

Martin's Edition

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

January 2020

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FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Dear VMA Residents,

Happy New Year (almost)! We hope that you have shared the warmest of holiday cheer with family and friends this season and maybe even be fortunate enough to continue to do so for a few more days to come.

While it can be a challenge to get back into the routine, that is exactly what the Council will be doing in the new year. Pending the completion of the Charter amendment process, we will once again be back to "full strength" of 5 Council members and off to the races on middle of the fiscal year (FY) duties. For example, while our financial auditors just gave the Village its most recent "clean bill of health" presentation at the December meeting, it is time for us to evaluate budget execution for FY 2020-income and spending projections compared to actuals-and beginning to develop the FY 2021 budget. We will also be putting out a request for proposals for a professional review of our financial procedures to ensure that all the changes over the past few years (e.g.,

using Bill.com rather than paper checks to pay bills), many of which we have undertaken at the recommendation of our accountant and auditors, continue to be best practices.

More fun than financial audits, the Community Engagement Committee is hard at work on a winter event for adults, tentatively scheduled for late February or early March, and the Election Committee will soon be further publicizing the schedule for this election cycle. There will be three Council vacancies this year, so it is time for residents to consider whether called to serve our Village in this way.

Lastly, if your household is choosing to participate, do not forget to sign up for the new composting service as soon as possible. Residents may sign up by following the link on the Village website [here](#). As of today, we have more than 50 participating households (which means an approximately 50 percent savings over what residents would pay if they contracted individually)! Of note, Compost Crew will be in the Village Office Wednesday, January 8, 2020, from 6:30-7:30 pm to provide residents additional details and answer any last-minute questions before the program begins about a week later.

Please keep reading for additional details on VMA and related news! Again, we hope you shared joy-filled holidays with family and friends and wish you the happiest new year!

On behalf of the Council,
Tiffany Cissna
Vice Chair

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UPCOMING EVENTS



December 31, 2019	New Year's Eve - VMA office closing at 2 PM
January 1, 2020	New Year's Day - VMA office closed
January 8, 2020	Compost Crew info meeting, 6:30 PM-7:30 PM VMA office
January 16, 2020	Council meeting, 7:30 PM
January 20, 2020	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - VMA office closed

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SPOTLIGHT

VMA Holiday Trash Schedule

The schedule will apply due to New Year's Day holiday.

Monday, December 30, 2019, Trash & Yard Waste Pick Up

- *Holiday Tree Disposal*

Tuesday, December 31, 2019, Recycling Pick Up

- *FYI - Gift wrapping paper is recyclable but, the bows are not.*

Wednesday, January 1, 2020, No Trash Pick Up

Thursday, January 2, 2020, No Trash Pick Up

Friday, January 3, 2020, Trash Pick Up

Beginning, Monday, January 6, 2020, the Waste Management trash pick-up schedule will resume the normal set schedule.

VMA Office Holiday Hours

Tuesday, December 31, 2019, New Years Eve, the VMA will close at 2 PM

Wednesday, January 1, 2020, New Year's Day, the office will be closed

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NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE OFFICE

Dear Residents,

The meeting minutes from the VMA Council meeting held on Thursday, December 19, 2019, have been posted on the Village website.

Residents can locate the minutes, as well as audio recordings of each meeting at this [link](#).

VMA Composting Program



On Wednesday, January 8, 2020, from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM, the [Compost Crew](#) will host an info session at the Village Office on the following:

- * The problem with waste
- * Benefits of composting
- * How the VMA program will work?

The last day to [sign up](#) to receive a Compost Crew bin is January 8, 2020 at 8:30 PM, in time for the first pick up day, which is Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

If you sign up on or before Wednesday, January 8, 2020, a Compost Crew bin will be delivered to your home on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. If you missed this deadline date, you can sign up at any time.

As of today, VMA has **53 registered participants** in the VMA Compost Program. As a result of the VMA Contract, households that choose to participate will pay approximately 50% less for this service.

Village of Martin's Additions is excited to partner with Compost Crew, a locally-owned business based in Rockville, MD, to kick-start a food scrap recycling and composting service for VMA! Let us know you are interested to participate in the program by signing up at this link bit.ly/VoMACC

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS? Compost Crew envisions a world where all organic matter is recycled as nature intended, enabling the Earth's soil to regenerate itself and sustainably support all the lives that rely on it—from flora and fauna to our fellow humans. By diverting the compostable portion of our solid waste away from the landfill and returning nutrients to our soil and food system, we conserve valuable nutrients and improve the health of our local soil while significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

HOW WILL IT WORK? Compost Crew will supply each participating household with an airtight bin and compostable bags. Each household only needs to separate out organic waste, just as we already do with our plastics and paper, and leave the composting bin at the curb on Wednesdays. The waste will be processed at a permitted composting facility in Maryland. As an additional benefit, each household can request to receive finished compost twice per year. Compost Crew plans to launch collections in early January 2020.

