

Martin's Edition

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

May 2020

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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Residents,

First, we want to say thank you to those in our community and others who have continued to be on the front lines for the rest of us. We appreciate you!

Although we continue to live in unprecedented times and may long for a return to "the routine" in many areas of our lives, your municipal government in the Village of Martin's Additions is hard at work to provide you routine services with as minimal disruption as possible. The Council, committees, and staff have been working to keep Village operations apace with the challenges of the times, and we will continue to do so in service to our community.

One big example, brought to you by our Election Committee, **we have an election coming up!** Have you heard? The candidates all participated in a forum last Thursday night to share their vision for the future of Martin's Additions. If you missed it, you can catch up by checking out their statements and listening to the audio of the forum [here](#). Also, ballots should be arriving in the mail very soon. All qualified voters in your household should have received an email notifying them of the all mail-in election being conducted this year. Last chance... Would you please confirm with your household that they did receive this information? If they did not, would you please ask them to fill out the Village contact form found [here](#) so that we might add them to the qualified voter roll? More details on the election process below.

Although it may seem small, holding our election timely is just one of the ways we are able to maintain our routine as a community. It is a small joy and something we should all be proud of like receiving our **2019 Tree City USA certification and replanting our community garden!** Unique opportunities to celebrate at this time.

We continue to hope that you will all stay safe (following [CDC](#) guidelines) and be well.

On behalf of the Council,
Tiffany
Council Chairperson

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UPCOMING EVENTS



- **Late April:** ballots begin arriving by mail
- **May 7 (early this month!):** Monthly Village Council Meeting at 7:30 PM Via Zoom
- **May 9: CANCELLED** - Waste Management has cancelled Bulk Trash Pick-Up nationwide
- **May 15:** ballot "postmarked by" date
- **May 25:** Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day; Waste Management Pick-Ups will be delayed by one day: Tuesday (lawn and household waste); Wednesday (recycling); Friday (household waste)

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SPOTLIGHT

From your VMA Election Committee

UPDATE ON THE 2020 MARTIN'S ADDITIONS ELECTION

Dear Neighbors,

We'd like to thank the candidates and all the residents who participated in the "Meet the Candidates" Community Forum on April 23. There was a wide-ranging discussion about how VMA can best respond to the Covid-19 emergency, environmental concerns, 5G networks, and many other topics. You can listen to the audio recording [here](#).

This issue of the VMA newsletter includes a **new Special "2020 Election" Section**, which starts on the next page. This is the first time we've held an election by mail in Martin's Additions. The official notice about the election is posted below, and there are more details at the end of the special section. If you have any questions about voting this year, we'll be happy to help. Please call the Election Committee chair at 301-654-0176 or email VMAelections@gmail.com.

Local government matters. We appreciate all the candidates who are running for the Village Council, and all the residents who treasure our community and take the time to vote.

With best wishes,

Your 2020 Martin's Additions Election Committee

Marty Langelan, Lauren Shweder Biel, Lorie Mitchell, Halie Soifer, and Jesse Tampio

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF VMA ELECTION

**The Village of Martin's Additions will hold its annual Council election
by mail between April 27 and May 15, 2020.**

Voting Time: Mail your ballot by May 15.

Location: Vote safely at home by mail-in ballot.

Three Village Council seats are open this year.

Four candidates are running:

Arthur Alexander, Jeff Blander, Monty Boland, and Susan Fattig.

Write-in candidates are also permitted.

From your VMA Election Committee

SPECIAL SECTION: 2020 ELECTION

Thank you for voting in the 2020 Martin's Additions Village Council Election! This special section includes election information, candidates' campaign materials, and a recap of what you need to know about voting by mail.

ABOUT THE ELECTION

With an election by mail, there's a voting period. Election Day is May 15, and you can vote any time from late April until May 15. **Look for your ballot in your mailbox this week.** Vote early! Ballots postmarked after May 15 can't be counted, and all ballots must be received at the election processing center by May 22. There will be a pre-paid return envelope in your ballot packet.

If you'd like to read the Official VMA Election Information Packet with all the candidates' original statements, please click [here](#). To listen to the audio of the April 23 "Meet the Candidates" Community Forum, click [here](#).

ABOUT THE CANDIDATES

It's difficult for the candidates to distribute election flyers and campaign as usual in the midst of this Covid-19 situation, so in a new feature this year, the Election Committee invited all four candidates - **Arthur Alexander, Jeff Blander, Monty Boland, and Susan Fattig** - to participate in this "2020 Election" section of the VMA newsletter. We've listed the candidates in reverse alphabetical order below, just to be fair to all. Here are their campaign statements for your consideration.

