

**Village of Martin's Additions
Council Meeting
April 17, 2008
7013 B Brookville Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815**

Council Members And Village Representatives Present: Tim Price, Chairman; Noell Sottile, Vice Chairman; Richard Krajeck, Treasurer; Diane Everts, Secretary; Catherine Gwin, Council Member; Jean Sperling, Village Manager; Ron Bolt, Attorney; Alan Beal, Building Administrator.

Candidates: Richard Krajeck, Noell Sottile, Larry Wasson

Residents: Keith Allen, Hanne and Frank Correl, Lynn King, Larry Wasson, Deborah Metzger.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chairman Price.

POLICE REPORT. Officer Dasilva of the Chevy Chase Village Police Department presented the report. There was a report of an incident with an aggressive young woman at the market area hassling customers. The police talked to her and checked back to see if she had returned and she had not. A suspicious person's report was called in at Brookville and Taylor. No criminal activity was observed. Outside of Martin's Additions there was a report of a carjacking at Daniel Road (weapon involved) and at Meadowbrook and East-West Highway. For the past two weeks the County has had a Special Assign Team undercover constantly patrolling this area at night.

ACTION ON MINUTES. March 18, 2008 Monthly Meeting. Richard Krajeck motioned for approval of the minutes. Diane Everts seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

ELECTION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES.

Voter Roles Update. Committee Chairman Frank Correl reported that a draft of voter roles has been completed by Grace Novack who was hired to assist the Village Manager in this task. He complimented Mrs. Novack, as did Jean, for her fine and prompt work.

Candidates Forum Introduction. Mr. Correl explained that there are three council positions available for terms beginning July 1, 2008. Current Council members Richard Krajeck and Noell Sottile have chosen to run again. Larry Wasson of Delfield Street has also declared himself a candidate.

- **Richard Krajeck** of 3500 Bradley Lane, is currently serving as Treasurer. Richard discussed some of the contributions he has made to the Village as the Treasurer and how he has enjoyed working for the residents of Martin's Additions. He read his full statement into the minutes. It is attached to these minutes.
- **Noell Sottile** of 3508 Cummings lane is currently Vice Chairman of the Council. Noell has been on the Council for four years and she has enjoyed getting to know and work with the other Council members. She feels that the Village character remains strong and that our cooperative community spirit will serve us well. She also recognizes the importance of working with the surrounding communities. Her full statement is attached to the minutes.
- **Larry Wasson** of 7223 Delfield Street, has lived in Martin's Additions since 1979, has been active with the Chevy Chase Fire Board, the sidewalk committee, and tree committee. He has also been active in the Bethesda Green Coalition, and Montgomery County Consumer Affairs. He feels that there is a gap between what the residents know and see and what the Council does. He would like to work to improve that relationship. His full statement is attached to these minutes.

Questions for the Candidates:

- Frank Correl asked what each candidate thought could be done to produce greater involvement by village residents in the Council operations and Village.

Richard stated that he would like to see additional involvement but was not sure how that might be accomplished. The Manager has made many efforts to get people involved but has been disappointed at the lack of response. Noell suggested that the Website, which the Village hopes to have up and running soon, will be a vehicle to improve the interaction. She also suggested that the list serv has helped, although its content is not directly related to official Village Council business. Larry discussed his interest in getting the young folks in the community more involved. He'd like to look at apprenticeship programs for kids, with the goal to build more neighborhood cooperation. He'd also like to set up a neighborhood cooperative program for carpooling for example.

- Resident Lynn King (Thornapple) stated that she felt the Village was spending a lot of money on consultants, and that other towns were more fiscally conservative. She asked why we had been spending so much money, especially in the last two years.

Noell commented that the Village spends within its budget except where major sidewalk and street repairs have been necessary to maintain the Village infrastructure. Richard explained that there were significant areas where we needed to make improvements. For example, the Village Survey is a crucial part of correctly identifying the Village right of way and defining our areas of responsibilities. It is also an important part of the zoning authority review process which the Village has just recently kicked off with the urban planning consultant. The purpose of the urban planning contract is to assist with examining building issues the Village currently is facing. Higher attorney fees have gone to improvements in the Village Code and to legal assistance for the Council in its deliberations. The Village also hired a building administrator to assist in the review and processing of building permits. The Council raised the permit fees to cover the cost of this position. The Council has also committed itself to infrastructure repairs in this year as well as in next year's budget.