WHAT CAN BE COMPOSTED? As a rule of thumb, anything that grows or is made from the Earth can go in the bin. This includes meat, dairy, vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds and filters, tea and tea bags, egg shells, breads and other grains, napkins, paper towels, pizza boxes, dryer lint, etc. A comprehensive list is located here: [The List](#).

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? Pricing will be tiered depending on the number of VMA participants. The monthly composting fee will be paid by the homeowner or resident.

If you are interested sign up at this [link](#). After the sign-up period, Compost Crew will announce a long-term discounted rate for the group based on the following scale:

- * less than 25 participants: \$20.00 / month / home
- * 25 - 49 participants: \$18.00 / month / home
- * **50-74 participants: \$16.00 / month / home (VMA as of today)**
- * 75-99 participants: \$14.00 / month / home
- * 100-149 participants: \$11.77 / month / home
- * 150-199 participants: \$11.36 / month / home
- * 200+ participants: \$10.95 / month / home

This represents a **40%-60% discount** off our normal prices for a single residential home. When calculating the long-term discounted rate for all community members, Compost Crew will include any existing VMA customers, but you must sign up at the link even if you are a current Compost Crew client.

If you have questions you can contact the Compost Crew directly at info@thecompostcrew.com or (301) 202-4450. You can learn more about Compost Crew at their website, www.compostcrew.com



Glass Recycling & Municipal Recycling Programs

Recently, you may have received an unsolicited flyer from a private business regarding glass recycling. Some of our neighboring municipalities are no longer offering glass

recycling as part of their standard, curbside recycling programs.

At this time, glass recycling remains part of the VMA contract with Waste Management. Any proposed changes to the services currently offered under that contract would likely require re-negotiation. If any such re-negotiation is required, the VMA Council would notify residents and may explore other options for glass recycling.

In case you were not aware of current trends in municipal recycling, please review [How recycling has changed in all 50 states](#) and scroll down and read information on the State of Maryland.

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AGENDA FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING

**Village of Martin's Additions
7013 Brookville Road (Suite B, 2nd floor)
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-3263**

Draft Agenda for Council Meeting

Thursday, January 16, 2020

The Village Council may entertain a motion during the open meeting to close a portion of the meeting, in accordance with Section 3-305(b) of the Open Meetings Act (Maryland Code, General Provisions Article)

7:30 PM	Call to Order: Cissna
7:31 PM	Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: Cissna
7:35 PM	Committee Updates
7:50 PM	Building Administrator's Report: Lohmeyer
8:00 PM	Financial Matters Alexander
8:05 PM	Manager's Report: Gaston
8:20 PM	Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: Cissna
8:25 PM	Adjournment: Cissna

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BUILDING BLOCKS

Building Administrator Report:

TO: The Council at the Village of Martin's Additions
FROM: Doug Lohmeyer

DATE OF MEMO: December 19, 2019

SUBJECT: Building Administrator's Report

7204 Chestnut St.

The Village issued the building permit on April 3, 2019. The construction of the additions is ongoing. The staff has requested a certified "Wall Check" that indicate the setbacks for the additions at the front and right side of the house. A variance was previously granted for additions.

The homeowner has also requested a right of way licenses agreement for the new white address post, which is being processed by the staff.

7210 Chestnut St.

The Village issued their building permit on Oct. 11, 2018. The applicant estimates the project will be completed in 2 to 3 months. As of this date, the permit has not been extended. The applicant has poured the new driveway along the left side of the lot. The proposed driveway and other improvements cannot exceed the 30% non-vegetative cap in the front yard. The staff will monitor the progress.

3521 Cummings La.

The Village issued their building permit on April 8, 2019. The construction of the new house is ongoing. The applicant has provided a "Wall Check" and a "Height Survey", which indicate the new construction is in conformance with the approved site plans and the Village Code.

3508 Shepherd St.

The original building permit has been closed and the applicant's performance bond has been returned. The Village has issued a building permit to the new owner for the construction of an enclosed back porch and balcony at the right rear of the house. The new addition conforms to the Village Code setbacks and does not exceed the R-60 building coverage cap.

