

Help us grow wisely & well
... become an MBRA member!



Marshall Minute

NOVEMBER 2018

**Don't miss our
MBRA Community Meeting**

Come one, come all!
Tuesday, November 13th
7:30 to 8:30 pm

FREE refreshments for YOU
starting at 7:15 pm & door prizes!

We will talk about
Small Business Saturday's
Sidewalk Stroll Nov. 24th
and hear from two local businesses,
just in time for your
gift-giving needs:

Flying Heron Herbs, Spices & Teas
Ms. Candi Verilli, Owner
8383 W. Main Street, Marshall
(703) 789-0161
&

**Custom Cuts Hair Salon and
Rodan & Fields Skin Care**
Ms. Connie Jones, Owner
8482 W. Main Street, Marshall
540-364-9234

We will also get an update on the
Marshall Main Street Project
and have our free drawing
for door prizes!

Marshall Community Center
4133A Rectortown Road
Marshall, VA 20115

Thanksgiving is Thursday
November 22nd



***Many, many thanks to the
Marshall Ruritan Club!***
The MBRA would like to express our
sincere thanks to the Ruritans. Our
experience hosting our October meeting
in the new Ruritan Building went
flawlessly! The space is very
comfortable and attractive, and was
perfect for our large meeting turnout of
over 70 attendees. To rent the space,
contact Brenda Payne by email or phone
Brenda.Payne@Inf.com or 540-270-1795

**Invite Friends & Family to Shop Local, Shop Marshall at our
First Annual Small Business Saturday Sidewalk Stroll**

11 am to 4 pm, Saturday, November 24th

Use your map to find hidden treasures on or near Main Street
**If you bring receipts from patronizing at least three MBRA
Member Businesses that day, you are entered into a
free drawing for prizes!**

Pick up your map at either of these two Marshall locations:

Big Dog Pots, 8287 East Main Street (540) 364-2834

OR

Nick's Deli/Glascock's Grocery, 8294 East Main Street (540) 364-1721

***Bring 3 or more receipts back to Nick's Deli before 5 pm for
drawing for free prize!***

**Escape from the hectic mall scene and
do your gift shopping during your sidewalk stroll.**
Enjoy breakfast or lunch in Marshall; walk, shop, and stay for dinner!

Don't miss the specials our businesses are having for this event!

**Updates will be posted at www.MarshallVirginia.org
For more info, contact us at mbraeditor@gmail.com or 540-364-3400**

***~Christmas Parade Dec 1st~
See Page 5***

Visit our website:

www.MarshallVirginia.org

Have questions or suggestions for speakers?

Contact Mary Wilkerson, MBRA President

(540) 364-3400; mbraeditor@gmail.com

Editor: Mary Wilkerson; Copyright November 2018

***3rd Annual Make Marshall Merry
Main Street Decorating Contest!***

**Calling all Businesses & Residents along Main Street~
Help make Marshall Merry this Christmas season by decorating your
home or business! Have yours decorated before November 30th
be in time for the contest; judging takes place November 30th**

**Businesses may wish to decorate before November 24th in time for
Small Business Saturday's Sidewalk Stroll**

MBRA October 9th Meeting Notes

Mary Wilkerson, President and Moderator for tonight's Q&A, called the meeting to order at 7:24pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. She thanked the Ruritan Club very much for providing this beautiful meeting space for us. Announcements: Bill Hines announced the Ruritan's upcoming raffle on Saturday, November 10th. Mary Wilkerson announced the MBRA's October 29th Showcase Mixer at CJ Custom Cuts.

At 7:29pm **Marshall District Supervisor Mary Leigh McDaniel** shared an overview on the Marshall Main Street Improvement Project before the moderated Q&A time. Mary Leigh said that we have talked a lot about details, and she wants to start by talking about Main Streets. She discussed the benefits of an enhanced Main Street and said that infrastructure is an essential future to Marshall's vibrancy. She explained that this is a win-win opportunity that we don't want to miss, and she called for support from the community.

Mary Leigh also shared some news, explaining that they met with and worked closely with VDOT for an extension. Even though November 20th is the deadline, they are giving the County more time to raise \$1.5 million extra to fund possible undergrounding.

