

Martin's Edition

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

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Summer 2017

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Fellow Residents,

There is much to report in this month:

- I want to welcome Tina Lurie, our new Assistant Village Manager. Tina comes to us after a long career in the TV news world and as the volunteer head of an apartment complex of 310 units-the latter will no doubt be good training for working with our residents.
- At the beginning of the new Fiscal Year (FY), which started July 1, the Village is required to appoint volunteers for committees. For the new fiscal year, I am happy to report the following: Elections Committee Marty Langelan, Chair, Lauren Biel, Diane Everts, Doug Snyder and Jesse Tampio. Paula Goldberg



has agreed to continue her service as the Village Tree Supervisor. Marc Effron has agreed to continue as chair of the Ethics Committee; other members are James Joyce and Halie Soifer.

- I'm sure you share the excitement of the Community Engagement Committee. With their chair, Lauren Biel, they are off to a fantastic start. If you haven't already joined their new VMA Community Facebook group, please do so. I know it is the "new way" of communicating (or not so new to many), but I am personally clueless how it all works. Kristi Tampio has promised an educational session for those of us technology challenged. In the meantime, if you are having trouble, just ask your teenager or grandchild for help!
- The Council has adopted a two year program to reconfigure the office and to replace some of the chairs and furniture, If you've been up to the office, you will have seen some of the changes. We are grateful to the Studio of Sandra Ragan for providing both the architectural and design work pro bono. There will be two significant changes: the desks will be moved into one area, and the entry door will be moved, this will effectively divide space into two sections: the "office" and the "meeting" spaces. The design will afford better use of the space in a more professional manner.

For the first time in a couple of years, the Council hopes to have a vacation day: no meeting in August unless there is an issue that requires our immediate attention. I hope you have a great rest-of-the-summer!

-- Richard

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UPCOMING EVENTS



- **08/22/2017: Election Committee Meeting 8:00 PM**
- **09/04/2017: Labor Day**
- **09/09/2017: Bulk Trash Pickup**
- **09/21/2017: Council Meeting 7:30PM**

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HOT TOPICS

POLICE

As the dog days of summer drag on, there are many benefits that we can all enjoy. Long walks through the Village, playtime at the park, evenings spent on the porch, and vacations. However, unfortunately, this is the time of year when people take advantage of unsuspecting property owners. Property theft from vehicles and yards especially typically increase at this time of year. Thankfully, you don't have to be a victim of this type of crime. Please, remember to always lock your car doors every time park your car; also we suggest leaving a light on if you or your family are away, and ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your house if you are leaving for an extended time. If we all band together and remember to do these simple preventive measures, criminals will continue to look elsewhere for items to steal.

- Nick Picerno, Village Police Office

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

Community Engagement Committee

The Community Engagement Committee held its first meeting on Monday July 17th. Eight people came to the meeting. Ideas gathered at previous events for community

engagement were organized into "clusters," such as Street Captains, Communications, Events, and Kids' Engagement. Multiple residents expressed interest in getting involved in events, and Chris Schrader (Chestnut St.) volunteered to lead the kids engagement.

Additionally, Kristi Tampio (Summit Ave.) has volunteered to put together a Facebook Group to allow residents a social media platform to share information, ideas, and engage with one another. It is a closed group, and intended to be only for resident's of Martin's Additions. Kristi and Lauren Biel (Delfield St.) are the administrators of the group page, and will approve each request to join upon verifying the individual requesting is a resident. (*Note: this Facebook group is "unofficial" in the sense that it is not affiliated with the Village office, similar to the Google groups listserv.*)

If you have never joined a Facebook group before, it is super easy. Go to Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/> and under search type "VMACommunity" and it will bring up our group and ask if you wish to join. The group's administrators will receive a notice of your request and do a quick check with you of your address before allowing access. This allows residents to have a group contained of just our neighbors and is for all members to contribute to. Facebook group also allows any members to report anything of concern to the administrators or certainly to Facebook directly.

Although not an "official" page of the Village, we hope for this to be a platform that people leverage to share information and engage in each other's lives as we do with our own personal Facebook profiles, and ask for the same neighborly engagement and courtesy you would when chatting with your neighbors in person or on the listserv.

Finally, a big thank you to those who have volunteered to be Street Captains! We are still in search of a few more folks who'd like to help out in this way.

Streets in need of Captains:

Bradley Lane; Raymond Street; Melville Place; Cummings Lane; Shepard Street; Taylor Street; Summit Avenue; Delfield Street; Brookville Road (from Quincy to Thornapple - may break it up...).

