

The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

where we live

May 11, 2017

*Greetings from
NORCebello!*



By Joel Miller

voices on the 37

Sarcasm at its best

Submitted by Mala Kalyan

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman that she should bring her own shopping bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days."

The cashier responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right – our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, pop bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so they could use the same bottles over and over. Yes, they really were recycling.

We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen; and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But, we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up the stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every shop and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

But, she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's nappies because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an 'energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts;' wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But, that young lady is right. We didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio,

in the house – not a TV in every room. And, the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the county of Yorkshire .

In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packaged a fragile item to send in the post, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styro-foam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power.

We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But, she's right. We didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank water from a fountain or a tap when we were thirsty instead of demanding a plastic bottle flown in from another country.

We accepted that a lot of food was seasonal and didn't expect that to be backed by flying it thousands of air miles around the world.

We actually cooked food that didn't come out of a packet, tin or plastic wrap and we could even wash our own vegetables and chop our own salad.

But, we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the tram or a bus, and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their mothers into a 24-hour taxi service.

We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances.

And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But, isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then? 🍷

Mount Eagle Huddle Meeting

*Wednesday, May 10
7 - 9 p.m.*

*Home of Carole Appel
Building 1, #1008
Newcomers and friends
welcome!*

We will discuss upcoming elections and meetings and reflect on accomplishments of resistors

The Montebello Voice

*an independent gazette
Alexandria, Virginia*

This publication accepts no funding or oversight from advertisers, residents, or the Montebello Condominium Unit Owners Association. All opinions are encouraged and reflect the diversity of views in the community. All articles and photographs come from Montebello residents. To receive or contribute to this email-only gazette, contact montebellovoice@cox.net or visit on the web at www.montebellovoice.com.

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Health insurance ready for healthy debate

By Donald and Karen Barnes

The current debate going on in Congress regarding health insurance in the U.S. appears to pit shouts of “Repeal and Replace (Obamacare)!” against cries for “Resist and Replace (Trump)!” In an attempt to delve more deeply into the substance of the matter and to discern the real issues that underlie the rhetoric and rancor, a small group of Montebello residents (including two retired physicians) met informally, through the coordinating efforts of Hugh Schwartz, in mid-April to share experiences, viewpoints, and insights.

While the group did not succeed in generating a concrete, consensus plan that everyone would love, the participants did identify five issues that they felt lay at – or near – the heart of the matter.

1. Whether or not to adopt a single-payer health care plan

In theory, a single-payer plan (cf., Medicare) has many benefits over the current state-by-state, multi-insurance company approach that, for many reasons, arguably raises costs without necessarily raising quality.

However, coupled with some identified disadvantages of the approach, there was deep concern in the group about whether such an approach could ever be adopted in the current political climate.

2. Whether there should be maximums on payments for “pain and suffering”

Each state sets its own limits on what the judicial system can award to a plaintiff for “pain and suffering.”

Large awards for pain and suffering drive up the costs of insurance for patients and healthcare providers.

However, there was deep concern in the group about whether a consistent approach to capping such payments

could be effected in the current political climate.

3. Whether steps should be taken to reduce only marginally necessary “defensive medicine” procedures

Because of perhaps

- a. an overabundance of concern for the patients’ well-being and
- b. an overabundance of concern about being sued, doctors and hospitals practice “defensive medicine”; i.e., they order tests and procedures than are too often not medically necessary.

However, there was deep concern in the group about whether such a change could be effected in the current political climate.

4. Whether insurers should be allowed to negotiate collectively with pharmaceutical manufacturers to lower the cost of medicines

Current law makes it impossible for the insurers to negotiate on a national basis with the makers of pharmaceuticals. This approach keeps drug costs higher than they would otherwise be if the insurers were able to negotiate more broadly.

However, there was deep concern in the group about whether such a change could be effected in the current political climate.

5. How pre-existing conditions should be addressed

Even before Jimmy Kimmel’s recent personal testimony about the randomness of the occurrence of some pre-existing conditions, there has been broad support for the concept of broad societal support for such stricken individuals.

However, there was deep concern in the group about a variety of proposals to address this need in an affordable and sustainable manner.

There was no agreement in the group on how to move forward on these issues, despite how fundamentally important they are. Some participants felt that vested interests – insurance companies, lawyers, doctors, *inter alia* – are so strong and so opposed to any changes in the system that might reduce any advantages they enjoy under the current system that they would block any effort to make changes in the short term. Others argued that laws do change in response to changing social norms over the long term; e.g., changes in the attitudes about civil rights. Still others argued that unanticipated changes can occur in the short term in spite of prevailing opinions of the learned classes; e.g., the outcome of the 2016 Presidential elections.

How do other Montebello residents view these issues; and what, if anything, do they believe could and should be done to effect positive change in health-care insurance in the U.S.? 📷



Photo by Azita Mashayekhi

*The Montebello Voice
wants to hear from you:
musings, travels, announce-
ments, photos, and ads*

A tale of two marches

*Text and photos by
Sue Allen*

One was drizzling, the other sizzling; one was big, the other huge. Yet two recent marches in Washington – the March for Science on April 22, and the Peoples Climate March April 29, had much in common: both aimed at the issue of funding scientific research, debunking junk science, funding, and saving humans and life on Earth from extinction. As an ubiquitous sign at both marches said, “There is no Planet B.”

Both marches were non-partisan, and organization of the Climate March was started before the election. That’s not to say the marches ignored the actions of the new administration – “The planet can’t survive four years like this” – the possibility of opting out of the Paris climate agreement, huge slashes in the EPA budget, rollbacks on regulations to protect water and air, and more.

On the eve of the Climate March, the EPA even removed some web pages dedicated to climate change.

Crowd estimates for the Science



March were 40,000, and 200,000 for the Climate March. Like the Women’s March, people rolled in from buses throughout the East and Midwest. In the Climate March I met a woman who had taken a charter bus from upstate New York at midnight and driven through the night. A integrated health coach, she said it was worth it. I marched past a woman with an infant sound asleep in his snuggie. “This is his first and maybe most important march,” she said.

The Climate March was definitely louder, more diverse, and lacked the somewhat esoteric nature of the science signs such as “Alternative Facts = $\sqrt{-1}$.” And the chant “What do we want? Science. When to we want it? After peer review” couldn’t pack the punch of a “Hey hey, ho ho, Scott Pruitt has got to go,” especially when coming from soft-voiced women in white lab coats. As one sign said, “Things must be bad, even the introverts are here.”

Contrast that with the drums, cowbells, trombones and boom boxes in the rowdier, younger crowd in the Climate March.

Here’s a sampling of a few of the thousands of signs I saw:

Climate March

It’s not nice to frack Mother Nature held by a woman adorned in flowers and a lace dress

Don’t burn my future affixed to a stroller with a bottle-sipping baby

More trees, less sleaze

Fossil fuels are dinosaurs

Everyday climate heroes: support the EPA

Take a bite out of climate change: go vegan

Regulations aren’t job killers

You deny, we defy : the only deal is the Earth is real

Science needs traditional knowledge

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need but not every man’s greed. (Mahatma Gandhi)

March for Science

Curiosity is in our DNA

Know Science/Know truth No Science/No Truth

*Only Atoms should make stuff up
Copernicus, Galileo, Newton: The Age of reason – Trump, Bannon, Conway: The Age of fear and treason* 📖



New SACM, budget guidelines pass, traffic and outdoor lighting studies, and simplifying liability waivers for volunteers

By *Mikhailina Karina*

Unlike during the last work session, when the discussion of proposed changes to verbiage lasted an hour, the Board of Directors fairly painlessly passed the General Resolution to 2018 budget guidelines. A complete text of the resolution, which shows all the changes, is available on the association website at http://www.montebello.org/document_view.asp?id=2965&lr=1.