Mary Leigh had asked the MBRA Board of Directors to pre-submit questions to her for our meeting. In addition to being sent to Supervisor McDaniel, those questions were also printed out for each audience member for ease of following along. Q&A time was moderated by Mary Wilkerson, President. (Also present to answer questions were current **Project Manager and Direct of Fauquier County OMB, Erin Kozanecki, former Project Manager and Marshall District Supervisor, Peter Schwartz, and former Project Manager, Paul Lawrence.**)

Q #1) The utility poles are not shown on the drawings. Has it been determined where the utility poles will be located? If so, how does their position interface with the current plan?

Erin Kozanecki: The plans you have are the streetscape plans, not the engineering plans. One pole will be removed in order to meet ADA compliance. **Secretary's Note: The plans which this question refers*

to are the Carson Ashley and LPDA plans that the County sent to the MBRA Board on 8/29/2018 and which can be viewed online at marshallvirginia.org/main-street

Q #2) Do the planned positions of the utility poles interfere with the planned locations of trees and other design elements? Are the plans considered complete without showing the poles?

Kozanecki: The plans show existing poles, not planned positions.

Q #3) Do you have pictures of the street lights which have been selected? If street lights have been decided - could we get pics?

Kozanecki: The MBRA Board had indicated one streetlight but it was not compliant with dark sky requirements. The second preferred streetlight was Warrenton, and that is what will be on Main Street.

Q #4) The majority consensus of residents favors elimination altogether of use of brick. Status of use of other materials? Any further info on concrete or concrete stamping vs. bricks?

McDaniel: The only brick in the project is at the ends of the sidewalk. The Main part of the sidewalks is concrete.

Mary Wilkerson: With that, our Board was really unhappy with the use of brick. Is it possible to eliminate brick so we do not have any higher safety or maintenance cost issues? **Kozanecki:** VDOT and FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) do not feel brick is a hazard for tripping or raising. **Peter Schwartz:** In the early stages of the project, there had been a significant desire in the community that the sidewalks be all brick. Also, the County is not responsible for maintaining the sidewalks.

Moderator: Even less maintenance is just concrete sidewalks that may even be tinted. We were told about different creative things that can be done with sidewalks. Are you familiar with that? **Schwartz:** The question is, do you want to add a little aesthetic to your Main Street sidewalks?

Q #5) Easements required for government projects are typically purchased. Were all of the easements the County obtained over the years for Main Street improvements purchased from property owners?

McDaniel: No, there was no cost involved. **Kozanecki:** It is not necessarily typical that easements are purchased.

Q #6) Are all necessary easements in place for the project as planned? If not, how many are still needed for the undergrounding? How many are still needed for the streetscape project?

McDaniel: Just two minor signatures are needed for the streetscape project and two easements are still needed for the undergrounding.

Q #7) Since it is supposed to be illegal to pressure property owners in to giving and/or selling easements, what does the County plan to do to obtain the remaining easements from private property owners?

McDaniel: We are working with property owners. It's in their community interest. There's no pressuring involved with anybody. We're hoping they will.

Q #8) Somewhere in the past few weeks, I heard that VDOT can now bury power lines under the street . . . no easements required. Is that the case, and would undergrounding impact the actual sidewalks at all? If so, what is the cost? Do you have any information on burying the power lines in the street, eliminating the need for easements?

McDaniel: If we have undergrounding, you have to cross the property owners, and transformers are involved. Also, VDOT is no longer providing funding for undergrounding so we have to raise the funds ourselves. **Moderator:** Is it that we were grandfathered in for undergrounding and the County got that changed to be able to use it for the streetscape?

McDaniel: We were up to \$2 million for undergrounding when the Virginia General Assembly said they would no longer provide funds for undergrounding. The additional money after that went for the streetscape. We can use the funds that were originally for undergrounding for the streetscape because it's the same.

Moderator: Was the \$2 million earmarked? **Kozanecki:** Undergrounding was an eligible use of those funds. We have \$2 million that can be used for undergrounding but the actual cost to underground this block exceeds that figure. It is a minimum of \$3.5 million for undergrounding.

October 9th Meeting Notes, continued:

Q #9) Does the money from the state have any descriptive restrictions as far as what it is to be used for? Was the money supposed to be used for undergrounding? Is money that was slated for the cost of undergrounding allowed to be used for sidewalks?

Kozanecki: Undergrounding and street improvements were always comprehensive; it's just the \$2 million that was originally for undergrounding.