- Larry Wasson asked Richard about the Village's Tax rate.

Richard said that the real property tax rate is negligible \$.008 per \$100 of assessed value. He noted that for the current fiscal year the Village had increased the tax on personal property of residents doing business within the Village boundaries more in line with the rate charged by surrounding jurisdictions. The bulk of our revenues come from the State income tax pass back to municipalities. Richard added that the County and the State might be very happy to take any reserved, unobligated funds from the municipalities. The County could lobby the state to reduce the amount of income tax passed through to the municipalities to change the way the law is written that transfers the money through the County to the municipalities.

- Hanna Correl (Turner Lane) asked why and how the County would be able to access monies belonging to the incorporated entities.

Richard explained that the County Council has apparently become very interested in the unallocated, or what would appear to be "surplus," funds that some of the municipalities are showing on their books. The Council did designate \$600,000 of our reserves to a capital fund for infrastructure improvements.

- Frank Correl asked what kind of strategy might be developed in conjunction with other municipalities to protect our revenues.

Richard explained that the Montgomery Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League has been involved in this issue and Martin's Additions is working closely with them. Village Council members have attended the meetings with the County Executive and County Council. A liaison was recently appointed by the Village Council to routinely attend meetings (John MacDonald of Summit Avenue). Jean explained that the Municipal managers are working together to stay informed of the actions by the County Council and the work of the Revenue Sharing Task Force. This Task Force has been examining the county revenue sharing program -- a financial arrangement between the County and the municipalities that reimburses the municipalities for services that the County taxes for but that the Village provides and pays for. This seems to have brought the issue of funds available within the municipalities to the attention of the County Council. The Council could reduce or eliminate this payment for dual taxation.

- Debbie Metzger of Taylor Street asked for an update of the status of the Land Use Task Force.

Noell and Richard referred Debbie to recent information in the Village newsletters for information on the work of the Task Force to date. Noell noted that the Town of Chevy Chase just adopted changes to their building ordinances and that Chevy Chase Village is getting close to completing changes to their ordinances.

- Lynn King asked the candidates if they would support a referendum or council vote on ordinance changes related to building regulations.

Richard said he didn't know and that he would have to have more information before he could make such a judgement; Noell replied "maybe"; and Larry Wasson was of the opinion that he would support a referendum.

RESIDENTS COMMENTS-There were no additional resident comments.

MANAGER'S REPORT. Village Manager Jean Sperling filed the following report summarizing some of the important actions this month:

- **Action on Items identified on the Village Walk-Through by the Council.** Cable lines were lifted at Brookville and Taylor and an extra telephone pole was removed. The need for the repair to the curb has been called into Pepco. Estimates are being developed for curb and sidewalk repairs that were noted during the walk. The cables hanging in large loops on the telephone poles (large orange loops) in several locations in the Village were properly hung by Verizon.

- **Initiated Action on Water Problem** at 3407 Turner Lane. Jean met with Bill Bissell, an engineer who specializes in water issues, regarding the water problem at 3407 Turner Lane. He is reviewing the problem and waiting for a large storm to watch the water problems.
- **Hired Grace Novak** to assist with Directory changes and voter roles. Her work is about 95% complete.
- **Repair of Storm drain completed.** The Storm drain repair and rebuild at the exit to the parking lot on Turner Lane was completed on Tuesday April 15th. There were no complications.
- **Website Draft** has been received. Changes will need to be made but haven't been addressed yet.
- **Capital Crescent Trail Event May 31st.** Martin's Additions has been asked to serve as either a co-host or friend of the trail in this project initiated by TOCC. Noell and Jean attended a meeting about this event. The Council did not support the notion of being a co-host. Catherine suggested using the list serv to inform residents but that the Council not take a position.
- **MML Convention.** Noell and Jean have confirmed attendance and made reservations at the convention in Ocean City at the end of June.
- **A. Morton Thomas Village Land Survey.** Jean was unable to give a progress report of the Village Survey because she has not heard back from the Surveyor.
- **Traffic Signage Project.** New "No Parking Signs" have been ordered for a cost of about \$1,500 for 120 signs. Installation estimates are in the works. It is hoped that installation costs will not exceed another \$2,000 but it is difficult to anticipate the actual time it will take to replace all signs.
- **Village picnic.** Suggested for the Sunday before the 4th of July, June 29th. Several council members indicated that they will not be available on that date.
- **Dog Waste Bag Dispensers** were installed in five locations. They will be monitored for use to see if they could be better placed. Jean also said that she would check with residents to see if they witness any improvements in the conditions of the right of way.
- **A Sidewalk Festival for the Election** is being considered as a way to bring residents out to vote and a social gathering while the polls are open. Jean said she would report back to the Council when the plans are firmer.
- **Agenda for Annual meeting.** Catherine suggested that Jean prepare a list of highlights that the Council might wish to present at the annual meeting and circulate it. The Council also suggested that committee members and residents volunteers might also want to speak.