If you live on one of these streets, or know someone who'd be great as a Street Captain, feel free to get in touch (or nominate a friend!).

To recap - here's what the role entails:

- Serve as a conduit to the Community Engagement Committee/Welcome Team when new neighbors move in, so that someone from the Committee can formally welcome them;
- Help to promote neighborhood events and neighborhood opportunities on your street;
- Occasionally be willing to distribute flyers on your block (if need be);
- Be willing to offer thoughts and feedback about how to make the Street Captain role even better and more meaningful

Thanks for pitching in!

Lauren Biel & Kristi Tampio

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SPOTLIGHT

County Pesticide Ban Struck Down

A Montgomery County Circuit Judge has struck down the County's ban on cosmetic pesticides on lawns. Originally passed by the County Council by a vote of 6-3, and set to take effect in January 2018, the law banned the use of EPA-registered pesticides on private lawns, county lawns, and childcare facilities and playgrounds that may cause cancer; and sought to limit use of pesticides only to those that are organically-based, or deemed to be of minimal risk according to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act of 1996. The law was the first of its kind for a major locality, according to the Washington Post.

The judge, Terrence McGann, found that the county ordinance would have disrupted the marketplace where lawn companies and citizens use pesticides for their businesses and on private properties. In addition, he wrote that the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the federal EPA already evaluate the safety of using pesticides.

The Washington Post and Bethesda Magazine both have full write-ups on the judge's decision.

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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 and others using the sidewalk.

Streetlights: Here's something to brighten your day: over the next couple of weeks, PEPCO will be finalizing a team to begin installations of new poles and replacing streetlights throughout Martin's Additions. Expect installations to begin mid- to late-August. This project has been in the works for many years, so it is exciting that we are coming to its culmination. One benefit of the long process is that we were able to save quite a bit on the overall cost of the project vs. original projections. In the long run, not only will the initial project come in significantly under-budget - in the six figures, in fact - but the Village's lighting bill should also be reduced as we move to more energy-efficient lights. The streetlights will also make our streets safer, eliminating dark spots and distributing light more evenly.

WSSC Returns: As you may recall (or deal with on a daily basis...), a few streets in the Village were not repaved in anticipation of WSSC returning to the Village, unfortunately - sewer line repairs this time!!! 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 originally anticipated work to begin in the late summer, but they have run into some issues on the contracting end of the work, so they have still not selected a contractor. They are now anticipating work to begin in late September or early October. Before any work begins they will have a public outreach meeting to go over plans and what to expect. We will make sure to keep you informed of any developments.

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: Extra copies are available in the Village office. The directory is published every two years, so the next update will be available in 2018.

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

July 2016 through June 2017

	Actual	Budgeted
Revenues	\$ 1,056,350	856,600
Expenses (excluding capital projects)	558,410	692,725
Net Income (revenues minus expenses)	497,940	163,875
Capital expenditures	\$ 865,205	
Designated funds less expenditures	\$ 584,795	

Reserve account (current assets less unspent designated allocations): \$1,890,248

As the fiscal year closed on July 31, revenues were near the record amount received last year. The largest source of increase has been the Village's share of state income tax. However, these revenues are unpredictable because they can depend on the tax payments of a few individuals recording unusually high incomes. In fact, the most recent payment from this source suggests that next year's receipts will be somewhat below the unexpectedly large amounts we received this year.

The latest analysis from the state comptroller shows that the Village's obligations under the Wynne decision continue to creep up at a slow pace, measured in the few hundreds of dollars per quarter. As the fiscal years for which these obligations are calculated fade into the past, we can expect increasingly tiny increments. The sum now stands at \$196,949, for which we have set aside \$200,000.

The total value of the funds allocated for capital and other expenditures, including future Wynne decision costs, is \$1,450,000. During this past year, we drew on this account to pay for street paving and street lights. As shown above, the remaining balance of \$585,000 should cover further paving expenses plus other capital improvements.

The present size of unallocated reserves should allow a reduction in the Village's property tax rate next year, unless we are hit by major surprises.

- Arthur Alexander, Village Council Treasurer

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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 September 21, 2017

7:30PM	Call to Order: Krajeck
	Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments: Krajeck
	Committee Updates: Marty Langelan (Election Committee); Lauren Biel (Community Engagement Committee)
	Action on Council Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2017: Krajeck
	Financial Matters, including Treasurer's Report: Alexander
	Manager's Report, including Leaf Vacuuming Contract, and WSSC Update: Trollinger
	Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments: Krajeck
9:00 PM	Adjournment: Krajeck

Click [here](#) to listen to a recording of the July 20th meeting. As of printing, minutes have not been finalized and posted, but should be shortly, so check back soon!

