



September 2015

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The start of a new fiscal year is always a busy time: accounting records have to be prepared for the annual audit, a new Council was seated, and this year the challenges also included a hiring a new Village manager (stop by the office if you haven't already and welcome Tori Hall) and a new Building Administrator, Doug Lohmeyer. It is hard to believe just how much there is to do, but we're chipping away at it and I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you a few highlights.



1. Thanks to a lot of volunteers, we sorted all the Village documents and created and proposed a records retention schedule to the State of Maryland with a proposal of what records we will store and for how long and what records are eligible to be destroyed-a truly herculean project but a process that is required by State law.

2. We created a list of all the Village services that are provided by contractors-more than 30 of them-in one binder and are in the process of sending out requests for proposals for those contracts that are more than \$10,000 as required by the Charter and some of those that are less, but have not been bid in the recent past.
3. We openly called for volunteers for our Elections Committee (see their latest report is in this newsletter) and selected a new Council member from the slate they provided us. Congratulations to Susan Fattig of Melville place! Pursuant to the Charter, Susan will be eligible to run for Council in the next election. But, there will be three open seats this cycle, so please start thinking about it now!
4. We passed an Ordinance that separates what was the Elections and Ethics Committee into two separate committees; put in place policies for Village employment and for Village contracting (see the Village website); and are working to update the Code based on several years of note taking on things that need to be clarified or changed.

And just in case there isn't enough to do, WSSC has announced their plans to redo the water mains on Bradley, Melville, Quincy, and Raymond Streets. That work combined with streets that are already in disrepair will keep us all busy. We need resident volunteers to engage in the street lighting improvement and street repaving processes. If you have expertise or an interest in either of these areas, please contact any Council member or the Village Office. We would really like to have resident input throughout as these projects move forward.

You will see elsewhere in the newsletter a report from the Tree Committee, a report from Council member Katya Hill on the Village-wide survey-have you completed yours?-and an invitation for the annual Halloween Party at the end of Turner Street on Sunday, October 25th.

Finally, a thank you to all of you who have already volunteered to help us in so many ways. Your expertise and your time are invaluable to our community. Thank you for making Martin's Additions a better place to live.

Richard Krajeck, Chairman

## UPCOMING EVENTS



- **9/30:**
  - Village Survey closes (see your email or contact the Village Office)
  - Deadline to tell the Village Office if you do NOT need leaf bags
- **10/8:** Tree Committee Open Meeting (Village Office)
- **10/15:** Village Council Meeting (Village Office)
- **10/25:** Halloween Party (dead end of Turner Lane)

## HOT TOPICS

- **MEET SUSAN FATTIG OF MELVILLE PLACE**

Susan Fattig has been a resident of the Martins Additions community for 29 years, where she and her husband John raised twins J.P. and Elisabeth, now graduate students in Salt Lake City and Boston, respectively. She is looking forward to contributing her time and legal skills to the Village Council as it tackles upcoming reviews of our Charter, Code, regulations, policies, and contracts as well as it addresses community concerns.

Ms. Fattig is a Nebraska native and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Nebraska - Kearney (then Kearney State College). She received her J.D. from Notre Dame Law School, where she attended Notre Dame London Law Centre her second year.

Ms. Fattig has worked on health care, intellectual property, antitrust, and other matters for corporate and nonprofit clients. She also represented individuals in product liability cases involving pharmaceutical products and child safety seats, and has been active in political campaigns.

She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Integrative Strategies Forum, a nonprofit organization based in Silver Spring focused on global sustainable production and consumption.

- **UTILITIES**

As you know, Washington Gas, Washington Suburban and Sanitary Commission (WSSC), and Pepco are often in the Village working on various projects. Aging infrastructure and the occasional unexpected "event," seems to have one or more of the utilities in our area almost daily. We've all seen them! What you may not know, however, is that when they are in the Village for planned projects, the Village Office is usually notified in advance and given enough time to notify residents of the planned work. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. There are times when the utilities are in the Village for what is deemed "emergency" work. If that's the case, the utilities will more often than not, work first and notify later. While this is definitely not the ideal situation and we're constantly working with the utilities to ensure it is the exception, not the rule, we wanted to make you aware of one reason why you might not get advance notice of utility work in our area.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

In response to the solicitation of the Village Elections and Ethics Committee, which was circulated to residents on September 1st, five





residents expressed an interest to us in being appointed to the open seat on the Council. One resident previously submitted his statement of interest, which brought the total number of interested candidates to six. On September 17th, a representative of the Committee presented a slate of five candidates (one decided to withdraw to pursue another position with Village government) to the Council.

We were delighted with the response to our solicitation. Our five-member committee, now chaired by Lee Ann Anderson of Quincy Street, has been reconstituted by Council as your Village Elections Committee. We look forward to the next phase of our work: recommending for Council adoption Village elections process rules and procedures. We hope that the great response to our solicitation for the Council vacancy is an indication of the continued community engagement we hope will inform our work on your behalf. We will be meeting in the near future to plan this phase of our work, and we hope to see you all at our public meetings. We cannot do our work without you!

Lee Ann Anderson, Elections Committee Chairman

- **TREE COMMITTEE**

The Village's Tree Committee will present its report - findings and recommendations - at an open meeting on October 8, 2015, 7:30PM, in the Village office. We invite all residents to attend, listen, and offer their reactions, suggestions, and critiques.

If you haven't yet had a chance to read it, the complete report is posted online on the Village website, and in the coming days I will be sending you extracts. Below is a brief summary of the key



findings.