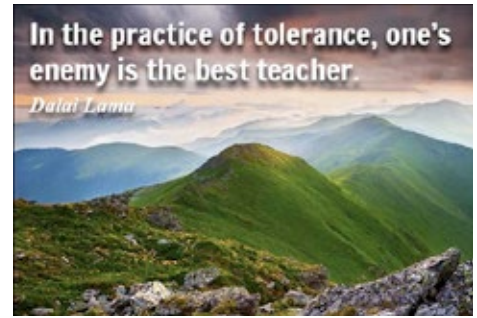
General Manager George Gardner introduced a new face at the board meeting: Earl Roberts, the newly hired security and access control manager. Gardner also reported that next week, a traffic engineer will conduct an on-site study of Montebello's traffic patterns.

In addition, another highly regarded firm was approved to evaluate Montebello's external lighting, Gardner said. Current lighting, which dates to the

1980s, is showing its age with breaks in lines and outages. The new lighting will have 50 to 75 percent saving in electricity cost and virtually eliminate the glare.

Upon completion of the survey and feasibility analysis, the contractor will set up outdoor demonstration sites for residents to evaluate new lighting. Then a town hall meeting will allow the residents to express their feedback, Gardner said. Ideally, if everything goes well, Montebello could have new outdoor light fixtures by Thanksgiving.

In an effort to bring back resident volunteers to perform landscaping projects, the board disagreed about the liability waiver form submitted by the association legal counsel. Some directors said the form was too bureaucratic and would turn off any potential volunteers. The discussion was tabled for a later meeting. 📖



Interested in a swim team?

By *Deb Brudvig*

I'm wondering if there is any interest in an adult swim team here. It could be an official U.S. Masters team or not (there are insurance benefits for all if it's a Masters group, but then all people swimming must be Masters members).

If there is enough interest, I'd be interested in coaching. I have more than enough certificates to take care of anyone here! It'd cost something, but that's yet to be determined. I have a pace clock, but we'd need backstroke flags (probably polls in pots) set at appropriate distances on both end of the pool. Otherwise it'd be backstroke-only in one direction (I can see how flags could be a challenge at the end by the baby pool).

I suppose we could have a kids group, too. There can't be any diving, so if we competed at all it'd be against each other, starting in the water. That could just be a part of every practice.

The pool here is not the best for such things, but it could still afford something good for everyone. Maybe practice would be before the pool opens, depending what the powers-that-be think.

I have Lifeguarding but not a Pool Operators license, although I could get one if needed. That's the only issue with a practice when no guard/pool operator people are here. 📖



Photo by Azita Mashayekhi

out & about



*Kentucky Derby party
on May 6 in the commu-
nity center*

*Photos by Dian
McDonald*

May 11, 2017

Residents share opinions about life at Montebello

By Mikhailina Karina, 49

Two weeks ago I sent a separate email to a group of neighbors who represent Montebello's various constituencies: committee chairs, club members, culture vultures, meetings regulars, non-involved abstainers, parents/grandparents of young children, retirees – did I miss anyone? My objective was to solicit a broad range of opinions about Montebello as a community: our demographics, community participation, amenities, and governance.

I received close to 30 thoughtful, surprising, constructive, honest responses. Respondents ranged in age from 41 to 91 and included all the aforementioned constituencies. Music Club president Carla Jones-Batka gets the Early Songbird Award for emailing her answers in less than two hours after the survey went out.

The purpose of my questionnaire was to write a follow-up article to the recent Activities Expo and the recent push from the board and management to increase community participation: volunteering on committees, joining clubs, and attending events.

Personal disclaimer: I do not currently belong to any official club or committee, but gladly help out whenever asked. I also attend many of the cultural events, where I've noticed I am often the only person under the age of 60.

The front page of this month's *Times of Montebello* has two articles on this topic. Barbara Bieger, the newly appointed chair of the Activities Committee, wrote a recap of the successful expo, which featured 27 clubs and committees.

The other article, "Montebello Wants (Needs) You!" by our General Manager George Gardner expounds on the theme of community involvement in his opening sentence, "The goal of any quality condominium association includes creating, building, and maintaining a sense of community."

Similarly, returning Board of Directors candidate Douglas Kennett stated in his response to the question regarding "continuing issue/problem at Montebello." He wrote, "To improve resident involvement in our governance – that's been a goal for all boards, with an ebb and flow of success over the years...We in governance today must find ways to involve more 'GenXers' and 'Millennials' now – as they will be the energy that leads us into the future...We must do everything we can to encourage more active participation."

In terms of providing logistical/financial support, infrastructure, and communication, Montebello is doing everything right. Perusing numerous articles on this subject, Montebello's board and management employ all the necessary tools to encourage community participation. But a certain *je ne sais quoi* is still missing.

So, what's the problem? Why do the same 20 people attend board meetings, the same 50 come to art openings, the same 80 socialize at Cup of Joe, and the same 100 enjoy musical events? If these numbers were a Venn diagram, the overlap would be significant. Where are the other 1,500 residents who live here?

The answer, it turns out, is nuanced and depends on whom you ask. My biggest take-away is that Montebello is made up of two large communities: the working people and the retirees. Both Virginia Hodgkinson and Richard Titus mentioned a new acronym to describe Montebello: NORC (naturally occurring retirement community). Hugh Schwartz responded, "It strikes me as bi-modal: Largely a senior community, but with about a third of the residents in the 30-40 year age group." As a result, the time to volunteer on committees or to attend social events largely depends on one's free time.

"There are just not enough hours in the day for those of us who work to also join a club or committee. And, many of the clubs are scheduled to meet in the

middle of the work day!" wrote Jane Done.

Several respondents proposed fantastic lists of potential amenities that would attract more younger families and improve current offerings.

Committee governance and interactions with the Board of Directors garnered numerous negative comments.

"Committees tend to be very rule-driven and time consuming. Some meetings can also be very contentious and exhausting to attend, which is a turnover," wrote Diane Bastin.

"I have sort of stopped attending the board meetings because it seems like they do not listen to the owners and continue to do the things they want to do," stated Mary Harlow.

In the end, people appreciate all the choices living at Montebello affords and have numerous ideas for improvements.

Carolyn Strano said it best, "I think that Montebello is a great place to live. I like the people and the activities and our beautiful woodlands that we share with our many animal friends. It may appear to appeal more to a 'certain age' of people but then I find that many of the senior residents here are very young at heart and are very active and interested and interesting."

The subsequent 10 (!) pages feature all the responses from people who answered the survey. Because they kindly took the time to reply to my questions – definitely a form of participating – I wanted to honor them by sharing their words. A few people with unusual names: Spark Plug, Jane Done, No Name, and Laila are residents who preferred to remain anonymous. Most provided their ages, which often has a bearing on their views.

My ultimate goal is to spur a constructive dialog among the residents, the management, and the board about who Montebello is and how it could be better. Thank you for your many voices. 🏡

Montebello is multi-generational community

By Virginia Hodgkinson, 70s

I do not consider Montebello a senior community. I've had some education on senior communities as a founder, past president and board member of Mount Vernon at Home, an aging-in-place village. The characteristics of a senior community is that it is restricted to seniors, or that is a full-service retirement community. We look like we have some characteristics of a NORC (naturally occurring retirement community). This is not very surprising since a significant portion of the population bought condos during the first few years after Montebello was built and are still in residence. There are other active adults like myself who moved here from a large house, but wanted to remain in their community. We will gradually age in place here. We deliberately chose Montebello because it is not a retirement community, but a multi-generational community. I love seeing young people and children around and it is a joy to hear the happy voices coming from the outdoor pool in the summer.

Communities and neighborhoods have histories and go through transitions. I watched this in my old neighborhood. Older families gradually move away and younger families moved in. This will happen at Montebello, too.

