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March 2016

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Dear Fellow Residents,

It certainly is more welcoming to see trees and flowers in bloom than piles of snow. We are fortunate to have such a wide variety of blooms in our neighborhood. So while the trees and flowers are blooming, I wanted to call your attention to a few Village "happenings" of import (but, of course, be sure to read the entire newsletter for many more details).



1) Our new Village Manager, Matt Trollinger, starts today, Monday, March 28th.

Please join the Council in welcoming him and many thanks to Beth Boa who so ably served as our Acting Manager. Beth did a tremendous job of keeping the trains rolling (e.g., the Village budget proposal preparation) and bringing some projects to completion (e.g., securing State approval for our Records Retention Schedule and then implementing it) and we look forward to her continued support as Matt gets "up to speed" with all things VMA!

2) Our Village committees are hard at work!

a. The **Centennial Committee** continues planning for the Centennial Celebration event on April 17th from 2-5pm at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase and just celebrated with the planting of a "centennial" tree (see the Centennial Committee report) at the end of Turner Lane.

b. The **Election Committee** is soliciting nominations for Council candidates (there are 3 seats up this year-see the Elections Committee report below).

Nominations and candidate statements are due by 5pm on April 12th to VMAelections@gmail.com or by delivery to the Village Office. Last year's election brought a record turnout for voting and a record number of candidates. Please consider running for the Council: it is an important and satisfying way to serve the Village.

c. The **Ethics Committee** is continuing its work to make recommendations on how to improve the Village Code.

3) The water line replacement project on Raymond, Bradley and Quincy continues to inch ahead even as the crew strikes a gas line (not gas main) on Bradley (see Village Office Report). As you know, the Office is closely coordinating with the contractors and we're hopeful that this once-in-one-hundred-year project is successfully brought to a close soon.

Lastly, on a more personal note, this past year, we have seen an exceptional number of residents who are first-time volunteers for Village committees and activities. As someone who is "returning to service" this time on the Council, I have been tremendously heartened by meeting these "new" (some have been in VMA for years!)

faces. Their work is vital to the health of our Village and we all owe them a big thank-you. So, here's mine... THANK YOU!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Centennial Celebration on Saturday, April 17th, from from 2:00-5:00 pm at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase if not before then!

Sincerely,
Richard Krajeck
Council Chairman

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UPCOMING EVENTS



- **4/12/2016:** Nominations for Village Council due to the Elections Committee along with Candidates' Statements
- **4/17/2016:** Centennial Celebration at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase 2-5 pm
- **4/21/2016:** Monthly Council Meeting at 7:30pm in the Village Office
- **4/28/2016:** Candidates Forum at 7:00pm in the Village Office
- **5/12/2016:** Celebration on the Sidewalk, including the Village Election and Annual Meeting in the Brookville Market Area (Polls are open from 5-8pm and the Annual Meeting will follow)
- **5/14/2016:** Bulk Trash Pick-Up

- **6/4/2016:** Shred-It Event (tentatively scheduled for 10am - 1pm)

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HOT TOPICS

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.

Village residents do not pay any additional income tax to live in Martin's Additions. 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 5.)

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COMMITTEE UPDATES



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

The Centennial Celebration is right around the corner! On April 17th, join your neighbors at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase (7931 Connecticut Avenue) for music, entertainment, finger foods and drinks. The Committee would love to see you there! So far, there are more than 70 registrants. RSVP to the Village Office (email: assistantvma1@gmail.com or telephone 301-656-4112) by March 31 if you have not already!

The Centennial Celebration Committee is excited to announce that Anthony Blake Clark will provide the music for the Celebration. Conductor and composer Anthony Blake Clark is one of the most exciting and fresh young voices in classical music today. He has conducted ensembles in the US, the UK, and the Czech Republic. Clark is currently the Director of Music and Worship Arts at the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church, Artistic Director of the Richmond Women's Chorus, and Co-Founder/Principal Conductor of *Pro Ecclesia/Texas Baroque Ensemble*.

Also of note, VMA-resident authors and artists are invited to sign up to display books, artwork, CDs and other crafts and artwork at the celebration. Please come share your talents with the community and make them part of the celebration!

Lastly, Montgomery County Department of Parks has donated a tree in commemoration of the Centennial, which was planted in Shepherd Park. Integrated Plant Care's Paul Wolfe donated his time, both planting the white oak tree donating his time to maintain it as well. A ceremony will be held to dedicate the tree and unveil a plaque.

