

Martin's Edition

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

December 2019

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FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Dear Residents,

As we enter Thanksgiving week, a brief note to share what I'm thankful for as a resident of Martin's Additions. Please keep reading the rest of the newsletter for important "business" information and updates.

I'm thankful for...

- My family and near neighbors - As a mother of young children, I would not be able to serve on our Council without the support of my husband, parents, friends, and near neighbors.
- Engaged residents - Thanks to our appointed committee members who volunteer their time and expertise for the betterment of our community and those who threw their names in the hat for our Council vacancy (i.e., David Bjorklund, Peter Kahn, Andrew Kauders, and Todd Mann).
- Autonomy - There are so many things to celebrate being an incorporated

municipality, but one semi-ironic example that struck me at the last meeting was that we get to celebrate our status as a Tree City USA with many deciduous canopy trees and contract for leaf vacuuming services at the same time.

- Progress - Along with the office staff and our professional support (don't forget the VMA holiday fund!), we have worked hard recently on a Charter amendment, several necessary code amendments, smart policies, and resident-focused programs (e.g., composting information to be coming soon!) to ensure the clear, transparent, and welcoming administration of our municipality for years to come.

And that's just my "short list" of things! What are you thankful for? We hope you have a moment to reflect in the coming days and enjoy a wonderful holiday with your loved ones.

On behalf of the Council, Happy Thanksgiving!

Tiffany Cissna

Vice Chair

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UPCOMING EVENTS



November 28, 2019	Office closed - Thanksgiving
November 29, 2019	Office Closed - Day After Thanksgiving Day
December 9, 2019	Community Engagement Committee meeting, 7:30 PM, at the Village of Martin's Additions Office
December 19, 2019	Council meeting, 7:30 PM
December 24, 2019	Office closing early for Christmas Eve, time TBA
December 25, 2019	Office closed - Christmas
December 31, 2019	Office closing early for New Year's Eve, time TBA
January 1, 2020	Office closed - New Year's Day

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Holiday Fund

2019 VMA Holiday Fund

'Tis the season for our annual call for contributions to the Village of Martin's Additions Holiday Fund. This fund provides a convenient and safe opportunity for residents who wish to offer a seasonal thanks to the wonderful men who collect our household garbage, yard waste and recyclables throughout the year.

We have dedicated, professional contractors handling our trash and recycling services as well as yard waste and heavy trash pickups: Jose A. on the trash and bulk pickups, Jose L. on the trash truck; Roberto on recycling and bulk pickups and Jovino on recycling, yard waste and bulk pickups.

If you would like to make a donation to the fund, please put a check (no cash, please) in an envelope, and mail it to the Village office at 7013 Brookville Road, Second Floor, Suite B, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. You may also drop off your check at the Village office, (between 9 AM - 5 PM M-F, except holidays.). Checks should be made to the Village of Martin's Additions (Note: Holiday Fund). Please send in your check so it is received at the Village office by close of business Tuesday, December 10, 2019. This gives us time to deposit and distribute the checks before the holidays!

Thank you in advance for your show of appreciation. All cards and notes reflecting your appreciation are welcome and will be included in the Holiday Letter to the contractors.

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NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE OFFICE



The VMA Office will be closed for Thanksgiving holidays:

- Thursday and Friday, November 28 & 29, 2019, respectively.

As a reminder for Village of Martin's Additions residents, the scheduled Thursday, November 28, 2019, trash collection will be delayed one day due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The scheduled trash pickup will occur on **Friday, November 29, 2019**.

VMA 2019 LEAF VACUUMING SCHEDULE

The Village has contracted with Rolling Acres for leaf vacuuming. The following is the schedule for November and December. Additional dates may be added depending on need.

The week of December 1, 2019

The week of December 15, 2019

Rolling Acres will vacuum the streets and storm drains. Depending on the amount of leaves, this could take up to a week for each cleaning. They will begin on the South end of the Village at Quincy Street, and work north towards Thornapple Street.

Please review the picture below on how to properly place the leaves at the curb. If you have any questions, please contact the Village Office at (301) 656-4112.

