

# Martin's Edition

A Newsletter for the Village of Martin's Additions to Chevy Chase

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June 2017

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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Fellow Residents,

The Council honored our volunteers with a reception before the June Council meeting, which included members from the Election Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Tree Supervisor. These volunteers are important to the management of the Village. On behalf of the community, I would again like to thank: Marty Langelan, Lauren Shweder Biel, Naomi Naierman, Steve Trowern, Natalie Straus Welle, Marc Efron, Jimmy Joyce, Celeste Biagini and Paula Goldberg.



Each year, the Council is required to appoint new members to committees, so please let the Village office or any Council member know if you would like to volunteer for an opening on one of the committees - an excellent opportunity to

become active in the community. Current volunteers are eligible for reappointment and are also urged to submit their names for consideration. The Council hopes to announce the new committee members at the July meeting.

This spring a number of activities have kept the Village office busier than usual: the Sidewalk/Election event that suffered from the down pour but didn't dampen the enthusiasm of our voters; a reception to honor our volunteers; and a successful Wine Tasting at La Ferme for which the restaurant donated six bottles of wine to be raffled. We are grateful for the management and staff of La Ferme who made the wine tasting a great event with excellent food, service and wine experts who explained the white, red and Champagne wines we tasted.

And now the planning for the Fourth of July celebration and parade on July 2nd is completed. We have the old standbys: the water slide, the free pizza and ice cream, but we have added some new surprises. So decorate your wagons, bicycles, scooters, yourself-and join the parade!!

As you may have heard, Beth Boa, the Assistant Village Manager, has resigned to spend more time with her family. Beth has worked with two Village Managers and willingly went from part-time to full-time as Acting Village Manager when we were between managers. Everyone who has worked, talked or interacted with her has offered high praise. We are recruiting a replacement and can only hope we can find someone with her skills, energy, ideas and welcoming attitude. Beth, who will leave after the July 2 Celebration, will be sorely missed. We wish her the best, always.

-- Richard

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS



- **7/2/2017: Independence Day Party 2:30-5 PM**
- **7/8/2017: Bulk Trash Pick Up**
- **7/20/2017: Council Meeting 7:30 PM**

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## HOT TOPICS

### **WEBSITE UPDATE**

The Village website is currently being redesigned by Revize Software Systems. The Village has accepted a preliminary design (photos, layout, links, etc.), and Revize is now working on back end development, which will make the website functional. Residents can check out the preliminary redesign on the current Village website under "Hot Topics," which should have a [link to a PDF version of the redesign concept](#).

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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### **ELECTION COMMITTEE**

We thank all the residents who took part in the election on May 11. It was impressive to see 187 of you come out to vote on such a chilly, rainy Election Day! In addition, 57 residents completed and returned absentee ballots. With a total of 244 voters, this was the second-highest turn-out in recent years.

We got drenched but we were happy to see you all. Local democracy matters - it's the only way to ensure open, honest, responsive local government. It has been a pleasure to serve as your neighborhood volunteers on the 2017 Martin's Additions' Election Committee.

VMA's new written Election Rules and Procedures, adopted in 2016, are working well. We appreciate the excellent support the Council and the VMA staff provided to

assist the Committee in carrying out our tasks. It was an interesting year - we handled an anonymous nominations hoax with 41 fake nominees, an inexcusable postal delivery delay, an election-related harassment complaint the day before the election, and a variety of other situations. A copy of the Election Committee's final, year-end report to the Council members and residents of Martin's Additions is included with the Minutes of the June 15 Council Meeting.

It's great to see such active community involvement. We thank everyone who came to the Candidates' Forum in April and the Community Open House in March, as well as everyone who took the time to respond to the VMA survey last fall. If you would be interested in serving on the Election Committee in the coming year, please contact the Council. And if you have any questions about how the Election Committee works, you're always welcome to email us at [VMAelections@gmail.com](mailto:VMAelections@gmail.com).

With best regards from your 2017 VMA Election Committee: Marty Langelan (chair), Naomi Naierman, Steve Trowern, Natalie Straus Welle, and Lauren Shweder Biel.

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## SPOTLIGHT

### **Montgomery Municipal Cable**

Have you ever dreamed of being on TV, or being involved in a television broadcast? Montgomery Municipal Cable is always looking for people and ideas!

The Village Council recently appointed the Village Manager, Matt Trollinger, as its representative to the Montgomery Municipal Cable Board, a nonprofit organization based out of Kensington that facilitates communication between municipal governments and the public by operating a television channel on behalf of municipal governments in Montgomery County (TV Channel 16). Montgomery County Cable is interested in new ideas and on air "talent" for programming. Residents should contact the Village Office if they are interested in volunteering or want to get involved with programming. You can also go to <http://www.mmctv.org> for more information on Montgomery County Cable.