TREASURER'S REPORTS: Presented by Richard Krajeck, Treasurer.

Month of March Financial Report. Income for the month of March was about \$8,160 of which \$2,000 was from Highway user fees and \$4,900 was from income tax rebates. Expenses for the month totaled \$33,180. Some of the larger monthly recurring expenses included rent at \$1,900, legal fees at \$3,370, CC police contract for \$3,500, waste collection and recycling at \$6,850.

Income for this fiscal year—July 2007 through March 2008 is \$416,500. Expenses for the same period are \$513,400 for a drawdown of reserves of \$96,900. The Council has completed a review of the Village Manager's compensation. The Council has recognized that the position of Village Manager is a full time position and has made a salary adjustment that reflects changing the position from a part-time to full-time. The Council used a recently completed comparison of the salary and benefits for village managers with similar responsibilities in the near-by areas. In order to remain competitive, the Council is also authorizing the payment of benefits: medical insurance reimbursement up to \$500 per month and an annual contribution to a retirement program equal to 6% of the employee's annual salary. The salary was increased to \$62,000 per year effective April 1, 2008.

The Council has expressed deep gratitude to Jean for the tremendous job she has done and is doing as Village Manager. The job responsibilities have changed dramatically over the past couple of years and the Council recognizes the significant contributions made by Jean in keeping Martin's Additions up-to-date and for efficiently and effectively carrying out the duties of the village manager.

There were no questions. Richard moved for approval of the report. Noell seconded and all voted in favor.

FY 2009 BUDGET AND TAX RATES INTRODUCTION

Budget Overview

During this current Fiscal Year, the Council and Village Manager have accomplished many goals, including:

- 1) Replacing and repairing sidewalks and curbs on Raymond, Melville, Bradley and Quincy streets;

- 2) Completing a traffic study of the Village which resulted in lowering the speed limit to 20 MPH and implementing a consistent and rational placement of traffic related signage that would be enforceable;
- 3) Implementing a program of replacing Village trees in exchange for granting construction permits which required the removal of Village Trees; and
- 4) Hiring an Urban Planning consultant and appointing a Land Use Task Force to explore possible zoning changes within the Village that address citizen concerns.

As you will see when reviewing the proposed FY 2009 budget, the Council continues to be concerned about the Village infrastructure. In fact, we are proposing \$200,000 for this next fiscal year, which, while a representing reduction from the \$240,000 spent in the present fiscal year, still represents a substantial commitment.

We have also included increased funding for legal review of our Ordinances which we anticipate doing at the same time we are reviewing any recommendations for zoning changes by the Land Use Task Force. While we have partially addressed the issue of adequate staff time required by the substantially increased Village workload, the proposed increase in Salaries and Benefits includes hiring a part-time staff person who would initially be responsible for Council and committee meeting minutes.

While much work has been accomplished, we continue to see a high priority for the repair and maintenance of Village infrastructure—our largest single expense. Once again, we are planning to draw down Village reserves to accomplish our goals: for FY 2009, the drawdown is projected to be \$110,005 leaving us a projected reserve of \$971,240 of which \$600,000 has been designated for future capital improvements. We do not take this step lightly: as stated before, a significant economic downturn could have immediate effect on our income; a major storm that damaged our trees and streets could quickly use up a substantial portion of our reserves. However, we believe that on-going efforts to maintain our infrastructure on a year-to-year basis will yield significant long-term cost savings.