### Overview

Comparisons with earlier times reveal some worrying trends. Overhead photography going back to the 1960s indicates considerable tree loss. The reduction in the number of large trees became especially noticeable in the 1980s, driven by larger houses and increased paved areas. In the most recent data available (2013), however, the community did not experience a net loss over a four-year period. The images show the capability of large trees to significantly increase their spread, compensating for significant losses due to natural loss from age, house building, power line clearing, and storms.

We interviewed officials from several neighboring municipalities and collected information on their tree preservation programs. Several municipalities require permits to remove trees on residents' property. A key finding was that the administrative burden and costs to residents were high relative to the actual preservation of desirable trees.

A review of the scientific literature that estimates the value of trees found surprisingly uniform results. Trees pay, both from the monetary value added to properties and surrounding areas as well as the many non-monetary benefits. Canopy trees produce shade and cooler temperatures on summer days, reduced heating needs on cold ones, cleaner air, less carbon dioxide, absorption of storm water run-off, and buffering of strong winds. Additional benefits of large trees include their aesthetic value, their attraction of native birds and other wild life, and noise muffling qualities.

As a result of our research, we made four proposals. Several considerations motivated these proposals. Our urban tree population incurs constant losses through age, disease, weather, construction, and other hazards. There is a historical downward trend in the Village's urban forest. There are many

positive attributes of a healthy tree population. Of particular interest is that trees on private property increase not only a given lot's monetary value, but also that of its neighbors. More broadly, the entire Village benefits, both monetarily and through the many other values generated by the presence of trees.

### Proposals

- 1) The Village should subsidize and help implement the purchase and installation of native canopy trees. We found that often residents desire to plant, but do not believe they have the necessary information on sources, species, and service providers. Adding a private tree program to the Village's robust public plantings program could take advantage of scale economies. However, we suggest that the Village not bear the entire cost, but that property owners also contribute in order to create an incentive to care for the newly planted specimens.
- 2) The Village should require construction site plans to list the trees on the property that will be affected by development, which should help us identify trends in the future.
- 3) The Village should require that large canopy trees that are removed in connection with a building project be replaced.
- 4) The Village should require the planting of a net new canopy tree when significant construction is undertaken on a property that has no canopy trees, thereby enhancing renewal of the Village tree canopy.

The goal here is for the Village to take steps to maintain and enlarge the tree population on private property; I look forward to discussing this further in the near future.

Arthur Alexander, Tree Committee Chairman

## SPOTLIGHT: THE VILLAGE SURVEY



One of the messages the Council heard during the last election was the need to improve communication and transparency in the way the Village operates. With that in mind, the Council consulted with an experienced survey-maker to craft a brief, initial survey so that we could hear directly from Village residents on a number of issues. We wanted to gather information that would help us to begin to set a baseline for future performance as well as collect information that will be considered during future resource prioritization and allocation discussions.

**The new annual survey of Village residents opened on September 15th and will remain open for a full two weeks before it closes on September 30th.**

- If you are a resident of the Village and you're receiving this email, you should have already received an invitation to fill-out the survey. If you have not yet responded to the invitation, please do, it only takes a few minutes.
- If you are a resident of the Village and you're receiving this email, but did not receive the link to the survey, please contact the Village Office at [martinsadditions@gmail.com](mailto:martinsadditions@gmail.com) for assistance.

Please also know that while we encourage residents to respond to the survey electronically, there are some paper copies available in the Village Office as well. We want to hear from you!

Results of the survey will be discussed at the October Council meeting and will be summarized in the October newsletter.

Katya Hill, Council Treasurer

**DRAFT AGENDA FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

**Village of Martin's Additions  
Council Meeting  
7013-B Brookville Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815**

**DRAFT Agenda for October 15, 2015**

7:30 PM	Call to Order: Krajeck
7:30 PM	Swearing in of Susan Fattig, new Council member: Krajeck
7:30 PM	Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: Krajeck
7:40 PM	Update from the Election and Ethics Committee: Anderson
7:50 PM	Action on Council Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2015 and September 24, 2015 and October 8, 2015 : Krajeck

7:55 PM	Update from the Tree Committee after Open Meeting held October 8, 2015: Alexander
8:10 PM	Presentation of the results of the First Annual Village Survey: Opened on September 15th and closed on September 30th: Hill
8:25 PM	Continued discussion of various amendments to the Code of Ordinances collected over the years: Cissna
8:50 PM	Discussion of Street Light Improvement Projects next steps: Hill
9:10 PM	Financial matters, including Treasurer's Report: Hill
9:15 PM	Manager's Report, including job announcement for Assistant Manager, contract administration, status of RFPs, Halloween Event planning, and public works projects developments: Hall
9:25 PM	Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: Krajeck
9:30 PM	Adjournment: Krajeck

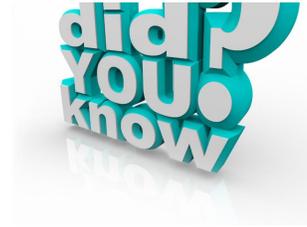
### LITTLE KNOWN FACT

Do you know how to ensure Tori, our new Village Manager's, name appears in your inbox when you receive an email from her? Instructions for Gmail below. Likely similar processes for others.

1. Sign-in to Gmail.
2. At the top left, click the little arrow down next to "Gmail" and select "Contacts."



3. Find and click the name associated with martinsadditions@verizon.net in your Contacts list.
4. Make sure the name is or change it to "Tori Hall" or "Village Manager."
5. In the upper right-hand corner, click "Save."



**CONTACT INFO**

<b><u>COUNCIL</u></b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
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	sefesq@aol.com

<b><u>OFFICE STAFF</u></b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>

Tori Hall, Village Manager	301-656-4112	martinsadditions@gmail.com
VACANT, Assistant Manager		

## 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

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