

Martin's Edition



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

NOTES FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN



Dear Residents,

I am writing this on the eve of the Public Hearing on Ordinance 4-09-2 related to new building regulations for the Village of Martin's Additions introduced by the Council on April 16, 2009. It has taken two years of work by many of you, the members of the Land Use Task Force and the Council to produce this Ordinance. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to those who have worked so long and so hard exploring the many issues and options that underwrite this effort.

I have heard from many of you who have been anxious that the Village respond to the houses and additions that loom over the older neighborhood homes. After the Council reviews the public comments—oral and written—at its meeting on Wednesday, May 27, it may choose to amend the current Ordinance or vote on the acceptance of the Ordinance as currently written. As always, the Council meetings are open to all residents; I would encourage you to attend the meeting, which will be held in the Village Office.

I also want to note that the recent election had a record turnout of voters to elect two new Council members: 144 people came to vote in person; 44 people voted absentee. It is a tribute to our residents that Council elections are clearly so important to all of you. But I would be remiss if I did not note all the work that Jean Sperling, our Village Manager, does in organizing the election and the participation of Brookville merchants. It

is the "party" she creates that clearly encourages residents and their families to come out to vote and meet up with their neighbors. Our kudos to Jean!

Richard Krajeck



MAY 2009

♦TWO COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECTED

Chris Mueller and Mike Zielinski were elected to the Village Council. Their terms will begin July 1, 2009. See page 2 for details.

♦"CELEBRATION ON THE SIDEWALK" A HUGE SUCCESS

A great voter turn out and terrific merchants make for a great event. See page 2 for more info.

♦VILLAGE STREET REPAIRS SCHEDULED IN JUNE.



See page 7 for info on street repairs. Please observe No Parking Signs or risk being towed.

♦SURVEY ENCLOSED

Please take a minute to complete the enclosed survey about the newly forming Chevy Chase @Home. It can serve you and you can serve it!

♦WHERE IS YOUR HOUSE NUMBER?

Please see the article on page 7 about properly displaying your house numbers.

♦MARK YOUR CALENDAR! INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION JULY 5th from 1-4 PM

The Village is planning its annual Fourth of July Celebration on the afternoon on **July 5th from 1-4 PM** to help you wrap-up the weekend fun. The cul-de-sac on Turner Lane will be the location as usual. Lots of fun stuff for the kids of ALL ages! How to help? Call the Village Office.

♦REPORT STREET LIGHTS OUT

Please help keep our Village well-lit by calling the Village Office to report street lights that are out. A street address is needed.



NEXT VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

The next Village Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 27th at 7:30 PM**. Action on Ordinance 4-09-1 and 4-09-2 will be on the Agenda.

Follow the details on the Village website at www.martinsadditions.org. The **June** meeting has been rescheduled for **Thursday June 25th at 7:30 PM**

TERRIFIC CELEBRATION ON THE SIDEWALK and VILLAGE ELECTION



A great crowd turned out for the May 7 Village Council Election and “Celebration on the Sidewalk” in front of the Village Office. Residents enjoyed goodies up and down the sidewalk thanks to the kindness of the merchants. A wonderful art show of local Martin’s Additions artists was held despite the rain courtesy of the Olympia Coffee Shop. The voters were active, casting a total of 144 ballots in person and 44 ballots absentee. **Chris Mueller** (Shepherd Street) was elected with the most votes and **Mike Zielinski** (Turner Lane) received enough write-in votes to win the second seat on the Council. Both candidates officially take office on July 1, 2009. Current Councilmembers Catherine Gwin (Delfield Street) and Diane Everts (Raymond Street) completed their terms on the Council and chose not to run again.

Very special thanks must go to the Election Committee: **Chairman Frank Correl, Ted Stoddard, and Sharon Hadary Coyle**. They did a splendid job! Thanks also to resident **Rick Michel** for helping to set up for the sidewalk celebration--it couldn’t have happened without him! Kudos to our Verizon Weatherman and Martin’s Additions resident **Keith Allen**, who carefully monitored the weather for us and expertly lifted the heavy rains just a few minutes into our event. Damp skies certainly didn’t dampen our spirits. Everyone had so much fun we’ll just have to do it again next year!