FY 2008 EXPECTATIONS: Amendment to original FY 2008 budget.

The Council met in a working session on Thursday, April 3, 2008 to review the current Fiscal Year—2008—projected income and expenses. Income projections were lowered from \$683,699 to \$676,705. We are projecting income reductions from County Revenue sharing from \$28,249 to \$16,920. The County Revenue Sharing—or tax duplication payment—is paid by the County to the Village to compensate the Village for services that the Village provides, but for which the County otherwise taxes, such as waste management, snow plowing, street and sidewalk maintenance as examples. The County has taken the position that it will reimburse municipalities for those expenses only to the extent that the Village collects Real Property Tax from their residents. Because our Village Property Tax rate is 0.008 cents per \$100 assessment, our Village only collects about \$17,000—the extent of the County reimbursement.

We reduced projected Highway User Fee income from \$43,000 to \$39,000. Interest income projections were lowered by \$5,000 from \$60,000 to \$55,000 reflecting lower interest rates and a drawdown of our reserves. We increased income for Permit Fees by \$10,000 from \$20,000 to \$30,000. This reflects an increase in our permit fees. We have collected nearly \$25,000 to date. We also increased our Real Property Tax income projections by \$2,300 from \$17,000 to \$19,300 reflecting increased real estate values and new construction.

With regard to expenses we have lowered projected total expenses from \$802,000 to \$786,710. Rather than identify each expense, I am going to summarize by category: General Expenses such as rent, insurance, printing, etc., have been reduced from \$92,000 to \$89,635; Salaries and Benefits have been reduced from \$69,700 to \$65,500; Professional fees increased from \$190,500 to \$195,200; Streets and sidewalks increased from \$252,500 to \$269,500; Waste and Recycling was reduced from \$97,900 to \$86,375 and Other which includes trees, community events has been reduced from \$99,400 to \$80,500. Total projected expenses have been reduced by \$15,200.

This new projection of income and expenses will result in a drawdown of reserves by \$110,005 leaving us a projected reserve of \$971,240 of which \$600,000 was been designated by the Council for capital improvement reserves earlier in the fiscal year.

Richard Krajeck motioned for approval of the amended 2008 Budget. Tim Price seconded the motion. All voted in favor

PROPOSED FY 2009 BUDGET.

For FY 2009, projected income is set at \$650,920 or about \$26,000 less than the current fiscal year. The budget is built upon the current real and personal property tax rates of \$.008 and \$.50 per \$100 respectively—

no change is being proposed for the next fiscal year's budget. The largest reductions are in Highway User Fees: \$1,000; and interest income: \$15,000 due to declining interest rates.

For FY 2009, the largest increase in expenditures is in Salary and Benefits as the village manager position is now full-time with benefits previously described, and the Council is looking to hire a part-time person to do the minutes for the Council and committee meetings. We are projecting a decrease in Professional fees which this year included the services of an Urban Planner as we consider possible zoning changes. We are increasing the funds for Street & Sidewalk maintenance as we want to repair the streets that are developing pot holes and cracks. We are hopeful that an early investment in street maintenance will reduce costs in the years ahead and will give the village a longer useful life for streets before requiring full replacement. We have offset the increase in maintenance with a decrease in Capital Improvements for this Fiscal year. We are projecting an increase in Waste & Recycling because of higher fuel costs.

Projected expenses for FY 2009 are \$764,400 or \$22,300 below FY 2008. We are projecting a drawdown of reserves (expenses greater than income) of \$113,480. The Council is being very aggressive in addressing street and sidewalk maintenance and replacements. In the current fiscal year, FY 2008, we are projecting to spend \$240,000 on our infrastructure and budgeting another \$200,000 for FY 2009. We believe early investment in repairs of the streets will save money in the long run. We also, frankly, have some street and sidewalk issues that pose a safety hazard and require action.