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LITTLE KNOWN FACT



The Council held its election of officers at the July 20 Council meeting. The officers are as follows:

Council Chair: Richard Krajeck

Council Vice-Chair: Tiffany Cissna

Council Treasurer: Arthur Alexander

Council Secretary: Susan Fattig

Council Member At-Large: Katya Hill

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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 building permit approval.

6809 Brookville Rd.

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

7210 Chestnut St.

Montgomery County 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 Montgomery County demo permit will expire soon. The owners will be renewing the Montgomery County 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 stones 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. The applicant has also submitted an application to add a two-story addition to the side and rear of the house. Staff is reviewing the application.

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.

105 Quincy St.

The staff has noticed that the homeowner is in the process of replacing the ex. driveway.

The homeowners have been advised that they need a driveway permit and a performance bond from the Village. We are waiting for both items to be submitted.

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. The staff has requested the applicant to provide a certified building height survey.

7200 Summit Ave.

The building permit for a bay window has been issued.

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.

Montgomery County Department of Transportation (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.

Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA) - Brookville Road

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.

A Morton Thomas (AMT) GIS Update

AMT last updated the Village 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 improvements, and any changes to trees within the Village right of way. The GIS update is on hold. The Village Request for Proposals has been issued and a responses were due by July 15th. The Village received multiple responses, and is currently reviewing.

--Doug Lohmeyer, Building Administrator

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HEARD ON THE SIDEWALK

WEATHER OUTLOOK:

July 2017 was the third wettest July on record in Washington, DC. Total rainfall was over nine inches officially. Temperatures for July were also above normal. So far it has been a hot summer, with June and July ranking in the top ten hottest June and July's together.

But it appears that August will be cooler and wetter than normal. Stalled fronts will contribute to higher than average rainfall, then tropical activity may lead to excessive rainfall in September. So do not expect many brown lawns in the coming months, and you may be able to save a little bit on water bills!

Also of note is the solar eclipse of the sun on August 21st. During midday on the 21st it will turn dark, temperatures will drop about ten degrees, birds will stop singing, and streetlights will turn on. We haven't seen a solar eclipse like this since 1979, and the next one will not occur until 2024 - so the wait won't be quite as long for the next one. So nobody worry, it's not the end of the world, just the wonder of our celestial universe. We'll just have to wait and see what Mother Nature serves us on that particular day. Have a nice rest of the summer, if not weather-wise, otherwise!

- 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:

Greetings to all and happy summer. To quickly recap progress re: the Village's food drive -- June turned out to be a VERY GOOD month! Thanks to generous cash and in-kind contributions, we delivered 652 pounds of shelf-stable items to Manna Food Center, the second best monthly total for the drive after January. We drove out with 212 pounds in mid-June and Debbie Brown carted out another whopping 440 pounds at month's end. So a big thanks to everyone who's donated to this most worthy cause.

We can't rest on our laurels, however. Hunger remains a persistent problem, even here in wealthy Montgomery County and even in the summer months, when school breakfast and lunch programs take a break. (Manna serves the entire county through a half dozen or so distribution sites.) We know that many of you will be away on vacation in July and August but if you have the chance, please drop off donations in the box by the stairs to the Village office or on Debbie's porch (3404 Taylor) or our porch (3406 Turner) and we'll make sure they get to Manna's warehouse in a timely manner. Thanks again.

-- Dick and Linda Kirschten

Chevy Chase At Home (CC@ H)

Chevy Chase at Home is sponsoring a number of events over the next month, including a "Brunch Bunch" on August 10th - an informal, no host gathering right in Martin's Additions at the Olympia Cafe. There will also be a showing of the movie Calendar Girls at the Chevy Chase Village Hall on Tuesday August 15th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. It is recommended that those interested register in advance of the event. Finally, on Wednesday August 23 at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, CC@ H volunteer Karen Stewart will be leading a talk on Backyard Birds and Beyond. This talk is open to the public and is aimed at those who are interested in starting to bird in this area. This includes:

1. Absolute beginners
2. Those who have birded elsewhere, but would like to get oriented to local resources and hot spots and
3. Experienced birders who wish to form a local group.

As always, residents can check the CC@H website for a calendar of events and any other information by visiting <http://www.chevychaseathome.org/>

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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