

SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

NEWS & VIEWS

SEPTEMBER 2011

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Bulk Trash Pick-up, curbside

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Council Meeting
7:45 p.m. CCUMC Room 109

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Party-in-the-Park

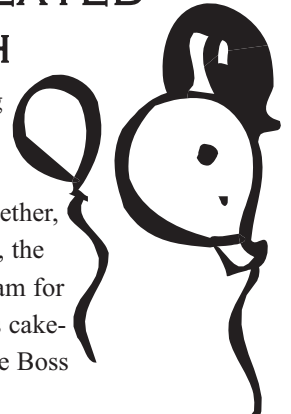
Gazebo Park
4-7 p.m.
(rain date Sept. 25, same time, same place)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5
Bulk Trash Pick-up, curbside

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12
Council Meeting
7:45 p.m. CCUMC Room 109

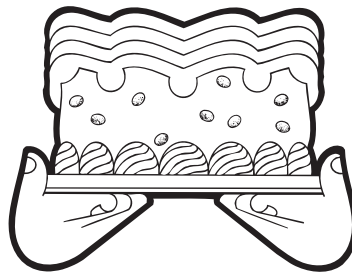
PARTY IN THE PARK SLATED FOR SEPTEMBER 18TH

Save the date, September 18th is Section 3's big event—the annual Party-in-the-Park from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. For those of you new to the neighborhood, this is a once-a year event where we all get together, enjoy lots of rides for the kids (including the favorite, the train ride), dinner for everyone, Good Humor ice cream for all, a wonderful dj, and of course, Section 3's famous cakewalk which makes everyone look better than the Cake Boss any day!



We will take over the entire park area with lots of fun for all. We hope you'll join us. Catering will be by Mindy's Catering, Big Country Amusements

will supply the rides and of course, lots of wonderful volunteers will man some of the rides to be certain our children are safe and that they go home with fabulous cakes from the cakewalk!



We have volunteer slots for set-up and clean-up, for children's rides, and of course, the cakewalk. **Jen Roberti** will coordinate the cake donations while **Donna Harmon**

and **Natasha Saiffee** will coordinate the volunteers.

So mark the date, September 18 and if it rains, September 25 same time (4-7 p.m.) same place (the Gazebo Park)...and remember, this event is open only to Section 3 residents! Grandparents are welcome to bring their grandchildren, of course.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

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SECTION 3 HIT AND RUN

Sunday morning, July 10th saw **Mary Weadon's** parked car on Shepherd Street hit by unknown drivers who not only T-boned her car after attempting to turn the corner at Delaware and Shepherd Streets and totaling their own car. Sadly, no one saw who did this dirty deed and, needless to say, the drivers who did this damage did not leave a note on the windshield! It took them hours to extract their car from the site and have it towed away, so happily, police have some leads. Hopefully they will be held accountable for their actions.

Neighbors have all been contacted, but if anyone else saw anything on that night in connection with this hit and run, please contact the Village Manager who will direct you to the right individual at the police department.

**In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and our desire to have our meetings open to everyone in our community, Council meetings are held at the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church which has handicapped elevator access via the parking lot entrance. We are grateful to the Church for their generosity in allowing us to use their facility each month.*



COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Council met on Wednesday, July 13. All Council members were in attendance. The meeting began at 7:55 p.m.

The Council approved the minutes of the June meeting as it appeared in the newsletter with one exception, the Party in the Park is slated for September 18, with the rain date on the 25th. The newsletter incorrectly reported the date.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

We now have both policemen patrolling our streets so we have even better coverage. They have been doing a lot of stop sign enforcement, simply by being a presence in the community. One of our patrolmen was helpful in directing traffic when the paving of Brookville Road was taking place.

BUILDINGS & ROADS

The Buildings and Roads representative and the Village Manager will be meeting with all the contractors working on installing utilities at 3821 Bradley Lane soon. The pre-construction meeting is designed to get all the responsible parties talking to one another and to coordinate the work. We are also working to get the builder to comply with our fence regulations.

The removal of four trees on Georgia Street between Spring and Raymond Streets by Pepco took longer than expected including work on a Saturday. At one point, trucks blocked Raymond Street as well, making it difficult for an ambulance to cut through to Brookville Road. The contractor was talked to about the blocking of the intersection at Raymond and Georgia Streets and the Rescue Squad was also communicated with so that when calls are not in Section 3, routes are selected that are likely less congested. Happily, the recipient of the emergency services was not adversely affected by the three to five minute delay. Two additional trees were taken down on Raymond Street and on Florida Street.