The Council is concerned about the drawdown of reserves: including the \$600,000 designated for capital improvements, our projected reserves will be \$857,760 at the end of FY 2009. The Council is also concerned with reduced interest rates and an economic downturn that could impact our income for the coming year. However, we believe our reserve levels are adequate to give us time to address future expenditures should income levels fall below projections.

Richard motioned to introduce the FY 2009 proposed budget at the Annual meeting on May 15th. Catherine Gwin seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION AND AMENDMENT TO SECTION 6-311 "Construction Hours and Noise Control" OF THE VMA CODE.

A resolution and amendment to Section 6-311 of the VMA Code ordinance was introduced by Chairman Tim Price. The proposal clarifies the ordinance to allow better enforcement of construction hours and noise restrictions. The ordinance itself is very similar to the County's except that is less burdensome to enforce because it does not include the measurement of decibels. It does not prevent the County from enforcing its regulations within VMA, nor would it prevent the Village from asking the County to measure noise levels when necessary.

It will be discussed and public comment will be received, as per Charter requirements, at the meeting on June 19, 2008. If adopted at that meeting it would become effective on July 9, 2008. Richard Krajeck seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The document is attached to these minutes.

COUNTY AGREEMENT RE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS.

The Village Council was asked by the County if Martin's Additions wishes to participate in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Block Grant and Home Investment Partnerships Program. These two grant programs provide a source of funding for a variety of neighborhood revitalization and housing programs in Montgomery County.

Ron Bolt, the Village Attorney explained that it might be possible that some of our elderly residents could benefit, but that much of the funds are directed at blighted commercial areas and intended to benefit low and moderate income persons. He also pointed out that there are potential problems associated with agreeing to be a part of this program. Ron explained that administrative burdens and costs could arise from executing the Cooperation Agreement, even if the Village didn't request "pass-through" funds. There are many federal and county laws to be complied with on an ongoing basis if the Village were to become a party to the Agreement. Most of the other surrounding jurisdictions do not participate in the agreement. Jean noted that there are other sources of funds available for housing repairs for the elderly through the state of Maryland's Small Cities CDBG program.

Richard Krajeck motioned that the Council reject the agreement; Noell seconded the motion. Four council members voted in favor; Catherine Gwin abstained, citing lack of sufficient information on the matter.

CONSTRUCTION REPORT: Alan Beal

- A permit was issued for Pendergast/King at 3409 Thornapple Street for an addition to the rear.

- We just received notice from the County that a permit has been issued to 3517 Cummings Lane (Rotrosen) for which we have no VMA Permit. This will be followed up.

OLD BUSINESS / AGENDA AMENDMENTS

In response to a question from Catherine, Ron explained that amending the agenda during the meeting is permissible under the Open Meetings Act. This Act states that notice must be given of the date, time and place of a meeting but a detailed agenda, describing all subject matter to be discussed, is not a requirement of the Act. Consequently, Catherine asked that the two following items be added for discussion:

Tree Protection Follow Up. Catherine asked that a follow up to the work session be scheduled to continue the discussion on protecting trees on private property that was begun several months ago. It was agreed that Tim would pull up the notes from the last meeting on this subject and share them with the Council.

Review of Council Assignments. It was decided that the Council would hold off discussions about selecting areas of responsibilities until the Election is over. Catherine stressed the importance of this exercise.

9:15 Adjournment. Diane motioned, Noell seconded, All in favor.

Ordinance No.: 4-04-1
Introduced: 4-17-08
Adopted:
Effective Date:

THE VILLAGE OF MARTIN'S ADDITIONS

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 6-311 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF MARTIN'S ADDITIONS TO EXPAND THE DESCRIPTION OF PROHIBITED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES DURING CERTAIN HOURS AND TO REVISE AND CLARIFY THE ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS

WHEREAS, Section 2(a) of Article 23A of the Maryland Code grants to the legislative body of every incorporated municipality in Maryland, including the Village of Martin's Additions, general power to pass such ordinances not contrary to the Constitution of Maryland or public general law as they may deem necessary in order to assure the good government of the municipality, to protect and preserve the municipality's rights, property, and privileges, to preserve peace and good order, to secure persons and property from danger and destruction, and to protect the health, comfort and convenience of the citizens of the municipality;