3412 Taylor St.

The Village building permit has been issued on Feb. 4, 2019. The house construction is ongoing. The applicant has raised the elevation of the house because of a high ground water condition. The height survey indicated the new roof peak is 6 inches higher than what the Village Code permits.

A "Stop Work Order" was issued in Nov. and no work is taking place. The home builder has decided to modify the roof to lower the peak, so it conforms to the Village Code. The modification is being reviewed by MCDPS. Once the County signs off, the builder will be allowed to make the modifications to the roof only. The builder anticipates the modification will take 3 to 4 days, weather permitting. Once the builder submits a certified roof height survey indicating the modified roof is in conformance with the Village Code and after the staff completes a field and office review, the "Stop Work Order" may be lifted.

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.

3407 Thornapple St.

The Village issued their building permit on May 30, 2019. Work has begun on the new house construction. The applicant has submitted a "Wall Check", which indicated the new house is in conformance with the approved site plan and the Village Code.

Miscellaneous Items

The staff is presently working with the following properties:

1. The MSHA staff is investigating the ponding water situation at the Brookville Rd. and Quincy.
2. The MSHA staff is reviewing the ponding situation at Brookville Rd. and Cummings La.
3. The staff has been in contact with three property owners regarding future improvements to existing house in the Village.
4. The staff is interviewing GIS/IT contractors to update and maintain the Village in-

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HEARD ON THE SIDEWALK

Manna Update:

Let's Try to Keep it Going.

With one late-December run to Manna Food Center yet to go, our Village has thus far delivered 3,502 pounds of nonperishable goods to help our neighbors in need. That is a bit short of the 4,871 pounds donated last year and the 5,000-plus in the previous four years - but still a very respectable number. We thank everyone for their ongoing support and hope that we can keep the project, which began in the summer of 2008, going for yet another year. Despite the good economy, there are many Montgomery County families in need of help to put food on the table. Please contribute if you're able. There's a donation box year-round at the foot of the stairs to the Village Office. Thank you again for your generosity and weather permitting, look for a special event on MLK Day in January.

Montgomery Municipal Cable Inside Scoop:

Learn more about your local TV station on our [website](#).

Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA):

The [MVA](#) mobile office will begin its second year of service in [Friendship Heights](#), between 10 AM and 2 PM on the dates listed below to provide limited MVA services during the first half of 2020. The MVA mobile bus parks on Friendship Boulevard adjacent to the the Village Center. If you need a list of services the mobile service offers please visit this [link](#) or contact the MVA Call Center at (410) 768-7000

- Tuesday, January 28, 2020
- Tuesday, February 25, 2020
- Tuesday, March 24, 2020
- Tuesday, April 21, 2020
- Tuesday, May 19, 2020
- Tuesday, June 23, 2020

From Chevy Chase At Home:

LET CC@H BRIGHTEN JANUARY WITH YESTERYEAR COMEDY!

Remember Victor Borge? The New York Times called him an "irrepressible musical humorist..." and "the comedian of the keyboard." A concert pianist and conductor as well as a comedian, Borge hosted a popular TV series in the 50's and 60's. Recent neighbor Rae Cooper will bring some of her favorite episodes of the show and remind us of some of his most popular humorous moments. Prepare to chase away those winter doldrums with lots of laughs! Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall.

And come join us earlier in the month at Brunch Bunch, Jan. 9, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Olympia Cafe on Brookville Road. It's a great way to get together with neighbors for coffee and conversation. Just buy a cup and pull up a chair!

Chevy Chase At Home (CC@H) is a non-profit organization that helps local seniors "age in place." Full members have access to many exciting cultural, educational, social and health & wellness events. They also enjoy a broad array of volunteer-provided services, including home safety visits, rides to medical and other appointments, and computer assistance. All adults (60+) may join as Members, and adults of any age may become Associates and Volunteers.

JOIN CC@H NOW by calling 301-657-3115 or visiting www.chevychaseathome.org

Chevy Chase Library:

Please refer to the link below for information on the library:

[Chevy Chase Library](#)

Dog Walkers:

Reminder: All dog walkers are expected to clean up after their animal. The Village has numerous poop bag dispensers located throughout the Village. Here is a synopsis of the Animal Defecation ("pooper scooper" law) (Montgomery County Code, Sec. 5-203(a)(2)) -

An owner must not allow an animal to damage or defecate on property outside of the owner's property. An animal may defecate on public property or the common area of property in which the owner shares an interest if the owner immediately removes and disposes of the feces by a sanitary method. Feces may be picked up in a plastic bag. If this bag is placed inside another plastic bag, it may be put out for disposal in your normal household trash.

