



# FRIENDS OF MITCHELL PARK

**Winter 2022**

Friends of  
Mitchell Park

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*Jeanett Yonemoto*

Contact:

*Holly Sukenik*

332-2952

[hsukenik@hotmail.com](mailto:hsukenik@hotmail.com)

## Fall Fun Day



On October 30th, there was a crisp in the air for this year's Mitchell Park Fall Fun Day. After last year's triumphant return from the pandemic, this year's Fun Day brought 400 families and neighbors to the Park with an array of new organizations represented - including the Phillips Collection, the DC Public Library, DC Early Stages, Washington Area Bicycling Association and more. Kids enjoyed the Haunted House, Belgian waffles cooked on-site by Jim Bell, the moon-bounce, balloon animals, pumpkin decorating,

numerous field activities and arts and crafts. Parents and grandparents interacted with Councilmember Brooke Pinto and our ANC representatives, officials from more than 15 city agencies, community organizations, and several Embassies. We appreciate the deep generosity of Jim Bell and TTR Sotheby's, in addition to the 20+ volunteers and bake sale contributors who supported the Day. We're already thinking ahead to next year - for a bigger Haunted House and more organizations, crafts, food and activities.





# Notes from the President:

Reflecting on the enormous success of Fall Fun Day on October 30th, it is hard not to sound over-the-top about Mitchell Park and FOMP's role in making it a "jewel", as it has often been described. The success of the day was heightened by the fact that a lot of the organizing for and managing of the day was carried out by a new generation of FOMP volunteers and board members. OKAY, reality sets in, as reflected in comments elsewhere in the Treasurer's Report and the Maintenance Report. Rather than repeat them, let me just refer you to them. There are deficiencies, to be sure. Still, I return to optimism about the

state of the Park. It has always had to deal with pressing demands, but it has always prevailed. The Department of Parks and Recreation bore witness to this in awarding FOMP the 2021 Outstanding Programmatic Partner Award at a soiree at Franklin Park in September. As soon as we have a secure and protected place, we will exhibit the plaque at the Park. As always, always, the real reward for us is the number of people who use the Park, praise it and attend activities like Fall Fun Day. Thank you all for your support and care for Mitchell Park.

## Message from the Treasurer

It is hard to believe another year has passed but there is evidence of the holiday season all around us. The Board is actively preparing to have an in-person fundraising event in the coming year. At the moment, it is unclear whether we will be able to bring this about in the Spring or whether it will have to wait until Fall.

Annual contributions generally fund less than a third of our normal operating costs. As is common practice, we attempt to keep a certain number of years' operating costs in our reserves. We have had to dip into our reserves over the last

several years. Our inability to have an in-person fundraiser because of Covid is a perfect example of why we have reserves.

We realize that there are many efforts worthy of end of year giving. We hope you will consider FOMP in your planned giving.

You can visit our website, <https://mitchell-parkdc.org> and follow the prompt DONATE or use the tear sheet on the last page of this newsletter. We hope you will be as generous as you can.

Best wishes for a healthy and joyous holiday season.

Ellen Kelley, Treasurer

## Tee Shirts and Hats



Get the newly designed FOMP Tee shirt for the holidays!

Comfortable fitting and soft cotton

Cost is \$25 for adults and \$20 for youth.

Onesies are \$20.

We even have a baseball cap to match for \$25.

Please email

[FriendsofMitchellPark@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofMitchellPark@gmail.com) and provide:

your name, address, telephone number, size, quantity, and whether you are purchasing adult or youth.

Acceptable payments are VENMO (preferred), cash, and check.

## Blue Sky Puppet Show

In September, Friends of Mitchell Park welcomed back Blue Sky Puppet Theatre for the second year in a row. Many families, including children of all ages, gathered on the field to enjoy the show. Thank you to everyone who attended and to Peter Crawford of Long & Foster for sponsoring the performance and providing refreshments.