[Susan Fattig, 6701 Melville Place, 301-785-6017 \(susan.fattig@gmail.com\)](mailto:susan.fattig@gmail.com)

The Village of Martin's Additions is a special place, with its small-town sensibility and proximity to the city. As a native Nebraskan, I know that neighborliness is not a novel concept, that the willingness-compulsion, even-to help our neighbors in everyday life and especially in times of crisis is one of the qualities that sets our village apart.

I've had the privilege of serving on the VMA Council for the past four and a half years. During that time, the Council has worked together as a highly effective team, accomplishing many significant projects such as the installation of streetlights, repair of Village streets, initiation of a leaf vacuuming service, and facilitation of a composting program. A walkability study is currently underway, and more environmentally conscious practices have been implemented. With the support of the Council, a Community Engagement Committee was formed to provide residents with more opportunities to meet new neighbors and catch up with old friends.

While adding resident-approved services and updating infrastructure, the Council has adhered to its duty to our Village to provide good governance and fiscal responsibility. Although no one anticipated a COVID-19 crisis at this time, our prescient treasurer Arthur Alexander has forecast a possible recession for several months. The Council has maintained a substantial emergency ("rainy day") reserve fund as well as capital investment reserves. This should enable the Village to weather the economic crisis without resorting to draconian measures.

Not content to rest on our past and continuing successes, if re-elected I will work to establish an Environmental Committee to explore steps the Village government and individual residents can take to enhance sustainability. If resident demand and Council support warrant, VMA could then pursue Sustainable Maryland certification. This program would cost little, offer multiple volunteer opportunities, and designate our Village as a green, forward-looking community consistent with our values.

The Village Council has accomplished much over the past several years. The vast majority of residents who responded to the Fall 2019 annual survey expressed satisfaction with Village operations and services.

I would appreciate an opportunity to continue to use my legal background and Council experience in service to the Village of Martin's Additions.

[Monty Boland, 3405 Turner Lane, 301-767-5356 \(montyboland@gmail.com\)](mailto:montyboland@gmail.com)

I enjoyed participating in last night's forum and I would like to thank each and every person involved with this election process. I am grateful for my neighbors who support and sustain the working municipality of the VMA, as well as for our esteemed council members who have been in office for many years. I believe, however, that for the health and vitality of our council, that it is absolutely essential that we continue to have new candidates elected to bring in fresh ideas and new approaches to resolving old issues. I would be honored to represent the Village of Martin's Additions.

[Dr. Jeffrey M. Blander, 3413 Turner Lane, 617-930-9554 \(drjmblander@gmail.com\)](mailto:drjmblander@gmail.com)

Dear Friends and Neighbors in VMA,

I write this note to you all soon after participating in the Village Council's Candidate Forum held on the evening of Thursday April 23rd, 2020.

I want to start by sincerely thanking the Election Committee for all their exceptional hard work and innovation to ensure our community could engage in such a thoughtful, safe, and meaningful dialogue.

Collectively, we recognize these are not 'business as usual' times. Daily activities we took for granted that gave us much joy are no longer possible at this time. For me these include walking my daughter to the bus stop to sounds of happy classmates playing, having an early Saturday morning coffee at Olympia before the house stirs awake, getting my hair cut by 'John' the barber and then picking out my daughter's favorite lollipop (or three) to bring home, and celebrating a birthday at La Ferme.

The Q&A discussion at the forum was very engaging and highlighted many of our common concerns and new ideas. These include:

- Enhancing our ability to stay informed and virtually connected while under 'stay at home' orders,
- Maintaining fiscal responsibility, especially over the next fiscal year when revenues are expected to drop,
- Protecting the environment and concerns over the placement of small cell 4G/5G antennas residences, and
- Improving the safety of our streets.
- Continuously address needs that represent a very diverse community including families, K-12 learners, young professionals, retirees, and seniors.

I am running for VMA Council for four reasons:

- 1) The times we live in especially require stepping up and rising to the challenge of supporting our community.
- 2) I feel my over 25 years of public health, non-for-profit, and business experience (please see candidate statement #1) can meaningfully contribute to VMA's biggest challenges in the near and intermediate terms for safety, preparedness, and fiscal responsibility. This now includes my recent election to serve on the board for the Wharton Business School Alumni Club for the National Capital Region focusing on community service and engagement.
- 3) My sincere love of community and listening to resident priorities to inform strategic direction.
- 4) I believe making a difference in the world all starts at home.