- The Centennial Celebration Committee

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

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Nominations for Village Council are now open! Three VMA Council seats will be up for election on May 12. If you want to try something new, want to be more involved, or want to give back to the community, **we'd like to see your name on the ballot!** See our detailed announcement sent earlier this month for further information.

Nominations Process: Please email a short statement describing your interest and background to the Committee at VMAelections@gmail.com (or drop off your nomination at the Village Office) by **5 pm on Tuesday April 12**. In your statement, please respond to the following questions: (1) What diverse skills or background would you bring to the Council? (2) Why do you want to serve? (3) What are the most important issues the Village needs to address? Feel free to include anything else you'd like to share with Village voters.

All candidates will receive a copy of VMA's Election Rules and Procedures, will be asked to sign a standard conflict-of-interest disclosure statement, and will be invited to participate in a community forum for Village residents on Thursday April 28. The Committee will send an official election notice to all residents with the voting information and the candidates' statements.

Here's the 2016 VMA election timetable:

Sat March 12: Opening day for nominations.

Tues April 12: Last day for nominations + candidates' statements.

Thur April 21: Absentee ballot requests accepted. Stay tuned for more news from the Election Committee on how to get an absentee ballot!

Thur April 28: Candidates' Public Forum, 7 pm at the Village Office.

Thur May 12: **ELECTION DAY!** Voting and sidewalk celebration 5 to 8pm at the Village celebration in front of the shops.

Happy Spring and Happy Election Season!

Your VMA Election Committee,
Lee Ann Anderson (Chair)
Marty Langelan
Naomi Naierman
Steve Trowern
Natalie Welle

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SPOTLIGHT

Police and Safety



Each year, countless people are taken advantage of by "phone scammers". These scams can occur in a variety of forms. Some involve the caller stating that a family member or loved one has been in an accident and needs money wired immediately. Others have the caller stating that you are due to receive a large sum of money, and all you need to provide is a name and social security number. The most recent variation of this scam involves a person calling claiming to be with a law enforcement agency, claiming the target of the phone call has an active arrest

warrant.

They claim that this warrant can be satisfied by the wiring of money to a location. If you receive a phone call from a stranger asking for money, for any reason, take a deep breath and a step back. No official government entity will ever ask for money in this manner. Even if the phone number on your caller ID matches the number of a government entity, scammers have the ability to "spoof" caller ID's to say different numbers. Never give out any personal or financial information over the phone. Ask the caller for their name and the agency they work for. Ask questions. Do your own research. Most scams will begin to unravel with a little due diligence. For more information, [visit this link](#).

- Nick Picerno, Village Police Officer

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NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE OFFICE

Shredding Event June 4 Once again the Village will join Section 3 and Section 5 to provide a shredding service to residents. It will take place from 10 AM -1PM and the location will be at the intersection of Brookville Road & Taylor Street. Limit of 5 boxes or bags per family. Acceptable items include any documents you no longer need/want including those with staples or paper clips. Please do not bring:

- Three ring binders
- Spiral Notebooks

- Heavy metal clips
- Metal clasps or Clamps
- CD's or DVD's
- Floppy Disks

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. They have started on Raymond and Quincy Streets as well. There will be periodic water shut-offs scheduled; the Village office and WSSC will notify you before these occur. On Friday March 25, the crew accidentally struck a gas line on Bradley Lane and Washington Gas responded to fix it. 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.

Trees in the ROW: The Village schedules trimming of trees in the right-of-way as needed with the Village arborist. Please let the Village office know if a tree in the right-of-way needs attention.

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:

7304 Summit Ave: Storage Unit

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.

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BUDGET CORNER

Village of Martin's Additions Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Analysis

The Village's budget calculations for fiscal year 2017, beginning July 1, had to contend with two broader considerations, one negative and the other positive. The bad news comes from the U.S. Supreme Court's Wynne decision. In the past, Maryland had allowed taxpayers with income from other states to claim a credit on their state taxes for taxes paid elsewhere, but a credit was not allowed for county taxes. The Court held that credits should have been allowed for all levels of government. Martin's Additions will be required to refund revenues inappropriately received from income taxes to the extent that residents file for their previously disallowed credits. These refunds owed by the Village can be paid back over a 10-year period, thus reducing the immediate impact. Estimates from the state, county, and the Maryland Municipal League suggest that we may be exposed to approximately \$15,000 per year over the ten years. Since our total annual revenues are expected to be more than \$800,000, the Wynne decision impact should not be a problem.