Q #10) Didn't the grant we already received cover undergrounding? If this is a problem, could the grant be amended? We don't know unless we ask. In the past two years, we have withdrawn from the Paris Climate Accords, renegotiated NAFTA, amended Dodd-Frank regulations, etc. etc. This grant for the "Marshall Main Street Improvement Project" seems minuscule compared to many other government actions.

If these larger things can be amended, why can't the grant? Has anyone asked how to change or amend the grant? We have been told repeatedly that the provisions of the grant cannot be changed. Why not? Wasn't the grant already changed per County's request to use the undergrounding grant funds towards the streetscape instead?

Kozanecki: Better to use the funds. It is not just the County that needs to go according to these restrictions. There have been efforts to amend this decision in the General Assembly but to no avail.

Q #11) Is there any way possible to do this grant project without narrowing Main Street? Is the current plan, which narrows Main Street by 2 ft., still the operative plan?

McDaniel: This project is VDOT-compliant. VDOT has the right-of-way, not the County itself. We have to meet both VDOT and ADA requirements. While there will be a slight narrowing of the street, the drive lanes will still be 11 feet wide. Upperville has it and they have had no problems.

Paul Lawrence: It is important to know that Rt 55 was the Rt 66 of those days. Our Main Street, even with making it ADA compliant, will still meet VDOT's requirements. There is plenty of room to

do that. We have Rt 66 now that people can take instead. Most houses on Main Street lost their front porches decades ago when Main Street was made into an interstate, so we have a chance to go back to how Main Street was before.

Jeff Symanski: But cars are going to be two feet further in.

Moderator: We understand that 11-foot-wide travel lanes are allowed. The question is, is that the best thing to do to remove a two-foot margin for error, which could make the difference between damage to person or property?

Schwartz: The issue is trying to get cars to slow down; the issue is safety; how to get people to slow down. That is why they did that in Upperville. The thinking is that this will actually slow the traffic on Main Street. A lot of people I have talked to say this is a win-win: wider ADA sidewalks and slower traffic.

Moderator: What is the ideal speed speed?

Schwartz: 25 mph. **Moderator:** Is it correct that the posted speed cannot go lower than 25 mph on Main Street in Marshall because it is a highway?

McDaniel: The only place we see 15 mph is one little road in Warrenton. VDOT does not like 15 mph.

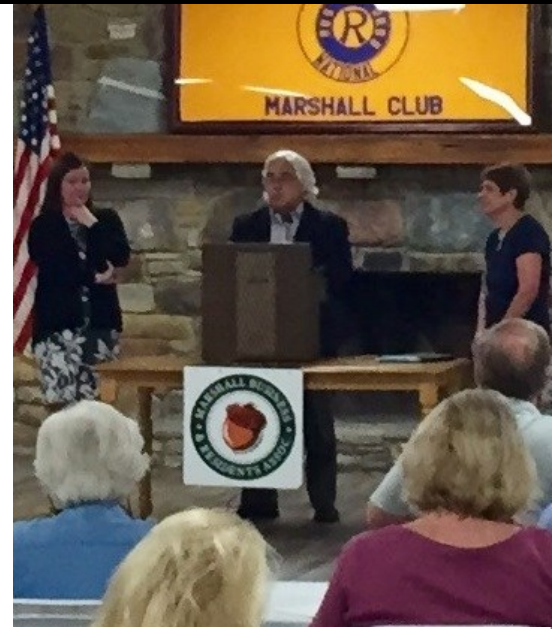
Moderator to McDaniel: On August 2nd this year you had told us that the Sheriff's Department did stealth cams for four days on Main Street and found that people were actually going 25 mph or less.

Schwartz: Yes, but the issue is people who are not going 25 mph.

Larry Scheuble: First, I do not agree with the analysis with Middleburg. Middleburg has nowhere near the number of driveways that Marshall has. We are not like Upperville, either. We do not have alleyways but rather lots of driveways. . . big vehicles that block the whole road.

McDaniel: VDOT is not going to approve this project unless it is compliant. The other thing that is going to help is having marked parking. With that, parking will be away from driveways. **Scheuble:** No, that does not answer it. The width of the road has some impact on this issue.

Moderator: Some have said that, through the use of paint and signage, we can achieve the same goals without an extensive tear-up project.