If elected, I'd be honored to serve our community.

Stay well and safe.

Best regards, Jeffrey Blander

[Arthur J. Alexander, 3517 Raymond St., 301-718-9787 \(arthur.alexander@att.net\)](#)

I am running for re-election to the Village Council. After ten years working on Village affairs, I have gained knowledge of the many issues surrounding municipal management, helped along

by decades of policy analysis and economic research. What I bring to the deliberations is deliberation, taking a balanced look at proposals, seeking advice from experts, listening to my colleagues on the Council, and soliciting the views of residents.

As Council chair during a particularly unsettled period, all these skills came into play. Similarly, as chair of the Village tree committee, we reconciled a wide range of views to recommend support of private tree planting, which is now enhancing the Village's green canopy. Now, as a Council liaison to the Walkability Task Force, we are once again seeking ways to enrich the lives of residents. For much of my time on the Council, I have been Treasurer looking after finances; we are now in the midst of a review that I recommended conducted by outside experts on our financial procedures to ensure that they are efficient, safe, and effective.

When I first ran for this position, I was motivated by the perception that Village affairs required constant attention to planning, implementing, and managing the many activities associated with a smoothly running community. Someone, obviously, was performing these functions. My efforts over the past decade have sometimes been tedious, but always rewarding.

Thirty years ago, we came to Martin's Additions when I became head of a small economic research organization, which closed in 2000. Since then, I have worked at home, which is why you may see me walking or biking around the neighborhood. Over the past two decades, I have been writing, teaching at Georgetown University and the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, and doing economic research for a variety of private and public organizations, all of which continues.

Finally, I can say that the rewards to serving as council member are not fame, fortune, or acclaim, but the satisfaction of helping make a small Village run more smoothly with steady improvement. I look forward to continuing in this effort and seek your vote to help make it happen.

RECAP: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VOTING BY MAIL

- Your ballot will be sent to your address as it appears on the VMA voter roll. Each eligible voter will receive a ballot in a separate envelope addressed to him/her.
- If you're not sure whether you're listed on the VMA voter roll (you should have already received at least one email regarding this), please fill out the contact form [here](#) or contact the Village Office at manager@martinsadditions.org or 301-656-4112. **You must be on the VMA voter roll by 5 PM on May 8th in order to receive a ballot.**
- If you'd like to have your ballot mailed to you at a location other than your home address in Martin's Additions, please contact the Village Office at 301-656-4112 or manager@martinsadditions.org.

- The mailing will contain your ballot, instructions on how to fill out the ballot and return it, a privacy envelope for the ballot to be sealed in upon completion, and a postage-paid return envelope to mail it back to the vendor. This is your mail-in ballot for the 2020 Village Council election.
- If you lose your ballot, do not receive a ballot, or receive a damaged ballot, please contact the Village Office immediately so that another ballot can be mailed to you. In order to receive a new ballot, you must **contact the Village Office by 5 PM on May 8** (301-656-4112 or manager@martinsadditions.org).
- This year, Village residents will elect three of the Council's five members, each to serve for a two-year term. **Vote for a TOTAL of up to THREE (3) people.** There will be space for write-in names on the ballot, and a write-in counts as a vote. If you vote for more than three people, your ballot will be disqualified.
- Please note that a write-in must be the name of someone who is eligible to serve on the Council (a qualified voter who is a resident or property owner in VMA, age 18 or older).
- Once you receive your ballot, you can return it immediately by filling it out as instructed, sealing it in the privacy envelope provided, and mailing it to the vendor in the prepaid return envelope provided. All ballots must be postmarked by May 15 and/or received by the vendor by May 22.
- The Election Committee will announce the 2020 Council election results as soon as possible following the May 22 "received by" date. We anticipate that will be during the following week after Memorial Day.

If you have any questions about voting, we're always glad to help. Please call the Election Committee chair at 301-654-0176 or email VMAelections@gmail.com.

Your 2020 Martin's Additions Election Committee

Marty Langelan, Lauren Shweder Biel, Lorie Mitchell, Halie Soifer, and Jesse Tampio

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NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE OFFICE

Minutes from the April 16, 2020 Village Council Meeting posted [here](#).



