

SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

NEWS & VIEWS

MAY 2012

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

Bulk trash pickup-curbide

TUESDAY, MAY 8

6-8 p.m. Annual Election 8 p.m. Annual Meeting
Epworth Room, CCUMC

SATURDAY, MAY 12

Shredding event at Brookville Market side lot
10 a.m. to 1 p.m., line up on Taylor Street
(see story page 3)

SUNDAY, MAY 20

Annual Section 3 House Tour
2:00-4:30 p.m. Price of admission, gently used
towels, soaps and shampoos for Shepherd's Table

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

Bulk trash pick-up, curbside

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

Wine Tasting Event
7:30—9:30 p.m.

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ANNUAL MEETING TO FEATURE CHEVY CHASE LAKE SECTOR PLAN

Mark May 8th on your calendar for our annual election (6 p.m. to 8 p.m.) and a talk by Elza Hisel-McCoy, a lead planner involved in developing the Planning Commission Plan for the Chevy Chase Lake Sector.

To date, most area residents have heard a great deal from one of the largest stakeholders in Chevy Chase Lake, the Chevy Chase Land Company. But the final decision for what goes into the plan rests with the Planning Commission and the County Council. The first steps in the process took the form of workshops held by the Planning Commission staff. Section 3 wrote a letter to the Commission stressing our concerns regarding traffic, parking and building densities with the Land Company's proposed plan. Other jurisdictions have also participated. Section 3 has been an active participant in the Connecticut Avenue Corridor Coalition which is a group of about 20 plus neighborhood organizations equally concerned about traffic and density issues having to do with proposed plans by the Land Company. The group has been working with the Land Company to get their vision to be more closely aligned with that of local area residents.

The next step in the process will be a presentation of a draft plan by the commission staff to the Planning Commission itself. There will be hearings where both community representatives and stakeholders will testify on the proposed plan. The Planning Commission may or may not make changes and then will forward their recommendations to the County Council where there will be another opportunity for hearings. At this point, hearings before the Planning Commission won't take place probably until late spring and the County Council won't take up the plan until sometime next fall. All dates are as yet uncertain. The Planning Commission staff has taken the unusual and much lauded step of not only including their basic plan for the sector, but the design standards which would accompany it, so that we have a more complete understanding of what that area around the Chevy Chase Supermarket and TW Perry's lot would look like. They have also indicated that the plan will be phased—that which can be built prior to definitive funding for the Purple Line and what can be built after. This way the planning will be shaped in large part by the transportation amenity as the focal point for a more densely developed retail, commercial and residential area.

The plan will be unveiled only a few weeks prior to our Annual Meeting, so having the opportunity to get a good overview from one of the key planners is a unique opportunity. We urge all interested residents to join us for this talk about development which will impact Section 3.

**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, April 11. All Council members were in attendance. The meeting began at 7:55 p.m.

The minutes of the March meeting as they appeared in the April newsletter were approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

Police patrols continue to be working well. The District 2 police chief has sent a letter to all residents that the Village Manager proposed we include in the next newsletter. He says they have made progress in catching some criminals, but advises folks to be more cautious (see letter this issue). The Council agreed to publish the letter.

The Village Manager agreed to investigate what kind of licenses are required by ice cream trucks to ply their wares in Section 3 as there has been some parental concern raised about a new truck in the neighborhood.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

We are still awaiting resolution of the drainage issue between the **Strauss** and **Edelen** properties.

A number of other residential projects are in the planning stages for construction in spring and summer. The Council's Buildings and Roads representative, **Carolyn Greis**, has been working with these families to help them understand the requirements of the permitting process.

The **Trenor/Carstens family** of Florida Street has requested a variance to construct a legally required egress window well as part of a larger basement renovation they are undertaking. The window well would intrude into the side setback approximately three feet. The existing building setback at that location is only six feet instead of the required eight feet due to the age of the house, so the window well would be located just three feet from the property line.

The Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan developed by the Planning Commission Staff will be ready within a few weeks of its presentation to the community at the Annual Meeting on May 8th (see story this issue).

The Village manager and the Council Chair have gone through the community and identified a large number of potential tripping hazards in the public sidewalk. The standard was either severely broken concrete or panels that are raised as much as 1" on one side at least, which might cause someone walking to trip and fall. It's been several years since we have done any sidewalk

repairs. D & F Construction has been retained to repair all those areas on the terms of the County contract that we as a municipality can piggyback on to get better pricing than we might otherwise be able to get. When they identify the days they will be in the community, the Village Manager will notify everyone as it would be good to have as many cars as possible off the road and NOT in the way of cement trucks. The work is estimated to cost about \$14,000. Three corners, which are often run over by large trucks which cannot make the turning radius of our narrow streets, will have to be rebuilt and our surveyor will have to come and re-mark the corners and place the corner markers correctly.