I think Montebello offers a lot of amenities and is well taken care of for the most part. Everything gets older and some things need replacement.

I am optimistic that the grounds will be improved after a dated sprinkler system has been replaced. Over time, I am sure that other amenities will be updated as needed. One amenity that I and many people that I speak to would like are paved walkways. It is difficult to walk briskly here unless you want to get into traffic.

Since I have a dog, doggie wash stations sound great, but would not be an important reason that I choose a place to live. **The main reasons I chose to live at Montebello is that this community is filled with interesting people who have fascinating life stories. There is civility here and the opportunity to participate if one chooses.** And I am still living within my old community and can keep in touch with friends. As a new resident, I am gradually getting to know the place and I have a very active volunteer life outside, but am increasing my involvement here. I go occasionally to the speaker series, the art exhibitions, Cup of Joe, and building get-togethers and hope to do more over time. But I also want to keep ties and activities beyond the Montebello community.

I have volunteered for the ad hoc landscape committee and am carefully looking at other committees. I might just participate in ad hoc committees since they represent an effort to fill a community and I am most interested in these types of activities. 🏡

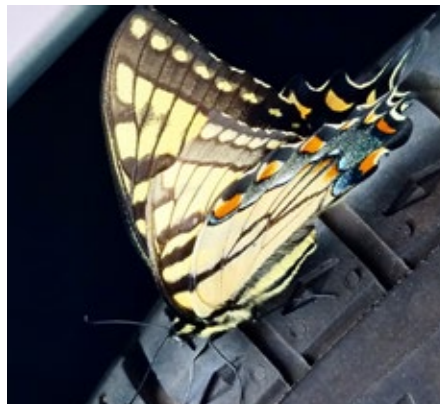
Choosing to participate on her own terms

By Jane Done, 62

Some Montebello residents – those who are not retired – may just want to relax with their spouse, escape into a book or zone out and recharge in front of the television when they come home from a day at the office having battled the daily commute, done their jobs, attended meetings and participated in conference calls, written reports, balanced budgets, etc. – and still have to get dinner on the table, help their children with homework, throw in a load of laundry, pay bills, etc. There are just not enough hours in the day for those of us who work to also join a club or committee. And, many of the clubs are scheduled to meet in the middle of the work day!

Others are just not natural joiners, preferring individual pursuits and having personal passions which draw them to volunteer quietly and not as part of a group. Many take care of their neighbors' pets while the pet-parents are away; others assist elderly neighbors with shopping or driving, bill-paying, etc. Americans are known for being a charitable people – whether by getting involved or writing a check. There are many, many ways in which we volunteer our time and energy, and joining a Montebello club or committee may not be it.

That does not mean those of us who do not get involved in MB Committees or run for the board do not appreciate the time, effort and energies of those who do. Montebello is an amazing community, rich in its amenities, residents, staff and volunteers. God bless all of you who do it – just please don't expect it of me. 🏡



A busy introvert appreciates amenities and atmosphere

Matthew Marlay, 41

I definitely think of Montebello as a senior community. I don't think this was the original intention, but I do think it's turned out that way. My pet theory about what happened is that the original purchasers when the complex was built were people who were retiring and downsizing from single-family homes. As those people have aged and begun passing on (or moving to institutional care), their replacements are in the same boat – just reaching retirement age and no longer in need of a large house. This pattern of replacement generally ensures that the average age of our residents is 60+. Of course, that's a generalization; certainly I recognize that not everyone at Montebello fits into that category (for example, I don't). But I would bet that's a pretty common trajectory.

I do not currently volunteer for any committees or belong to any clubs. Committees seem like a very time-consuming activity, and it's hard for those

of us still working to have that much time available. The same consideration keeps me from wanting to be on the board. As for clubs, there are several reasons I don't participate. First, many of them meet during the day, which automatically rules them out for me. Second, I am not the target demographic for many of them (I don't have kids, I don't play canasta, etc.). Finally, I'm just generally introverted; if I've been at the office all day, I prefer the peace of my condo in the evenings. And on weekends I'm usually socializing with friends elsewhere.

You also asked about why younger people aren't joining, and why the people who do join are disproportionately female. Some of that is purely a generational shift. As Robert Putnam argues in *Bowling Alone* (2000), people are just less engaged now than they used to be; they're more interested in individual pursuits rather than communal activities. And as I said above, for those of us still working, it's hard to find the time to participate in a lot of activities, espe-

cially during the week. I can't speak directly to the differences by gender, but I do think that on average women are more likely to participate in that kind of organized activity. Also, for older residents, women generally live longer than men do, so if the participants are disproportionately older, they are also likely to be disproportionately female.

All of that said, even though I don't belong to any of the clubs or attend many of the activities, I am very appreciative that they are available. I like the idea of Montebello as a community, especially one that has resources for those who want to take advantage of them. And I like knowing they're there if I decide I want to join one at some point.

I knew what Montebello was like before I moved here in 2011. In fact, both the older-skewing population and the amenities were selling points for me. I figured that my new neighbors would be generally quiet and very invested in maintaining the development to its current standard, both of which have proved true.

As for the amenities that I use: the trail, the pool and ping-pong tables, the bar/restaurant, and occasionally the bowling alley. I love having all of these nearby and do not consider them dated. My wish-list would include a pinball machine and possibly a foosball table, but I know that with the noise they make, there's no chance they'll actually be added to our amenity menu. 🍷

A windy morning and Montebello's irises are dancing for us.

Photo by Rebecca McNeely



where we live

The following are all the complete, unabridged responses to the questions. Some particularly interesting opinions are highlighted in teal.

Do you consider Montebello a “senior” community?

Michael Hora, 50s, *Catherine Cooke*, 53; *Janette Sherman*, 86: Yes.

Tony Bauer, 80; *Mary Harlow*, 87; *Amy Friedlander*, 60s; *Carolyn Strano*, 67: No.

Carla Jones-Batka, 75: No. There seem to be many more of us here, but it's wonderful to see young working adults and school-age children, too. That's one of the attractive things about Montebello – the variance of ages.

Diane Bastin, 48: There are more families with young children at Montebello than there have ever been in the 23 years we've lived here, but it is still predominantly a senior community that tends to give priority to senior issues and preferences.

Bonnie Daniel, 75: Not senior if that word means restricted retirement community. We are senior if you consider that 50% of us are 61 and older. We are no more senior than any community where folks moved in 20-30 years ago when they had children and now find themselves empty-nesters or approaching retirement age. All such communities are beginning to turn over, a few younger families here and there with more to follow. Frankly, I think the whole country is moving in the senior direction because of the Baby Boomer generation. **Being a senior is only a negative if one becomes stuck in a mindset or a comfort rut that doesn't allow for the varieties of ideas and lifestyles that exist across populations.**

Guin Jones: I like to say that lots of us are “empty nesters,” but that MB has a fairly good representation of families as noted by public school buses and private school uniforms as well as an active Kids Club.

Leslee Levy, 70s: **I/we have never considered the M to be a senior community. The real attraction to living here was the diversity of the community and the broad spectrum of ages who reside here.**

Hugh Schwartz, 84: It strikes me as bi-modal: Largely a senior community, but with about a third of the residents in the 30-40 year age group.

Laila, 70s: I've lived here since 1988. When my daughter was young, I made lots of friends with other young mothers. But families with children leave for houses with yards. Younger people tend to keep to themselves and older people want a community.

Channing Huhn: Yes...sort of. I believe that when Montebello was developed it was marketed as an over-55 community, but lack of sales canceled out the age restriction. I know we all love our young people and want them happy here, but I also think we need to be realistic about who is most attracted to Montebello and that would be working singles/couples and retired folks.

Catherine Ziegler, 70: I don't know what ages live in Montebello, but all I ever see at events and on the grounds are older residents.

