



April 2020

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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Residents,

These are unprecedented times. The Governor just issued a Stay at Home Order for the State of Maryland. Most folks aren't going into their offices, kids aren't going to school. It's surreal. That said, we've been looking for silver linings, and I thought I would share a few with you here in hopes that they bring some small joy as reminders about what a great community we live in.

Fun Stuff

- I know at least three - I'm sure there are more - young children in Martin's Additions who have learned to ride their bikes over the past couple of weeks - way to go guys! Congratulations to all of you for learning new things!
- Tessa Klein Harber (Bradley Lane) invited us all to go on a fox "hunt" throughout the Village. So many residents participated in this fun, somewhat spontaneous, adventure.
- I can't go on a walk these days without running into several neighbors and briefly catching up (from at least 6 feet apart). It's nice to see all of you, even under these circumstances.
- Our community cares. Resident-led efforts like the "buddy check" led by Jeff Blander (Turner Lane) at drjmblander@gmail.com or vmabuddycheck@gmail.com have popped up.



Official Business

- Our municipal government continues to function. The Council held its first monthly meeting via Zoom on March 19th (audio [here](#)) with our annual budget process moving forward according to our governing documents.
- The Village Office continues to work to ensure essential service delivery. As Niles recently noted, he is focused on providing the same level of level of service we are all used to, while also protecting the health and safety of staff and contractors. Please be sure to contact the office with any requests via email (manager@martinsadditions.org) or phone (301-656-4112).
- The Village committees continue their work.
 - Keep your eyes peeled for more election info from the Election Committee soon! Three seats are up this year and the committee is hard at work to find the best way to carry out the election given the precautions in place regarding COVID-19.
 - The Community Engagement Committee planned a fun happy hour at La Ferme and has some tentative plans in place for a July 4th celebration (fingers crossed!).

Again, it's a surreal (and sometimes stressful) time, but there is also opportunity here. Families reconnecting, neighbors checking in on neighbors, and closets to clean out! We 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



- **April 16:** Monthly Village Council Meeting at 7:30 PM Via Zoom.

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SPOTLIGHT

****2020 Election****

From your VMA Election Committee

Update on the Martin's Additions Council Election

Normally, we'd be looking forward to seeing you at the Election Day polling table in May, at the Village Celebration on the Sidewalk in front of the shops on Brookville Road. But this is not a normal year. While we hope the public-health situation will improve soon, it's essential for VMA residents to avoid crowds and take every precaution with the Covid-19 virus. So Martin's Additions will not be voting in person at the sidewalk election table this year.

The Election Committee has been analyzing all possible methods to enable our community to vote safely from home - online or by mail. VMA takes pride in holding fair, open elections, and that commitment hasn't changed. We will make sure that any voting method we use meets high standards for full voter privacy and ballot security, while allowing every voter to cast a ballot. The VMA Council authorized electronic voting at our request, in a Council Resolution on March 19. This is brand new territory for VMA. We thank you for your patience and support as we investigate how to do this. If we go to electronic voting, we will ensure that residents who don't have computers will still be able to vote. We'll keep you informed as we move forward.

The VMA election will be postponed at least until May 14, and perhaps longer, because of the coronavirus disruption. Many states, including Maryland, are rescheduling their elections due to the pandemic. We'll announce the new VMA election date as soon as we can.

We'll reschedule the "Meet the Candidates" Community Forum, too, and make sure that residents can participate safely via a conference call and a live online audio/videolink.

We plan to distribute the official election information packet to residents online this year. Print copies will still be available for residents who call the VMA office and request that version, and for everyone who currently receives the print edition of the VMA newsletter.

[WHO IS RUNNING FOR THE COUNCIL THIS YEAR?](#)

The nomination period is still open, so we don't have the final list of candidates yet. Three VMA Council seats are up for election this year. If you'd like to become a candidate, please contact the Election Committee at VMAelections@gmail.com. We'll provide an information packet and be glad to answer your questions. To put your name on the ballot, please send your candidate statement (click [here](#) for the format) and short ethics form (click [here](#)) to the Committee **by 5 pm on Monday March 30**.

[COMMUNITY CARE DURING THE ELECTION](#)

Election campaign materials: VMA Council candidates often distribute their campaign flyers door-to-door throughout the neighborhood. However, to protect the health of both candidates and residents, we would suggest that candidates explore ways to distribute their campaign materials electronically this year.

Personal campaign events: In the past, VMA residents have sometimes held personal social "meet-and-greet" election events for the Village Council candidates. It's a nice neighborhood tradition. But the Election Committee would strongly urge residents to do virtual neighborhood campaign events this year - please use the online audio/video options you may have and follow the medical experts' advice about avoiding close physical contact in groups.

[Local government matters.](#)

Best wishes from your 2020 VMA Election Committee
Marty Langelan (chair), Lauren Shweder Biel, Lorie Mitchell, Halie Soifer, and Jesse Tampio

[You can help! If you have new neighbors who are not listed in the Martin's Additions directory, please](#)

call or text them to ask them to call the Village Office at 301-656-4112 to provide their resident-contact information as soon as possible. The Election Committee uses the directory to update the voter roll. We want to include all new residents and we appreciate your assistance.

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NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE OFFICE

Audio from Council Meeting on March 19, 2020 Posted

Audio from the March meeting is now available on the Village website [here](#).

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 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.

Please visit 2020CENSUS.GOV for more information about the three ways you can respond to the 2020 Census.



Online



By Phone



By Mail

Montgomery County 2020 Census Website

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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, April 16, 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
7:50 PM	Building Administrator's Report: Lohmeyer
7:55 PM	Financial Matters: Alexander
8:05 PM	Manager's Report: Anderegg
8:20 PM	Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: Cissna
8:30 PM	Adjournment: Cissna

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BUILDING BLOCKS

TO: The Village of Martin's Additions Council
FROM: Doug Lohmeyer
DATE: March 19, 2020
SUBJECT: Building Administrator's Report

3506 Bradley Lane.



A demolition and building permit application was submitted to the Village office. The staff is reviewing the information. Waiting for MCDPS approval.

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 will expire on April 3, 2020.

The homeowner has also requested a right of way licenses agreement for the new white address post, which is waiting the homeowner's signature.

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 been advised to submit a solution to the Village. The right of way agreement was also part of the order.

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 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 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.

3508 Shepherd St.

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. The staff is closing that permit and refunding the performance bond.

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.

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.

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.

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HEARD ON THE SIDEWALK

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:

March has been no different than December through February with much above normal temperatures. In fact, on March 23rd it was 47 degrees which was the only day in the entire month of March that the daytime temp was in the 40's. All other days were in the 50's, 60's, 70's, and even on March 20th, it was 83 degrees. That was the first full day of spring, but felt more like the first day of summer! This past winter was in the top 5 warmest and the third least snowiest. Being a transitional month, March has the largest fluctuations in temperature than any other month. Going forward April to June look to be warm and wet, but with many very pleasant days. Whatever the weather, Happy Spring!

-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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CONTACT INFO

VMA COUNCIL MEMBERS		
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

NEWS

The VMA Council@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).

VMA OFFICE STAFF		
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 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 our monthly newsletter, *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* (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

Village of Martin's Additions, 7013 Brookville Rd, Suite B, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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