Left to right: Erin Kozanecki, Peter Schwartz, and Mary Leigh McDaniel answer questions the MBRA Board pre-submitted for this meeting on the planned Main Street project. Thanks to their very efficient use of time answering, we got through about 2 dozen questions in our allotted hour of time! The MBRA Board had compiled a list of 29 questions after having spent much time in communications with Mary Leigh and Erin, and after studying information the County provided for us the last several months. Thank you Mary Leigh, Peter, and Erin!

McDaniel: The project is designed to be safe. While I appreciate that may be an option, people obey the rules, and right now the rules are not clear. But if they are clear people will obey them.

Q #13) What common ground is there between the current plan and the alternative plan?

McDaniel asked for clarification on what the alternative plan is, as she is unfamiliar with that. Wilkerson said she believes it is the alternative option of repairing vs replacing what we have so we do not have to meet the regulations of today.

McDaniel: Of \$4.8 million, 80% is coming from the Federal government, some other is coming from developers' proffers, and some is coming from the special Lighting Tax District (MELBID).

Jeff Symanski: With the Van Metre proffers, you keep saying they are for this project. Aren't they for the part near Van Metre's development?

October 9th Meeting Notes, continued:

Schwartz: That is a transportation proffer for general use anywhere on Main Street. Van Metre was okay with that because their view was that improving Main Street is good for them.

Q #14) Is Mary Leigh comfortable that there is no conflict of interest that exists regarding existing business interests and investors and their role in the planning, design, and promotion of this project?

McDaniel: Yes, I'm comfortable that there is no conflict.

Q #15) Mary Leigh has explained that there is a difference between "budget" and "cost" and that, while the County has a budget for this project, she expects the cost of the project to go up. Is there enough money in the budget to do the job?

McDaniel: We currently have enough to do Main Street enhancements that include sidewalks. If we do undergrounding, then we need to raise \$1.5 million more.

Q #16) WSA has said that Marshall sits on a bed of rock. How many drill tests have been done for this project and what were their results?

Dr. Royston, who was involved in this project, answered this question: Extensive studies prove these duct banks will rest on bed rock but we do not have to do blasting to get them. In 1991, Marshall National Bank funded this plan all the way back. They were very seriously committed people on both levels. More than a few people have been involved in this, and at every level: charette processes, etc. This is designed to be democratic. What you see is decades of work.

Joe Sarsour: Is that the same meeting when they were having secret meetings?

Dr. Royston: It was open to everyone who wanted to come. Sarsour: I did not receive the email. Dr. Royston: No emails were sent. Sarsour: What about the secret meetings that have been held at your place? Dr. Royston: The County rents my place for the Fauquier Enterprise Center. Sarsour: I know, that is what is so disturbing. Dr. Royston: Anyone can rent the space for meetings.

McDaniel: We were notified that we have a limited amount of time to raise funds for undergrounding. I had to pick a small group because, as you can see, we could

not have a large group with lots of opinions, so I picked a small group of people in Marshall: Todd Lamonia, because he lives right off of Main Street; Patty Cloud because she has been involved and is concerned with the lack of undergrounding; Neil Wavra because, though he was not involved, he owns a business and property on Main Street. We as a group came up with a list of 30 potential donors, a plan of action, and talking points to pitch the project to the community.

Moderator: The difficulty with that is that the MBRA, especially a couple of officers, were in contact with you and Erin about this project but we were never made aware of a meeting about it. For a long time there has been a feeling in the community that things are done behind closed doors. That meeting lends credence to that. Part of the problem with that is that we are trying to have good government-community relations because if we don't work this out, how can we go forward together? Anne Michael Greene: Why would the MBRA, who has been an information group, take a position on this?

Moderator: The MBRA records I've seen do not support that we do not take a position. We do not take a position on Republican-Democrat political issues. **Our mission statement is not that we are to be an information-only group; our mission statement is "The MBRA is a civic organization whose purpose is to protect and enhance the quality of community and professional life in Marshall."** Also, the MBRA is not connected to the County. We are a diverse group with diverse opinions. The MBRA can set an example for civil discourse. That may be uncomfortable for some but it is a step in the right direction.

Q #19) If a 400% increase on those in Marshall's Special Tax District is a "best case scenario" if all goes right with this one block project, how many more times will our taxes be multiplied in order to do all the rest of Main Street? Any additional taxes from new residents in future housing developments will likely be used up meeting the additional infrastructure needs.