Our arborist has fertilized all of the serviceberry trees except the newest ones planted within the last year. Those trees have now had "gators" placed on them with water due to the drought conditions. While the fertilizer will not stem the rust problem on a number of our serviceberry trees (we have 322 of them!), it will strengthen all of the trees. The next planting of Serviceberry trees won't take place until the fall.

The pilot project for greenway renewals will take place on Georgia Street between Raymond and Bradley Lane. This strip was selected because it was a small enough area to try a number of techniques in response to conditions which exist elsewhere in the community: specifically, almost all the greenways are in need of some attention, there are lots of weeds, need for new grass, and heavy shade. The plan is to install variegated liriopie on one strip, spray herbicide in other areas and re-seed, remove grass and level out with new topsoil in other areas and lay in sod. Each strip in front of each household will be treated in response to the conditions present at that house. Cooperation by the homeowners will be essential in order for the improvements to properly take hold. All the homeowners will be contacted and if the experiment goes well and we learn from it, we will expand the concept to other areas within the Village next fall.

We have purchased perennials and some annuals for the Gazebo Park. We are planning on adding more plant material as the season continues, leaning heavily on perennials. A number of donations to the Park have enhanced it already—Iris have been donated along with lots of Acuba bushes and some butterfly bushes. The herbs continue to thrive in the barrel and any resident is welcome to use those herbs. More herbs will be planted this year, too. Plans call for overseeding the area sodded last year and that area will be roped off so that the rest of the park can still be used. In the fall we will add more sod as needed. The irrigation system has not been turned on as yet and the hole dug by dogs will be filled and sodded over within a week.

The Village Manager is going to explore with our utilities counsel if we can participate at this late date in a case before the

COUNCIL ACTIONS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Congratulations to **Carolyn and Elizabeth Wilson** on their inclusion in the DC Design House which benefits the Children's National Medical Center. The showcase house opened Saturday, April 14th and runs until May 13th. It's located at 4954 Rockwood Parkway, NW. For hours of operation and cost of admission, go to <http://www.dcdesignhouse.com/>.

On Tuesday, May 1st, the Chevy Chase at Home group is sponsoring a workshop on "Printing with Unusual Tools" with Millie Shot. The event at Chevy Chase Village Hall takes place from 2 to 4 p.m. Wear an apron or an old smock to participate.

A special welcome to **Veronique Catanay and Alberto Baldini** who have moved into the Slade's old house on Raymond Street. Both Veronique and Alberto work at the International Monetary Fund. Veronique has a 13 year old son, **Lucien**, and the couple is soon expecting their first child. We look forward to meeting them and getting to know the whole family!

On Wednesday, May 2nd, the Chevy Chase Historical Society will host a walking tour of Congressional cemetery in Southeast DC lead by an organizer of the burial ground's recent renaissance, Capitol Hill resident Patrick Crowley. The cemetery dates from 1807 and has been through some ups and downs but has now been restored by the non-profit association formed by Crowley and other private citizens.

The 90 minute walking tour will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the gatehouse of Congressional Cemetery, 1801 E Street, SE. The cemetery is less than two blocks from Metro's Potomac Avenue and Stadium Armory stations and parking is available for those who drive. The \$20 cost for the tour covers a box lunch but must be paid in advance. Space is limited and reservations required. Contact Mary Anne Tuohey at (301) 656-1779 or email 2e@chevychasehistory.org

ELECTION REMINDER

The terms of two Council members expire this May: **David Ohrenstein** and **Donna Harmon**. Donna Harmon has decided not to run again, so the candidates for the upcoming election are David Ohrenstein and **Melissa Brown**. See the March issue for more detailed statements from both candidates, but come out and vote between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on May 8th!



SHREDDING EVENT MAY 12

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 12th for a community paper shredding event. Section 3, Section 5 and Martins Additions have joined together to hire free-shredding.com to come to the side of Brookville Market with a truck for 3 hours (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) to help us get rid of all those pesky papers we no longer want or need. Timed to take place AFTER tax season, each family will be allowed five boxes or trash bags per auto. The personnel from the firm doing the shredding will take your boxes and dump them into large containers and give you back your boxes or bags as they will not shred them. We will have a container nearby for you to break down your boxes and they will be recycled. Plastic trash bags will not be shredded.