While residents are generally expected to provide their own plastic bags for pickup, the Village encourages use of the poop bag dispensers when needed. We ask that you to let our office know if any dispensers are empty. Please note that disposal of bags is still the dog walker's responsibility.

The following link has further information on laws related to animal cruelty, and other public nuisances:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices/asd/laws.html>

Thank you, and we wish you and your four-legged friends a great day!

Maryland District 18 Delegates:

**District 18 Delegates
Town Hall**

rescheduled for

Monday

January 6th

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Garrett Park Town Hall

10814 Kenilworth Ave.

**Join your state elected legislators for a
Town Hall about the issues that are
important to you. This event is free and
open to the public.**

[Map of Maryland Legislative District 18](#)



Weather Outlook:

Season's greetings everyone,

December has been normal for temperatures and precipitation, with enough snow to whiten the ground. The end of the month going into January will be very dry and mild. No white Christmas anywhere around here. Ten years ago, we had two feet of snow on December 19-20, 2009, so there was plenty of snow left on the ground Christmas Day. But, heavy rain fell most of the day and Christmas night with the temperatures Christmas night reaching 60 degrees. By the end of the next day, most of the snow was gone. It was the most snow ever in December and one of the top 10 snowstorms on record for Washington, DC. The two coldest Christmas days on record were 1980 and 1983 when the mercury during the day was between 10-15 degrees with the wind chill factor below zero. The warmest Christmas day was 1964, with 72 degrees, 1965 with 69 degrees and 70 degrees in 1982. Even with those back to back unseasonably warm Christmas days, the 1960's had the most white Christmas days on record, dating back to 1872. On Saturday, Dec 21, the winter Solstice occurred, which is the official first day of winter and also marks the shortest day of the year. The good news is that days will be getting longer going forward. The sun is at it's lowest point in the sky on that date.

Keep in touch with us at the weather center when winter storms threaten.

Happy holidays to all from Keith, Riley and David!

[Keith Allen, a 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.

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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CONTACT INFO

VMA COUNCIL MEMBERS		
Name	Phone	Email
Tiffany Cissna, Vice Chair	202-536-7424	cissnafamily@gmail.com
Arthur Alexander, Treasurer	301-718-9787	arthur.alexander@att.net
Susan Fattig, Secretary	301-951-9578	sussan.fattig@gmail.com
Katya Hill, Member-at-Large	301-718-1920	ka2shaz@gmail.com
Todd Mann, to be appointed on 1/16/20	301-642-6665	toddsmann@gmail.com

NEWS

The VMACouncil@googlegroups.com and any other VMA Gmail accounts are no longer active. Please see below....

The [Maryland Open Meetings Compliance Board](#) has recently stated that an e-mail discussion can be considered a "meeting" under certain circumstances if the discussion concerns the Village business. The Open Meetings Act requires "meetings" to be open to the public. Accordingly, e-mail discussions among a quorum (three) or more of the Council may violate the Act, if deemed a "meeting."

Due to this ruling and the advice of legal counsel, the Village Council has discontinued the use of the single google-group e-mail address that was previously used to

correspond with all Council members at one time. Residents are still encouraged to e-mail the Council members. VMA Council wanted residents to be aware that a quorum of the Council may not engage in certain substantive discussions over email. (Please note that e-mails are considered public records, and generally open to public inspection under the Public Information Act).

The list of the e-mail addresses for each VMA Council member is listed above.

<u>VMA OFFICE STAFF</u>		
Name	Phone	Email
James D. Gaston III, Village Manager	301-656-4112	manager@martinsadditions.org
Tina Lurie, Assistant Village Manager	301-656-4112	avm@martinsadditions.org

Notes:

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.

The VMA monthly newsletter is distributed to the Village on the last Monday of the month. If you wish to submit an article or news item for the newsletter, please submit your item by 5 PM on the preceding Friday. Any article or news item must meet the VMA newsletter criteria. [Policy No. 09-16-01-Policy for Contents of Martin's Edition Newsletter](#)

Please note:

The Village office does not administer the VMA neighborhood Listserv. To receive Listserv emails, please contact Bill Lebovich at architecturalphoto@mac.com
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Village of Martin's Additions

301-656-4112 (office)

301-656-0030 (fax)

www.martinsadditions.org