## Films in the Field

This summer, through Paul Pike of TTR Sotheby's International Realty's generous sponsorship, Mitchell Park continued the tradition of hosting hundreds of friends and neighbors for a series of films under the stars. We saw a great turnout for the family favorite, "Encanto" and beloved rom-com, "When Harry Met Sally". While screenings of "Slumdog Millionaire" and "Hidden Figures" were also scheduled, technical issues and rain resulted in cancellations. We are hoping for clearer skies next year and are finalizing a great lineup of films for the summer of 2023. Dates for next year's screenings are Thursday June 15th, Thursday July 20th, Thursday August 17th, and Friday September 22. We can't wait to continue this beloved tradition and once again, gather our fantastic community for evenings of cinematic fun!

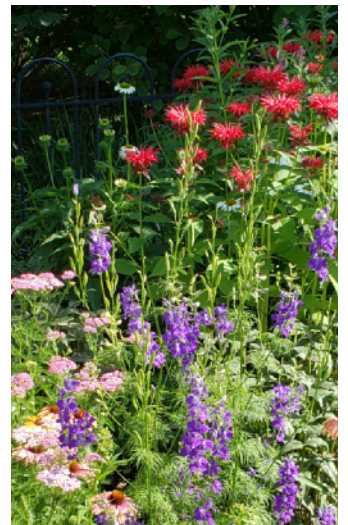
## Herb/Pollinator Garden

Our herb/pollinator garden has continued to grow and expand. New additions this summer included: small blueberry plants (birds supposedly love them), mini Butterfly Bush, lots of Coneflower, Black Eyed Susan, a beautiful tall lavender Bee Balm and Evening Primrose (the latter two were given to us by someone in the neighborhood whose garden I'd always admired). These, along with the now well established Russian Sage, Swamp Milkweed, New England Aster, Purple Fennel and Anise Hyssop, all led to a profusion of summer flowers, which brought bees and other pollinators. We occasionally potted up several

plants as they became overgrown and added a "free" sign, leaving them at the entrance to the garden or at a table this year at Fall Fun Day.

Every so often I've come at the right time and seen birds bathing in the bird bath....or a Wren flying in and out of a nesting box...or heard a beautiful song from a Wren or cardinal.

Whether its picking chives, mint, oregano or basil for dinner, just looking at the flowers, or listening to birds, I try to remember to pause, listen to and breathe in nature's beauty....making any time in the garden a special treat.



## Save the Date

We have been offered a tour of the Chinese Embassy Chancery in the Van Ness International Center. February 4, Saturday, 10 am. (Snow Date February 11).

Attendance will be limited. Please email FriendsOfMitchellPark@gmail.com to get your name on the list. A \$50 donation to Friends of Mitchell Park will be requested.



## Maintenance Report



By and large, the Park continues to be a lovely oasis. The benches and tables along the S Street side serve as quiet refuge for readers while those along the townhouse end of the Park offer shade from the trees. Both are used well by picnickers at lunchtime. The herb/pollinator garden behind the little house is an amenity and a service. Add to these spots the playground and courts, and our Park continues to serve us well. There are some rough edges. First, as always, is the lawn. We are always asked about seeding or sodding, which we have undertaken in the past.

The verdict from experience and advice from professionals is that as long as the field is used as much as it is, no grass will survive a year. Even if we could afford to reseed every year, it would mean closing the field for a considerable time. We have chosen to value the summer weed growth and tolerate the ragged winter condition. Our second bare spot, is focused around the East entrance. We are discussing plans which we hope will survive being so close to the busy right of way from Bancroft Street. We anticipate having something ready for the Spring.

**Address Service Requested**



2401 Tracy Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

**Website**

Please check our newly designed and updated website:

[www.mitchellparkdc.org](http://www.mitchellparkdc.org)

Follow us on Instagram using the handle @friendsofmitchellparkDC

**Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift to Friends of Mitchell Park of:**

\$100     \$250     \$500     \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address & Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly make out your check to “Friends of Mitchell Park” and mail to:

Holly Sukenik, Vice President  
2401 Tracy Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
202-332-2952

December 2022