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## NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE OFFICE

### **Blocking the Sidewalk:**

Our office has received a few complaints about contractors blocking the sidewalk and/or public right-of-way. If you have a yard crew or someone else doing work at your residence, please remind them to keep sidewalks and rights-of-way clear for pedestrians others using the sidewalk.

**Streetlights:** Earlier this month, Village staff met with PEPCO to review tree-trimming that will be necessary for new light installation.

PEPCO has reported that the order was finalized and sent down from its engineering department to construction in mid-May, and construction will be finishing putting together its materials on July 24th. At that point, PEPCO will put together its team to do the final installations, which should take two to three weeks, so we are currently expecting a mid-August start date for installations

**Street and Sidewalk Updates:** The Village has been coordinating with our Traffic Engineer, Joseph Cutro, to complete thermoplastic street markings (i.e. stop bars, crosswalks, etc.). Unfortunately, we originally were planning to have it completed the last week of June; but had to reschedule for July 5th.

Mr. Cutro has also done two traffic studies on Thornapple, Summit, and Taylor, which tracked the number, speed, and direction of cars on those streets. We hope to have Mr. Cutro present at the July Council meeting to go over the results of the study. For a copy of the his write-ups, please see the Village Website under "Hot Topics," or by clicking [\\*here\\*](#), or contact the Village Office.

The Village has been working with Chevy Chase Section 3 and State Highway to redesign the four-way intersection at Brookville Rd./Taylor St. for over a year, and we are finally making some progress! In May, State Highway sent out Right of Entry Agreements to La Ferme, Brookville Market, and the affected homes in Section 3. The plan involves shortening the distance between stop signs, making them more visible, and making the crosswalk distance shorter so it is safer for pedestrians. State Highway has expressed the project is a top priority, and they hope to begin construction in the fall.

Finally, as you may also recall, WSSC will be returning to the Village, unfortunately - sewer line repairs this time!!! - so a few streets (Quincy, Oxford, Chestnut, and parts of Raymond, and Thornapple) were skipped over when it came to concrete work and repaving. Residents on those streets: you have not been forgotten! We will double back and get that work done on your streets once WSSC is finally out of our hair,

hopefully for a long while. WSSC will be holding a public outreach meeting once they have selected a contractor for the job.

**Noise and Construction Hours:** Spring and summer often mean an up-tick in construction projects and other outdoor work in the Village. Just a reminder that the Village follows Montgomery County's Noise Law, which allows for 65 dBA (decibels) during the daytime, and 55 dBA at nighttime. An example that may violate that section of the law might include lawn-mowing at night, for example. [This sheet](#) might also give you an idea of what those numbers roughly translate to. Typically the Village suggests contacting the County if there is a noise disturbance because they have the equipment to assess decibel levels and the resources to issue citations. If you wish to report a noise violation, you can contact Montgomery County 3-1-1 during regular business hours, or the non-emergency police line at 301-279-8000 during non-business hours. There is also a two-party complaint form found online on the [Montgomery County website](#).

The rules for construction are slightly different, and are handled a little differently too. Construction in the Village shall not commence prior to 7:00 am on Monday through Friday, and 9:00 am on Saturday and Sunday; and must end no later than 9:00 pm Monday through Thursday, and 7:00 pm Friday through Sunday, and on federal holidays. Between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm on weekdays, construction work is allowed to get up to 75 dBA, and up to 85 dBA if there is a Montgomery-County approved noise suppression plan for the project. Again, if you would like to report a violation you can contact the County. You can also inform the Village office, which can also issue citations for working beyond permitted construction work hours.

**2016 Resident Directory:** The Village has published and mailed the 2016 directory. We are planning to put out a new directory every two years, so that means the next copy will be in 2018. Extra copies are available in the Village office.

**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. See the "Building Blocks" section of the newsletter for the latest!

**Moving?** Residents of VMA are encouraged to contact the office to have temporary No Parking signs posted in front of their home when moving out of the Village or when expecting a large truck delivery.

## **Other items:**

- To receive Constant Contact notifications from the Village Council, the committees, and the office (i.e., any official communication from your Village government), please contact the Village office. This is the best way to receive information on waste pickup, snow removal, and Council and committee meetings.
- To receive a paper copy of *Martin's Edition* in the mail, please contact the Village office.