The good news comes from the state comptroller's mis-assignment of addresses. In order to properly allocate municipalities' portion of the income tax paid by their residents, the state comptroller assigns each taxpayer to a specific jurisdiction. Mistakes were made over the years. Some neighboring towns will face hefty bills because addresses outside their boundaries were incorrectly assigned to those towns. When we first were informed of the problem, we noted that Martin's Additions had many more households than the number of recorded taxpayers, suggesting that the state may have mis-assigned Village residents to other jurisdictions. Indeed, that is just what happened. We recently received the bulk of the \$257,000 of misallocated funds, and expect the remainder by the end of March. Needless to say, we cannot expect this kind of windfall in future years, although our regular receipts should be somewhat larger than in the past because of the correction of the address errors.

Given these uncertainties, we thought it best to continue our conservative planning approach to be assured that we can meet the Village's service needs without a deficit. We are projecting next year's revenues to be about the same as the current year's. Actual income is running somewhat above projections, but the income tax is idiosyncratic as it can be driven by a few residents' tax bills, which can be highly variable from year to year.

An important, but not the largest, revenue source is the property tax. The tax rate will remain constant over the coming year; the state's assessment forecast is that this constant rate will generate the same revenues as last year.

On the spending side, we are reducing the allocation to two professional service categories, building reviews (-\$11,500) and legal (-\$20,000). Both categories were higher than expected last year because of substantial review of building codes and

permits by a new administrator, and because of a thorough analysis of our ordinances to assure that they were consistent internally and with a changing state legal code. After celebrating our 30th anniversary as an incorporated municipality last year, and our 100th birthday as a community this year, planned spending on community events will decline \$20,000 next year.

We foresee an increase in Village management salaries, largely because we were without full-time staffing during part of last year. Also, we would like to renew the office furniture, which we are currently budgeting at \$9,000, although this could change as we consider it in greater detail. A new initiative is a Village subsidy for planting trees on private property. We have allocated \$10,000 in a trial run to assess demand and program implementation.

Finally, two large projects await the new year, streetlights and road paving. In past years, funds were set aside for these capital improvements, giving us, literally, money in the bank for these large projects. As we conduct discussions with water, sewer, and gas utilities, we will have a better idea of their near-term plans for further work as well as their contributions to repaving costs. Better lighting and roads are on the way. Overall, we are planning a surplus of more than \$180,000, which should provide a buffer for any unplanned events in the future year.

We invite your careful consideration of the [budget documents](#). The spending plan will be formally adopted at the annual meeting May 12.

--Arthur Alexander, Council Vice Chair

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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 April 21, 2016

7:30 PM	Call to Order: Krajeck
	Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: Krajeck
	Update from the Election Committee: Anderson

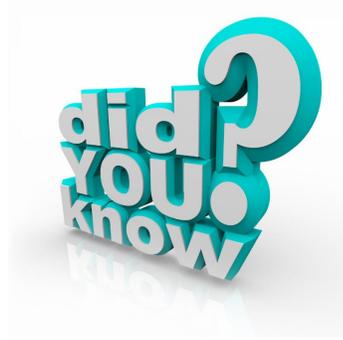
	Update from the Ethics Committee: Efron
	Update from the Centennial Celebration Committee: Naierman
	Action on Council Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2016: Krajeck
	Update on Street Light Improvement Projects: Hill
	Financial matters, including Treasurer's Report and FY17 Budget: Hill
	Manager's Report: Trollinger
	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.

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LITTLE KNOWN FACT

[Why are we celebrating the Village's Centennial in April?](#)



[In 1896,] Noted local developer Harry M. Martin had begun buying 35 and 50-acres plots from local landowners...They came from the historic 175-year old "No-Gain" tobacco plantation, from the Cummings family dairy farm, and from individuals who lived along the Brookville-Tenleytown turnpike, which became the Village's western boundary.

Harry Martin had seen the extensive efforts of U.S. Senator Francis Newlands and his investors to develop an upscale development called "Chevy Chase," and the interest that the 300-foot elevation offered residents during the steaming summer months. He envisioned an adjoining development for "average" folk, like government workers and small business owners.

--Paul Weller

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

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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
Matt Trollinger, Village Manager	301-656-4112	martinsadditions@gmail.com
Elizabeth (Beth) Boa, Assistant Village Manager	301-656-4112	assistantvma1@gmail.com

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HEARD ON THE SIDEWALK



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

Village of Martin's Additions, 7013B Brookville Rd, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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