WHEREAS, Section 3(b) of Article 23A of the Maryland Code grants to the legislative body of every incorporated municipality in Maryland, including the Village of Martin's Additions, general power to provide that violations of any municipal ordinance shall be a municipal infraction;

WHEREAS, Section 501 of the Charter of the Village of Martin's Additions authorizes the Village Council to pass ordinances as it may deem necessary for the preservation of the property, rights, and privileges of the Village and its residents;

WHEREAS, the Village Council finds that excessive noise from construction activities during the early morning and evening hours harms public health and welfare and impairs the enjoyment of property;

WHEREAS, Section 6-311 of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Martin's Additions prohibits construction activities during certain hours that are conducted pursuant to a permit issued by the Village;

WHEREAS, the Village Council finds that it is appropriate to revise Section 6-311 to prohibit disruptive construction activities during prohibited hours whether or not such work is conducted pursuant to a permit issued by the Village;

WHEREAS, Section 6-311 provides the penalty for a violation but does not expressly set forth who is subject to a fine;

WHEREAS, the Village Council finds that it is appropriate to revise and clarify the enforcement provisions of Section 6-311 in order to expressly set forth who is subject to a fine;

WHEREAS, the Village Council finds that the amendments to Section 6-311 as hereinafter set forth are necessary for the good government of the Martin's Additions; for the preservation of the property, rights, and privileges of the Village and its residents; for the preservation of peace and good order; for securing persons and

property from violence, danger or destruction; and for the protection and promotion of the health, safety, comfort, convenience, welfare, and happiness of the residents of Martin's Additions;

WHEREAS, the Village Council introduced the following ordinance in public session assembled on the 17th the day of May, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council considered the following ordinance in public session assembled on the ___ the day of _____, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Village Council of the Village of Martin's Additions does hereby adopt the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 6-311 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF MARTIN'S ADDITIONS TO EXPAND THE DESCRIPTION OF PROHIBITED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES DURING CERTAIN HOURS AND TO REVISE AND CLARIFY THE ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS

BE IT ORDAINED AND ORDERED, this __ day of _____, 2008, by the Village Council, acting under and by virtue of the authority given it by Article 23A of the Maryland Code and the Charter of the Village of Martin's Additions, that Section 6-311 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 6-311. Work Hours and Noise Control.

- (a) No construction activities [~~pursuant to a permit issued by the Village to which this Article applies (no outdoor construction activities, including moving heavy equipment onto or off the site, or any indoor construction activities which could reasonably be expected to be disturbing to person beyond the boundary line of the property on which the construction activity is taking place)~~] shall commence prior to 7:00 a.m. on Monday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and all federal holidays. [~~Such~~] **Construction** activities shall end no later than 9:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, and 7:00 p.m. on Friday through Sunday.
- (b) **As used herein, "construction activities" means temporary activities directly associated with site preparation, assembly, erection, repair, alteration, renovation, construction, or demolition of improvements, or other activities, including but not limited to, moving heavy equipment onto or off the site, delivering materials, loading or unloading, operating equipment with audible "back-up" warning devices, allowing engines to idle, and any other indoor or outdoor activities which could reasonably be expected to be disturbing to persons beyond the boundary line of the property on which the construction activity is taking place.**
- [(b)](c) The municipal infraction fine for violation of this [~~ordinance~~] **Section 6-311** is \$100 for the first violation and \$250 for subsequent violations. **Any person who violates this Section 6-311 or directs or allows another to commit an act that violates this Section 6-311, the person's employer if the person acted in the course of his or her employment, and any property owner who allows a violation of this Section 6-311 on his or her property, shall be guilty of a violation and shall be jointly and severally subject to the penalties provided herein. If a violation occurs, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that all owners of the property allowed the violation.**

Bold and Underline indicates new material, [~~strikethrough text~~] indicates material deleted, * * * indicates material unchanged

Candidate Statements: 2008 Election

RICHARD KRAJECK 3500 Bradley Lane

I have served on the Village Council for the past 2 years as the Village Treasurer. I believe I have made several important contributions to the Village during that short tenure and I would like to continue to work for the Village residents.