Spark Plug, 67: Yes. I think it is a perfect place for people 45 and older to move into to age. Check out the community center and café and bar... mostly older folks. Young people need a bar hopping with young people and modern sounds.

Maureen Dowdle, 69: I don't consider Montebello a senior community, although the cost of the units and the amenities attract an older buyer.

Andrew Masiuk, 70s: In most of my encounters, yes.

No Name, 91: No, although there are many seniors. The mix is good and getting better.

Virginia Nickich, 60s: Mostly mid-life changes. Almost senior community, but not quite.

Stacia Novy, 40s: **Yes, there is a disproportionate number of retired individuals and/or seniors in the complex. The number of younger, single people is limited.**

Carol Coyle-Shea, 78: Many people have that impression. When I moved here, I already knew that there are residents of all ages.

Ralph Johnson, 78: I believe it to be a mixed population by age, but generally older than the average population. Montebello offers needed facilities of retirees, as well as a great location for those still working.

Do you volunteer for any committees? Why did you choose to join a club or a committee — or not? What does it provide for you in terms to social life, intellectual stimulation, etc.? Do you prefer to seek these opportunities away from Montebello?

Bonnie Daniel: I never have because my schedule has never worked well for me to do so. I have been a frequent attendee of board meetings. And now I am there twice a month. I was a member of the now-defunct Pet Club. I joined the Pet Club because the board had some vehemently anti-pet members when I moved in, and I feel

where we live

strongly about the value of pets to individuals, families, and communities. These days I also attend the Women's Club functions because my schedule allows me to, and I enjoy the company of these women and the intellectual stimulation of the programs.

Diane Bastin: I am not actively involved with any committees at this time. In the past I have volunteered on the Activities Committee and the Operations Committee.

I founded and ran the Kids Club for 8 years, and when my daughters turned 12 and aged out of the Kids Club I passed on the baton to the Rappas. Right now, we are members of the Tennis Club, and I am a volunteer photographer for the *Montebello Times*.

I think it is important to give back to your community. Being involved in committees and clubs has allowed me to do that. The Kids Club has also given a voice to families with young children.

Tony Bauer: Montebello Bridge Marathon and Wednesday night party bridge and the Monday night duplicate bridge game that was forced out by the board and management. It provides a congenial social group, helps me to keep my mind active, and to a degree, improves my game.

Janette Sherman: Environmental Club. Previously belonged to a writers' group, it was great.

Laila: I've always had to work at night and generally maintain a low profile. Not participating is a personality thing – some people love being part of a group with team spirit and ga-ga-ga. I am not anti-social, I just don't feel the need.

We have a great variety of activities and amenities. It's depressing that so few people are volunteering. Maybe it's because word has gotten out that they are not appreciated and the board is run like a Mafia.

Mary Harlow: I was a building rep for about 15 years until recently. I belong to 2 bridge clubs. I am going to join the group who play games on Thursday nights. I enjoy card playing and my bridge friends are all gamers. We meet at each other's apartments often for games.

Amy Friedlander: Computer Club. I do not choose to join a committee because I have reached the conclusion that it is pointless and a waste of time for me. **I say this because over the years I have seen the Board of Directors either (1) do whatever they want with committee recommendations after people have gone to a lot of trouble and time to study issues and propose solutions or (2) stack committees with their friends and/or like-minded people after setting up irrelevant and limiting requirements to qualify for membership on committees.**

Guin Jones: The Activities Committee and the Women's Club offer platforms for me to utilize or activate skill sets that I developed throughout my professional life.

Janette Sherman: Outdoor pool every day. The indoor pool is inaccessible to gimpy folks. [Attend events] occasionally if not late at night.

How about a table at the café so the inmates can gather at a certain time, buy their own food, and eat together?

Leslee Levy: Volunteering limited to building functions; potlucks and socials.

Just started participating in a new club for movie lovers. We participate in other activities outside of the M community. **However, we are trying to engage in more activities here that match our interests and help us to meet more people at the M.**

Hugh Schwartz: Formerly, I spent several years on two committees. After a year of considering it (going to

3-4 meetings), I decided to become a member of the Finance and Budget Committee. I resigned because I thought that some of my ideas might have more acceptance outside Montebello, and the recommendations of the committee would likely be much the same without my presence. Also because the recommendations of the committee were being delayed quite a bit before being submitted to the board at that time....The other committee was the CII [Committee on Innovation and Improvement]. I resigned from that committee shortly before the board eliminated it. My reason was the poor leadership of the committee (by someone designated by the board).

At present I am active in the stretch group. I also help direct a discussion group that the board decided not to support (because the group anticipated some discussions of a political character).

I joined the two committees noted above because I felt an obligation to work for the community. My participation in the stretch group has been more personal: I need the exercise. The discussion group would have provided intellectual stimulation – and the current unofficial group does that.

Channing Huhn: I do not, but I am in the process of introducing a new interest group. Montebello can be very demanding of volunteer time and I applaud all those who contribute but I'm a bit selfish with my time. [No clubs] at this time but the book club and the exercise groups interest me.

Having family and friends in this area keeps me busy outside Montebello but I love knowing that if I choose I can busy myself right here. I would love to see new clubs and groups in the future.

Catherine Ziegler: I attended some of Guido's ad hoc meetings on quality improvement, which I thought were insightful (they changed to an earlier time). **One thing I found out is that we don't keep track of any demographic information on our**

residents, even though we have it from when people move in, so we don't know Montebello's real demographic data. Therefore, we don't really know who our audience is for planning purposes.

I co-chair bus club, but have offered to help the Activities Committee when they need help to set up/tear down, etc.

I would like to participate more – I would actually like to run for the board, but working full-time with an elderly mother in Annapolis limits my availability. I have liked the opportunity to get to know my neighbors on a more personal level.

Carolyn Strano: Currently no, but have helped with the Activities Committee and other ad hoc committees in the past. Co-chair the Travel Information Club; member of bowling, water aerobics, stretch, book club (morning) and have dropped in on evening [Book Club] occasionally, chess, womens' club, helped to charter the Toastmaster's Club years ago, participated in the aerobics club for many years until it ended this year. I enjoy socializing with my neighbors and the feeling of community that it provides.

Spark Plug: I have, but found it very cumbersome and not productive. Almost a year of meetings with NO deliverables. Process Process Process – but NO functionality. I have offered to help and have with many projects. Committee process at Montebello seems to be broken. I find gratification elsewhere.

Andrew Masiuk: No committees, Meditation Club, men's group.

No Name: Men's discussion group – not a registered club, stretch class.

Carla Jones Batka: Yes, the Music Club. I joined around 2005 or so, after I retired...I've been very lucky

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to have wonderful helpers and workers in the club and we've been fortunate to be able to present great programs for Montebello. I joined the Music Club because I loved to sing and once I retired felt I had time to get involved in it. I sang in the church choir and felt this was just another way to enjoy singing and get to know fellow Montebello residents who also loved music. I have been on the board of the Women's Committee for the National Symphony Orchestra, serving in many offices, including president. I also was the executive director of the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra for a year several years ago and was on that board for a while. I am a past president and board member of The National Society of Arts and Letters. Through these organizations, I've made good contacts that have helped us get excellent artists here at Montebello.

Virginia Nickich: Yes, [participate] as I can...Cost Savings Committee. Yoga Clubs. **I join a committee because of my interest in Montebello. It is important to me to learn as much about my community as well help keeping it modern and progressing well.**

Catherine Cooke: No, but I would like to volunteer with gardening/cleanups, but just haven't had time on those days that the activities were scheduled for. The bowling league needed someone for Monday night bowling so I joined, as pathetic as I actually am. It has been a lot of fun and the people on the team were very friendly and receptive to someone with absolutely no talent.