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## **BUDGET CORNER**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MAY 2017**

**Arthur Alexander, Treasurer**

**June 15, 2017**

July 2016 through May 2017

	Actual	Budgeted
Revenues	\$942,270	\$785,217
Expenses (excluding capital projects)	510,529	634,998
Net Income (revenues minus expenses)	431,741	150,219
Capital expenditures	\$865,205	
Designated funds less expenditures	\$584,795	

Reserve account (current assets less unspent designated allocations): \$ 1,820,690

In the year to date, \$865,000 has been spent on long-awaited capital projects as most streets have been repaved and streetlights are about to be installed. A total of \$1,450,000 had been set aside over past years to fund these projects and others. So far, the bills for streets and sidewalks is slightly under the estimated amounts, but several more streets await work in the future. The cost of the lights will be approximately \$300,000 under original estimates, largely because of the rapid fall of LED lighting prices.

The reserve account (current assets minus funds set aside for designated capital expenditures) is more than double the Village's budgeted annual expenditures, which provides a cushion against unexpected occurrences as well as a buffer for higher than expected capital improvement costs. The present size of the reserves should allow a reduction in the Village's property tax rate next year, unless we are hit by major surprises.

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## 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**

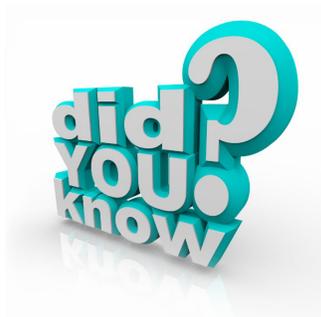
**Draft Agenda for July 20, 2017**

7:30PM	Call to Order: Krajeck
	Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments: Krajeck
	Action on Council Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2017: Krajeck
	Financial Matters, including Treasurer's Report: Alexander
	Manager's Report, including: streetlights; street repaving; RFPs and contracts: Trollinger
	Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments: Krajeck
9:00 PM	Adjournment: Krajeck

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

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### LITTLE KNOWN FACT



#### **POLICE & SAFETY**

Now that summer vacation is upon us, kids will be looking for different ways to spend their time. Playing in the street is often one of the solutions, as parents can keep an eye on their kids without leaving home. While this is usually a safe solution in most neighborhoods in the county, the unique characteristics of the Village make it concerning at best.

Before letting your kids play in the street, please consider the following. The streets in the Village are extremely narrow, so much so that parking is permitted only on

one side of the street. These narrow streets limit visibility, and cars can't easily see kids who may be darting out into a roadway. Even at a 25 mph speed, it would take a car 90 feet to come to a complete sudden stop. That's 6 car lengths!! Instead of a street or driveway, please consider using one of the many local parks where you will not have to worry about vehicle traffic.

And, as always, please remember to lock your doors and don't leave valuables in your cars!

-- Nick Picerno, Community Police Officer

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## BUILDING BLOCKS

### **BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

6701 Brookville Rd.

The applicant has submitted a building permit application to add an addition at the rear of the existing house. The staff has completed a preliminary review of the application and is waiting for the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (MCDPS) building permit approval.

6809 Brookville Rd.

The staff has issued a permit to remove and replace the existing driveway.

7210 Chestnut St.

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) had previously issued a demo permit and the applicant had applied for a demo permit from the Village. They then decided to put the project on hold. The MCDOT demo permit will expire soon. The owners will be renewing the MCDOT demo permit and posting the bond for the Village demo permit this fall. The staff requested the owners to keep the property neat, free of debris, and the grass cut, until the demo begins.

7219 Chestnut St.

The homeowner placed stone tiles over the top of the existing concrete lead sidewalk. A right of way license agreement was prepared for that portion of the sidewalk in the Village right of way. We are waiting for the homeowner to return the executed and notarized agreement, which will be recorded in the land records at Montgomery County.

3405 Cummings La.

The staff has issued a permit to remove the existing shed at the rear of the lot.

7210 Delfield St.

The homeowner has planted rose bushes and other plants, outside the new fence at the front of the property and within the Village right of way. A right of way license agreement was prepared for the plantings in the Village right of way. We are waiting for the homeowner to return the executed and notarized agreement, which will be recorded in the land records at Montgomery County.

6702 Melville St.

The Village has issued a building permit to enclose the breezeway between the existing house and garage. The work is ongoing.

3507 Raymond St.

The homeowner has submitted plans and a building permit application to the Village to make interior improvements and to add a deck to the rear of the house. The Village has issued a building permit. The work is ongoing.

3404 Shepherd St.

An application has been submitted to add a second floor, a covered front porch, and a covered patio to the existing house. The application has been reviewed. The staff has issued a Village building permit and the work is proceeding.

3510 Taylor Street

The staff has noticed that the existing brick retaining wall within the Village right of way is collapsing, is a safety hazard, and is in need of immediate repair. The staff is attempting to contact the homeowner. A right of way license will be required.

