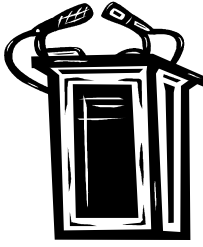


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# VILLAGE OF MARTIN'S ADDITIONS 2011 VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION



## HERE ARE THE CANDIDATES...

### **RHONDA MIGDAIL**

My name is Rhonda Migdail and I would like to introduce myself. I live at 7219 Delfield Street and I have been a resident of Martin's Additions for the past eleven years. I would like to represent you as a member of the Village of Martin's Additions Council.

There are a few questions you might want to ask,

Who are you?

I am a wife and mother of three children who all grew up in our community. They spent their childhoods walking to the Olympia Café with their friends, playing in Candy Cane Park and sledding down the hill on Shepherd Street. They attended the many events sponsored by our community like the Halloween Parade where they dressed up like princesses, or Superman, or one of the Beatles.

I am also a tax attorney who has been practicing law for more than twenty-five years. I specialize in employee benefits work—the law governing retirement plans. I have worked as a technical advisor and manager in the federal government, I was a principal and the director of a national employee benefits research group for a major actuarial consulting firm, an ERISA attorney, a Staff Vice President of a major corporation, an HR consultant and Senior Counsel, Pensions to a major trade association which experiences have provided me with the skills and confidence to handle many difficult and challenging issues. Before that, I attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School and I received a B.S. in Economics from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce where I majored in Accounting. While in law school, I was a teaching assistant in accounting at the Wharton School.

Most importantly for this position, I am a concerned citizen. Over the past few years, I have spent many nights in a dark and cold house in the winter (or at other times during the year even when there was no storm brewing) when Pepco failed to provide us with the basic electricity they have promised and contracted to provide to us; and I showed up to the Council meeting when Pepco was invited and expressed my concerns and demanded answers. I watched our elderly neighbors struggling during those periods and even witnessed one of my neighbors being rescued by the local police when the power outage went on for several days.

So, you may ask, why do I want to hold the position of a Council member?

Because like the other members of the Village of Martin's Additions Council, I care. I care about our community, our children, our elderly. I would like to be part of identifying our community needs and determining priorities. This is our community—we need to represent the interests of all citizens in the Village; for example, we need to ensure that the building and zoning regulations are administered in a way that protects and preserves the rights of our neighbors.

Because I think I can make a difference. During my adult life, I have volunteered at my children's school to lead efforts on auctions to raise money for scholarship funds, to co-chair book fairs, and in many other capacities. In the community, I have volunteered to feed the homeless. In my work life, I have always promoted change, looked for ways to do things better, more effectively.

Because I believe I have the skills that are needed to be an effective Council member. My business and legal skills would serve me well in such a position. I have held many management positions during my career, and so I understand the need and have the ability to ensure the continuation of vital day-to-day services such as trash collection, street and sidewalk maintenance, care of trees, and such. But I do believe

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*(MIGDAIL STATEMENT CONTINUED)*

that there are areas where we can and should be doing a better job; ensuring that our community is provided the respect that we deserve from those who serve our community.

Because, in the past, I have not been afraid to express my opinions and concerns on such issues. As a Council member, I would take the time to listen, really listen, to the concerns of our community, and ensure that residents' concerns are heard and addressed to the extent possible, whatever the issue.

Because I am an innovator, and sometimes, to ensure we are heard might require an innovative and creative approach. For example, there may be issues that affect an area larger than just Martin's Additions; maybe one that impacts all of Chevy Chase. In such a situation, as a Council member, I would reach out to the other impacted communities to see if we might be able to form a coalition on certain issues, using the concept of strength in numbers to provide us a louder voice in the discussion and resolution of such common issues.

And so, in closing, I ask that you consider voting for me to be a member of the Village of Martin's Additions Council.



## **CHRISTOPH MUELLER**

For the past eight years, my wife Lexy and I have lived on Shepherd Street, where our children progressed from Middle School through College. We've lived in Montgomery County for 23 years.

