
Martin's Edition

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

NOTES FROM COUNCIL CHAIRMAN TIM PRICE:



Spring is hopefully just around the corner, bringing all kinds of activities within the Village. The first sign of spring I noticed were the voices of our Village children as they burnt off some of that built up winter energy. With daylight savings upon us, the children have already started to harmonize the: "But I do not want to go in" song.

Your Village Manager and Village Council Members and other volunteers will be busy this Spring! We have hired a traffic engineer who will be preparing recommendations to make our traffic signage more accurate and bring the traffic signage into compliance with existing codes. The Tree Committee will be planting trees around the neighborhood to begin filling in some of the holes left in our canopy by the removal of diseased and dying trees. We will be receiving a Village-wide report regarding the condition of our streets and sidewalks and developing a plan for improvements in this public space. A design for a Village Website will soon be underway. The Council will be considering whether to engage the services of professional urban planners to assist in a review of our zoning provisions and to guide the neighborhood through any appropriate revisions.

Jean was very busy this Winter, coordinating many of the day to day business operations of the Village while building her knowledge base and contact list with the surrounding Villages. In addition, a successful La Ferme event was planned, the upcoming election process has been supported with her assistance, the streets and sidewalks were cleared after three recent snows, our a new Village directory has been compiled and will soon be in the mail, and several ordinance corrections have been brought to the forebear. The council greatly appreciates the work Jean has done and the dedicated effort she demonstrates on behalf of the Village.

I look forward to seeing many residents exercising their civic duty at the Candidates Forum and the Annual Village Meeting this Spring!

MARCH 2007 ISSUE

◆ **VILLAGE COUNCIL NOMINATIONS NEEDED BY APRIL 6TH!**

Village Election Scheduled for May 10th. Two Council members terms to expire. See page 3.

◆ **COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM: APRIL 19TH. 7:30 PM**

Village Office and Meeting Room, 7013B Brookville Rd.

◆ **SPRING HEAVY TRASH PICK-UP: SATURDAY APRIL 28TH**

Spring Cleaning and Heavy Trash Pick-Up go hand in hand. See page 3.

◆ **COUNTY HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT MAY 19TH**

See page 7 for more information.

◆ **VILLAGE SPRING STREET CLEANING SOON & LATER**

Planned for late March and again after the Cherry Blossoms drop. Watch for further notice.

◆ **VILLAGE ELECTIONS AND ANNUAL MEETING MAY 10**

Be sure to put this important event on your calendar. You'll benefit from exercising your civic duty.

◆ **DON'T FORGET TO TELL THE STATE YOU LIVE IN MARTIN'S ADDITIONS!**

Be sure to write "Martin's Additions" in the box marked City, town or taxing area on Form 502. See the back page for more details.

◆ **VILLAGE MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Village Council meetings are held every **third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm**, in the Village Office located at 7013 B Brookville Road.

WINTER COMMUNITY CELEBRATION AT LaFERME A BIG HIT!



February 11, 2007 was a perfect day to enjoy a winter outing that didn't make anyone go too far, as La Ferme restaurant welcomed us all, new residents, old residents and our Village "alumni". The day was cold, but the streets and sidewalks

were ice and snow-free as more than 200 residents and numerous children gathered to celebrate our community in the dead of winter. Attendees enjoyed the delicious food and superb services offered by owner Alain Roussel and his fabulous staff. Mr. Eddie greeted residents with his wonderful piano playing, a fire crackled in the fire place, hot cider was available to quickly warm everyone. The entire crowd seemed excited to get out of the house and mingle with their neighbors!

Our relationship with La Ferme goes back more than 20 years now. When they moved into that location in 1985, they threw a Bastille Day Celebration welcoming everyone to a fine and unique festival, reminiscent of our 4th of July, but of course with a French twist. In December 1985 La Ferme was also the site for the celebration of Incorporation of the Village of Martin's Additions as a Municipality. Over the years, La Ferme has remained a true friend to Martin's Additions, hosting yearly celebrations and ever willing to be available for something fun! As always Pino greeted us all warmly at the door, chef de cuisine Scott Chamber and his assistants Oscar Carballo and Mamaduo Camara prepared a delicious feast and the hard working kitchen staff made sure the food was always plentiful, perfectly presented, graciously delivered and removed.

