

The Village View



Fall 2019

KMV Goes to the Library

by Barbara Marcus

On Thursday, November 5, an enthusiastic group of nearly 25 Kemp Mill Village supporters got the promised behind-the-scenes look at the new Wheaton library. As soon as we arrived, we were ushered into a small conference room, where librarian Scott Lambdin demonstrated the benefits of a Montgomery County library card in the age of technology.



The starting point for everything is the MCPL home page, www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library. From there, you can click on, say, "Books, Movies, Music" from the dropdown menu to access e-books, which are available through the Cloud Library and through Overdrive, Maryland's eLibrary Consortium. Lambdin noted that Overdrive also supports an easy-to-use smartphone app, called Libby, that allows you to select, borrow and put holds on e-books, audiobooks and magazines.

Want to watch TV shows and movies at home? Your library card is your entree to free access to a variety of streaming services. For example, if you sign up for RBDigital, you can start binging on the British, Australian and Canadian programs in the Acorn TV catalogue (*Midsomer Murders* anyone?). Or maybe you'd like to take an online class offered by the Great Courses.

Film buffs can sign up for Kanopy, which has a catalogue of thousands of classic, foreign and indie films (you are permitted to stream 10 per month). As winter sets in, that sounds like an appealing prospect.

But the wonders of the new library are not limited to the technological innovations. Branch manager Dianne Whitaker took us through the lovely, light-filled stacks that invite you to wander and select your next great read. Whitaker pointed out the location of PCs throughout the stacks and an interactive assistive station that can "read" materials to blind patrons. Yes, the bookshelves are lower than in the past. That's because they are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA. (Don't see what you're looking for? Use one of the many PCs to request a hold and direct delivery to Wheaton.) The large and inviting children's area is filled with books and activities (but the art installation at the entrance is NOT for climbing).



We also took a brief run-through of the recreation center on the second floor, noting the exercise-room equipment and running track. The rec center is separate from the library; to get more information, contact alicia.escoto@montgomerycountymd.gov, or call 240-773-4828.

The library is still in the early stages of providing services.

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What's brewing in the Housing Market? Ask your Realtor, Adam Bashein with RE/MAX Realty Group
Licensed in MD and DC and sponsor of this issue
(C): 301-943-4370, (O): 301-921-4500—ask for Adam

Our Mission

The Kemp Mill Village works to sustain and enrich the lives of residents of Kemp Mill with special attention to people aging in place and those with disabilities, through a network of neighbors providing supportive services and programs designed to improve the quality of life for individuals, families and the community at large.

Our Vision

We envision a neighborhood in which all people are safe, socially engaged, and able to thrive in their own homes, confident that they are valued members of their community.

Our Values

- **Community:** We foster a neighborhood that brings people together.
- **Dignity:** Our members are worthy of honor and esteem.
- **Independence:** Our members are in charge of their own lives.
- **Privacy:** Personal matters should be kept personal.
- **Inclusion:** We welcome everyone regardless of age, gender, race, religion, national origin, citizenship status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability.
- **Reliability:** Our members can count on us.
- **Expertise:** We have the knowledge and skills to provide the assistance our members need and request.
- **Accountability:** We are responsible to our members, volunteers, donors and the community at large.
- **Transparency:** Our business is the community's business.
- **Generosity:** Our volunteers and donors gladly share their time and resources with others.



From the President

by Alan L. Breitler

When Kemp Mill Village (KMV) was incorporated in June 2018, there were nine such Villages in Montgomery County. Now, 18 months later, there are 33 Villages, five in formative stages, and Silver Spring Village is expanding to the 20901 zip code and now adjoins KMV at Caddington Avenue. This is evidence that Villages are fulfilling a pressing need. If Villages continue to form at the current rate, Montgomery County will be entirely blanketed with Villages in the near future. Inter-village cooperation will expand services, and increasing county support will provide member opportunities that will make it easier for our neighbors to age in place, which is why we are here.

