Continued.
THOS. J. OWEN & BON. AUCTIONEAN
JACK ET Buret Northwest. C RUTCHES and Canes for Invalids Always Sold at Lowest Prices at TRUSTEES BALE OF VALUABLE TH STORY ELEVEN-ROOM BRICK DWEL DOG AND TWO-CAR, ENICK GARA-

GIRSON'S

OPENING OF The Northeast Chinese-American Restaurant

813 H N.E.

Rose Glow Tea Room

16th and Earlid Sts. N.W.
Week Day Dianers. 550 and 150
Sonits. Dianers. 550
17 P.M. to 7.36 P.M.
1the Breakfast. 556 to 560



FAR EAST 519 13th St.

THE GORILLA TIIRKEY \$1.00 TURKEY DINNER Home Cooking Sen

SPEND YOUR New Year's Eves Celebration)

VILLA

WILLIAM M SEAT WALLER. WILMER J WALLER.

ROMA

On the New Rockville Boulevard

Superb Cuisine plendid Service parkling Music Superb Cuisine plendid Service parkling Music

\$6.00 PER PLATE (Special Entertainment Noisemakers, Souvenirs and Dancing Till (?)

FRENCH LANGUAGE

Gregg Shorthand TEMPLE SCHOOL

National University Law School

Winter Term Begins
January 4, 1932, at 4:30 P.M.
Standard three-year course leading to degree of LLB. B. C. L.
137d J. D.
Craduate courses leading to de-trees of Lib.M., M. P. L., S. J. D.
ind D. C. L.

School of Economics and Government



FLORIDA

Leisurely cruise over the warm, southern seas; suriny decks, invigorating salt air; quiet, rest, recreatios. Splendid service to Jacksonville - Miami Through tickets to the various Florida points. Fares include meals, regular berth on ship, lew rates for suries. All-flagenes Tours to fascinating places in Outs and Pietds. Thurstreet offsets.

Right of Way.

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the Grant of Control Chairman and Chairm



NEW YEARS EVE Brautiful favors for the ladical An elaborate midnite supper prepared by our renowned chef, Laver Blanchi! Souvenirs! Noisemakers! Fun galore!

\$8 Per Person-Including Supper

are appearing in local theaters thin week us guests of the evening.

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"32 SAFETY VOWS

URGED ON DRIVERS

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Traffic Council Calls Upon
Motorists to Stop 'Hogging'
British of Way.

British of Way.

Washer-Stop 'Hogging'
British of Way. No cinterica noisy perior, 2017 red gord (not en-hymed by a bright cheery action Dinner....75c

and 7.44 p.m:

Rialte—"Strictly Dishonorable," at 11:38 a.m. 1:50, 3:44, 5:38, 7:33 and 9:39 p.m.

Earle—"Manhattan Parade" and these first.

No. 79 for CATARRH & SINUS TROUBLE
Homoeopathic Pharmacy
187 B St. A.W. Florae NA. 1608



Biographies of Mary Baker Eddy THE following authentic biomagnation of Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer, Founder and Leader of Christian Seence, may be reed, or borrowed, without thurge at any of the Christian Seience Reading Roums:

"Retrospection and Introspection by Mary Baker Eddy," The Life of Mars Baker Eddy," by Sibyl Wilbur. "Mary Baker Eddy, A Life Size Portrait," by Lyman P. Pewell. Location of Reading Rooms:

-- Lichiding everything-noise makers. Taxons souvenirs etc. Dancing from 11 P.M. to 4 A.M. Make reservations at once. Restaurant Madrillon

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New Year

Dinner

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\$1.25

Anterophysical

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1932 Calendars
when you see the word.
E. Morrison Paper Co.
History Law.
Make Your Reservations
For Your New Year's
Eve Celebration
of the

844 North Howard Street Baltimore, Maryland

Miss Evelyn Nesbit Thay

Nine KIDWELL'S Nine Markets MARKETS, Inc. Markets

Start the New Year Right! -:- Shop With Us Open New Year's Day Till 1 O'Clock

NEW YEAR'S SPECIALS TURKEYS (Extra Faney)
CHICKENS (Fancy Eyging & Baking)

Round Steak ... 18c | Lamb Much Cheaper Sirlein Steak ... 19c | BREAST REAL LAMB ... 6. Perter'se Steak ... 20c | LEC SPRING LAMB ... 16. | Perter'se Steak ... 20c | LEC SPRING LAMB ... 16. | Ferrical Steak ... 12c | Rib & Loin Lamb Chops ... 14c | Chuck Reast ... 12c | Shoulder Spring Lamb ... 18c | Plate Beef ... 8c | Shoulder Lamb Chops ... 10.

Pure Hog Lard to. 9c; 3 tos. 25c | SLICED BACON. . п. 19 Comp'nd Lard to 8c; 3 to 23c BACON SQUARES.
Pig Liver to 7c; 4 to 25c STRIP BACON.

A REAL
PEACH SALE
Frontier Brand can 12½ c TRY
Orinda Club Brand can 14c A CAN
Sutter Pack Brand can 15c TODAY 10. 41/2c POTATOES 10 ibs. 13. SUGAR . 10. 4½c POTATOES 10 10s. 13c LARGE PAPER SHELL PECANS 15. 18c; 3 10s. 50c Weet Potatoes 10 10s. 15c

Cooking Apples (large) 10 to 17c; bu. bas. 69c LARGE GRAPEFRUIT . each 5c TOKAY GRAPES 1b. 10c

GALLI-CURCI

OPERA COMPANY
NATIONAL THATRE
Here Commercial Montay Jan. 4
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PALACE NAGEL

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A Happy and Prosperous New Year to All!