In our "Alumni" category we were happy to welcome Neil and Marion Potter who had just recently moved to a retirement community in Maryland. Marion Potter was born in the Potter home at the corner of Brookville Road and Raymond Street some 93 years ago and Neil served as Montgomery County Executive from 1990 to 1994 and as a County Council Member from 1970 until 1986. Anita and Bob Mitchell, also long time residents of Martin's Additions who qualify for "Alumni" status, joined us. It is so enjoyable to listen to old stories about what "had been" because it

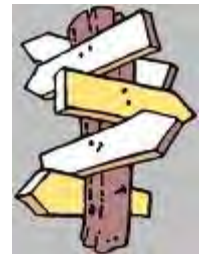
is the best way to appreciate what "is"! Former Village Manager John Kay has also just entered the ranks of "Alumni" since he recently decided to truly retire to a nearby assisted living facility. John has a long history of involvement and contributions to the Village of Martin's Additions. Our Alumni were presented with a Sunrise Cactus that promised to remind them of a new day dawning as the blossoms opened to the sun every day. They were also presented with a certificate of appreciation for their contributions to the community.

Also recognized at the event were many very special residents who had given their time and energy to the administration and betterment of the Village over the years. At the top of the list was Bonnie Baugh, who filled many shoes, getting done any job that needed to be done; Ed Holland was recognized as Chairman of the Village Election Committee. Ed has served in this capacity for more than 20 years. Keith Allen was recognized for his years of tireless service to the Village--he is always there when we need someone! Members of our hard working and productive Tree Committee were recognized with a certificate of appreciation; included on this list were Cris Fleming, Dan Gardner, Debbie Metzger, Bert Leibman, and Kirsten Gardner. Former Village Council members were given a certificate of appreciation for the guidance and oversight during the year, including Karen McManus, Sharon Coyle, Steve Schmal, Althea Harlin, and Paul Weller. Jana Coe, the manager from Chevy Chase View was thanked for her willingness to step up and help with Village management during a period of transition.

We hope to see everyone --and more--again next year!

VILLAGE TRAFFIC SIGNAGE SURVEY TO BEGIN

The Village has contracted with Mr. Joseph Cutro, a professional traffic engineer with over 20 years of experience specializing in municipalities, to begin data collection and recording of all existing traffic control devices within the boundaries of Martin's Additions. Ultimately, Mr. Cutro will develop recommendations



for improvements to public safety, reduction in liability to the village, visual enhancement of the streets and reduction in future operating costs. You may see Mr. Cutro hard at work in the village. The “Traffic Control Survey” signs in the rear window of his car will be the give away that he is on official village business!

VILLAGE ELECTIONS INFORMATION

The Nominations Process: Nominations for the Village Council of Martin’s Additions are accepted by the Village Election Committee. This year, two seats will be open on the Council. Each seat is for a two-year term. Every resident of Martin’s Additions who is a qualified voter (18 years of age) may nominate another resident or themselves. Nominations must be made in writing and sent to Ed Holland, Chairman of the Elections and Ethics Committee, at 3414 Thornapple Street, Chevy Chase, MD, 20815. **Nominations must be received between March 1, 2007 and Friday April 6, 2007**



Candidate Announcement Process: Council nominees announce their candidacy with the preparation of a **Candidate Statement**. This statement presents a declaration of the desire to serve on the council and describes qualifications for office as well as any particular areas of interest or expertise. These statements must be received by the Election Committee Chairman by **April 11, 2007**. They will be published along with **brief resumes** of each candidate before the **Candidates Forum, scheduled for April 19th**, at the regular Monthly Council Meeting. Candidates will have an opportunity to meet and talk with current council members and residents attending this Forum in the Village Office at 7013 B Brookville Road.

Qualifications for Voting: In accordance with the Municipal Charter for the Village of Martin’s Additions, any resident who is 18 years of age or older residing in or owning property in Martin’s Additions is entitled to vote in the Village Council election. Voters in Martin’s Additions need not be registered to vote in Montgomery County or in the State of Maryland. Provisions are made for absentee balloting.

Election and Annual Meeting: In accordance with Charter requirements, the election will be held on

Thursday May 10th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Brookville Road Village Center prior to the Village’s Annual Meeting. A **Social Hour begins at 7:00 PM** and the **meeting begins at 8:00 PM** in the Village Office.