COUNCIL ADOPTS FY 2010 BUDGET



At the Annual Village Meeting on May 7, 2009 the Village Council approved and adopted the proposed FY 2010 budget for the Village of Martin’s Additions in Resolution No. 5-09-1. That budget was presented in the last newsletter and is available on the Village website.

COUNCIL APPROVES PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR FY 2010

In compliance with the Charter requirements for the Village of Martin’s Additions, the Council approved the tax rate to support the FY 2010 budget at the

Annual Meeting with the adoption of Resolution 5-09-2. The personal and real property tax rates are unchanged from current levels of fifty cents (\$.50) per \$100 of assessable personal property and eight tenths of a cent (\$.008) per \$100 of assessed real property value.

COUNCIL HOLDS HEARING ON OPEN MEETINGS ORDINANCE 4-09-1; READY TO TAKE ACTION



At the Annual Meeting on May 7 the Village Council heard public comment on Ordinance 4-09-1 to amend Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances related to the establishment of reasonable rules of conduct for persons attending open sessions of the Council. The ordinance was printed in the April Newsletter and additional copies are available from the Village Office and on the website. The Council has plans to take action on this proposed amendment at the meeting scheduled for May 27, 2009.

SHRED IT EVENT A BIG HIT!

On a beautiful day in April, shortly after Tax Day, Martin’s Additions, Section 3 and Section 5 residents pulled together enough shred-able material to almost completely fill the “Shred It” truck.



In fact almost 3,000 pounds of recyclable shredded materials were hauled away that day. New insulating materials, paper board and other recyclable materials will grow from our contribution.

Officer Ed of the Chevy Chase Village Police provided traffic directions and cars moved quickly through the Shred It! station on Taylor Street right here in Martin’s Additions. Getting into the spirit of the event, they even brought some materials to be shredded! We were fortunate to have a very special volunteer help us with the planning as well as the execution of this terrific event—**Ron Romblad**, a resident of Chevy Chase Manor and long-time friend and supporter of Martin’s Additions—was the master of the day.

All three Village Managers—Andy Harney in Section 3, Jean Sperling in Martin’s Additions and Francis Higgins in Section 5—helped residents unload their cars and throw the materials into the

truck. The entire event was so well received we hope to provide the same services again next year at about the same time, so start putting those boxes of documents aside! We hope Ron will offer his help again next year too!

DON'T SMOTHER THE TREES (INCLUDING YOUR OWN) WITH MULCH

Don't let the Mulch Mound Monster attack our trees again! Prepare yourself with knowledge! Do not allow your landscape companies to mound mulch around the Village's street trees, especially since we spent a great deal of money over the winter having the mulch mounds removed. You might also want to know that the mulch mounds are not good for any trees. Mounding up of mulching materials at the base of trees can be fatal to the trees and plantings on anyone's property.



Some find these volcanoes neat and tidy in appearance, but in reality they result in tree decline and eventual death of the tree being "cared for" in this way. **This is one of the most harmful gardening practices;** but it can easily be eliminated or avoided all together. Even professional landscapers are creating these mounds! Mulch volcanoes are most injurious to young trees, and unfortunately that is where they are seen most often. If a newly planted tree is subjected to this treatment, the root ball may be completely shielded from any moisture, even if the area is irrigated heavily. Such trees may struggle to become established and often die within five years of planting.

While the aim is to preserve soil moisture in dry spells, the effect is exactly the opposite: no rain can penetrate a foot-thick layer of mulch and the slope of the mulch away from the tree guarantees that the water will run away from the tree into the street. Thick mulch also promotes the growth of fungi mats that shed water. In effect, the mound functions like a thatched roof over the root zone that prohibits the penetration of water. A trunk wound covered in mulch doesn't heal and becomes an entry way for pests and disease. Many trees actually send roots out into the mulch over time, in a desperate search for moisture. These often grow near the

surface of the mulch and are subject to drought stress. A heavy layer of mulch may also harbor rodents that can injure the bark and major roots. Trees mulched in this way fail to develop a normal root flare, which works to buttress the trunk as the tree grows to maturity. Heavily mulched trees are more likely to be uprooted in a windstorm. You may need to correct the mulching of trees on your own property. Start by breaking up the old mulch with a rake. Pull it away from the trunk. Add about one-half an inch of fresh mulch to improve the appearance, but know that the old mulch is still good!