From Officers Picerno and Pratt

Hopefully, we will soon see a return to normalcy in our communities. Even though crime is generally down across the county, as weather warms, we are likely to see the return to some of the criminal activities common in the late spring. One of the most common is thefts from vehicles. Please consider the following tips:

- * **Lock your vehicles at all times.** Whether the vehicle is parked on the street or to the rear of the house in a driveway it needs to be locked when it is unattended. **This is the most important measure that can be taken to prevent this crime.** The criminals that steal from vehicles roam through the neighborhoods and pull on door handles. They almost always bypass the vehicles with locked doors. Once they find a vehicle that is unlocked (which unfortunately is often the case) they rummage through for a few minutes and take loose change, GPS units, laptops or anything else that is of some value and easy to carry away. They often carry backpacks or bags and do not leave until the bag is full.
- * Remove or hide valuables from plain sight in your vehicles. GPS units, laptops, phone chargers, currency, EZ pass transponders and anything else should be removed or hidden. Never keep keys to your vehicle inside. That also applies to keys to other vehicles. The same goes for house keys. Do not let the criminals "window shop". If the reward is great enough, they may want to break the window to access that item. If the door is locked and they see nothing significant, chances are they will move on.
- * Report any suspicious activity promptly
- * Ensure you have sufficient outdoor lighting. Again, these types of criminals are typically non-confrontational and would rather do their crimes in the darkness. If you can, mount external lights on a garage or residence that will help deter crime. A simple motion sensor light can quickly be worth the expense.
- * Consider keeping a key fob for your vehicle in the bedroom. If you become a theft victim and realize that someone is looking into your vehicle, you can press the panic button and scare off the would-be thief. Please notify the police even if you scare the subject off as they may stay in the neighborhood and look for a new target.

If you are the victim of a theft from auto, or any crime for that matter, please promptly notify the police. Police operate on a data-driven approach to manpower allotment, and tracking where certain crimes occur have a direct impact on what specialized resources are allocated. By working together to prevent crime, we send the message that the Village is not a place where people should come and commit crimes.

Tax Return Reminder: Maryland Taxing Area

Revenues received through our residents' paid income taxes are a very important source of Village revenues. The Village needs your help to ensure that all income tax revenue due to the Village arrives here. It is important that the designated portion of the tax paid to Montgomery County returns to the Village.



In order for the State of Maryland to return this revenue, your political subdivision must be entered on Maryland Form 502. Maryland Form 502 now requests a 4 digit Political Subdivision Code as well as the Maryland Political Subdivision. The 4 digit Code for Martin's Additions is 1622. For more information, [click here](#).

Census

Respond Your Way to the 2020 Census

Starting on March 12, 2020, every home began to receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You have three options

Please visit [2020CENSUS.GOV](https://2020census.gov) for more information about the three ways you can respond to the 2020 Census.

for responding. All of them are easy!

The 2020 Census marks the first time we are invited to respond online-even on our mobile device. The online form is available in many different languages.



Online



By Phone



By Mail

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AGENDA FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING(S)



----Draft Agenda for the Monthly Council Meeting----

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

Thursday, May 7, 2020
7:30 PM

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

7:41 PM Committee Update(s): Committee Chairpersons or their representatives

7:51 PM Building Administrator's Report: Lohmeyer

7:56 PM Financial Matters, including Public Hearing and Action on FY 2021 Budget Ordinance (No. 2020-3-2) and Tax Rate Resolution (No. 2020-3-3): Alexander

8:15 PM Manager's Report: Anderegg

8:25 PM Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: Cissna

8:35 PM Adjournment: Cissna

*Please Note: Listed times are approximate.

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BUILDING BLOCKS



TO: The Village of Martin's Additions Council
FROM: Doug Lohmeyer
DATE: April 16, 2020
SUBJECT: Building Administrator's Report

3506 Bradley Ln.

A demolition and building permit application was submitted to the Village office. The staff is reviewing the information. Waiting for MCDPS approval. The resident's information meeting is on hold.

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 those additions. The Village building permit expired on April 3, 2020. The applicants have requested a Village Building Permit extension, which extends the permit until July 4, 2020.

A "Stop Work Order" was issued on Monday, March 9th. The Wall Check survey indicates the new addition at the rear encroaches into the "additional side yard setback" by approximately 4-inches. The staff has conveyed that information to the applicant. The applicant has indicated they will be applying for a Variance, but as of this date that application has not been submitted.

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. The Village building permit has been extended.