HEAVY TRASH PICK-UP FOR VMA IS SATURDAY APRIL 28, 2007

All items must be at the curb by 7 AM, Saturday April 28th. Some items that are not accepted include dirt, rocks, sand, large tree stumps or yard debris, liquids, paint, refrigerators or AC units, building materials or construction debris, tires or batteries, hazardous materials (gas, paint thinner, asbestos), recyclable materials – cans, glass and plastic bottles, yard debris, newspaper, and cardboard. Additional details will be provided in future *Editions*.



VILLAGE GEOGRAPHIC SURVEY RFP ISSUED

The Village has issued a request for proposals (RFP) to seven vendors to conduct a village-wide geographic survey that would establish the Village right-of-way and identify the front set backs of current buildings - the “established building lines”. This survey will precisely establish the Village right-of way for purposes of Village planting and maintenance of trees, and for construction and maintenance of curbs, driveway aprons and sidewalks. This information is currently not available because the Village streets vary in width, not all streets have sidewalks and the placement of the streets is not always centered within the public space. This would be useful to both residents and the Village Council when reviewing proposed building applications that may impact village right of way and the property setback lines. This survey will also be very helpful to the Tree Committee in confirming which trees belong to the Village. It is hoped that the bids can be awarded by Friday, April 6 and the project completed by August 6, 2007.



NOTES FROM POLICE CHIEF GORDON

The Village of Martin's Additions contracts with Chevy Chase Village Police for additional police patrols every month above and beyond what we receive from the Montgomery County Police. Chief Roy Gordon asked to share these Spring Crime Tips with the residents of Martin's Additions.



Secure Your Residence. Many folks are inclined to leave doors and windows open with the arrival of warmer weather. This can be an invitation to crime. Residential burglaries often occur by entry through unlocked or open windows and doors, including garage doors. Pay special attention when you are outside doing yard work!

Secure Your Vehicle. Vehicles are always easy targets for criminals. Do not leave anything of value in your parked car. Activate your car alarm.

Watch for Transient Criminals. This time of year, groups of criminals travel up and down the east coast and commit numerous crimes. Often their vehicles display out-of-state tags. They will enter the homes when homeowners are out working in the yard or ask for a glass of water, distracting the homeowner while another member of the group enters the home. Often the theft is not immediately discovered.

Home Improvement Scams. Elderly folks are often the targets of these scams. Typically, someone will knock on your door and claim they are in the area doing work and noticed your house needs some attention. Be highly suspicious of unannounced "utility inspectors" who want to gain access to your residence under the pretense of inspecting for pinhole leaks in pipes or lead content or claim to be there to inspect other utilities inside your home. The scams aren't new to the police. Make sure they don't happen to you!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives. Get into a life saving habit – "Change Your Clock – Change Your Battery". It is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce tragic deaths and injuries from fire. Ensure you have a working smoke alarm

on each floor of your home. Additional smoke alarms can be placed in sleeping and kitchen areas. Test your smoke alarms monthly; change the battery when you change your clock twice a year. If your smoke alarms are powered by your home's electrical system, consider installing battery powered smoke alarms as a back up in case of a power outage. Combine common-sense fire and injury prevention habits with a working smoke alarm and you will increase the probability that everyone will get out alive if a fire should ever occur in your home. Here are more tips:



Develop an Escape Plan – Identify two ways out of each room in your home; identify a meeting place for your family outside; practice your plan at least twice a year when you change your clock. Once outside, account for all family members at your designated meeting place; call 911 from a safe location; never go back inside a burning building for any reason.

Have a Prevention Plan. Unfortunately, each year people die in residential fires that were started by preventable causes, such as unattended cooking, improperly discarded smoking materials, candles left burning unattended, space heaters, and child fire play. These are lives that can be saved with smoke alarms!

Consider Home Sprinkler Systems. When used with working smoke alarms, home sprinkler systems greatly increase your chances of surviving a fire. Sprinklers are affordable - they can increase property value and lower insurance rates. In addition, a one-time property tax break is available for those who "retro-fit" their homes. Montgomery County is the largest jurisdiction in the United States to require residential sprinklers in all newly constructed homes. Always remember - If a fire starts in your home **GET OUT.**

**"SPRING INTO ACTION"
CHANGE YOUR CLOCK,
CHANGE YOUR BATTERY".**



THE “OLD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS” CORNER

by Alex Weiner, VMA Historical Society

Whatever Happened to Rossdhu Castle?

If you’ve lived here long enough, the name Rossdhu Castle may ring a bell. Or, if you’re driving down Woodbine Street and look to the left, you might wonder what the Scottish style castle straight out of Disneyland is doing in the midst of all the other colonials and ramblers on an ordinary street right here in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

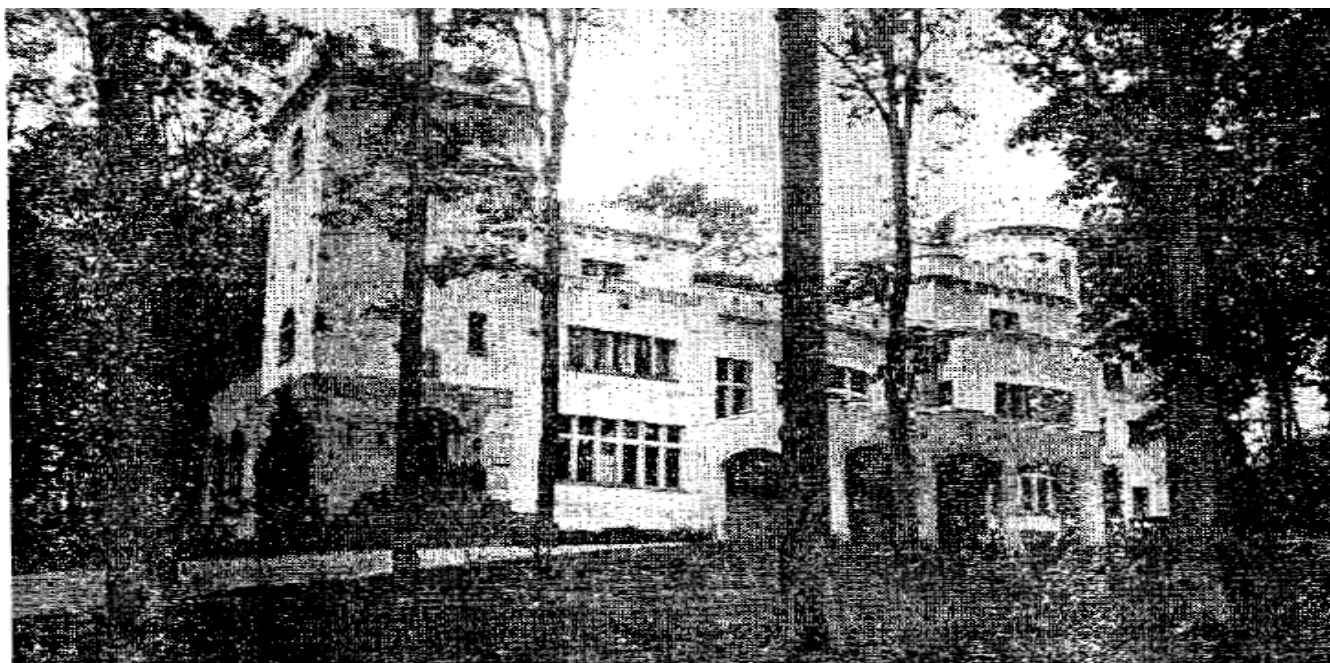
Well, picture this. The house that stands today at 3207 Woodbine Street was merely the “tip of the iceberg”, the gatekeeper’s tower leading to a grand 30 room castle that first opened its doors on New Years’ Day in 1927 in the area then called Braemar Forest. Washington attorney Clarence Crittenden Calhoun and his socially prominent wife Daisy modeled the castle on their 14th century ancestral home, Clan Colquhoun on Loch Lomond in Scotland. Both Clarence and Daisy were from the same clan, tracing their lineage back to the Scottish king Robert Bruce.

Each of the Calhouns had a colorful past in their own right. Mr. Calhoun was a former captain in the Kentucky State Guard and a lawyer who successfully represented the post Civil War claims of the State of Kentucky against the federal government. In addition, he won a \$700 million suit brought by the Sioux

Indians over ownership of the Black Hills in South Dakota. Mrs. Calhoun is described in newspaper accounts as “a thrice- married, thrice-widowed clubwoman”, originally from New Orleans and Texas, active in many women’s organizations and founder of the Women’s Universal Alliance... “She entertained princes and presidents in three magnificent homes but was forced by circumstances to spend her later years in more modest surroundings.”