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE RAYMOND STREET GARDEN

Since 1995, the Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program has provided behind-the-scenes access to some of the country's finest private gardens, offering the public the opportunity to spend time in spaces not normally available for public viewing. This year more than 300 private gardens in 23 states will be open for public enjoyment. **On Saturday, June 13, four gardens in the Chevy Chase-Bethesda area will be open, including one in Martin's Additions — Patsy and Jeff Stann's garden at 3421 Raymond Street.** Hours are 10:00 to 4:00. The admission fee of \$5 supports the work of the Conservancy. The Garden Conservancy is a national organization that seeks to preserve exceptional American gardens for public education and enjoyment, such as Longue Vue in New Orleans, damaged by Hurricane Katrina. For more information about local gardens open in June and about the Conservancy, see www.gardenconservancy.org.



TREE-PLANTING PROGRAM OFFERS DISCOUNT COUPONS

Montgomery County's Planning Department and the Montgomery County Forest Conservation Fund have launched "Leaves for Neighborhoods," a campaign encouraging residents to plant trees in their yards. The campaign will continue through May of next year.

County park facilities and participating nurseries will offer coupons to residents in an effort to increase the county's tree canopy on residential property which in turn could help prevent erosion, improve local

air quality and filter storm water runoff to improve area streams and rivers. The coupon will offer a \$25 discount on the purchase of native shade trees worth \$75 or more. Shade trees can also lower the need for heating and air conditioning, reducing energy costs by 15 to 30 percent

www.montgomeryplanning.org/environment/forest/leaves_for_neighborhoods.shtm. will provide you with more information or you can call 301-495-4600.

“BASICS OF WATERSHED GARDENING” TO BE PRESENTED IN VMA OFFICE JUNE 11

Basics of Watershed Gardening” will be presented by Jennifer Willoughby, an arborist with the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River, on Thursday evening, June 11th, beginning at 8 P.M. in the Village Office. This program, sponsored by the Village Residents’ Environment Committee, should appeal not only to those who are interested in learning more about conservation-wise gardening but to those who would like to learn which plants are adaptable to specific soil and moisture conditions, and which attract “friendly” visitors - butterflies and hummingbirds. Concerns about discouraging foraging by deer will be addressed but Jennifer warns that there are no “magic” solutions. Her talk will also include information about rain barrels and how they may be purchased from the Interstate Commission. Jennifer’s talk will be illustrated with lovely pictures and there will be time allotted for questions. Questions about the program can be addressed to Debbie Metzger at 301-654-1563.



CHEVY CHASE @ HOME WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Representatives from “Chevy Chase at Home,” a newly formed non-profit organization, attended our Election Night events and were very well received by the crowd of interested residents. The purpose of this organization is to assist older residents of Chevy Chase to remain



independent as they “age in place” in their homes. A related purpose is to facilitate interaction among older residents and their neighbors to strengthen the inter-generational social bonds of our community.

CC@Home has developed a survey which is enclosed in this newsletter. This survey is intended to evaluate the needs and interests of our residents as they age. Would you please be so kind to take a moment to fill out the survey and return it to the address listed on the back of the document. (Chevy Chase at Home, P.O. Box 15102, Chevy Chase, MD 20825) The more input from the community the better.

NEW COMMUNICATION FEATURE ON OUR WEBSITE



The VMA website allows residents of Martin’s Additions to register for e-mail announcements from the Village Office. This feature allows the Village to send timely e-mail notices to registered residents. This is a one-way communication tool from us to you, so you needn’t be worried about additional mass e-mail traffic or spam. Go to www.martinsadditions.org. In the top upper right hand corner of the Home page you’ll see the word “Register.” Click on that word and you’ll be taken to the User Registration Page. Fill in the requested information. Just before you click on the final “Register” button you will be asked to re-type some funny looking characters presented to you in a grid box. (This action prevents spam in our Village inbox). You’ll get a message back that says “User Registration-Success!”