My wife and I moved to Martin's Additions in 1979. I retired a few years ago from an international agricultural organization as the chief operating officer. As treasurer of the Council, I have used my prior business experience to revamp the Village budget so it is easier to read and more effectively allows for the management of the Village expenses. I also rearranged the Village banking operations to keep more of the financial reserves in an income producing account.

I have contributed to the implementation of a Village-wide survey that identifies the boundaries of the Village right-of-way so we can more effectively manage Village-owned trees, sidewalks, etc. I have also worked with the Council to hire an urban planner to assist us as we look at land-use issues within the Village. Additionally, I am also working with the Council to identify a contractor to prepare a long-range capital improvement plan for the maintenance and replacement of such Village infrastructure as streets, curbs, and sidewalks.

I have made many positive contributions to the Village over the past year and a half, and I would like to continue to work with the Council and Village for another term. In addition to my work as Treasurer I enjoy working for the residents of Martin's Additions to ensure that quality services are provided to the Village, that concerns and issues are remedied in a proper and timely fashion, and that the business of government is open and transparent. I have supported replacement and repair of sidewalks and streets. I have supported revisions in the Village Code where clarity is needed, and I have supported the efforts to bring the Village into compliance with necessary Traffic Codes to assure appropriate enforcement. I would appreciate your support.

NOELL SOTTILE

3508 Cummings Lane

It has been my privilege to serve on the Martins Additions Village Council for the past four years. I have enjoyed getting to know and work with my fellow Council members and the residents of VMA and other local municipalities as we wrestle with the various issues confronting us in this developing and changing metropolitan area.

In the 18 years that I have lived here, our community, while retaining its fundamental small village character and personality, has found itself affected by the greater community around it. As a VMA Council member, I have experienced municipal governance at its micro level, where the Council and Village Manager work to maintain and upgrade the services and infrastructure for several hundred households, but I have also come to realize how our small community is connected to other local municipalities, the county, and ultimately the state government. There are times when our tiny village seems like the "Who" that Horton hears in Dr. Seuss's book, and I have learned that like Horton's Who, we can make ourselves heard and effect change at higher levels or at least prevent our Village from being squashed.

There is still much work to be done and more change to come, but the community spirit of Martin's Additions is strong, and I am confident that our Village can and will face challenges with cooperation and creativity to chart a steady course into the future. I would like to continue to be a part of that process as a Council member.

I am married to Jim Sottile and we have two sons: one a freshman at Bard College in NY and the other a sophomore at B-CC High School. You may have seen me walking my black greyhound, Tribby, around the neighborhood. I retired last year from working in local real estate as I found myself in that "sandwich generation" position of having an aging parent who needed attention as well as teenage children. I am involved in a variety of community volunteer activities.

LARRY WASSON

7223 Delfield Street

My wife Marge and I have been Martin's Additions residents since 1979; we have raised two kids here in a great family community with incredible schools that produced one MPP from the University of Michigan and one BS in engineering from Penn State. (Am I proud or what?) Being a Martin's Additions parent meant 8 years as a YMCA and MSI soccer coach, and 4 years as Little League baseball coach. (My kids are just beginning to forgive me for all those extra drills...)

I have been active in the community for many years. I served for 18 years as Martin's Additions representative on the Chevy Chase Fire Board. One of my most visible contributions are the fire hydrant signs to ensure that hydrants are quickly found in the dark, the snow and a car-packed street. We rebuilt our Martin's Additions home from a rambler to a nice size colonial because we did not want to move, and our kids refused to consider living anywhere else. I have over 30 years experience as a professional building inspector – in fact, I was among the first 200 in a field that now numbers well over 16,000. I have been an instructor for the DC Inspections Department and United Planning Organization regarding rehab structures and I have been an advisor to various producers of NBC Dateline and features on various consumer TV segments on WJLA 7, WUSA 9, WRC 4, and the NBC Today Show.

We love Martin's Additions! It's such a wonderful living environment - in many ways because of the people who live here. I'd like to see us maintain, revive, and develop Village programs and policies that enhance our friendly, helpful, and protective neighborhood. I am concerned that there is not always sufficient consensus between the Martin's Additions Council and Village residents. I am interested in instituting policies that as much as possible ensure that the Council's agenda and policies are reflective of what the majority of Village residents want.