



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Parkside Village, Inc.? How is it different from the Parkside Condominium?

Parkside Condominium is the familiar entity to which we pay monthly condo fees in exchange for a host of community-wide management services, such as utilities, building maintenance, and grounds-keeping, as well as social and recreational activities such as game nights, international night, swimming pool, etc.

Parkside Village, Inc. is a new thing. It is a member-based, volunteer-operated, non-profit organization comprised of Parkside residents. It was established by your neighbors to promote a sense of community among Parkside residents and provide volunteer helping-hand services to our neighbors who need them. Nearly 30 “villages” like ours are operating in neighborhoods throughout Montgomery County.

Parkside Condominium is supportive of the Village, but the two organizations are not the same.

What do you mean by “promote a sense of community”?

The Village motto is “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”. Parkside Village will help its members make personal connections with one another – to build a sense of community--a sense of belonging, not just “residing”. Personal relationships, even casual ones, promote mutual support and turn strangers along the sidewalk into neighbors you know.

Our Village will foster “community” by organizing pot luck dinners, educational lectures, walking groups, movie groups, and so forth, as well as helping one another when personal needs arise. These activities will be conceived, organized, and operated by the members based on what the members want and need, and some of them have been happening “informally” during the past year. We are learning as we go.

What do you mean by “helping-hand services”?

Most of us could use a little help from time to time to manage life’s daily tasks. Examples? Perhaps you need to change a ceiling light bulb but you don’t feel good about climbing the ladder. Rather than taking the risk, you reach out to the Village

volunteer network to connect you with someone who will drop by at your convenience to help with this task. Or perhaps you need a ride to a routine appointment...or help with a tech problem or with lifting or moving something...or to just get a simple “check-in” call every few days.

All these tasks can be performed by a willing neighbor, if that neighbor knows the need exists. That’s where the Village steps in. A Village Volunteer Coordinator will make the connection between a Village member who needs some help and a Village volunteer who is able provide it. Volunteers will have had background checks and training.

Are there tasks the Village won’t help with?

Yes. Examples include things like medical care and other skilled services that require a license, such as plumbing and electrical repairs. Generally, the suite of support activities the Village can offer will evolve, depending on member needs and availability of volunteers. In some cases, the service provided by the Village may involve helping the Village member find help elsewhere.

Are Village volunteers insured?

Yes. The Village insurance policies cover all volunteers for both general liability and accidents.

What if I don’t need helping-hand services like these? Why should I join?

There are several other reasons you might choose to join the Village. You might want to be a volunteer, willing to be called on from time to time when a neighbor needs help. You might want to help organize and operate Village programs. You might just want to get to know your neighbors better. There are plenty of ways to participate that don’t involve receiving direct services from others.

Do you charge dues?

Yes. Even with an all-volunteer organization, we need an annual budget to operate at all. Expenses include insurance costs, office supplies, occasional outside services such as printing and copying, association membership, etc. Every dollar paid in dues supports village activities. Current annual membership is \$35 for an individual and \$50 for a household. But, keep in mind, you pay nothing for services you receive from a volunteer.

Other questions? Call 301-284-0560; email ParksideVillageMD@gmail.com; or visit our website at www.ParksideVillageMD.org.