



## Neighborhood Watch!

Literally! Thanks to WETA Television, the public broadcasting station serving the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, viewers can watch two different program series to learn about restaurants, cafes, and other eateries in their own backyards!



**Neighborhood Eats** — an exclusive WETA TV 26 production created for this region — is a 30-minute companion to the long-running *WETA Neighborhoods* series. It takes viewers through a variety of local neighborhoods where the food scene is vibrant and thriving, thanks in large measure to local patrons. The most recent *Eats* episode featured restaurants in Del Ray (Alexandria, VA), Silver Spring (MD), D.C.'s Adams Morgan/Mount Pleasant neighborhood, and in D.C.'s Southwest quadrant.

“We look for neighborhood places where the customer base is from the community they serve,” says WETA executive producer Glenn Baker. “It could be a new place open for only a couple of years or a mainstay that has been there up to 20 years, as long as there is an interesting story.” As an example, Baker noted the Evening Star Cafe in Del Ray, which has a garden on the rooftop where the restaurant’s fresh produce is grown. Other featured Del Ray



Photo courtesy WETA

Rose Previte (second from left) on the *Check, Please! DC* set with a panel of citizen food reviewers

eating establishments were the café and biscuit house Stomping Ground and Lena’s Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap, which bakes its thin-crust pizza in a floor-to-ceiling wood-burning oven.

Silver Spring’s featured *Neighborhood Eats* restaurants included La Casita Pupuseria & Market — serving pupusa, the national dish of El Salvador — Denizens Brewing Company, and Urban Butcher, where meats are aged and butchered in house. The Adams Morgan/Mount Pleasant dining destinations were Federalist Pig, Sakuramen Ramen Bar, Purple Patch, featuring classic Filipino

recipes, and Pleasant Pops, with its crowd-favorite ice pops. Station 4 and Cantina Marina rounded out the episode’s restaurant tour in Southwest Washington.

The other WETA food program — *Check, Please! DC* — follows a different format. In each episode, three citizen reviewers recommend one dining spot for review by the other two guests. After anonymously trying each restaurant recommendation, the guests join the show’s in-studio host to discuss their experiences. “The premise for this program is that it’s not experts, or specialists, or food



reviewers. It’s more like listening to a recommendation from your

BITS AND BITES cont. page 9