Thank you for your cooperation.



YES! Proper placement of leaf piles.



NO! Please do not place leaf piles in the street.

VMA Community Engagement Committee Meeting
Monday, December 9, 2019, at 7:30 PM at
Village of Martin's Additions Office
7013 Brookville Road,
Second Floor, Suite B
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

All are welcome and invited!

THE POLICE BEAT TIPS FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE



The Montgomery County Police Department would like to remind you that we have entered the biggest shopping season of the year. Unfortunately, this is also prime season for package thieves. Please attempt to follow the below-listed tips to possibly avoid becoming the victim of package theft.

In the past few days in the Chevy Chase area, several residents report packages being taken off their porches.

Please be vigilant and report any incidents to Montgomery County Police Department (non-emergency line) at (301) 279-8000, and then reach out to the Village Office. MCPD also offers the following prevention tips:

1. Be a great neighbor! If you're not able to be home when a package will be delivered, ask a trusted neighbor to hold it for you. If you see a package on your neighbor's doorstep, reach out to them and ask if they would like you to hold it until they are home.
2. Use smart package lockers to avoid having your Amazon package being stolen from your front porch. Amazon allows you to pick up your delivery in an Amazon Locker at selected locations with a unique code. Amazon currently has picked up locations in Friendship Heights, Bethesda, and Kensington.
3. Have packages delivered to your workplace or other trusted site such as a close friend's house?

Consider installing security cameras. A security camera will serve as a great deterrent for criminals, and it helps to prevent package theft, especially a highly visible HD security camera at your front door.

4. Require a signature on delivery. If your package is delivered by UPS/DHL/FedEx, consult your sender and require a delivery confirmation signature.

5. Reroute or reschedule delivery. Both UPS and FedEx offer web apps to help reroute parcel to another address and/or reschedule your package delivery at your convenience for a fee.

UPS My Choice: 800.742.5877

<https://www.ups.com/us/en/services/tracking/mychoice.page>

FedEx's Delivery Manager: 800.GoFedEx or 1.800.463.3339

https://www.fedex.com/apps/fdmenrollment/?locale=en_US

USPS 1-800-ASK-USPS® 800 275-8777)

https://tools.usps.com/go/TrackConfirmAction_input

Have a Safe and Wonderful Holiday Season!

Preventing Unwanted Winter Guests

(excerpted from DC City Wildlife post from December 19, 2019)

As the temperature drops, we aren't the only creatures that want to retreat from the cold. For example, crows huddle on city rooftops that function as urban heating pads. Other animals, such as squirrels, find cavities in trees to cache food and stay warm. Surviving the frigid winter months is all about location, location, location.

Occasionally, that "perfect" location for a wild intruder is your home. This is the time of year when unwanted winter guests may invite themselves into your home for warmth and shelter.

There are some easy preventative measures you can take the time NOW to make your home lose its curbside appeal to wildlife. They are:

- Survey the outside of your home for holes and gaps especially near gutters and where siding joins the roof. If you do find a hole, make sure that an animal hasn't set up housekeeping. You don't want to end up with a frantic, terrified animal trapped in your home.



- Trim the branches of trees adjacent to your home. This prevents wildlife from having easy access to your roof or an open attic vent or window.
- Make sure your trash cans are securely fastened. Unsecured trash cans invite wildlife trouble from rats to raccoons. You don't want unwanted visitors rummaging for food. It's not good for them and it makes problems for you.



- Don't feed pets outside. Keeping any food outside attracts all sorts of animals and not the ones you necessarily want to care for...like rats.

These simple steps will help you and our wild neighbors coexist in peace this winter.

For any additional questions, please email Paula Goldberg
at paula.goldberg@citywildlife.org

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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, December 19, 2019

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	Presentation of Fiscal Year 2019 Audit: (LSWG) Linton, Shafer, Warfield & Garrett, P.A.
7:51 PM	Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: Cissna
8:05 PM	Committee Updates
8:20 PM	Building Administrator's Report: Lohmeyer
8:40 PM	Financial Matters Alexander
9:20 PM	Manager's Report: Gaston
9:30 PM	Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: Cissna
9:40 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: November 16, 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.