LIST SERV REGISTRATION AVAILABLE THROUGH WEBSITE

The directions for joining the Martin’s Additions List Serv are found on our website (www.martinsadditions.org). Just go to “About the Village” and you’ll see “List Serv” pop out. You can follow the directions that are there or, even easier, click on the highlighted link which will take you to the List Serv Home Page where you can sign up to be a member.



VILLAGE FOOD DONATION PROGRAM ROLLS INTO SUMMER

A big “thank you” to all Martin’s Additions residents who continue to contribute to the Village’s food drive on behalf of Manna Food Center. April’s total delivery of 308 pounds was a bit of a drop from each of the first three months of 2009 BUT **we got a big boost — 190 pounds — from the May 7th election night effort.** That amount boosts our total YTD delivery to **1,888** pounds through May 15th. Thanks to all of you voters who dropped off a

donation during the balloting as well as to the Council for letting us put out a collection box. But we must not stop now. As in the rest of the country, hunger in Montgomery County persists, especially with all the layoffs in this troubled economy. Remember our motto — “Hunger Knows No Season” — and please drop off your nonperishable food items in the box at the lower door of the Village Office or call the Kirschtens (301-986-5839) for a pick up at your door. To those of you who wanted to know more about Manna and its mission, see the “FAQ” article below.

MARTIN’S ADDITIONS & MANNA: FAQ

On Election night several voters asked to know more about the Manna project, so here are a few quick facts: Operating since 1983, Manna Food Center serves an estimated 2,300 Montgomery County families a month with emergency and supplemental food. (In the current economy, demand is up by as much as 50 percent, making individual community efforts all the more imperative.) The Center has a referral network that includes county and city agencies, community ministries, schools, local hospitals/clinics, local law enforcement agencies and groups like the Salvation Army. In partnership with grocery stores, nonprofit agencies, corporations and foundations, local governments, community and youth groups and individuals, the Center has distributed more than 30 million pounds of food over the last 25 years. Distribution points are located in Rockville, Silver Spring (three), Gaithersburg, Germantown and Wheaton. Manna also provides food at no charge to soup kitchens, emergency shelters and group homes, freeing up resources for those groups to address the root causes of hunger.

WHO qualifies for food? Those receiving help from Manna are mainly the working poor — individuals and families who are working two (or sometimes more) jobs but who, after paying for rent/mortgage, gasoline and car insurance, health insurance, school expenses, clothing and so on may not have enough money left at the end of the month to put food on the table every day. Clients, who receive about 78 pounds of perishable and nonperishable food each month, must be referred by one of the 350 agencies, schools and other organizations that work with Manna.

WHAT does Manna most need? The list includes: rice; peanut butter; canned fruits and vegetables; canned meats; soup; canned and dry beans; spaghetti sauce; canned and dry pasta; macaroni and cheese; cereal; baby food/formula; canned and powdered milk; and kid-sized containers of juice, fruits, cereal, raisins, applesauce, etc., for the “Smart Sacks” program, which provides backpacks of foods for kids on Fridays when there are no school meals available.

WHERE to drop off donations? In the box at the foot of the stairs to the Village Office, 7013-B Brookville Rd., or the box at the Brookville Market.

WHEN? Whenever you go to the grocery store, CVS, Rite Aide, or CostCo pick up a few extra items for the food drive. Store specials and coupons are especially helpful.

WHY donate? Because many of our fellow Montgomery County residents are in need — and because you are good-hearted, generous people.

NOTES FROM THE POLICE

Be on the Lookout...it's Spring!

Some crimes in Montgomery County are seasonal in nature. When residents learn what these types of crimes are and some simple preventative measures, they can keep from becoming victims. We enjoy the arrival of spring with its warmer temperatures and longer hours of daylight. But just as sure as April showers bring May flowers, the arrival of the warmer weather presents the opportunity for the following types of crimes.