The County has closed their building permit but the sediment control permit is still open. Once they close that permit, we will do a final inspection and if everything is acceptable, the Village Building Permit can be closed.

3521 Cummings La.

The property owner is looking into the possibility of removing the apron close to Brookville Rd. and installing another fence in the Village right of way.

7200 Delfield St.

The property owners (a partnership) has applied for a Village demolition and building permit for a new house. The MCDPS is reviewing their application. The Village staff has completed the initial review of the application and submitted their comments of the applicant. A resident information meeting has not been scheduled.

3412 Taylor St.

The Village original building permit was 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.

The Village Building Permit has been extended. The contractor expects to receive the final inspection from MCDPS in the next couple of weeks

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.

The applicant has been advised that their building permit will expire in May and they are preparing a request for the extension.

Miscellaneous Items

The MSHA has responded to the Village's letter regarding water ponding at the Village street intersections along Brookville Rd. They plan on making improvements to the intersections at Bradley, Quincy, and Cummings this summer

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HEARD ON THE SIDEWALK



From our local eateries

- La Ferme is offering a take out menu for dinner. See the [menu on their website](#) for details.
- Olympia Cafe has also re-opened for breakfast and lunch take out.

Let's Keep the Food Drive Going!

Like everything else over the last several weeks, the ongoing Village food drive has hit the brakes. Our last delivery of donations, on March 13th, weighed in at 187 pounds and put our YTD total at 1,071, on track to meet our monthly 400-pound goal. For obvious reasons, residents have been preoccupied with meeting many other challenges in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. But now, more than ever perhaps, Manna Food Center - our County's main food distribution enterprise - needs our support

With so many people out of work and no longer getting a paycheck and with so many children no longer receiving breakfasts and lunches at school, food donations will play a vital role in staving off hunger for less fortunate families in our

midst. So please - continue to give. Just add one or two items to your cart - don't overbuy! If you're uncomfortable leaving things in the box near the Village Office, you can leave them on the Kirschten front porch at 3406 Turner Lane. Delivering them to Manna shouldn't be a problem as the staff there unload the crates directly from the car into the warehouse- no close contact at all is needed. Or you can also mail in a cash contribution, as several of our residents have already done.

Together, we will get through these difficult days. Best wishes for good health to all.

Chevy Chase Library:

Please check out what the library has to offer by clicking here:[Chevy Chase Library](#)

Weather Outlook:

We have recently been experiencing cold and rainy weather to round out the month of April. Our average temperature during the day and night time hours was about the same as in March. This was an impressive statistic given that March is still considered part of winter. April was also wetter than usual. While it was cool here, Miami, Florida had its hottest day ever in April with 97 degrees, and Phoenix, Arizona had temps of 100 degrees.

It looks like the cool, wet weather will continue for the first half of May. Daytime high temps for the beginning of May are in the low 70s and the lows will be in the 50s at night. By the end of May average highs will be around 80 for daytime and about 60 at night although some days could get into the 90s. In May, 1991, from the 27th through the 31st, the temps were in the upper 90s; the coldest was 35 degrees in 1945. If you wait until after May 15 to plant tender plants, you should always be okay. If we had this weather pattern that we're having now in the winter, we would be having lots of snow and cold. So, think spring. There will be many beautiful May days to come!

-Keith Allen (Turner Lane)

[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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| <u>VMA COUNCIL MEMBERS</u> | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Name | Phone | Email |
| Tiffany Cissna, Chair | 202-536-7424 | cissnafamily@gmail.com |
| Susan Fattig, Vice Chair | 301-951-9578 | susan.fattig@gmail.com |
| Arthur Alexander, Treasurer | 301-718-9787 | arthur.alexander@att.net |
| Katya Hill, Secretary | 301-718-1920 | ka2shaz@gmail.com |
| Todd Mann, Member-at-Large | 301-642-6665 | toddsmann@gmail.com |

| <u>VMA OFFICE STAFF</u> | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Name | Phone | Email |
| Niles Anderegg, Village Manager | 301-656-4112 | manager@martinsadditions.org |
| Vacant, Assistant Village Manager | 301-656-4112 | avm@martinsadditions.org |

To receive e-notifications from the Village Council, the committees, and the office (i.e., any official communication from your Village government), please fill out the Village Contact [webform](#). This is the best way to receive information on Village business (e.g., Council and Committee meetings), services (e.g., waste pickup and snow removal), and events (e.g., the 4th of July Celebration or the Movie Night in the Park).

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 (a

Google-Group). 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