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 is preparing plans to construct a 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.

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 applicant's surveyor has determined that the new roof peak is 33.6 feet tall. This exceed the Village roof height by 0.6-inches. The builder is requesting the Village grant an "Administrative Exception" as outlined in Section 7-402 (a) (3) of the Code.

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 Village is assessing the Accessory Dwelling Unit impact.\
4. The staff has been in contact with three property owners regarding future improvements to existing house in the Village.

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HEARD ON THE SIDEWALK

Manna Update:

Village Food Drive: Let's Make the Holiday Season Sing

A mid-November trip to Manna Food Center's warehouse in Gaithersburg yielded another 141 pounds of donations, putting the YTD total at just over 2,900 pounds. It's pretty clear we won't match to the totals we've racked up over the last few years (more than 5,000 pounds per year from 2014 through 2017 and 4,800-plus last year) but with a generous holiday surge - and more than \$130 yet to spend from October's Day of Service event - we can get close to 4,000 pounds, which will be a most meaningful contribution.

If you're a newcomer to Martin's Additions, you should know that our food drive

benefiting Manna - Montgomery County's main food bank -- began in the summer of 2008 and has been going strong ever since. If you'd like to join other residents who have been steady supporters, we make it easy: There's a year-round donation box at the foot of the stairs to the Village Office and from now through the end of the year, there will be an extra box by the front door to the Brookville Market. Or you may leave non-perishables on the Kirschten's porch (3406 Turner Lane) or the Brown's porch (3404 Taylor Street).

So when you're out and about doing your holiday shopping, please remember our many neighbors who struggle to put food on the table for themselves and their families. Manna and its clients thank you for your generosity!

Linda Kirschten on Turner Lane

Town Hall Meeting - [Maryland District 18 Delegates](#)

- Date: Monday, January 6, 2019
- Time 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Location: Town Hall -10814 Kenilworth Ave. Garrett Park, Maryland 20896

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:

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH CHEVY CHASE AT HOME

CC@H invites you to our annual Holiday Party on Tuesday, Dec. 17th, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Come join in the fun and good cheer with friends and neighbors and enjoy delicious seasonal refreshments and holiday entertainment!

And Brunch Bunch this month will be on Thursday, Dec. 12th, 10 to 11:30 a.m., at the Olympia Cafe on Brookville Road. Drop in and buy a coffee or even a full breakfast

and pull up a chair at the CC@H table for some stimulating conversation. Hope to see you there.

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!

Weather Outlook:

After such a warm and dry September and October, November turned much colder and wet. December promises to be mild. In the meanwhile, Thanksgiving looks to be sunny, with temperatures in the low 50's. It appears that overall, the winter of December 2019 through January and February, 2020 will be milder than average, with average to possibly above average snowfall. It looks like we weill get the most snow we've had since the winter of 2015 - 2016. Remember, on January 22, 2016, we had 2 feet! Let's spread it out more this winter! The thinking is that it will get progressively colder and snowier as we move into January and February.

Our snowiest decade in Washington, DC was the 1960's, which followed the least snowiest which was the 1950's. Some of the warmest winters on record here were in the late 1940's and 1950's. For instance, the winter of 1949-50 was the warmest on record in the Mid Atlantic. January, 1950 was a whopping 15 degrees above normal and we had several 70 degree days including one day when it hit 80 degrees in

Washington, D.C. You didn't hear anything about climate change then.

Whatever the weather, happy Thanksgiving 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
Vacant, Chair		
Tiffany Cissna, Vice Chair	202-536-7424	<u>cissnafamily@gmail.com</u>
Arthur Alexander, Treasurer	301-718-9787	<u>arthur.alexander@att.net</u>
Susan Fattig, Secretary	301-951-9578	<u>susan.fattig@gmail.com</u>
Katya Hill, Member-at-Large	301-718-1920	<u>ka2shaz@gmail.com</u>

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