Residential Burglaries and Thefts

Burglaries to homes with open and unlocked garage doors always increase this time of year when families are involved with lawn mowing, gardening, bike riding and so on. Last spring, communities in North Potomac and Rockville were regularly victimized by such burglaries. Keeping garage doors closed and locked and locking all vehicles can greatly reduce these types of crimes. Home windows may also be left unlocked and open to allow for air circulation during the warmer months, providing easy access for burglars. Burglaries can also occur while a victim is working in the yard, or has gone to take a walk or run a quick errand. In many of these cases, entry is made through an unlocked door, but forced entry has also been used.

Transient Criminal Groups

Thefts may involve some type of ruse to gain access to the home; one person distracts the resident while another searches quickly for valuables such as cash, jewelry, and silver. Sometimes the missing property is not even noticed right away. Usually women, sometimes with a child, take part in this type of crime. Many of the distraction thefts are committed by transient criminal groups who typically arrive each spring and fall in our region. Their tactics vary, but they've been coming to the county regularly for more than a decade traveling through neighborhoods and using some type of ruse or distraction to enter the home. If the suspect is encountered inside the home, some type of explanation – such as getting a glass of water - is given to explain why the person is there. Other excuses include: looking for a lost dog, a house for sale, or chasing after a straying child. It has been estimated that only 10% of all crimes committed by

transient criminal groups are ever reported, and there are several reasons why. Sometimes an elderly victim is embarrassed to admit he or she was “taken.” Also, criminals are careful not to disturb items inside a home and may take items like silver which are not frequently used or missed immediately. These transient criminals are also known to return at a later time to re-victimize people or businesses where they have had previous success. Being aware of who belongs in your neighborhood and report suspicious people and vehicles to police as soon as possible can help prevent these crimes.

Home Improvement Scams

The suspects drive up in a pick-up truck or van that usually has some sort of supplies or equipment in the back. They will offer to apply sealant or to resurface a driveway, or complete a roof/chimney repair. Often, a minimum price is agreed to, but an additional charge for materials is later added. Intimidation tactics are used to get the additional cash or extra checks. Checks are usually cashed immediately to avoid problems once the deception is uncovered. The workers may try to distract the homeowner - asking for hot water to mix cement or to use the bathroom. While the homeowner is occupied, one or more other suspects will search the rest of the house for easily concealed valuables such as cash, jewelry, or silver. The work performed is always substandard. A driveway resurfacing may consist of a coat of white paint applied to the concrete driveway or used motor oil applied as an asphalt sealant. Victims of these scams are almost always elderly. Always use licensed workers and companies, and maintain a healthy suspicion towards those just driving through neighborhoods. Reports of these types of scams are handled by the Montgomery County's Office of Consumer Protection (240-777-3636).



Door-to-Door Solicitors

And we don't mean your neighbors' children who are raising money for schools, athletic teams, or scouts. Vendors going door-to-door selling magazines or services are required to have an individual license with photo ID issued by the Montgomery County

Department of Permitting Services and worn on the outer garment. Licensed vendors may only solicit between 9:00 a.m. and sunset. If you don't recognize someone at your door, speak through the door and say that you aren't interested. Opening your door gives the stranger the opportunity to see how old you are, if a purse or other valuables are near the door, and whether your door was locked. Police advise against opening your door to a stranger. Residential burglaries have occurred soon after an unlicensed vendor(s) has been through the neighborhood. If you have suspicion about a person or group going through your neighborhood, call the police non-emergency number (301-279-8000).

Utility Scams

Male scammers will sometimes pose as utility workers, claim to be working on a neighbor's property or use some similar ruse to gain access to a home. Once again the resident is distracted while another person slips into the home undetected and searches for valuables. If ID is requested, phony business cards have been offered. Another ploy is to claim that the victim was billed too much for work done. A \$100 bill will be offered and change requested. The victim is followed to see where the money is kept, then once again distracted while another subject gets the rest of the victim's money. Paying by check may be safer than using cash. But never allow a worker to see where cash or how much cash is kept in a home.

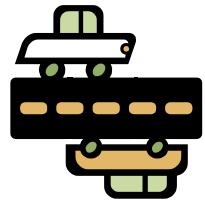
Each of the six Montgomery County Police District stations have a Community Services Officer who can be contacted to arrange for crime prevention presentations to area homeowner's organizations and other community groups. For phone numbers and more information about your Police District Station, log onto the Montgomery County police website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police.