#### 3512 Taylor Street

The staff noticed that when the retaining wall was re-built, the contractor left a 2-inch-wide depressed area between the existing Village sidewalk and the base of the new wall, which may cause a pedestrian to trip and fall. The staff is attempting to contact the homeowner to correct the situation.

#### 3405 Thornapple St.

The staff issued a building permit to relocate the existing house to the adjacent lot and add improvements to the old structure. The improvements include a new curb cut and driveway. The work has begun and the existing house has been moved to the adjacent lot.

#### 3405 Turner Lane

The applicant has submitted a building permit application to the Village to remove a portion at the rear of the existing house and add a new addition in its place. The staff has completed a preliminary review and is waiting for the MCDPS building permit approval.

#### MCDOT - North Delfield St.

The staff has contacted the MCDOT maintenance department about a repairing the existing storm drain inlet at the north end of North Delfield St. MCDOT is not sure who owns the damaged inlet and they are still investigating the situation.

#### MSHA - Brookville Road

Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA) maintenance staff is investigating the water ponding at the northeast corner of Brookville Rd. and Bradley La. MSHA was recently contacted and they are still looking into a solution for the ponding water.

## AMT GIS Update

AMT last updated the Village Geographic Information System (GIS) computer data in 2014. We are presently compiling the information for a new update. The update will include the new front yard construction projects since 2014, the WSSC water main replacement project from 2012 and 2016, the recent Washington Gas Line (WGL) improvements, and any changes to trees within the Village right of way. The GIS update is on hold. The Village Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued and a response is due by July 15th.

--Doug Lohmeyer, Building Administrator

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## HEARD ON THE SIDEWALK

### **WEATHER OUTLOOK:**

As we head into July, it's always a good idea to respect thunderstorms when they're in your vicinity. It's always a good idea to get inside a building, or even a car, to protect yourself from lightning. Lightning and flash floods are the leading causes of death to persons on the outdoors. You could have been struck by lightning and not even known it. The after-effects from this can show up sometime later in the form of permanent neurological issues. So be smart and respect the elements.

Looking ahead to the Fourth of July party on the second, and July Fourth itself, expect hot and humid with temperatures in the low 90s. Mother nature may have her own version of pyrotechnics on Independence Day. Enjoy being outdoors this summer, but be smart when storms approach and stay safe. Keep in touch with changing weather by calling 202-589-1212 or in Baltimore, 410-235-1212.

- Keith Allen, Turner Ln

*[Keith Allen, long time resident of Martin's Additions](#), provides weather forecasts by phone for cities across the U.S. Residents are encouraged to call 202-589-1212 for up-to-the-minute updates.*

### **MANNA UPDATE:**

June Manna Report: WOW!

June turned out to be a banner month for the Village's ongoing food drive. Thanks to a generous cash donation left pending from the mid-May election event and some major in-kind contributions, our delivery to Manna Food Center totaled 652

pounds - the highest monthly total since January's 861 pounds - which included food and cash converted into food collected on the MLK Day of Service.

In July, we'll once again be placing a donation box at the Rock Creek Sports Club (this will be the fourth year that the Club's management has kindly agreed to take part) in the hope of augmenting what's typically a slow month. We know that many of you will be vacationing but hope that you'll still remember Manna - Montgomery County's major food bank - on your way shopping to or from the shore or mountains. Manna reminds us that even in our wealthy area, hunger - which often goes unnoticed - remains steadily on the rise, so community contributions are especially valuable!

Please drop cans/boxes of nonperishable items in the box at the stairs to the Village Office or on the porch of the Kirschtens' (3406 Turner Lane) or the Browns' (3404 Taylor Street.) Hope that everyone has a safe and fun summer, wherever vacation may take you!

### **Chevy Chase At Home (CC@ H)**

CC@ H INVITES YOU TO OUR ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Come beat the heat on **Tuesday, July 18, 2 to 4 p.m.** at our annual Ice Cream Social. Friends and neighbors are all invited to join us at the Chevy Chase Village Hall for this cool summer treat!

**Brunch Bunch** will get together at the Olympia Cafe on Brookville Road on **Thursday, July 13, 10 to 11:30 a.m.**, and again on **August 10**. This is another CC@ H sponsored gathering that's open to all, so please drop by.

On **Tuesday, August 15**, come to our Free Summer Movie Event for a showing of **Calendar Girls**, a 2003 British comedy about a group of Yorkshire women who bare almost all to raise money for a worthy cause. Winner of the Best British Comedy Award, it features an all-star cast including Helen Mirren. **2 to 4 p.m.**, at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Popcorn and treats will be served!

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](#)

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