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February 2016

In This Issue

[From the Chairman](#)[Upcoming Events](#)[Hot Topics](#)[Committee Updates](#)[Spotlight](#)[Notes From the Village Office](#)[Budget Corner](#)[Draft Agenda for Next Council Meeting](#)[Little Known Fact](#)[Contact Info](#)[Heard on the Sidewalk](#)

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Residents,

As you may have seen in the last newsletter, the Centennial Celebration Committee is in full-swing planning the Village-wide celebration to be held on Sunday, April 17th, from 2 PM to 5 PM at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase (7931 Connecticut Avenue). Please see the detailed update from the committee chair in this edition. Your personal invitation will be coming soon! Please RSVP by March 31st.



[Annual Meeting and Council Elections Coming Soon!](#)

This year's VMA Celebration on the Sidewalk (Annual Meeting and Council Elections) will be Thursday, May 12th, from 5-8pm on the sidewalk in front of the Brookville shops. We look forward to seeing you there!

- Budget: The Council had its initial work session on the budget for fiscal year 2017 last week. There will be several opportunities in the near future for residents and Council members to further discuss the budget (see the "Budget Corner" below).
- Council Elections: The Council elections are fast approaching and there are three (3) Council members whose terms expire this year. Now is the time to consider running for Council. If you are interested and want information on what the time commitments are or have any other questions regarding serving on the Council, please contact any current or former Council members. We have been so encouraged by the increased participation in the committees and we are hopeful to see that same excitement for Council participation.

Village Manager Search

To date, the Council has approximately 30 applications for the vacant Village Manager position. After telephone interviews with a number of candidates, the Council conducted in-person interviews on Wednesday, the 24th, with 5 outstanding candidates for the position. We are hoping to finalize our selection by March 4th.

I think that wraps it up for February. Highlights only, of course. However, as always, feel free to contact the entire Council at VMACOUNCIL@googlegroups.com or any member directly (our contact information is below).

Richard Krajeck, Council Chairman

[Back To Top](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



- 3/12: Bulk Trash
- 3/17: March Council Meeting
- 4/17: Centennial Celebration at the Woman's Club
- 4/21: April Council Meeting
- 5/12: Annual Meeting and Village Council Election
- 6/4: Shredding Event

[Back To Top](#)

HOT TOPICS

Street Repaving

Once WSSC is finished in southern part of the Village, and assuming no other utilities are planning work involving digging in the streets in the immediate future, the Council is working toward repaving the streets throughout the Village as soon as practicable. There is a lot to consider when a project of this size is undertaken. The Village is seeking the counsel of its paid consultants as well as collecting lessons learned from other municipalities that have recently repaved their streets. We look forward to keeping residents informed as progress is made.

[BackToTop](#)

COMMITTEE UPDATES



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

"Our Village Centennial: Celebrating 100 Years of Community in Martin's Additions."

The Centennial Celebration Committee is planning a fun and informative celebration for April 17th at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase! With speakers, music, and entertainment it will be an interesting look at Martin's Additions history and will pave the way to the next 100 years.

Village residents will be invited to display their artwork, publications, or other items. The celebration will be videotaped and a DVD will be produced for distribution to all residents at no cost.

For the presentation on trees, we're hoping to learn from residents about the best in the biggest trees in the village, or trees that have a particular story to tell. To commemorate the Centennial, a new tree will also be planted at Shepherd Park.

A tree will also be planted to commemorate the Centennial.

Watch for your invitation in your email inbox!

- The Centennial Celebration Committee

Naomi Naierman (chair), Richard Krajeck, Susan Fattig, and Michelle Malloy.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

The VMA Ethics Committee, appointed by the Village Council, has met twice this year, on January 13th and January 27th, 2016, both times in open session. At the request of the Council, the Committee is reviewing the ethics provisions in Chapter 4 of the VMA Code, which principally are related to prohibiting conflicts-of-interest, with the goal of identifying weaknesses or gaps in the Code and then recommending changes to address any weaknesses and gaps. The Committee welcomes any comments or concerns about the current provisions.

As part of its review, the Committee has prepared a conflict-of-interest questionnaire/certification, which will be required to be completed by candidates for the Village Council and yearly by Village employees and sitting Council members. This questionnaire is required by Village Charter Section 903 and will assist the Committee in doing its work. It was presented to the Council at its February 18th, 2016 meeting and it was approved at that time.

The members of the Ethics Committee are Celeste Biagini, Jimmy Joyce and Marc

Efron (Chair)

[Back To Top](#)

SPOTLIGHT

Sidewalk Improvements

This month the Village contracted with a pavement repair company to have work done on selected sidewalks, curbs and gutters. The sites had been previously identified as significant risks. Work was carried out on Quincy Street, Melville Place, Thornapple Street, Chestnut Street, and Taylor Street.

The Village is in the process of identifying areas for the next phase of repairs. Please reach out to us if you have areas of concern you'd like to be considered for repair!

[Back To Top](#)

NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE OFFICE

The WSSC water main relocation and replacements which are currently underway in the southern end of the Village will continue well into Spring 2016. The project on Bradley Lane and Melville Place is almost complete (now virtually finished but final steps on hold due to inclement weather). At the end of February, they will start on Raymond and Quincy Streets. In preparation for that, you may see WSSC employees or contractors taking pictures of the right-of-way, marking the location of utility lines, digging test pits and so on. If you have any questions about this work, please do not hesitate to ask to speak with a WSSC project manager on site, or to contact the Village Office with your concerns.

Permitting: A reminder to contact the Village office before beginning any work to verify permitting requirements. Work performed on your property may require permits from the Village as well as from Montgomery County.

New Building Permit Requests:

3519 Bradley: Permit to work in the right-of-way

Tax Return Reminder:

Revenues received through our residents' paid income taxes are the most significant source of Village revenues. How residents fill out each tax return will help determine whether the income tax revenue due to the Village actually gets credited properly. This revenue pays for services that directly benefit Village residents.

By law, as a municipality, the Village receives a portion of the tax you pay to Montgomery County. It is very important, however, that the State of Maryland knows to return this revenue to the Village. Therefore, please take special care to mark your tax return as shown below.

When you file your Maryland income tax return, please remember to put **Martin's Additions** under "City, Town, or Taxing Area" to ensure the Village receives our share of the state income tax.

MARYLAND FORM 502 RESIDENT INCOME TAX RETURN **2015**

OR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING _____ 2015, ENDING _____

Your Social Security Number _____ Spouse's Social Security Number _____

Your First Name _____ Initial _____

Your Last Name _____

Spouse's First Name _____ Initial _____

Spouse's Last Name _____

Current Mailing Address (PO Box, number, street and apt. no) _____

Maryland County

City, Town or Taxing Area
Name of county and incorporated city, town or special taxing area in which you resided on the last day of the taxable period. (See Instruction 6.)

Other items:

- Elizabeth (Beth) Boa is a Notary Public in Maryland. Please call ahead if you need notary services (301-656-4112).

- To receive Constant Contact notifications from the Village Council, the committees, and the office (i.e., any official communication from your Village government), please [sign up on our website](#) This is the best way to receive information on waste pickup, snow removal, and Council and committee meetings.

[Back To Top](#)

BUDGET CORNER

Budget Work Session and Process

The Council has begun its work on the budget for Fiscal Year 2017. At its initial budget work session on February 24th, the Council met in open session with the Village accountant and acting manager to start the process. A proposed budget may be discussed by the full Council at an additional budget work session, if needed. However, please note, we welcome resident comments at any time! Lastly, pursuant to the Charter, the formal presentation of final tax rates and budget will be at least 30 days before the May 12th Annual Meeting and Celebration on the Sidewalk at which time the Council will vote on the final budget.

[Back To Top](#)

DRAFT AGENDA FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

**Village of Martin's Additions
Council Meeting
7013 Brookville Road (Suite B, 2nd floor)
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-3263**

Draft Agenda for March 17, 2016

7:30 PM	Call to Order: Krajeck
	Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: Krajeck

	Update from the Election Committee: Anderson
	Update from the Ethics Committee: Efron
	Update from the Centennial Celebration Committee: Naierman
	Action on Council Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2016: Krajeck
	Discussion of Street Light Improvement Projects: Hill
	Financial matters, including Treasurer's Report and FY17 Budget: Hill
	Manager's Report: Village Manager
	Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: Krajeck
9:30 PM	Adjournment: Krajeck

Click [here](#) to see last month's Council Meeting minutes and [here](#) to listen to a recording of the meeting.