To preserve the shredding equipment, we ask you to exclude any binders (three-ring metal kind), heavy metal clips or other non paper clasps or CDs and floppy discs. Staples and paper clips are okay—just nothing that would cause the shredder to shudder! Cars will line up on Taylor Street, across from Brookville Rd. in Section 3 and cross the street when space allows, deposit their shreddables and continue on behind the market and out onto Cummings Lane?

This is a service provided to residents of Sections 3, 5 and Martins Additions only.

EASTER EGG HUNT AND LUNCHEON A HUGE HIT!

The Easter Bunny got lots of hugs and kisses on Sunday, April 1st at the Annual Egg Hunt and Luncheon. Special thanks to **Patrick Heron** for agreeing to serve as this year's bunny—he was wonderful even if he could barely see in front of his big feet!

Thanks too to **Debbie Glynn** for helping to organize the many egg hiding volunteers and the adult helpers: **Susan Murray** who helped with the balloons and set-up, to **Zack Harmon, Salim Saifee** and **Richard Barry** who helped with setting up the tables, **Wendy Eaton** who helped corral the Harmon boys—**Will, Luke and Miles, the Saifee girls, Dahlia and Summer, Jeremy Scheck, Audry and Olivia Ohrenstein**, and **Ava Grace Cameron** in hiding the hundreds of eggs in the Gazebo Park.

Luncheon by Mindy's Catering was delicious—and we even had peanut free sandwiches!

WINE TASTING EVENT SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH

Every year Section 3 sponsors a wine tasting event in which three white wines, three red wines and three other types of wines are tasted at three different houses. This year, based on popular demand, we are holding the event on Saturday evening, June 9th from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30. We'll feature dessert wines as our third choice. White wines will be served at the **Harmon home**, Red wines at the **Greis/Nott home** and new patio garden and dessert wines at the home of **Susan Toffler**.

How does this work? The wines selected will all be under \$15 a bottle. The cost per person is \$15 with checks to be made out to Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase (see registration slip below). The idea is to discover new affordable wines you might like to try at home at a later date. Information on the wines, their prices and where to buy them are provided at each site. Hors d'oeuvres are provided by each host and reimbursed by the cost of admission. Advance purchase is necessary so that we know how much wine to buy!

As always, we will be ably assisted in the wine selections by Section 3's own sommelier, **Ken Harney**. So mark your calendars, line up your sitters and join us! If you don't drink, we still need to know you are coming. And remember to bring your own wine glass!

Yes!

We'll be at the Wine Tasting Event. Enclosed is our \$15 per person check and our sign up sheet. All sign-ups and checks are due at the Village Manager's home (3801 Bradley Lane) by Wednesday, June 6th, so that we can buy enough wine. You can also sign up via e-mail at villagemanager@chevychasesection3.org and follow up with a check made out to Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase.

Name(s)

E-mail Address for confirmation:

Enclosed is \$15 per person to defray the cost of the wine.

COUNCIL ACTIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Public Service Commission that might affect our ability to purchase only some of the street lights we'd like to own and maintain.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The CD at Northwest Bank matured and we will use that money and funds from the now low-interest paying deposit at Capitol One Bank to get a new 1 year CD at Sona Bank in Rockville.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

Both the Easter Egg Hunt and the Everybody's Irish party went well. The Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon cost about \$2,733. The Everybody's Irish party ran about \$3,287.

The Annual Meeting will take place in the Epworth Room at the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church (see story this issue).

The House Tour on May 20th will include the Slidell home, the Cameron/Guessman home and the Ionata/Restifo home.

The Shredding Event is all set for May 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

OTHER

The Council approved the draft Records Retention and Disposal Plan developed by the Village Manager using a template that has been approved by the state and used in neighboring jurisdictions, but adapting it to our particular situation. The plan in draft form will now go to the Maryland State Archives for approval and once approved will be implemented. This is a state imposed mandate which will cost us funds to hire a special assistant to re-organize files from 1981 forward, but in the end will free up a lot of rented storage space. Funds for this assistant are included in the FY 12-13 budget.

The Council has developed an emergency communications plan so that if we lost power or had some other kind of emergency within the community, anyone on the Council could reach almost all of our residents either by email, phone, text or cell phone. Similarly, the Council adopted a plan to address any public relations issues which might arise.

The Village Manager will be away from April 24 to May 6th. During her absence, residents should feel free to contact the Council Chair or any other members of the Council if they have problems needing resolution.