IS YOUR STREET NUMBER VISIBLE?

The Chevy Chase Historical Society recently photographed homes throughout the Chevy Chase area and reported to us that many houses do not have numbers displayed. Apparently Martin's Additions was the worst offender of any town. PLEASE make sure your house numbers are visible. Will emergency personnel be able to find you when you need them?

VILLAGE STREETS TO BE REPAIRED IN JUNE

Many potholes and eroded street areas are scheduled to be repaired during the month of June. Every effort will be made to post **NO PARKING** signs when necessary. Please try to minimize on-street parking during this time. **If you see the No Parking signs remember they apply to YOU!** The more easily we are able to execute the work without having to tow cars the faster it all gets done. Consider it your contribution to a better Martin's Additions.



VILLAGE COUNCIL AND STAFF

Council Chairman

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Village Office 301-656-4112

Jean Sperling, Manager
FAX 301-656-0030
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Newly elected members to take office July 1:

Chris Mueller 301-718-9687
3509 Shepherd Street
christophjmueller@yahoo.com
Mike Zielinski 301-654-1748
3418 Turner Lane
mzredondo@verizon.net



BUILDING IN VMA REQUIRES PERMIT

Planning an addition? Putting in a fence? Deck? Dumpster? You'll need a permit from the Village of Martin's Additions as well as a Montgomery County permit before any work can begin. Information is on the website at www.martinsadditions.org or by calling the Village office at 301-656-4112.

THE VILLAGE OF MARTIN'S ADDITIONS WISHES TO
**THANK THE MERCHANTS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES
 AT THE BROOKVILLE SHOPPING CENTER
 FOR A FABULOUSLY SUCCESSFUL 2009
 ELECTION DAY "CELEBRATION ON THE SIDEWALK"**
THANK YOU...



◆ *AMBER FIELDS*

OWNERS ELLEN AND KAREN AND MANAGER JENNY FOR HOLDING A SPECIAL SIDEWALK SALE JUST FOR US AND OFFERING LIBATIONS!

◆ *ASSESSMENT ASSOCIATES*

DRS. JOEL ADLER AND PETRA ELDER FOR ALLOWING THEIR FACILITY TO SERVE AS OUR SECURE BALLOT COUNTING LOCATION.

◆ *BROOKVILLE BARBER SHOP*

JOHN, TUAN AND GREG FOR DISCOUNTING HAIR CUTS JUST FOR US!



◆ *OLYMPIA COFFEE SHOP, "ANN'S PLACE"*

OWNERS ANN AND JUSTIN LEE FOR OFFERING AN ASSORTMENT OF COLD DRINKS, YUMMY SANDWICHES AND ALLOWING OUR LOCAL ARTISTS TO TRANSFORM THEIR "PLACE" INTO AN ART GALLERY.

◆ *GALAXIE CLEANERS*

MANAGERS LEE AND KAYANN AND SEAMSTRESS MARLENE FOR JOINING IN THE FESTIVITES, AND MAKING A SUBSTANTIAL DONATION TO OUR CANNED FOOD



◆ *BROOKVILLE PHARMACY*



OWNER AND PHARMACIST HOSSEIN, PHARMACISTS MICHELLE' AND YAKUBA; THE WONDERFUL STAFF, ANGIE, LEI, EDEN, MELODY, JOSH, MICHAEL AND KIM WHO DECORATED THE CENTER WITH BALLOONS

◆ *BROOKVILLE SUPERMARKET*



MANAGERS JOE AND JOSIE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF BUTCHER EMAD, GROCERS OSCAR AND ELSA, SUSHI CHEF YONG, MELTY AND DAVID IN PRODUCE AND DELI, AND JOCELYN, SABA, GRACIER AND MULU ON THE CASH REGISTERS. THANKS FOR SERVING GIFFORD'S ICE CREAM CONES AND PREPARING "MUNCHIES" FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY OUT OF THE RAIN.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR NOT ALLOWING THE RAIN TO DAMPEN OUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT!