

Good evening. I am Glenn Gargan, the President of the Montgomery Village Foundation, and I will now open the 2020 Annual Meeting.

2019 was a strong year for MVF, as MVF continued to fulfill our mission of providing a wide variety of community and recreation services, maintaining and improving facilities, and enhancing programs and policies. All of this is directed at keeping MVF on trend with the changing needs and desires of our residents and community. I am also pleased to report that we are in excellent financial condition with healthy reserves to meet our future needs.

MVF has been on a schedule of replacing or renovating many of our aging facilities, and this year, quite a few projects were completed:

- The equipment at Clubside was replaced, and Hurley Park got new equipment, repaved paths and new lighting;
- The playground at North Creek Lake Park was replaced as well, with a cool new pirate ship;
- We continued hosting many free-to-all social and **recreational events and activities**, including the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration, the Fall Festival and Pumpkin Races, the summer Lawn Theatre performances, Flea Markets and Farmers'

Market—and many classes and programs of all kinds open to all for a reasonable fee; and

- The Seniors in Action program saw tremendous growth to participants from every part of the Village.

To keep up with trends in sports and fitness, there were at least 5 community meetings held to solicit community input on various new proposals:

- After much study and receipt of community input, including a recommendation from the Recreation Committee, the MVF Board approved the installation of a **futsal/soccer mini pitch on one of the North Creek Tennis Courts and pickleball courts will be constructed on an adjoining tennis court.** This will allow residents to use the area for more play options, under the lights; and
- Another major change involved the decision to repurpose the Watkins Mill Pool, which has been the most under-used of MVF's 7 pools over the years. Plans are underway to build an outdoor gym complex with surrounding track and relocate the small tot lot in the rear of the property to the front so kids can play while others can recreate.

Recreational amenities are not the only reason for choosing to live in our planned community – and certainly not the only service provided by MVF. Another important responsibility assigned to MVF through its governing documents is **Architectural Control**. This helps to maintain the aesthetic look throughout the Village and preserve the home values of our entire community. The MVF Architectural Review Board, a dedicated committee of volunteers, meets monthly to review all decisions.

Over the last year, the MVF Commercial Architectural Review Committee was especially busy:

- The Lidl Grocery Store plan was approved at the former Professional Center Site;
- The Village Center site is under construction and moving along. Hopefully, the phase 2 site plan, which includes residential units on the rear of the center will be approved by Park and Planning so the new homes can be brought on line in 2021; and
- Also, on the development front, in 2019 Bloom continued to work with Montgomery County and utility companies to gain approval of engineering plans so that building permits could be issued. I am pleased to report that the construction process has begun on the former golf course property and

the first model homes will be coming soon. A press release was recently released announcing the ground breaking.

**Communication** is the life blood of our community. MVF continues to try to balance its communications offerings both in print and digitally to meet the diverse needs of our residents.

- Last year, in addition to website enhancements, the *Village News* weekly digest was enabled, providing all website account holders with an email of important news each Friday morning.

The accomplishments of MVF's **Finance Department** may not be as visible but it is the essential, behind the scenes structure that supports **all** of MVF's services, none of which have become less costly:

- It is with even more pride that we thank our MVF Finance Department for managing our budget, along with the guidance and support of our volunteer MVF Audit and Investment committees, to have worked all of the accomplishments of the past year into the 2019 Budget without having increased the 2019 MVF assessment;
- I would also like to thank Bob Carey who continues his fine work as Treasurer; and

- Unfortunately, MVF's collection process remains busy, and over 300 lawsuits and liens were filed in 2019. Our delinquency rate through 2019 was almost 8% or 650 units.

Our finances were challenged in 2019 because of the condominium lawsuit, which MVF had no choice but to pursue. For those of you who don't know, three condominiums (Heron's Cove, Normandie-on-the-Lake II and Thomas Choice Gardens Condominium) attempted to separate from MVF, arguing that they were not receiving services from MVF or that they could not afford them anymore. Of course, MVF had to file a legal challenge, and in December, a judge decreed that it would be a breach of contract for them not to pay MVF. The judge ruled that the condominiums were bound by the original documents that require all homeowners to pay assessments to Montgomery Village Foundation to support the many services and amenities that MVF provides to the entire Montgomery Village community.

While we are thankful for this ruling, the condos have appealed, and we still must go through more legal process to get past assessments paid and damages for the attorney's fees, which to date, are almost \$190,000; the back assessments that are owed to date amount to about \$200,000.

Partnering with our schools has always been important to our residents, and our Board continues to keep closely involved in particular with our two Village high schools, through our MVF Scholarship Program and our MVF Student Representative Program:

- In 2019, MVF scholarships were granted to five outstanding Village seniors;
- Our second Student Representative, Nadia Makmak, completed her year's term in December, after contributing her youthful perspective to our monthly meetings, and serving as an intern with MVF staff during the summer working with every department to assist in operations; and
- We are also pleased to announce and introduce our third non-voting MVF Student Representative, Comfort Oshagbemi, a junior from Watkins Mill High School, who will begin her term tonight.

The MVF Board will continue working to serve all residents of Montgomery Village; to invest in our community, refresh our programs, parks and assets, and to build upon the legacy of our thriving planned community while at the same time looking for

new ways to reach out and meet the needs of a new generation of Villagers.

I have no doubt that, with the events of the past several months, the Annual Report provided next year will have quite a different tone to it. That being said, let's all resolve to work together to make 2020 a year to celebrate and be proud of!

At this time, I would like to introduce our Election Committee Chair, Pamela Bort, who will report on the 2020 Election Results.