The Village Manager and the Buildings and Roads representative will be looking into a complaint about an unsightly compost

heap and in one location and some soil resting on the siding of a garage in another.

Permits were issued for the steps and walkway for the **Al-Mashegbeh family** and for the fence at the **Mansour** residence.

The Council discussed revising the building permits fee structure (see story this issue.)

The Council discussed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the County has proposed we sign in order to qualify for FEMA reimbursement for debris removal. The Council has agreed to sign a more recent version of the agreement and check with our attorney before we sign off to be certain that we haven't neglected anything that might adversely affect us. The concern is that without this signed MOU, we would not be reimbursed for removing debris from any severe storm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Interest rates continue to be extraordinarily low. We managed to get some decent "rollover" rates on CDs maturing in June and July, but there is one CDs due in August where we will need to seek out higher interest rates at other institutions that are Maryland chartered and FDIC insured.

The Council voted to hire Dennis Alexander, CPA to handle this year's audit.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

The Welcome New Neighbors Barbeque is all set for July 14th (see story this issue). The Village Manager did not order a tent this year, but did get some fans just in case it was unbearably hot. The accordionist is all set, as is the caterer and the ice cream man.

The Party in the Park is slated for September 18th with a rain date of the 25th.

The Council agreed to the request from the group Chevy Chase@Home to extend the closing period for the grant for funding for the refreshments for their free "Meet and Mingle" events at Chevy Chase Village Hall up to the \$1000 cap previously agreed upon. The group had only spent about 45 percent of the total allotted in the last fiscal year.

VARIANCE REQUEST

The **Isbell** family of Bradley Lane is requesting a variance to replace a side-yard fence at the existing height of 6' on the western side of their property rather than 48" high.

Congrats to Section 3 composer **Barbara Buchanan** of Bradley Lane who has composed music to accompany an original sculpture show at the Katzen Arts Center at American University. The show, called "Seismic Dreams" opens September 17th and features this unique Bradley Lane artistic collaboration with Buchanan as the composer and Pattie Firestone of Chevy Chase Village (and Bradley Lane) as the sculptor! For more information on the show go to www.american.edu/cas/museum/gallery/seismic-dream-firestone-buchanan.cfm.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Welcome to **Jo and Mark Mardell** and two of their three children: **Lucy** (13) and **Theo** (9) have moved into 3701 Taylor Street. Their eldest child, **Jake** (18), will be attending college in the UK. And the two younger children attend the British School here in the District. Mark is a journalist with the BBC. The family spent part of the summer in the UK right after moving into the neighborhood. We're looking forward to meeting all of them at the Party-in-the-Park.

Exciting Section 3 moves—the **Saifee family** has moved into their new home at 6813 Florida Street and the **Mary Kay and Greg Margolis family** and their son **William** have moved into the former Saifee home on Connecticut Avenue. The **Glynns** will soon move into their new home at 6801 Florida Street and we wish the **Carters**, now almost-empty nesters, best of luck in their new Capitol Hill home.

Our own **Jay Epstien** of Shepherd Street has been included in the "Visionaries" category of the *National Law Journal* as one of 10 attorneys whose "business or legal acumen has expanded their firms, improved government or advanced the law." The article describes how Epstien's keen ability to solve problems and understand his client's businesses has enabled DLA Piper's US Real Estate practice to serve clients and grow the firm's practice from a regional player to a national firm in the past 15 years. Congrats Jay!

Welcome to **Matt Burke and Sarah Sibbald** and their children **Sophia** (6) and **Evan** (11) who have moved into the Burke family home on Taylor Street. Happily the children are very familiar with the neighborhood having spent lots of time with their late grandfather Joe in that home. We're delighted that they've moved in and were happy they could come to the Welcome New Neighbors BBQ, too!

A special welcome to **Susan Pacholski and Nigel Purvis** who have moved into 3626 Raymond Street with their children **Lucy** (7) and **Rafe** (4) from Takoma Park. We're looking forward to having them meet everyone at the Party-in-the-Park!

Also moving into the neighborhood on September 1st are **Danielle Rinsler and Patrick Heron** and their two children, **Anna and Jacob** who will be moving into 6808 Delaware Street. The children will have started school so will have already met many of their agetates by the time they move in.

