



Martin's^{ff} Edition

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

October 2015

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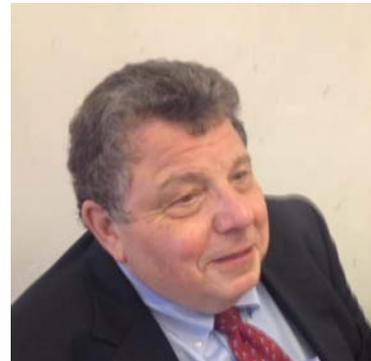
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A big thank you to Keith Allen, Sally Maran, and all the other volunteers that made our October 25 (Pre)Halloween Party and Parade such a success. Kudos to Tori for organizing this event. Only with residents' help can the Village continue to host such activities. The event was well attended and everyone seemed to have had a good time, especially all the young dancers who kept the dance floor rockin'.



I hope you've had a chance to review the first Village-wide survey results (see article below) and are also aware of the [Tree Committee recommendations](#). The Elections Committee is meeting in early November to put together policy proposals for Council consideration and adoption regarding the handling of Village Council

Elections. We will also be asking for volunteers for the Ethics Committee, so please start thinking about whether this would be a good way for you to get more involved.

On another note, I didn't realize what a hornet's nest would be stirred when I sent a letter to the Post Master General. A couple of our residents came to the October meeting and complained about the recent postal service and that seems to have struck a nerve. We (the Village office and Council members) have heard many stories of residents getting mail that was delivered in error, and was actually addressed to another town in another State. One resident asked for her mail to be held while she was away, but it was dutifully delivered. Thanks to an observant neighbor who picked up her mail every day! On the day my letter was sent to the Post Master General, it seemed ironic that the Village Office received 4 pieces of mail from surrounding neighborhoods. In case you're wondering, we haven't yet received a reply from the Post Master General. We'll keep you posted.

Lastly, next April, the Village of Martins' Additions will be celebrating 100 years since legislation was passed to make us a special taxing district. We think it is a worthy date to note and have been looking for both ideas on how to celebrate the occasion and to recruit volunteers to help put a program together. If you have ideas and/or would like to volunteer to help, please let us know. We won't be able to do this without you!

Happy Halloween!

Richard Krajeck, Council Chairman

UPCOMING EVENTS



- **10/23/2015: Leaf Bag Delivery Begins**
- **10/26/2015: Street Cleaning Begins**

- **11/5/2015: Public Hearing for Variance for 3507 Turner Lane**
- **11/19/2015: Monthly Council Meeting**

WSSC WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has notified the Village that they and their subcontractors are gearing up for water main, fire hydrant and water meter replacements on four streets in the Village of Martin's Additions starting on or about Monday, Nov. 16th (exact date still TBA). Affected streets are Bradley Lane, Melville Place, Quincy Street, and Raymond Street. Bradley Lane will be done first, but the sequence after that is also TBA.



This project will take several months to complete. The ultimate duration depends on factors like weather and staging logistics. This project will undoubtedly be an inconvenience -- but it's simply and unavoidably necessary to upgrade the centenarian water pipes. Here's a link to a WSSC website describing some basics about our aging infrastructure and why this project is needed:

[WSSC video](#). Once replaced, the new pipes shouldn't need replacing for another century, so we may not even get to tell our grandchildren about how we endured the last replacement!

WSSC and its subcontractors apologize in advance for the hassle; please know that they'd like to be done with this project just as much as we want them to be done. In the meantime, let's all treat them courteously as they will be our neighbors for the next few months. I will do my best to communicate to you the project steps and to ask WSSC to arrange logistics to balance both expediting the project and minimizing the hassles for residents. But stuff will happen: traffic may get obstructed from time to time, digging up streets and cutting pipes will be noisy, and trenches may appear in the public right-of-way. WSSC has assured us that they will put safety first. WSSC also assures us that they will NOT need to enter any homes to complete this project, nor go more than three feet from a property line.

In addition, the periods when water service will be interrupted should be extremely brief since WSSC will keep the old lines operating until ready to switch over to the completed new lines.

As a first step, WSSC will ask Miss Utility to mark the location of all utilities, including the location of the existing water lines. More information to follow, and please contact the Village Office if you have specific concerns so that we can work as effectively as possible with WSSC and its subcontractors.

Tori Hall, Village Manager

STREET LIGHTS PROJECT



Replacing outdated lights has been discussed in VMA since the late 1990s. At that time it was clear that the market was moving away from the inefficient incandescent light fixtures. What was less clear was which new technology would evolve and last in the market for the longest term. This is one of many reasons why no decision has been made for over 15 years. During this time many more technologies have become available while others fell out of favor. We are now able to assess what lighting options are available based on the experience of other municipalities, recommendations from our lighting consultant and published research from various institutions.

Village of Martin's Additions has approximately 80 light posts with mostly incandescent lights. Pepco recommends replacing all incandescent light fixtures with more modern technology due to the impending discontinuation of production on these fixtures. Incandescent lights are inefficient compared to newer light fixtures. Replacing lights would reduce the amount of energy consumed by VMA street lights.

Approximately 6 years ago VMA hired a lighting consultant. The lighting consultant studied the street lights we currently have in the Village and presented his findings and recommendations. This work resulted in installing 2 pilot flights on Bradley Lane in 2014.