McDaniel: The amount of funding this project calls for is \$640,000 from those in the special lighting tax district (MELBID). It would be a totally separate calculation to see if people are willing to do that.

Schwartz: I have seen it described as a 400% tax rate increase but that is a very, very scary way to characterize it. I have also heard it described as a 400% increase in property value. This was approved by the Board of Supervisors when I was on this.

Q #28) Complaints have been that this is a bait-and-switch. Why has the County not had the two required public hearings on this project since it was changed? Does the County intend to do so?

McDaniel: We have had all the required public hearings on this project. Can you clarify 'bait-and-switch'?

Moderator: I think the question refers to the fact that this project now no longer includes undergrounding.

Q #20) An arborist has said the planted trees planned in this project will not work. Winchester had to remove their trees. Also, what happens when we run into rock while trying to dig the large holes the plans require be dug to plant these trees?

Kozanecki: There have been samples done. The concern over rock has been mitigated. The trees have been designed by an arborist.

Q #23) What is the process if citizens and/or businesses do not want the County to proceed any further with this grant?

McDaniel: The project has 3 phases: 1) Design, 2) Engineering, which is the stage the project was in when I came on as Supervisor, and 3) Construction, which is really where we are now at this point of the project. If we do not do this project, County taxpayers would be on the hook for half a million dollars* and we would lose a \$5 million dollar project. I can pretty much guarantee the Federal government would not give us more funding if that happens.

**Secretary's note: Mary Leigh explained to our Board on September 10th that the County has already spent approximately \$450,000 on this grant project and 80% of that needs to be paid back whether the project is done or not.*

October 9th Meeting Notes, concluded:

Jeff Symanski: So there is no way to stop this? **McDaniel:** It is not impossible.

Moderator: People involved in this have said it is not that we are blacklisted and will not get it again if we let this project go. If we are involved in private fundraising anyway, is it possible to use that for a leaner, more efficient project without an expensive grant?

McDaniel: We can't do that because we are working in VDOT right-of-way. It would only be different if Marshall was incorporated.

Moderator: Is it possible to do undergrounding and not completely replace sidewalks?

Kozanecki: Any improvements are going to require bringing it up to standards. Relocation costs alone are \$2 million [to relocate utilities]. To do the duct bank is a separate cost.

Schwartz: There is a lot of misinformation.

Moderator: Yes; that's why we're having this conversation. I do wish we could have had this sooner.

Lady in the audience: What portion of Marshall residents live in the special tax district (MELBID)?

Kozanecki: I don't know.

John Suter: Correct me if I'm wrong, but we are talking about one block, is that right?

Schwartz: Right, it's the center of our town.

Mauren Pereira: Does this make us more likely to access funds for the rest of Main Street?

McDaniel: That's the hope. Mauren: Is there a rough budget for the rest of Main Street?

Kozanecki: No, because it has never been conceptualized.

Audience member and Marshall District Planning Commissioner Bob Lee said this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. In all his years of experience, he has not seen a grant like this.

Chris Cloud: Has anyone ever seen something like this come under budget, and what happens if it is over budget? **McDaniel:** We feel like the budget is a good solid budget.

Main Street project portion finished, and Candidates' Night immediately followed.

Mary Wilkerson introduced our first candidate of the evening, **Leslie Cockburn, Democratic candidate for Congress, 5th District of Virginia.**

Mrs. Cockburn introduced herself and asked the audience what issues are most important to them. She shared with the audience some things she will work to accomplish if elected, including rural access to broadband.

Mary introduced our last candidate of the night, **Wendy Gooditis, representative for Tim Kaine, Democrat, U.S. Senate.** Mrs. Gooditis currently serves as Delegate for House District 10. She shared issues that are important to Senator Kaine, including supporting large and small farming, conservation, and agriculture. He is also big on education, and supporting technical education programs, as well as our veterans and military personnel.

The meeting was adjourned around 9pm. Minutes by Mary-Elizabeth Wilkerson, Secretary.

Note: The MBRA began this grant for this project years ago. While our Board voted in September that we do not support the project in its current form, we also stated that our Board was divided on this issue.

The MBRA Board has a diversity of opinions on the Marshall Main Street Improvement Project, as does our membership.