When the Calhouns built Rossdhu Castle however, they spared no expense. It was constructed of masonry and concrete and studded with stones from the original castle in Scotland. It boasted a huge ballroom, turrets, gun emplacements along its roof, a one hundred year old moat and rooms filled with priceless paintings and antiques. The gatekeeper’s house had a wide spiral staircase running up through its center. According to one source, pieces of sod were actually taken from the ancestral home in Scotland and replanted around the castle.

The Calhouns faced financial difficulties in the Depression and in 1932, moved into the gatehouse. The castle was leased out as a “posh nightclub” to cover expenses. By 1934, Mrs. Calhoun was forced to sell some valuable paintings to cover the club’s debts; in one account, the couple was described as “broke and homeless”. Later that year, the castle was sold for \$40,000 at auction to the National Savings



and Trust Co. And if that was not bad enough — by 1937, Rossdhu Castle had been converted into a 30 unit apartment building! Perhaps this trauma contributed to the death of Mr. Calhoun in 1938 or maybe it was the sale of his beloved castle to Mr. and Mrs. Bert Williams, owners of the well-known Grandma's Antiques in Chevy Chase Lake the same year. The Williams' allowed Mrs. Calhoun to live in a portion of the house until her death in 1947.

After World War II, the zoning laws changed, permitting only single family homes in Chevy Chase. The castle's apartments were vacated and it fell into even further disrepair. Through it all, the 30 foot lake in front continued to be a popular place for kids to skate in the winter and fish in the summer. At one point, government officials considered filling in the lake (an action fully supported by the Williams') but this never came to pass.

By 1957, despite efforts of the owners to have the castle turned into an embassy or girls' school, the vandalized and crumbling Rossdhu castle was demolished to make way for new homes that line Rossdhu Court today. The gatehouse was left standing on a tenth of an acre lot, a fraction of the size of the original site. Our own Martin's Additions council member, Diane Everts, remembers playing in the rubble of the castle grounds, "We moved to Broadbranch Road at Brookville in 1955 and that old castle was just falling down in ruins. We would ride our bikes or have someone give us a ride over to the place so we could skate on the large frozen lake in the winter."

Mrs. Williams passed away in 1974. Her husband Bert had died a few years before that, after collapsing on the gatehouse doorstep. The castle was put on the market in the summer of 1974 for \$135,000 in "as is" condition, including some furnishings.

The third sale in the castle's history occurred in 1975, when the Williams estate sold it to a young couple named Velasquez from Silver Spring for \$99,500. They had managed to get in to the castle before the Sunday open house and make their offer (some things never change!) Apparently, public curiosity about the

house ran high and people stormed the gate, ignoring the "Sold" sign in order to see the inside of the old gatehouse and its spiral staircase, Waterford crystal chandelier, antique cornices and rustic stone fireplace. As it turned out, the Velasquez' cancelled the contract when they learned that the purchase price did not include an additional \$100,000 needed for renovation.

In 1979, the Rossdhu gatehouse was purchased by Frank Broulik, a retired Navy Captain and his wife Jeanne. They completed many renovations but reported in a 1997 newspaper account that, "The house is like the Washington Cathedral. It is never done." Mr. Broulik explained how at least one former owner still makes his presence known, "Williams must be trying to get back into the house since every once in awhile the front door slams without rhyme or reason."

Residents interested in working with Alex on historical projects can contact her at 301-215-7557

JOIN THE WELCOME COMMITTEE!

Village residents Debbie Metzger of Taylor Street and Karen Jacob of Chestnut Street are teaming up with Council member Diane Everts to get our Welcome Committee going. They already have some wonderful ideas to meet and greet our newcomers. If you would like to join this effort, call Debbie at 301-654-1563 or Diane at 301-654-7777 or the Village office at 301-656-4112 .