COUNCIL EXPLORES RAISING PERMIT FEES

For many, many years, Section 3 has charged a \$10 fee for everything from a variance application to a building permit, regardless of the size of the job. Sadly, we've had a number of homeowners who have forgotten to get a Section 3 permit, and sometimes for-



gotten to get a County permit (required first)! Now that we have storm water runoff considerations and a need to keep abreast of construction projects and compliance with plans submitted, it's taking more time for

both the Council's Buildings and Roads representative and for the Village Manager. For that reason, the Council has been weighing a change in the fees that reflects more of the complexity and time required to monitor jobs within the Section. All our neighboring jurisdictions have significantly higher fees (ranging up to \$4,000 in one nearby community for a new home) and a far more complex fee structure. The Council's goal is to maintain as much simplicity as possible to avoid confusion and also have the fees better reflect the amount of time required to monitor their progress.

Before we introduce proposed language, we wanted to share the fee schedule the Council has developed and get any feedback prior to putting this into official ordinance changing verbiage. There already is a provision in the code already to have builders post an amount to be held in escrow against any damage that might be caused by a dumpster or by building that is separate from the permit fee schedules. The proposed new fee schedule reflects the increasing number of hours required to monitor and assist homeowners and developers with their projects:

Variance and Demolition applications:	\$25
For fences, walls, a sump pump, curb cut or dumpster permit:	\$50
For structures 144 sq. ft and under	\$100
For structures over 144 sq. feet	\$250
For new home construction	\$500

The Council welcomes comment from the community and will take this up at the next meeting in September and adopt the appropriate language in the code which will be printed in the October newsletter. In the meantime, questions should be addressed to any and all the members of the Council regarding the rates.



REGISTER NOW AT ELLENSRUNONLINE.ORG

On Sunday, October 16, 2011, friends and neighbors of Chevy Chase Section 5 resident Ellen Vala Schneider will hold the 6th annual 5K run/3K walk for adults, students and children at Candy Cane City in Rock Creek Park.

Participants can race as individuals or in self-formed teams. See www.EllensRunOnline.org for details.

Proceeds from the race benefit the B-CC High School Community Scholarship Fund and the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County (MHAMC), two groups that Ellen supported. The B-CC High School Community Scholarship Fund is a program to help students close the financial gap between the actual costs of college and other scholarships and loans they receive. The MHAMC promotes mental wellness and supports those with mental illness by sponsoring and implementing education, advocacy and community service programs. Monies are distributed throughout the Ellen Vala Schneider/Ellen's Run Fund at the Community Foundation for Montgomery County, a 501(c)(3) organization.

Bring children of all ages to join your neighbors in support of these two great causes. The race begins at 9:00 am Sunday, October 16, with a celebratory brunch following. Before October 1, the cost is \$25/ adults; \$15/ students; \$10/ children 3-12. After October 1, cost/ adults is \$35; \$15/ students; \$10/ children 3-12. Race day registration is \$40/adults; \$20/students; \$10/children 3-12.

Registration available at www.EllensRunOnline.org. Contact Pam Feinstein at feinstep@gmail.com or (301) 332-7859.

SOLID WASTE CHARGE ON YOUR TAX BILL

Tax bills were issued late this year and there is a \$51.75 charge on the bill which Section 3 pays for all homeowners living in the Section. So if you haven't already paid your bill, deduct \$51.75 from the total as Section 3 covers that for its resident homeowners.

If you think you may have paid it in prior years, you can go on line to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/finance and see if there is a credit attached to your tax bill account. If you have a credit, you can write and request a refund of those funds.

FIRST ONLINE YARD SALE A SUCCESS



The Neighborhood Yard Sale in the newsletter was a big hit! Section 3 residents are welcome to list things for sale at any time, but based on the response, we've decided to try and run a big "sale" in July and in November, giving everyone two bites at the apple... not everything sold, but there was a lot of good neighborhood recycling going on!!! If you have suggestions as to how we can improve this marketplace, let us know!

ELECTION JUDGES WANTED!

Want to make a difference? Montgomery County is looking for election judges. You must be a Maryland registered voter, able to read, write and speak English. You can't be a candidate for public office or political party office and you can't be a chairman, campaign manager or treasurer for a political or candidate committee. Specifically, the Board of Elections is looking for Closing Judges, the persons responsible for assisting Chief Judges with closing down the voting units and delivering the critical materials back to the Board of Elections at the end of the Election Day. These closing judges must arrive at the designated polling places no later than 6:30 p.m. They are required to take a three-hour training class and, for this worthy work, they are paid \$30 for training and \$75 for the pre-election meeting and Election Day work.

If you are interested, go to www.777vote.org and fill out the Election Judge Questionnaire or get a copy from the Village Manager.