Stacia Novy: Yes, co-hosted potlucks, gave presentations at the community center, and articles to the *Montebello Times*. Was a member of the book club for one year. I like to read and enjoyed the intellectual discussion of the books' themes.

Carol Coyle-Shea: I'm with the Music Club, Elections Committee, and I occasionally help out with Activities Committee. When Patty Pulju (with whom I sing in the choir at Good Shepherd) learned that I was moving here, she told me that I would be singing because she needs altos!!!

I have lived in this area for almost 45 years, so I had some activities I wanted to continue, especially church-related. With my husband's health issues and death, and then my subsequent re-marriage, I haven't reached out to other committees except to help with activities if needed. [Both of us are involved with community theater as judges – as representatives of our home-base theater we travel all over the metropolitan area to judge shows at 20 (10 each) of the 32 area community theaters.]

Ralph Johnson: No committees. Tennis Club. I enjoy tennis, both as a player and teacher. I have been frustrated, however, over the many years regarding our tennis facilities. Any suggestions to facilities manager always were ignored or reasons as to why improvements could not be made. When the decision was made to improve our tennis facilities after 30+ years, the process was mismanaged with owners paying probably twice what they should have paid. No one was held accountable. I do appreciate the nice facilities we now have. Hopefully management will keep courts clean.

Maureen Dowdle: I have volunteered for some activities, but I limit what I do. Since I have spent most of my life volunteering and in my professional life at not-for-profits, volunteering is like working for me and I prefer activities that I did not have time for while working.

I have joined a book group, play bridge regularly, and golf. I walk often and enjoy being outside. Social activities depend on my schedule and the preferences of my husband and myself. I attend the condo association meetings to keep abreast of changes and activities.

It has noted that most of Montebello's clubs and committees have a disproportionate number of women. Where are the dudes?? Are women more likely to join organizations?

Bonnie Daniel: Women are known to be worker bees, to be collaborative, and to attend to the details that support a happy, healthy living and work environment. Women have always done the work that many men consider beneath them. The committees here require intensive work. Take a look at the people who are now stepping up in this country to ensure that fairness, kindness, respect, and compassion are not lost at the national, state, and local levels. It's the women. Women are nurturers, not headline seekers.

Mary Harlow: Yes, I believe women are more likely to join than men. I believe there are many more widows than widowers here also.

Amy Friedlander: I don't know, but I have noticed that women who serve on more prestigious roles, such as member of the Board of Directors, have been put through their paces, which has resulted in the old-fashioned role for women as well-behaved helpers and not "deciders."

Guin Jones: Yes, I believe that women are more likely to do so. Women might personally invite male neighbors and friends to participate in one event. They may be overwhelmed by being asked to meet every single month which = 12 times per year.

Channing Huhn: We do have a large population of ladies and we do tend to be joiners, but I do plan to introduce a new interest group which may appeal to the men of Montebello as well as the ladies...more to come.

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Michael Hora: Want men? Have a poker night. :0 (I'm talking a cash game... Probably not legal in the Land of Dominion).

Catherine Ziegler: Considering we don't know how many males we have, it is hard to tell. We all know that as you age, there are more females than males in the population, so if our residents are "older," I suspect that is what should be expected.

Spark Plug: Men and many women do not like to be involved when nothing appears to get accomplished and do not like small chit chat with no result. The very thing that I find frustrating here at Montebello – talk with no results.

No Name: There are more single, elderly women here. Also, studies have shown that women are more likely to join groups and seem to get close friends very rapidly.

Carla Jones-Batka: I believe women do tend to join organizations more. At least that's been my experience. However, my husband was the first man to join the Women's Committee for the NSO and is a great help with my duties in the Music Club and NSAL.

Virginia Nickich: I do believe that women have more time or are better at time management as well as being caregivers/nurturers who want to make things better for others.

Catherine Cooke: I think women just naturally seek social opportunities to get together and enjoy themselves.

Carol Coyle-Shea: Because this is such a safe place to live, I think maybe there are many more women of retired age than men; and, as you have noted, retirees are more apt to be active with committees.

Some local luxury condos are offering attractive amenities: doggie wash stations, putt-putt, business centers, cyber cafés, fire pits/grilling/outdoor socializing areas, TV rooms, electric car charging stations, basketball courts, and concierge services.

What Montebello amenities do you use — trails, pools, game room, bowling, café? Are they attractive or dated in their appearance and function? If you could make a wish list of cool amenities at Montebello, what would they be?

Bonnie Daniel: The word "luxury" is usually a turn-off to me. I view it as a code word for snobbery. So I'm not particularly pleased when we sometimes use that word to describe MB. If we were truly luxury, the original units would have been constructed with marble entries, high-range kitchen cabinets, and tiled kitchens and baths. We would also have sidewalks, and we wouldn't have one building (4) facing the loading dock, the management trucks, and the emergency generator.

We do have some lovely amenities, and we talk a lot about our woods – a treasure that we've poorly cared for. But today's home hunters are looking for things we have blithely refused to consider in my almost 14 years here. **We've pooh-poohed any number of suggestions that have come up during the resident forums after board meetings and in surveys: a boot wash or doggie wash to keep mud from being tracked into the building, a car wash/cleaning area, a small dog run, improved access to the picnic areas and the outdoor pool for mobility/visually impaired residents, sidewalks, crosswalks, spots to hang bird feeders, places for gardeners to plant small beds, a business/tech center, more benches where walkers can actually sit (not along long**

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Mt. Eagle where you are highly likely to be hit), social spaces beyond the bar (M-Perk is a good start), live plants in the lobbies (were supposed to be part of the renovation – what happened??), a basketball court when the tennis courts were redone (rarely are all three courts in use for tennis), a place for kids to skateboard or roller skate or ride a bike or kick a ball, a place for teens to just hang in the afternoon after school or on weekends – with a little music, a little food.

The new fitness room is certainly nice for those who need just a few pieces of equipment, but it can't begin to compete with Planet Fitness down on the corner, either in equipment, hours, or opportunities to meet new people. Our wooded trails are such a mishmash that it's less stressful to hit the Mt. Vernon trail, with or without dog.

I do not actually believe that many current residents want younger people or people with children. Too much noise! I use the trails, pools, café – and the hobby room where I work on stained glass pieces.

Janette Sherman: I complained about the bright outdoor lights. I finally had to buy blinds as the light is all the way across my bedroom. Before, I looked at stars and watched as planes took off from National Airport. No more. Now I'm sealed in.

The many lights in the lobby area are a waste of electricity, as is the glittering TV. When one opens the book case, the light is *behind* the door, thus no help in seeing the titles of the books.

I would like to see the glittery TV in the foyer closed down and bulletin boards in the B1-B3 levels returned with 3x5 card notices.

The new GM is good. Mr. Mendoza was very helpful.

Tony Bauer: Pools, trails, café, fitness center, game room and bowling (when I was younger).

Diane Bastin: Our family uses practically all of Montebello's amenities on a regular basis: the indoor and outdoor pools are our favorite amenities, as are the tennis courts, the gazebo and Picnic Hill, and the trails in the woods. We also like to bowl, play pool, and work out in the fitness center. We value the café, store, and salon, even though we don't use them very regularly. I would definitely not eliminate any of the current amenities.

Inexpensive amenities younger families would find attractive include: unobtrusive fitness equipment along the trail, playground equipment for older children (such as a tall climbing structure), a children's garden, a diving board and/or slide at the outdoor pool, a foldable basketball net and extendable volleyball/badminton net on one of the tennis courts, and electric car-charging stations. It would be lovely to have a fire pit on Picnic Hill and a put-put golf or bocce court. We should convert the hallway leading up to the locker rooms into a multipurpose recreation area.