No matter what your view on the project, we support you, encourage you to make it known in the polite fashion of civil discourse, and have provided ways for you to do that. We're here for you!

Just go to www.MarshallVirginia.org, Main Street tab or to the non-MBRA website with alternative options & dialog:

www.ShapingMarshallTogether.com. Updates will be continually posted.

You may also reach us at 540-364-3400 or email mbraeditor@gmail.com

Join us for the MBRA's 2018 Marshall Christmas Parade!

11 am, Saturday, December 1st, (Rain/snow date: December 8th)

On Main Street between Hagerstown Block & the Marshall Rescue Squad

Breakfast with Santa from 7:30-10 am at the Firehouse

Breakfast is \$7 per person or only \$3 for each person who brings a new, unwrapped toy to donate ~ one \$3 breakfast per toy ~

Questions, contact Brenda Payne at MarshallChristmasParade@gmail.com



Santa rides into Marshall on a fire truck ~ 2017 Christmas Parade

**Marshall District Supervisor
Mary Leigh McDaniel Invites Everyone
to a non-MBRA Meeting on the
Main Street Improvement Project~
Free Pizza and Salad at the Ruritans
Tuesday, November 27th, 6:30 pm**

Mary Leigh says, "This meeting will not be sponsored by any group, but will be a community meeting by and for the Marshall community to discuss the history, process and reasons why the Marshall Main Street Project evolved. There will be a panel comprised of residents and those involved in other ways (project managers, VDOT) who can answer more technical and engineering questions." Contact info: Mary Leigh McDaniel, 540-422-8020 MaryLeigh.McDaniel@fauquiercounty.gov

Bland-Graham Learning Den Dedicated September 8th!



Jennifer Armstrong and Skip Glascock hold the ribbon while Duke Bland, Dr. Jeck and Supervisor Mary Leigh McDaniel make the cut at Marshall Community Center

**Holiday Sing-A-Long with
Peter McCory**

Thursday, Dec. 6th from 10-11am

at the Marshall Community Center

4133A Rectortown Road, Marshall

The one-man band will be playing holiday music for kids. It's a great time for younger kids as Peter includes them in on the fun with dancing and playing musical instruments.

Tickets are \$7 and can be bought the day of or in advance. Call (540) 422-8580

Fauquier County Parks & Recreation and Fauquier County Public Schools dedicated the newly renovated learning space to honor community leaders, Mr. Raymond "Duke" Bland and Mr. David Graham, Sr. Duke Bland is a 1971 Fauquier High School graduate and a longtime coach of community sports teams. He also has served on the Fauquier County School Board since 2005. David Graham, Sr. served as principal at Fauquier High and Marshall Middle, in a career that lasted 32 years. Before his tenure in FCPS, he was a professional football player for the Philadelphia Eagles.

**Swing Into The Holidays!
7-9:30 pm, Saturday Dec. 1st
Silver Tones Swing Band**

The dance series at the Marshall Community Center continues, with the Silver Tones performing a special dance for the holidays! Swing into the holidays by celebrating the season with Big Band classics! Songs you'll hear will include a wonderful mix of 1940s hits and holiday favorites, including Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, Let It Snow, Santa Baby, The Man With the Bag, Jingle Bells, and Mele Kalikimaka, among many others.

The Marshall Community Center is located at 4133 Rectortown Rd, less than a mile off I-66, exit 28.

Complimentary holiday refreshments will be served. Refresher/beginner swing dance lesson starts at 7 pm

Admission is just \$10. Ho, Ho, Ho!

www.SilverTonesSwingBand.com

Members Needed for Marshall Community Center Advisory Committee!

If interested, please contact Patrick Workman, Manager, (540) 422-8582
4133-A Rectortown Road, Marshall, VA 20115

Meetings normally held the third Monday of the month. For more info, go to:
<http://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments-h-z/parks-and-recreation/administrative-governance>

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR ANNUAL 2018 MBRA MEMBERSHIP NOW!

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Support your local community! Mail this completed form and your check to:

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Thank you! Among other things, your support of the MBRA funds our:

- ~ Website; Marshall Christmas Parade; Showcase Mixers for businesses & residents;
- ~ Monthly Community Meetings to hear from our local elected officials and speakers of interest, new businesses, and to meet our neighbors;
- ~ Marshall Minute Newsletter which keeps our citizens informed, even if they can't make it to our monthly Community Meetings



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