I am currently the Vice Chairman of the Village of Martins Additions Council. I have accepted a nomination to stand for another term and am happy to serve another term.

My participation in Village affairs over the past two years has been a remarkable experience in decision making, collaboration and execution. It's not what I expected. It took me about a year to understand the full scope and complexity of what we undertake as a separate municipality. I thought we would spend our time debating development, leash laws, the tree canopy and building codes. We talked about all of those things and they represent the interesting part of life as a Council member; however, most of our time is spent monitoring and guiding our day to day affairs and finances. We worry through the budget. We comb through the revenue projections and discuss downgrading third party service levels to save money. We talk about the challenge of on-going construction projects and infrastructure maintenance. What maintenance do we defer? What about our crumbling sidewalks? Which community events stay; which go? In addition, we must remain abreast of our regulatory and reporting obligations. As I have a long personal history in legislative and business affairs, I naturally fell into the role. I've come to enjoy my participation.

### Why remain involved?

I was nominated for Council for the first time, just over two years ago. I ran for office uncertain of how effectively I could contribute or if this was truly of interest to me. I quickly grew involved and enthusiastic. This was important stuff we were dealing with. Other Council members were smart, engaged and collaborative (for the most part). This wasn't like my old radical days when we debated the death of socialism and future of American democracy. I'm involved because I can contribute in a real way and we're getting something done.

Where I am' in my participation: I'm not interested in a long tenure. Part of what makes the Council dynamic is the on-going introduction of new participants. For my personal experience on the Council, this still feels like a new, productive learning experience. We are motivated towards results. Now that I've 'hit my stride,' I want to 'see the project through.' A lot of what we undertook in the past year remains very active: We're nearing the end of our storm water management initiative. After a huge financial jolt, we have launched a successful budget trajectory; we've really begun to see the positive impact of our

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(MUELLER STATEMENT CONTINUED)

land use guidelines, and we're back on track for some significant infrastructure improvements. Perhaps another term in office will also be productive.

Routine recurring services: For on-going management of our day to day services, I (and the Council) can take only limited credit. We've succeeded in retaining one of the best Village Managers from among many municipal chief operating officers. I want to perpetuate our 'execution model.' Our interaction with the Village staff on operational matters is highly collaborative yet, we don't micro-manage. We should continue to monitor day to day affairs, priorities and quality and cost of services. We should always examine successes and opportunities for improvement.

Directional Focus: Our most important contribution should remain ensuring continued public services, fiscal responsibility and maintaining the quality of Village life. This includes resuming our capital improvement projects and the legacy of Harry M. Martin. I am very fond of the historic Martin's Additions. I don't expect everyone to share my admiration for 1920's, 30's and 40's architecture; however, I don't want VMA turning into a Friendship Heights or an over-built enclave of exclusive mansions.

The Big Utilities: Despite my radical youth, I do not intend lead a blazing charge against Pepco. We are a small town with no meaningful recourse against these giants. Instead, we have experienced remarkable progress through persuasion and productive negotiation with this large utility. I recognize that anything is possible but we have limited resources.

We monitor Pepco's opportunities and actions in our community. Our jawboning has brought success in the form of clearing around overhead lines (a controversial issue), a pole replacement program and a scheduled upgrade on the infamous Norbeck line. While I encourage dissatisfied customers to pursue all legal remedies, we are not ideally positioned to demand much beyond what we have already successfully bargained for.

A little more about me:

I am a graduate of the Foreign Service School at Georgetown University. This was followed by a journey into late 70's and early 80's politics. I later pursued some graduate level design studies in Architecture and established a successful building business. Running my own business gave way to a variety of roles in business affairs. I am currently on the leadership team at OPNET Technologies, a Bethesda based software company.

I am also a member of the National Capital Velo Club and after my bike ride, I help my wonderful spouse of 25 years in our garden. Peter and Claire are both off to college but visit regularly.

If you would like to discuss my role on the Council or my candidacy, please telephone at home or send me an e-mail at [christophjmueller@yahoo.com](mailto:christophjmueller@yahoo.com).