There are inexpensive and unobtrusive ways to do this: (1) adding a mirror wall and bar for working out, (2) installing a magnetic, chalkboard, or whiteboard wall as a creative outlet, (3) drawing permanent outlines on the floor to encourage play, such as hopscotch and four-square, (4) using black-and-white tiles to compose a chess and checkers game on the floor and storing oversized pieces on a rack off the ground, (5) installing a giant Connect 4 in a Row board game in that area that could be moved to the outdoor pool in summer time. None these would interfere with people's ability safely to cross the space to the locker rooms.

Mary Harlow: At my age, I do not use many of the amenities. Earlier on I bowled for several years. I use the café, the card room and I always rent the party room for my family Christ-

mas Eve gathering. I think the party rooms could use a little sprucing up. I think the lobbies are very nicely done.

Guin Jones: **By far, the shuttle is my most used and favorite amenity. Through it, I can access grocery stores, Metro which is the gateway to Amtrak, Old Town, the airport, Pentagon City, museums, the Kennedy Center, etc.** Some are not familiar with these opportunities nor are they familiar with using Metro nor do they know how to get a fare card.

Leslee Levy: We use the trails, game room, fitness center, community center and bowling on occasion.

It is difficult to compare our facilities with others because our frame of reference is not on a local basis. **Coming from New York, the facilities and quality of life in this community surpasses anything offered in our experience. This is truly a unique community.** That said, the playgrounds and party rooms, need to be updated.

Hugh Schwartz: I use the exercise area 3-4 times a week. My wife uses it somewhat less but also uses the pool. Initially, I used the ping pong table, the bowling alleys and the café more in the past. I still use the outdoor pool in the summer.

Channing Huhn: **Amenities..... we have wonderful events here but sadly they are outdated. I think it would be helpful to interact with some local groups (Mt. Vernon at Home) to find some more contemporary. The community center is a dark hole with no day-to-day attraction. The morning M/W/F coffees have been a wonderful addition but I don't know how well attended they have been. It might be nice to have the TV on to a morning show or just some music (Lordy! We should have some nice soft music on all the time!).**

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First on my wish list (and these are “baby steps”) replace the café and community room furniture with something less dated and saggy! Paint the walls to bring in more light. New TV and sound system. New outdoor pool furniture!! It’s hot and uncomfortable. Blues/greens/white please! Yellow is a hot color and in no way enhances our beautiful pool. This is a good beginning to being proud to bring friends and potential neighbors into the space.

For our younger and any age neighbors, that questionable space near the bowling alley – let’s expand the bowling alley with a fun lounge area. Create a half wall and open it up. Maybe add a couple of vending machines.

Spark Plug: I use the trails daily, use the pool, and the café. Trails are great now that they are NOT muddy. **Café and community center need updating as they look like old hospital places. Let’s add some lighting and change colors and get rid of the ugly furniture.** Open ceiling, if possible to look like a loft. Do not get me wrong, I love having café and bar here. Items to add: Basketball courts, pickleball court, pool volleyball, enclosed doggie run, ladies night at the bar.

Michael Hora: I use the trails and Metro shuttle. Occasionally I will hit the pool. We need something more if we’re going to attract a younger crowd. Young folks will attend if young folks are there...it has to start somewhere. More user-friendly common areas out of doors is a must. In my view, sitting in the hot sun at the pool is horrible. A few common areas with tables and chairs would be great. The board will say, “we have the picnic areas” or “we have benches.”

I asked about placing a few tables near the unused picnic area near marker #26 (elevated area on corner or property behind Building 2). The response was in the negative of course.

NO need for tables because the board is having the grills removed. The first inclination is always to say NO. Why not set that area as a common area with a few chairs and a table or two? And create others.

The hilltop picnic area and pool do not qualify as the type of modern common area that I am describing.

A putting green would also be a great addition. It was a proposal years ago in the master re-evaluation, but the idea never got legs. We need dependable Internet services. Cox is pitiful.

How about horseshoes? A couple horseshoe pits would be well received by many.

Improve social media exposure, but I suggest this with no interest in paying for a “Montbello App.” That would be a waste of money. Use Twitter, Facebook, etc. BUT I am not optimistic, we have been arguing about bulletin boards for my entire time in Montebello (4 years). For God’s sake, give them the bulletin boards so we can move on to something more relevant.

A coffee bar (like Starbucks) would be a great addition. I personally am not impressed by the café. A reno is long overdue. This is a young-person splurge. Allow me to stereotype for a minute: Seniors, and super-seniors don’t pay for coffee drinks. Admittedly, it would take a lot to get a coffee bar off the ground. The start-up would be slow-going... again, because in my opinion, seniors and super-seniors are not paying \$5 for a coffee-based drink. Sit in a Starbucks for an hour and watch the age of each guest, and the amount spent by each. 20-40-year-old(s) spending \$5 per drink. That not going to happen in Montebello anytime soon. Fagitaboudit...

The outdoor area at our café/lounge is nearly unusable. The noise of kitchen and café fans drowns out all efforts of conversation. Maybe the fans could be moved to the roof so folks can enjoy this outdoor space. A bit off topic, but worth mentioning.

No Name: I use the café occasionally, stretch class regularly, community center activities.

Carla Jones-Batka: I use the café occasionally, stretch class regularly, community center activities.

Virginia Nickich: I do use the amenities: bowling, pools, hot tub, gym, walking trails, restaurant, pool tables, and enjoy many activities. The bowling alley needs to be refurbished and the game room should be made brighter and have a theme look – it’s rather dull-looking now.

Catherine Cooke: I use every single amenity that Montebello has to offer and I enjoy all of them. The only thing I would like to see is an area in a remote corner with a hose so I can occasionally hose down my car. **I would also love to use the Metro more at night but the dark service road deters me from this. I would love to see lights on this road, even small solar lights along the path would help.**

Stacia Novy: I use the gym, trails and café.

Carol Coyle-Shea: We frequent the café – we love it – and I have started going to water aerobics. We look down on the trails, but I don’t walk easily enough (yet!) to enjoy it.

Do you attend Montebello’s social/cultural events, such as speaker series, Music Club concerts, Cup of Joe, art openings, dances, movies, book clubs, holiday concerts, classes, pot lucks, or dances? Which offerings do you enjoy most and what other activity ideas do you have? Is there a generational gap between those who get involved in their communities and those who prefer activities on the outside? Does it

have anything to do with being retired vs. working?

Bonnie Daniel: I rarely miss the speakers, Music Club concerts, Cup of Joe, holiday concerts. But I am an introvert who has to re-up her energy in order to function well, so I am a sporadic attender of dances, movies, M-Perk. I go to a yoga class regularly.

If I think about the things that my daughters and grandchildren like to do that wouldn't be possible here, kettle bells, running, intramural sports, hiking, rock climbing come to mind. MB can't provide some of these and shouldn't feel the need to. We'd have to be a lot bigger property to provide some things folks might want.

I think most young people feel a little uneasy around older people and thus might find attending some of the cultural events to be awkward. Music Club offerings tend to be classical, and it's a rare teenager who is interested in that kind of music. We don't have any kind of structure here that encourages interaction between old and young, such as working to clean up the woods or collaborating to help out in a school or to assist in a soup kitchen, etc. Maybe the kids could do a "wanted" list for things adults could help with. I would love to work with a stage crew for a play or musical, but I don't know any of our youngsters well enough to make that offer (don't know their teachers or schools, either).

I can only speak from my own position at this time in my life. I find that I am bothered by the increasingly heavy traffic in our area. So whereas going out and doing something that might require me to drive a distance or drive at night wouldn't have bothered me even ten years ago, I don't wish to do it now. So in that sense, I am more focused on MB and what it offers. The younger members of my family would just go and do! They would probably be quickly bored at MB.