The meeting adjourned at around 9:30 p.m.

NOT ENOUGH TIRES

We did not have enough tires to warrant a special pickup, so now we move on to considering a spring cleaning event for building materials and other items that you can't put out in your regular bulk trash pickup. Before we schedule such an event, we need your feedback---would you be interested in having another special pick-up by request? This would be curbside and would NOT include either hazardous waste or rubber tires. Let us know if you'd like us to consider such an event sometime in June.

LOCAL POLICE CAPTAIN CAUTIONS AREA RESIDENTS

District 2 Police Captain Falcinelli took time to write the following letter to alert area residents of the current crime situation and risks that people unwittingly take by leaving cars and houses open. We urge you to take a moment to read it:

Dear Residents:

Although the beginning of the year started with an unusual spike in commercial and street robberies, I am pleased to say that several arrests have been made in recent months and there were no robberies of either type reported in all of March. I want to thank each of you for working with us by calling in suspicious situations and practicing good crime prevention and personal safety techniques. Our detectives worked closely with other law enforcement agencies in the Washington Metropolitan area to identify suspects responsible for many of these crimes and put countless hours in gathering evidence and conducting surveillance in order to make these arrests. While the recent news is good, it is more important than ever to maintain our crime awareness as we move into the warmer Spring weather.

I want to share a quick story about a car that was stolen recently that hopefully will remind everyone about thinking smarter. An officer was on patrol when he observed a car being operated without its headlights on. When the officer went to make the traffic stop, the car fled endangering the lives of the officer, the occupants of the car and everyone else on the road that night. Luckily, no one was hurt during this incident but it was learned that this crime did not have to occur. The car, which was in an area where stolen cars occur more frequently than other neighborhoods, was unlocked. The suspects did not have to punch the ignition because the owner left a valet key in the car. The suspects were going through the neighborhood looking to steal items out of unlocked cars, then decided to take the car simply because it was so easy to do so.

GARDENING EXCHANGE SEASON



As you sort through your garden, consider offering plants you no longer want to your neighbors...or if you're looking for a plant someone else might have, take advantage of our wonderful free neighborhood exchange program! Contact **Mary Lou Steptoe**, our gardener extraordinaire and coordinator of the plant exchange pro-

gram...tell her what you have or want and she will try and pair you up with the right person. She can be reached at mlsteptoe@gmail.com.

I just read a burglary report that occurred last night. A resident awoke to find that money was missing from a wallet and items were missing from a purse. Both the wallet and the purse were inside of the house. The resident simply forgot to close their garage door and lock the entry door from their garage into their home. The suspect was probably not intent on committing a burglary, but saw the opportunity and took advantage of it. This person entered a house while the residents were asleep, took items and left. This had the potential to be worse, but thankfully the suspect was only interested in property.

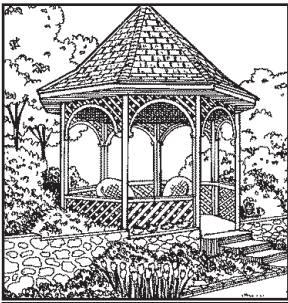
With the nice weather, we tend to leave our doors and windows open and/or unlocked. Our criminal element knows this and will use it to their advantage. We have to work together to be more vigilant in how we protect our homes, our property and our families. The police cannot be everywhere all the time. We need to make it difficult for criminals to ply their trade, and it begins with some very simple steps like locking our cars, locking our doors and windows, and not leaving items of value in plain view. It seems easy, but 80% of our thefts from autos continue to be from unlocked cars.

Please enjoy the nice weather, but don't forget that it is critical now more than ever to practice good personal safety and crime prevention techniques.

Captain David Falcinelli, Commander
2nd District
(301) 652-9200



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



SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

NEWS & VIEWS

MAY 2012



ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR MAY 20TH

We are fortunate to have three homes on this year's tour: The **Restifo/Ionata** family room/porch addition, the **Slidell's** remodel of their entire home, and the **Cameron/Guessman** remodeling and rear addition to their home.

The tour will take place on Sunday, May 20th from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can start at any house (a brief guide with addresses will follow in the mail closer to the event). The price of admission? Gently used towels and all those wonderful travel soaps and lotions that you have piled up in the bathroom. We will have recycling bins in front of each home and all the donations will go to the homeless showers at Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring.

Join us, get to know your neighbors and pick up a few ideas that you might use in your own home! There will be a lemonade stand at the corner of the Spring and Fulton Streets, operated by young Section 3 entrepreneurs.