Lights are being replaced everywhere in the United States but the needs of each

municipality are different. It is important to consider the width of our streets, how well the light fixture illuminates the street, whether it complies with the Dark Skies Initiative and how well it fits into the neighborhood esthetically.

Learning from the experience of the surrounding municipalities and leveraging the recommendations from our lighting consultant, we have compiled data on several acceptable options for our Village. In the coming weeks, residents will receive an invitation to participate in 2 surveys. The first survey will contain an overview on the types of lights that are under consideration. Benefits and drawbacks of each type will be summarized. We will also provide a map with locations of pilot lights for residents to see the lights in person. The second survey will come out a few weeks after the first survey is completed. This survey will focus solely on aesthetic appearance of available light options, for example the shape of the light fixture, color of the skirt, etc.

We encourage all of you to participate in the 2 surveys to share with the Council your opinion on street lights. The Council hopes to make a decision on the new lights in the next few months, so we can all enjoy better lit streets for years to come.

Katya Hill, Council Treasurer

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

The Elections Committee is meeting to discuss elections process rules and procedures to recommend to the Council for adoption. Look for a public meeting notice soon!

- **ETHICS COMMITTEE**

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! Please be on the lookout for a call for volunteers in the near future.



SPOTLIGHT

Summary of First Annual Survey Results

Katya Hill, Council Treasurer



This year we started a new tradition and it's one I am proud of. The annual survey has given VMA residents an opportunity to voice their opinions, concerns and preferences regarding services the Village provides, Village operations in general, and any other topics that are important to them.

In order to prepare this year's survey, the Council met with a survey expert to review the questions and learn more about what we should expect. We were told that a successful survey has about a 30% response rate, with many surveys getting a much lower participation rate than that. The time of the survey expert was volunteered.

The survey was sent out via Constant Contact email to about 400 unique email addresses representing over 90% of village households. In addition, there were numerous reminders that were sent to residents through Constant Contact, on the listserve, and by posting signs around Brookville market. Paper surveys were made available to those who preferred to fill out a survey by hand.

By the time the survey was closed at midnight on September 30th, we received 106 responses, representing each street in the Village. This response rate is very good for a survey of this kind and it's even slightly higher than were told to should be considered success by the survey expert.

Some of the results confirmed what we anticipated, while others will give us an opportunity to improve Village operations. For instance, the vast majority of residents are satisfied with the services they receive, which was not a surprise. A reduction of services is not viewed as necessary at this point. Some residents would like to see an expansion of services, such as shoveling sidewalks for the elderly and disabled, additional police patrols (beyond 10 hrs per week what the Village currently provides).

There were a significant amount of positive responses about the new management and transparently of the new Council. On the other hand, there was also a group of residents that felt we can do better with communications. In particular, some expressed concern about availability of agendas and outcome of Council meetings. The Council takes this feedback seriously. Going forward we are implementing the

following changes:

1. Send push communications to Village residents prior to each Council meeting containing the agenda. That way residents can make a decision on whether they would like to attend the meeting.
2. Send push communications to Village residents after each Council meeting containing meeting agenda. By the end of the year we hope to improve the turnaround for this to one week past the meeting.

*"Push communications" means that residents will receive an email and do not have to take another action (for instance click on a link) to see content.

If you would like to to see the responses to each questions, click on the link below:

[Details of 2015 VMA Survey Results](#)

DRAFT AGENDA FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

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

DRAFT Agenda for November 19, 2015

7:30 PM	Call to Order: Krajeck
	Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: Krajeck
	Presentation of the Annual Audit for FY2015 of the Village by LSWG: Introduced by Hill
	Presentation of Recommendations Following the Legal Compliance Review by Funk and Bolton: Introduced by Cissna
	Update from the Election and Ethics Committee: Anderson
	Action on Council Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2015 :

	Krajeck
	Update from the Tree Committee: Alexander
	Continued discussion of (or introduction of) various amendments to the Code of Ordinances collected over the years: Cissna
	Discussion of Street Light Improvement Projects: Hill
	Financial matters, including Treasurer's Report: Hill
	Manager's Report, including WSSC water line replacements: Hill
	Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: Krajeck
9:30 PM	Adjournment: Krajeck

LITTLE KNOWN FACT

A note from our Village Tree Supervisor: Let's Appreciate the Wasps and Bees

There seems to be a mindset by some in Martin's Additions and elsewhere that we should eliminate anything that might conceivably hurt or even annoy anyone. This thinking led to the recent destruction of a marvelous hornet's nest located high in a tree in our neighborhood. Hornets are a type of wasp, as are yellow jackets and paper wasps, and like most (female) wasps, they can and will sting if sufficiently disturbed. However, most wasps and bees (such as the honeybee, bumblebee, and carpenter bee) are not aggressive and will not sting unless provoked. Sadly, very few honeybees and bumblebees or paper wasps are now seen in our village. This is unfortunate because all these wasps and bees (including hornets) are significant pollinators of our flowers and vegetables. In the absence of honeybees and

bumblebees we have carpenter bees (which are effective pollinators and almost never, if ever, sting) and wasps, including hornets and yellow jackets. These, and various others, are the insects we have left for pollination. We should not destroy them. Let's appreciate and avoid wasps and bees, and teach our children to do the same.

Sincerely,

Dan Gardner, Village Tree Supervisor



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HEARD ON THE SIDEWALK

Thanks to all who made our (Pre)Halloween Party and Parade a great success!



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

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