[Back To Top](#)

LITTLE KNOWN FACT



Tips for Public Safety

The Village's police patrol have some tips for residents to deter crime in the neighborhood.

VMA has had a recent rash of thefts from cars, and several arrests were made that may be related. VMA numbers are still significantly lower than other parts of Chevy Chase and the 2nd District. However, VMA police patrols do not think that police efforts will do much to stop theft from cars in VMA and the surrounding areas. After interviewing many of those who have been arrested, police have learned some interesting things. Most of the offenders are from DC, and intentionally come to the greater Chevy Chase/Bethesda area because 1) it can be accessed by metro 2) they know cars will be unlocked. They will take as much as they can in one trip and leave.

That is why, especially with the warmer weather, it is critically important to be proactive in safeguarding your property. If criminals do not find success here, they will go elsewhere. Here are some simple tips:

- * **Lock your vehicles at all times**. Whether the vehicle is parked on the street or to the rear of the house in a driveway it needs to be locked when it is unattended. **This is the most important measure that can be taken to prevent this crime**. The criminals that steal from vehicles roam through the neighborhoods and pull on door handles. They almost always bypass the vehicles with locked doors. Once they find a vehicle that is unlocked (which unfortunately is often the case) they rummage through for a few minutes and take loose change, GPS units, laptops or anything else that is of some value and easy to carry away. They often carry backpacks or bags and do not leave until the bag is full.
- * Remove or hide valuables from plain sight in your vehicles. GPS units, laptops, phone chargers, currency, EZ pass transponders and anything else should be removed or hidden. Never keep keys to your vehicle inside. That also applies to keys to other vehicles. The same goes for house keys. Do not let the criminals "window shop". If the reward is great enough, they may want to break the window to access that item. If the door is locked and they see nothing significant, chances are they will move on.
- * Report any suspicious activity promptly. The criminals often spend a good amount of time in the neighborhoods looking for vehicles to steal from.

If it appears someone is acting suspiciously (looking into vehicles and trying door handles), and has a bag or backpack please notify the police. They will send a car out and attempt to locate that individual to assess the situation and take appropriate action.

* Ensure you have sufficient outdoor lighting. Again, these types of criminals are typically non-confrontational and would rather do their crimes in the darkness. If you can, mount external lights on a garage or residence that will help deter crime. A simple motion sensor light can quickly be worth the expense.

* Consider keeping a key fob for your vehicle in the bedroom. If you become a theft victim and realize that someone is looking into your vehicle, you can press the panic button and scare off the would-be thief. Please notify the police even if you scare the subject off as they may stay in the neighborhood and look for a new target.

[Back To Top](#)

CONTACT INFO

COUNCIL vmacouncil@googlegroups.com		
Name	Phone	Email
Richard Krajeck, Chairman	301-654-3663	rkrajeck@hotmail.com
Arthur Alexander, Vice Chairman	301-718-9787	arthur.alexander@att.net
Katya Hill, Treasurer	301-718-1920	ka2shaz@gmail.com
Tiffany Cissna, Secretary	301-652-0541	cissnafamily@gmail.com
Susan Fattig, Member-at-Large	301-951-9578	susan.fattig@gmail.com

OFFICE STAFF		
Name	Phone	Email

Elizabeth (Beth) Boa, Acting Village Manager (as of 2/1/2016)	301-656-4112	martinsadditions@gmail.com
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[Back To Top](#)

HEARD ON THE SIDEWALK



Why are we celebrating the Village's Centennial in April?

It was April 11, 1916 when the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation to authorize a Special Taxing District to be known as "Martin's Additions to Chevy Chase." The legislation set aside a specific geographic area with authority to elect a Citizens' Committee with substantial local governing and regulatory powers.

--Paul Weller

1985 Chair of the First Incorporated Council of Martin's Additions

Keep our community walkable; please patronize the businesses in our Village!

Please also keep in mind these "Friends of the Village":

[A Wider Circle](#)
[Chevy Chase at Home](#)
[Friends of the Library, Chevy Chase Chapter](#)
[Live and Learn Bethesda](#)
[Manna Food Center](#)

Village of Martin's Additions

martinsadditions@gmail.com | 301-656-4112 | www.martinsadditions.org

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