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Tony Bauer: Have attended speaker presentations, movies, music concerts. I play bridge outside Montebello, also attend movies, shows and restaurants. I also belong to a Barbershop Chorus which has two rehearsals a month and usually performs twice a month. For almost 20 years I helped with ALIVE, an ecumenical group in Alexandria the collected and delivered furniture to needy families.

Mary Harlow: I attend many of the social functions here, like the Music Club, Cup of Joe, art openings, movies, potlucks. I have enjoyed karaoke a couple times. I enjoy chilling at home with a book or TV lots of times. I volunteer at my church sometimes.

Diane Bastin: I always note all the events on the family calendar, and we attend as time allows. There just isn't much discretionary time in a family with two working adults and two teenagers. Our priorities are sports and homework. We make time for volunteering. We love to attend Montebello events. Activities involving food are usually at the top of our list since it is fun to socialize while eating a meal we would have eaten anyway. We are least likely to attend weeknight activities, and most likely to attend weekend activities.

Amy Friedlander: I attend Music Club concerts and Cup of Joe regularly and art openings sometimes. I have also attended potlucks sometimes (I like them but somehow I forget to go). I am not a dance kind of person and am not interested in the books that are selected for the book clubs. I have taken part in Montebello activities since I retired. Before that, I did not have the time. I think it is useful to publish a list of volunteer opportunities in the community, but I tend to pick my own.

Guin Jones: I attend each of the social/cultural events that you mentioned. I think that attending programs in the CC may be more

logistically preferred by retirees because transportation is not involved – which may be challenging to some, especially those who no longer or prefer not to drive. I attend activities at my church. And am a member of Mount Vernon@Home, which is a concierge service of sorts.

Leslee Levy: Just started participating in a new club for movie lovers. We participate in other activities outside of the M community. However, we are trying to engage in more activities here that match our interests and help us to meet more people at the M.

Hugh Schwartz: We attend some Montebello social activities, primarily movies and concerts.

There definitely is a generation gap in most M activities. It's influenced in part by the fact that many are retired. My volunteer work has been in connection with teaching in the Fairfax County Detention System. I have been trying to bring about changes there.

Channing Huhn: I think most of the Montebello events are good but I still spend much time away from Montebello with family and friends. I think it might be good to interact with other (dare I say...retirement) communities to see what they are offering. Many of our events are a bit stale.

Before we moved here, we looked at Lansdowne Woods (formerly Leisure World). They have a much more youthful approach to their activities and events. I can't figure out why we don't interface more with them since we/they are modeled on the same residential concept by the same developer! We could learn a lot there. Also, has to be said, an updated community room would attract more people.

I don't think there is a generational gap. Realistically, those who are working also have more social life outside of Montebello. Those who are retired depend greatly on Montebello for activities. We are two communities in one – that's tough.

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Catherine Ziegler: I attend the Cup of Joe, the evening book club, bus club, evening yoga, a movie occasionally, some holiday events. I would love to attend the dance lessons and some of the speakers, but unfortunately, time is limited. I do enjoy sometimes after work just propping my feet up and sitting on the porch to read a book or watch a favorite TV show. Younger folks have a tendency to gather with their friends somewhere for coffee or drinks. The older you get, the more convenient it is to do something that is closer to home. I think we have a good variety of offerings that cover a wide span of interests.

I think something that might be of interest to younger folks is a pick up volleyball game over at the park. Even at my age, I like to play volleyball if it is not too competitive.

I have not seen a community volunteer offering in the *Times* that catches my interest, but I think it is good to list them and stay connected with our surrounding community.

I suggested that a shelf in the book closets be designated for puzzles. People rarely put a jigsaw puzzle together twice and they are fairly expensive. I would suggest that we put up a table/chairs in the wasted area between the bowling alley and the locker rooms for a puzzle table where people could just wander over and work on a puzzle for a while and it wouldn't be affected by activities in the club room.

Carolyn Strano: I do attend most of these and find them very enjoyable. I did not attend as many when I was working but now that I work only part time, I do find that I have more time to attend the many activities offered here. When working I always had a lot to do when I wasn't working and I worked long hours and traveled a lot. That could be a deterrent for some of our younger residents. I enjoy all of them but think that Cup of Joe and the potlucks, art openings and music club concerts seem to be among the best attended on a regular basis. I really enjoy the

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morning book club and luncheon that follows and have enjoyed many of the speakers at the speaker series as well.

Spark Plug: I have attended many of the dances, Cup of Joe, and art openings. I enjoyed them all, but the dances are getting old as it is always the same crowd and music. I used to get a table together, but it is getting harder to do as "been there and done that" is the comments we hear. Young people do not attend because...when you go to these events there is nothing there but older people. Younger people like Arlington, etc., so they can walk to lively bars and restaurants. I do not believe you will ever convince the young hip crowd to move here because they want to walk to many different types of restaurants and bars. They are not interested in our old clubs. I volunteer at my church. **Of course, there is a generation gap regarding involvement. People who are young and working have outside interests with other young working career people.**

Andrew Masiuk: Speaker series, dances, art openings, Music Club concerts, Cup of Joe. I enjoy all of them. Can't speak for younger folks since I do not encounter them socially.

I go to church and socialize. Last election was quite divisive. I joined a Montebello group that is politically active on issues of tolerance and diversity.

No Name: Nearly all are attended. Maybe the younger crowds are working all week and want to be alone or catch up on paperwork, reading, etc. Classical music is primarily enjoyed by the older age group, a small percentage by the younger group. There is probably a correlation between the worker and involvement in the condo. A recent study shows a very small percentage of condo residents are active in their buildings – ours is no exception.

Catherine Cooke: I do not attend most of these functions. Working and family allows little free time and the time I do have I usually enjoy hiking or other outdoor activities. **I find that most of these volunteer opportunities are scheduled during the work week so I am unable to attend.**

Stacia Novy: I also regularly attend Cup of Joe and the potlucks. I would like to see a cyber café and/or outside electrical outlets so a person could vacuum out their car. Currently, it is difficult to clean your car at Montebello; a person has to go outside the complex to clean their vehicle. This is not satisfactory.

Carol Coyle-Shea: We enjoy Cup of Joe, potlucks, movies, and some of the speakers and other events. We also read a lot, watch a lot of TV, and play a lot of computer solitaire. Don't feel like we, personally, need any more activities.

I know it's hard for young people, being employed, having to commute, etc., to find time to volunteer/participate. I also think that the café caters more to an older crowd (mind you, I'm not complaining!!). The bar isn't exactly a young adult hang-out.

Carla Jones-Batka: I think the Music Club needs to offer other musical activities and not just singing and we're working on that. We'll have a speaker come to discuss the influence of Shakespeare on music this month and I hope this will be the beginning of such discussions.

Is there anything in the way clubs and committees run at Montebello that has turned you off? How could these processes be improved?

Jane Done: Well, "they" certainly don't make it easy to join

a committee; the description for committee volunteers are limited to those with degrees/years of experience in Medicine, Law, Botany, Executive Leadership, Statistics, Communications or some other advanced degree with a specialty. There appears to be no room (or desire) for plain old Montebelloans who just might want to serve!

Bonnie Daniel: I can only speak to the complaints I hear from committee members. Requiring committees to follow the rigid Roberts Rules of Order way of operating has been a real turn-off. This is a small community; there is no need, in my mind, to have these heavy-duty requirements for committees. **If I were heading one, I would finesse all that stuff coming and going and would rely on simple minutes, simple votes, simple attendance requirements. I believe it was my man Thoreau who said, "Simplify, simplify."**

Mary Harlow: I have sort of stopped attending the board meetings because it seems like they do not listen to the owners and continue to do the things they want to do. The bulletin board question is a prime example. Many have tried to have them returned and you know how that works! I do not know anyone who is opposed to them.