FRESH-KILLED FOWLS. 16. 20c | SMOKED HAMS

VEAL CUTLETS 18. 25c | LARGE FRESH HAMS ... 11.

SMOKED SAUSAGE. III. 121/2c FRESH SPARE RIBS. II. 121/2 NEW SAUERKRAUT. . III. 10: 7c FRESH PIG TAILS. . III. 10:

EGGS that are fresh . . . doz. 29c CREAMERY BUTTER . . 15. 32c Pure Sweet Apple Cider .gat. 17c | Pure Sw. Apple Cider 15 gat. 12c

A Great ½ Price Orange Sale!

ORANGES 15c ORANGES 20c ORANGES 25c

TANGERINES (very fancy) ORANGES 15c

406 H Street N.E. 7th and C Streets S.E. 2611 14th Street N.W. 8215 Georgia Ave., Silver Spri et, 12th and H Streets N.E.

SCREEN pecial Preview of the Laugh Riot of 1932 STEPPING SISTERS In PERSON Minna Gombell Louise Dresser Jobyna Howland

"DELICIOUS"

STAGE
FANCHON and MARCO'S
"SKETCHES" IDEA

Tonight BELASCO No Sterrase ELLIS AND SYBNEY "JEWEL ROBBERY" NEXT MON.-Seats Thurs.

PAULINE LORD In Dia Totherob's New Drama

DISTANT DRUMS

Foorth Altraction of the Neuma
PROFESSIONAL PLANEISS SEASON
Sights, 56c-61.5c. Ther. Mar., Joe. 81.5c
Sat., Mar., 56c-82

TED SHAWN

and His Dancers
Central High Auditorium, 13th &
Cilifton Six.

Cuesday, January 5, 8:15 P.M.
Admissias J.A. Secret Beats 31,50
n Sale: T. Arther Smith Concert Bureau.

LAST 2 DAYS

HARRY LANGDON On the SCREEN

WHEELER & WOOLSEY

BOW ATT COLTABLE INSTANCE

RESS IN "PEACE ORENO"

NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW 8 RKO VAUDEVILLE ACTS

"MEN OF CHANCE" OTHER SPECIAL FEATURES
FOR THIS SPECIAL
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ALL SEATS RESERVED Tickets now selling at the bex office STARTING FRIBAY

Ere Samuela, Vanesa briding PRO Vandenile and Rieards Curies in "Man of Chance" on the serven.

EARLE UGHTNER "Manhattan Parade" OE PENNER

iew Year's Eve Show

MAS MAS AD THE LEON JANNEY JUNIOR COGHLAN

PAUL LUKAS SIDNEY FOX LEWIS STONE SIDNEY FOR LEWIS STONE SHOW

NEW YEAR'S EVE 11:30 RIALTO Miss Ellen Waller

Click Brook in "westy-File Source" RICHMOND TEXAS BELL AND PARKER IN WAY BACK HOME PARKER IN THE PAR

JESSE THEATER 1801 A Irring

E. F. MILLER Sall Room, Tap. Acre-

0 LES STEVENS
THE DIPLOMATS
CHILDREN CNDER IZ
IS CENTS ALL TIMES NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ROSA LOW Prince, St. 50 St.00, 75c, 55c, Soxes, 518.06 Tickets Mrs. Wilson-Green's Bureau Droup's, 1300 G street: District 6493. GAYETY-BURLESK JACK LAMONT WANDA DeVON BIG MID-NITE SHOW NEW YEAR'S EVE AT 11:30 P.M. FILMS TOMORROW NIGHT

> APOLLO MATTHEE AT JACKE COOPER THE CHAMP AVENUF GRAND SE SE BETT LAND, Red CHANGOTE HERE CHESNOCH PRINTED HIGH WATER BOARD TO LEAD THE BETT THE STATE OF THE HOME STREET, MANUAL MAN STATE Bone of Western Electric Source DUMBARTON IN WINGSTAND A DUMBART ON THE PROPERTY OF THE

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WILL ELECT OFFICERS



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CHANUKAH FETE What's Doing Today and Tomorrow

Police Post Vets Honor Lieut. Smith

RIGHT

to give children dope-drugged coughsyrups? Why

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ma, and many of them with Transportation worder ting conveniences in the Hunters' convenience in the chase of a good used can be conveniently the many GOOD BUYS day's Classified Exciton.

"Mary, the Dupont



The Inauguration of Xmas Lights On Central 7th Street

Tomorrow afternoon at 5 P. M. Central Seventh Street from G to K becomes Washington's gay white way! Thousands of vari-colored lights will transform this popular business section into a brilliantly illuminated Christmas Shopping Center.

CENTRAL SEVENTH STREET . . . always outstanding for quality merchandise at reasonable prices, as usual, is prepared to serve you honestly, modernly, skillfully and well. In these three busy blocks one may buy everything imaginable for Yuletide Comfort and Good Cheer. We promise that your Holiday Gift Excursions, here, will be more interesting, more attractive and more satisfactory than ever before.

Shop On Central 7th Street And Save Xmas Dollars

Central 7th Street From G st. to K st.

certainly knows how to iron shirts"

New Pan-American Mail Pact Is Ready

—and Mary likewise knows that Dupont returns everything crisp, fresh, sweet, clean and beautifully finished. Wearing apparel is starched where necessary and hand finished. Bed and table linens are ironed and neatly folded.

This is an excellent laundry serv-ice for the particular family.

Phone today-Columbia 4200!

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Plus 16c a lb. for wearing apparel.

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