POST OFFICE EXISTENCE THREATENED

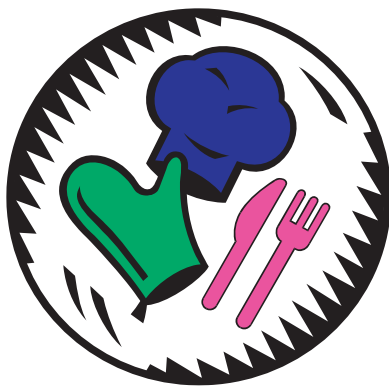
In an effort to stem the bleeding in their budget, the US Postal Service has recommended the closing of a large number of neighborhood post offices all over the country. In this area, they have already sold off the building on Wisconsin Avenue with a post office in it and are seeking a new location for that office and the service has indicated a desire to close two post offices in Chevy Chase—the one in Friendship Heights, only recently saved from demise by a petition effort, and our own Connecticut Avenue post office.

Congressman Chris Van Hollen has offered to assist community groups in fighting the closure of the Chevy Chase post office. Forces are mobilizing but as of this writing, the post office has not formally issued its complete list or the correct contact people to voice objections. Watch this space for more information on this issue as so many of us use that post office. You will recall not long ago, there was a petition presented to the Chevy Chase Board of Managers to eliminate parking by that post office and the community response (including from Section 3 residents) was dramatic and loud...and the petition to limit parking was denied. Already various Chevy Chase municipalities are banding together to organize a concerted effort to keep our post office open. We will communicate with residents as soon as we know the best path to make our voices heard.

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS BBQ TONS OF FUN!

This year's Welcome New Neighbors BBQ fell on Bastille Day, so in honor of the holiday, we had apples and warm brie with our usual all-American Rocklands Catering fare—barbequed chicken and ribs, delicious corn salad, vegetarian beans, corn bread and of course, the Good Humor man brought dessert for everyone! To entertain us, accordionist Steve Albertini serenaded us from the Gazebo as we ate and caught up with friends, family and some of the new neighbors.

The weather was perfect; it actually cooled down a bit! And we ALMOST ran out of food! Each year this event is more and more popular...good food, good company, and NO COOKING dinner! What more could we ask for on a hot summer's night?



JUST ONE THING SHOWS SECTION 3'S GENEROSITY AGAIN!

A Wider Circle's "Just One Thing" pick-up on August 6th was a huge success. The truck parked at the Gazebo Park for just two hours left filled to the brim and they returned to fill it yet again with individual furniture pick-ups at various Section 3 houses.



A Wider Circle helps formerly homeless families referred to them by social service agencies after they have obtained housing. The family comes to the organization's Silver Spring warehouse (nearby on Brookville Rd. in Silver Spring) and picks out what they need. The items are then loaded onto a truck and the family is moved in with furniture, linens, pots and pans, dishware, the all the things they need to begin having a home again. And thanks to the generosity of Section 3 residents, gently used household items have been recycled for use again.

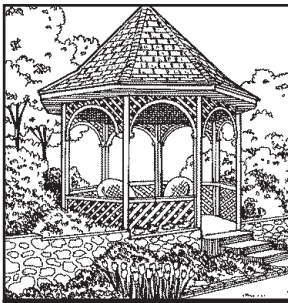
If you missed the event or have items that need to be picked up, contact A Wider Circle and tell them that you are from Section 3 and that you have a donation as part of our "Just One Thing" event and they will try and squeeze you into their schedule. The number is (301) 608-3504.

BROWN OUTS? POWER OUTAGES?

With all the hot weather we have had along with the usual hurricane season, there are bound to be power outages. When that occurs, the best thing you can do is call Pepco and let them know that you are without power—the more calls in an area, the more attention, the fewer the calls, the slower the response. Clearly, they have to prioritize their road calls, so if your power is out, call (877) PEPCO 62 and if you are calling from home, they should have your address, but if you are calling from a cell phone, first, hope you've charged it up! And second, give them the address of the property without power.



SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE
P.O. Box 15070
Chevy Chase, MD 20815



**SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE**

NEWS & VIEWS

SEPTEMBER 2011



**SCHOOL HAS STARTED!! DRIVERS,
PLEASE GO SLOWLY THROUGH OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD!**

ARE YOUR SIDEWALKS DRIPPING??

Not from the heat, but from branches that would blind a six-foot tall pedestrian? Ivy creeping onto the sidewalk making it hard for two people to walk abreast? Remember, school has started and our children will be walking to bus stops and to school...don't make it hard for them! Trim your bushes, your vines, your trees and make pedestrian travel safe for everyone!