Amy Friedlander: Nothing turns me off. I think they are run very well and I am grateful for the people who organize activities. I prefer to have a lot available and then pick and choose than not to have the activities. As it turns out, wherever I have participated had enough people present to make the activity worthwhile.

One more thought: The general manager's article in the May issue ["Montebello Wants (Needs) You"] was inappropriate. I actually found his article offensive. The general manager works for the owners to manage the property, not to define what kind of community we want for ourselves.

where we live

Board members, if they want, can express their vision for the community, but the manager needs to stay out of this. **Ownership or rental in this community in no way obligates anybody to participate in any activity. Our units are our homes, to enjoy as we see fit, irrespective of anybody else's opinion on the matter.**

Guin Jones: One should not be required to join in order to participate. One could offer to help on a few occasions rather than to have to commit to each and every event that the committee sponsors.

Diane Bastin: **Committees tend to be very rule-driven and time consuming. Some meetings can also be very contentious and exhausting to attend, which is a turnoff.** Currently, I only have time to be involved in activities where I can manage my own time and I am not required to attend meetings, especially on weekdays.

Leslee Levy: I think residents who work may have opportunities for socializing off the premises. They may want their free time for themselves not necessarily using the M for diversion.

Hugh Schwartz: **The influence of the board has been much too pervasive – but I recognize that they are willing to work and I recognize that most residents are not willing to put in the time.** Incidentally, one of my proposals to the Budget and Finance Committee (submitted three years in a row) would have required committee members to put in more time – and was defeated by large margins all three times, in large measure for that reason.

Channing Huhn: I have only been involved with AiM for a short period and what turned me off was their frustration in working with the board.

Catherine Ziegler: I thought it was an absolute waste of money to create a template for each club to use for their announcements, etc. It seems to be getting more and more complicated to have a club meet the criteria set out for who can run it, who can attend it.

Folks who have agreed to receive Montebello e-mail notices could also receive a notice announcing what activities need volunteers for the upcoming month and whom to contact. It is easy to forget about it if you can't attend meetings. If I saw it pop up (brought to my attention) in the short-term, I would be more likely to raise my hand.

Carolyn Strano: Personally I am not fond of long meetings that follow rules of order, etc., but I do realize that these are necessary to get things done. I tend not to get involved with anything that requires regular attendance at meetings. It just isn't my thing.

I think that Montebello is a great place to live. I like the people and the activities and our beautiful woodlands that we share with our many animal friends. It may appear to appeal more to a "certain age" of people but then I find that many of the senior residents here are very young at heart and are very active and interested and interesting. They have a very diverse background and bring a lot of talent and skills to our community. I do like having the mix of ages, though and I am pleased that there is a focus on the younger population and what would appeal to bringing younger people to the community and providing services and activities that appeal more to the younger crowd.

Spark Plug: Funny you ask why it is broken, when you have to beg people to join. When I was on a XX committee, the meetings went on and on and on... we would table things...we would discuss again and again and NEVER any deliverables. I think some committees

feel they have the power. Remember planning and design?

One more thing, I do not believe the board should be involved unless there is a \$\$ request. Is there anything fun about being on a committee? AiM is different and truthfully one of my faves as I love seeing the artwork! I believe many folks move here to just live and do not want to get involved and have a commitment to something else. I used to go to every dance, but it became boring because the same people were always there. It wasn't that the band was bad, it was just not fun – no life.

Simplification and less micro-management. The board and the committees are all process with NO functionality. Projects seem to take forever to complete. We have had a landscape plan from 10 years ago and then another one and then another one... do you see any spring or summer plants? Board goes on for an hour about changing one word...ridiculous! Same 20 people or so attend every time

We hire a manager and we elect a board. Problems should be handled through them. Let the manager do his/her job and if there is a problem, then involve the board. Let the board make

where we live

the decisions you elected them to do. Having a vote on every single little issue is ridiculous and if something happens, like stones on walk or fitness center equipment or lobby redecorating or tile in elevators, let it go and quit arguing about it. If someone does not like something, it does not matter how often it is discussed, they will not change their minds. We need to learn to play well together and quit micro-managing the office manager.

Virginia Nickich: Only the anger that people bring rather than solutions.

Stacia Novy: I find that some leaders of the various activities are too rigid in their management styles (e.g, refusing to reschedule meeting days/times even with several months of advance notice). While the managers and/or leaders of the clubs may be retired and/or not working, some Montebello members are employed full-time. This makes it difficult for working residents to participate in the clubs, especially if the club meets at odd hours (e.g., during the day or late at night). Active duty military members are especially vulnerable be-

cause we can be called to service without notice at any time.

The club leaders need to be accommodating and flexible with schedules. They also need to be willing to consider other options regarding meeting dates/times/schedules. **Telling a club member, “Well, we’ve always done it this way for 20 years and NEVER had to change the schedule for anyone,” is NOT a viable answer, especially if the club is relying on membership and regular contributions from the community.** (And yes, I had a club leader say exactly that to me). Club leaders also need to be respectful and professional to residents, as they are representatives of Montebello and the club. 🏠

The Montebello Voice wants to hear from you: musings, travels, announcements, photos, reviews, commentary, memoirs, essays, analysis, poems, suggestions, club news, recipes, and free ads



Potluck in Building 4



Photos by Karen Barnes

building 2 party



building 2 party



Photos by Dian McDonald





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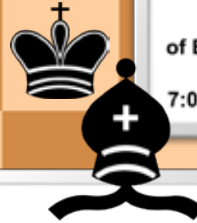
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Chess Game Night with Chess Club

All Levels! All Welcome!
**Beginners to Grandmasters!
Play! Share! Learn! Practice!
No Commitment! Just Fun!**

**4th Thursday
of Each Month (generally)
C.C. Card Room
7:00pm to 9:30pm (latest)**



Bring your own Chess Set if you like! - And, if you're brand new to Chess, but you'd like to check out our Chess Club while playing a relatively "quiet" or "cerebral" game that doesn't "compete" with the ancient game of Chess from a noise perspective, you may bring such a game and hang out with us! (Examples of Games that partner well with Chess: Scrabble, Checkers, Othello, etc.)

Contact Lisa J. Stedge at lisa@stedge.com
and/or Nick Nickerson at fxnixson@gmail.com
for more information.



and



Invite you to our film & discussion



THE THIRD MAN

MAY 25 7:30 P.M. PARTY ROOM 2



The Third Man, generally acknowledged to be a cinematic masterpiece, film boasts a remarkable creative team headed by producer Alexander Korda, directed by Carol Reed, written, for the most part, by Graham Greene and starring Orson Welles, Joseph Cotton, Alida Valli and Trevor Howard with an unforgettable supporting cast. The intriguing, suspenseful action takes place in atmospheric, corrupt, post-WW II Vienna. Who is the third man? You will want to find out.

Caryl Curry will introduce the film and lead the post-movie discussion



Boomers and Older Adults

VENTURE INTO VOLUNTEERING FAIR

Your time and talents can create meaningful change in our community - find out how at the Venture into Volunteering Fair!

Community and county agency representatives will be on hand - to discuss a wide range of opportunities including helping kids with homework, delivering meals on wheels and teaching a class at a senior center.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults

Sponsored by Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions, The Fairfax County Park Authority, AARP, The Positive Aging Coalition, RSVP Northern Virginia, Volunteer Fairfax, Volunteer Alexandria and Volunteer Arlington.

**Friday
June 2, 2017
10 a.m. - Noon**

Franconia Moose Lodge
7701 Beulah Street
Alexandria, VA 22315

FREE PRIZES AND REFRESHMENTS!

AARP Real Virginia **Volunteers** Family Services

For information call 703-704-6075, TTY 711 or email: jeannine.purdy@fairfaxcounty.gov

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final glance



Photo by Azita Mashayekhi