BCC HIGH SCHOOL USED BOOK SALE AND CAFE: MARCH 25th

The BCC High School Used Book Sale has truly become a community wide "event" that you won't want to miss! Make sure your calendar says "Book Sale" SUNDAY MARCH 25th, 11 AM- 4 PM at the Bethesda Chevy Chase High School on East-West Highway. **Books \$1 for paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover.**



MONTGOMERY COUNTY HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DATE

The Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste (HHV) Collection Date is as follows:

Saturday, May 19, 2007: Silver Spring

from 10 AM to 2 PM

Silver Spring International Middle School

313 Wayne Ave., Silver Spring (Dale Drive and Wayne Avenue)

Reminder: the Shady Grove Transfer Station has a permanent HHW receiving area, open year round, daily from 9 AM - 5:00 PM.



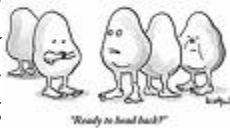
IMAGINATION STAGE'S EDGEFEST DEBUTS MARCH 31ST!

Imagination Stage, located right in our Bethesda neighborhood, is the region's preeminent Theatre Arts Organization dedicated to children. The First Annual Imagination Stage's EDGEfest, featuring professional theatre productions from Russia, Northern Ireland, Canada and the US will be held this Spring. There will be an array of arts-related festival activities, drama workshops and mobile-making workshops—all included for the price of a \$20 Day Pass. Come for a play, stay all day! Imagination Stage's EDGEfest runs March 31-April 7 at Imagination Stage in Bethesda. Info and tickets at 301-280-1660 or www.imaginationstage.org.

WATCH YOUR WEIGHT CLOSE TO HOME!

Weight Watchers is now at Bethesda Sports & Health, 4400 Montgomery Avenue, Bethesda, and you do not have to be a member of Bethesda Sports & Health to attend! The meeting leader is our own Martin's

YOUR LOST WEIGHT



Additions' resident, Sheila Davis. Meetings are on **Fridays at 12:30 p.m.**—doors open at 12:00 Noon. Lifetime members welcome. Guests are welcome to come and check out the wonderful meeting environment and group support at no charge. Questions, call Sheila at (301) 652-2855 after 11:00 a.m.

CHEVY CHASE COMMUNITY LIBRARY MARCH 2007

The Chevy Chase Library is located at 8005 Connecticut Ave. All programs are free. For further information or for reservations, contact the library at (240) 773-9590.

Mid-Week Book Discussion: THE LOST PAINTING by Jonathan Harr on Wednesday, March 28, at 10 AM. Copies of the book will be available for participants.

Toddler Times: Stories, rhymes and other activities for ages 18-36 months (Seating is limited and free tickets will be distributed before each program) Programs at 10:15 and repeat at 11:00 AM on Thursdays, March 15, 22, 29 and Tuesdays March 20 and 27th.

Born to Read: Saturday March 24 at 9:30 AM. Introduce your child (newborn to 18 months) to the joy of language and books with the program featuring rhymes, songs, bounces, movement and short stories. No registration required.

Preschool Storytime: Monday, March 26 at 7:00 PM: Stories, rhymes and other activities. Come in pajamas, if you like. For Ages 3 to 6.

VILLAGE COUNCIL AND STAFF DIRECTORY

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

GET MAXIMUM USE OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS!

As a municipality in the State of Maryland, the major source of revenues for the Village of Martin's Additions is our share of income taxes which every resident pays to the state. In order for us to receive this revenue sharing, you must write "*Village of Martin's Additions*" in the box marked "City, town or taxing area" on your Maryland Income Tax Form 502. This assures that a portion of your tax dollars comes back to the Village, rather than to

Montgomery County, to provide you with services. This money helps support our municipal budget for trash collection, recycling, leaf collection, street cleaning, snow removal, tree care and the many other municipal services that are administered by the Village of Martin's Additions. Don't give those revenues away! You have much more control over how those tax dollars are spent right here in your Village.

**FORM
502**

**MARYLAND
RESIDENT INCOME TAX RETURN**

OR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING

2006, ENDING

SOCIAL SECURITY #		SPOUSE'S SOCIAL SECURITY #	
Your First Name	Initial	Last Name	
Spouse's First Name	Initial	Last Name	
PRESENT ADDRESS (No. and street)			
City or Town		State	Zip Code
Name of county and incorporated city, town or special taxing area in which you were a resident on the last day of the taxable period. (See Instruction 6)		Maryland county	City, town or taxing area <i>Martins Additions</i>