Kemp Mill Village is strengthened by an extensive community support network. We owe our successful formative period to over 100 Kemp Mill residents, more than 15 Founders, 20 volunteer service providers, 50 members, ten board members and committee chairs, and support from Montgomery County, the Villages of Kensington, Silver Spring Village, Jewish Council for the Aging, and many others. We also appreciate Ben Yehuda Pizza's 10% KMV member discount.

At this writing, KMV has provided 202 rides, grocery deliveries, and other services to members. This is averaging one service provision at least every other day since we began providing services in February 2019.

Our first community event, a Book Swap, was so successful that a second one is being planned for January. A recent tour of the new Wheaton Library drew 22 participants, and revealed a wide range of resources available to county residents (many of them without cost). We are now planning additional events and activities for our members. A newly redesigned website will show a calendar of events, as well as volunteer opportunities and opportunities for members to participate in special interest groups. The next volunteer training event is scheduled for early December.

At this writing, KMV has provided 202 rides, grocery deliveries, and other services to members. This is averaging one service provision at least every other day since we began providing services in February 2019. A guaranteed ride program has recently been initiated.

Our membership is growing steadily, and we need more volunteers to meet their needs. I invite you to initiate or increase your participation in this growing movement. Contact us at 1-833-KMV-20902 or kempmillvillage@gmail.com to obtain information about KMV, to join or to volunteer. Thank you for helping your neighbors!

Frequently Asked Questions

As a new organization, we receive a lot of questions. Here are the ones most frequently asked, along with the answers.

What exactly is a Village?

A Village is a community-based nonprofit organization designed to help neighbors age in place, through a network of volunteers providing supportive services and programs designed to improve the quality of life.

Is Kemp Mill Village the only one?

Not at all! There are currently more than 200 Villages across the country and more than 50 in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area.

Who can join?

Kemp Mill Village is open to everyone living within the Village boundaries (please see the map on our website). We welcome everyone regardless of age, gender, race, religion, national origin, citizenship status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability.

Is membership tax-deductible?

Full membership is not tax-deductible because full members receive tangible services. Associate membership may be tax-deductible, and donations to the Village are fully tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

How is Kemp Mill Village different from other organizations in our neighborhood?

Some neighborhood organizations exclusively serve people from a single faith community or house of worship. Kemp Mill Village serves everyone. In addition, a respected community organization that provides rides will transport clients only to medical appointments. We provide rides anywhere—to social engagements, barbers and hairdressers, shopping centers—wherever you want to go!

How is the Village supported?

Even volunteer-based organizations need to cover costs such as computer and Internet services, background checks for volunteers, insurance, supplies, legal services and more. Our costs are covered through a combination of membership dues, donations from individuals and institutions, and support from Montgomery County.

Are there any social events?

A successful Book Swap earlier this year was attended by more than 100 people, and a full schedule of social events will be developed as the Village grows. Interest Groups (book club, walking group, sewing circle, music, cards, and others) will also be offered as we grow.

Is vegetarian or Kosher food available at Village events?

Yes. For events in private homes, dietary needs or concerns should be communicated to the committee chair or host of the event.

How can I request services?

Contact us at 1-833-KMV-20902 or kempmillvillage@gmail.com.

How can I help?

Volunteers and donations are always welcome! Please use the forms provided on our website or call us at 1-833-KMV-20902.

How can I find out more?

We're happy to answer your questions and help you get involved! Call us at 1-833-KMV-20902.

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Keep checking the website for events and classes that will be offered starting in January.

Our thanks to Dianne Whitaker and Scott Lambdin for making us feel welcome. We'll be back.

KMV Interest Groups bring neighbors together to do what they enjoy. Participation is open to members and volunteers. Groups starting soon are Walking, Books, Music, Sewing, Photography and Art. Please email volunteers@kempmillvillage.org if you would like to participate in one of these or if you would like to share an interest or hobby of your own in a new group.



Kemp Mill Village
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Board of Directors

Alan L. Breitler, President
Barbara Marcus, Vice-President/President-Elect
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