## MICHAEL ZIELINSKI

My wife, Judy, and I have lived on Turner Lane since 1974, except for a brief displacement to California in 1998-99. Our daughters, Kristin and Allison, arrived a few years after we moved in, spent their childhoods on our quiet block, and have moved on to pursue their own careers.

We recently completed a modest, one-floor-living, addition because we want to stay here for the long (hopefully) haul.

I became involved in Village business in the 1980s, when it was a special taxing district, and served on the Council shortly after the Village became incorporated as a full-fledged municipality. I was Council Chair from 1987 to 1989, and headed up the effort to write the Village's first Code of Ordinances. More recently, I chaired the Zoning Tax Force, which recommended changes to the Village Building Code designed to reduce the impact of mansionization. Those changes were largely adopted by the Council and became law in 2009. I'm currently completing a two-year term as Council member, and am chair of the Storm Water Task Force, which has recommended steps that could be taken to reduce the impact of storm water

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runoff on adjacent properties.

There is never a shortage of issues important to Village residents. Efforts to force PEPCO to put service delivery ahead of stockholder returns, and concerns about traffic on “cut-through” streets, which we dealt with in the 80s, are two of the current “hot” issues. Of broader impact have been drastic reductions in traditional funding sources that have greatly strained the Village’s budget, forced the postponement of important capital projects and the trimming of some Village services.

Before becoming an Administrative Law Judge, a position from which I am semi-retired, I spent 25 years as a civil litigator defending the District of Columbia. That experience instilled in me a strong sense of protecting the public fisc. In past years, I opposed donating Village funds to put more computers in Chevy Chase Elementary School and new play equipment in Shepherd Street park. While those were worthwhile endeavors, I believed that contributing Village funds to County projects would set dangerous precedent, and that if Village reserve funds were to be reduced (wish we had more now), they should be distributed to Village residents, who would be free to support whatever causes they desired.

I have enjoyed my return to the Council, and would like to serve another term. Thank you for your consideration.

## VOTING IN MARTIN’S ADDITIONS

Residents will elect **two candidates** in the May 12th, 2011 election to serve for two years on the Village Council beginning July 1, 2011. The polls will be located at the Brookville Road Village Center in front of the Village Office at 7013 Brookville Road. All eligible residents are encouraged to vote by casting their ballots in the polling area. Write-in candidates are permitted. All voting is by secret ballot and strict controls are put in place by elections officials to ensure all voters have the opportunity to cast ballots in privacy. Voting will be conducted outside if weather permits and will take place in the Olympia Coffee Shop - “Ann’s Place” --if the weather is inclement. A street festival, “Celebration on the Sidewalk,” will take place during the voting. The stores will remain open during the voting and refreshments will be served. Come meet our merchants and your neighbors, Council Members, Election Committee and more!



## WHO CAN VOTE?

Any person who is 18 years of age or older as of Election Day, May 12th and resides in or owns 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. Non-U.S. citizens are allowed to vote. The Elections Committee will have an updated version of the Village Directory available and computerized to verify residents’ names and addresses. If you’re not listed on the voter rolls please be prepared to show a driver’s license, a utility bill or other acceptable documentation showing **your Martin’s Additions address** when you come to the polls. Questions should be directed to Frank Correl, Chairman of the Elections Committee, at 301-951-9211 or at [martinsadditions@verizon.net](mailto:martinsadditions@verizon.net).

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS AVAILABLE

Residents who are unable to come to the polls on Thursday evening, May 12th, may apply for an absentee ballot beginning on **Monday, April 25th through Noon Wednesday May 11th:** (1) by coming to the Village Office in person, (2) by phoning the Village Office at 301-656-4112 or Frank Correl, Elections Committee Chairman, at 301-951-6211, or by emailing the Village Office at [martinsadditions@verizon.net](mailto:martinsadditions@verizon.net). Absentee ballots must be returned to the VMA office or Frank Correl no later than 12 o’clock noon on Election Day, May 12.

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