

SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

NEWS & VIEWS

FEBRUARY 2008

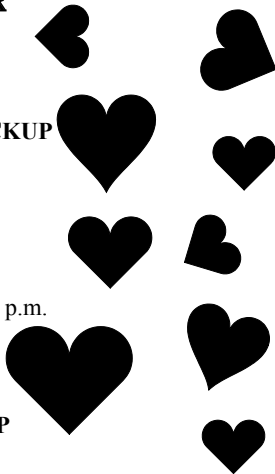
CALENDAR

**WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 6**
NO BULK TRASH PICKUP
THIS MONTH

**WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 13**
Council Meeting
CCUMC Room 109 7:45 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 5**
BULK TRASH PICKUP
CURBSIDE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12
Council Meeting
CCUMC Rm. 109
7:45 p.m.



VILLAGE COUNCIL

WWW.CHEVYCHASESECTION3.COM

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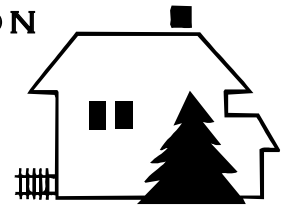
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MANDATORY APPLICATION FOR HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT ELIGIBILITY



By now you have received your current tax assessment. You may have been so captivated by page 1 that you neglected to read the fine print which says this year, you must submit an application to receive continued eligibility for the Homestead Tax Credit. What does that mean to you? The Homestead Tax Credit law limits the amount of assessment increase on which an eligible resident homeowner actually pays the county, Section 3 and the State in property taxes each year. Most likely, if you've lived here for a while, you have been receiving this credit. But because there has been a lot of fraud, that is, people claiming they lived in places they actually rented out, the state is demanding that you file an application within 60 days of receiving your assessment, letting them know you are a resident homeowner. The difference is the amount of the increase in your tax you pay is capped.

AS A RESIDENT HOMEOWNER, NOT A LANDLORD, IF YOU DO NOT FILE THE APPLICATION, YOU WILL LIKELY HAVE A MUCH LARGER TAX BILL! Go to www.dat.state.md.us and click on the Homestead Eligibility Application link. Clearly, if you fill this out on line, there will be no mistakes in entering your data. Remember that you must enter your social security numbers twice on the appropriate line, and that you must check yes that you agree that all the information you are providing is the truth. You will receive a confirmation you can print out once your application has been accepted on line, and you will get an e-mail confirmation within 24 hours of that submission as well. Should you choose NOT to apply on line, your property assessment also includes a questionnaire you can fill out with the same questions. Even if you wish to contest your assessment, you MUST file this application. Please do not delay in getting this taken care of as it will have a negative impact on your tax bill.

If you wish to contest your assessment, an appeal must be filed or post-marked by February 11, 2008 and you will have to show data on comparable properties that have sold generally within the last six months for less than your assessment. The back of your assessment outlines the appeal procedure.

For further information or answers to questions, call (410) 767-2165 or (866) 650-8783 but beware, the lines have been so busy that you may have to call back several times before you get a person on the line.

**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, January 9th. All Council members were present except Paul Kiernan. The meeting began at 7:50 p.m.

The minutes of the December meeting as published in the newsletter were approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

The report from the Chevy Chase police did not indicate any worrisome crime in Section 3. The Council agreed to hire a consultant, Joe Cutro, to do a sign inventory and evaluation of all our street signs to determine which signs need to be replaced, where we need signage or need to improve signage. The Village Manager will negotiate the contract with Mr. Cutro and get final approval from the Council Chairman but a rough budget has been set.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

The Council voted to approve the new ordinance requiring approval for PODS and other temporary storage units.

The Council voted to recommend denial of approval by the County Planning Board of the plan submitted to the Council for review for the re-subdivision of the lot on the corner of Bradley Lane and Connecticut Avenue.

The Village Manager noted that extensive tree-trimming is underway with Mulheron Tree Experts doing the work. The purpose of the tree-trimming is to remove any limb that overhangs the sidewalk or street that might create a problem for pedestrians, trucks or emergency vehicles, particularly if burdened by ice and snow.

The Council agreed to schedule a meeting regarding the two upcoming demolitions of property by developer Jim O'Brien on Florida Street (7104 and 6803) for neighbors to hear the developer's plans and answer questions.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council agreed to invest several hundred thousand dollars that had come in via income tax payments to the Village. The challenge is finding high enough interest rates at government-insured Maryland Chartered institutions. The Village Manager will work with the Council to identify new banks offering reasonable rates of return. In the meantime, the funds are in a fully collateralized account at SunTrust Bank.

The Council discussed the County Council's study underway with the Office of Legislative Oversight and expressed concern

that the emphasis seemed to be narrowly focused and that our reserves might be misconstrued given the limited understanding of how we operate as a community and our steadfast reluctance to go into debt.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

The Village Manager reported that the puppet show was a great success and that given the competing events happening on December 16, we had an excellent turnout and the children enjoyed the puppet show.

OTHER

The Village Manager has drawn up a list of possible volunteers to distribute the Whole Foods donated recycling bags. Sudi Press has volunteered to help with the distribution network. An informative article on the importance of using bags rather than plastic or even paper will be included with every bag. Single residents will get one bag, those with more than one resident will get two.

The public meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. and the Council went into executive session for the annual review of the Village Manager's performance and salary.

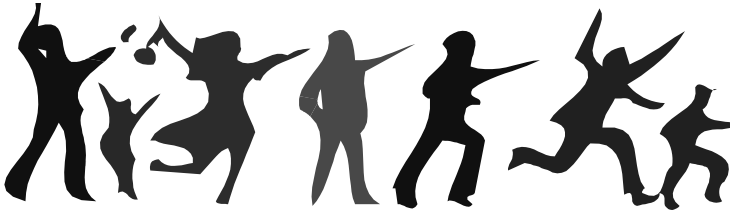
COUNCIL VOTES PERMITS NEEDED FOR DUMPSTERS, TEMPORARY STORAGE UNITS

It's official, if you plan to use a temporary storage unit (often called a PODS), you'll need to get permission first from the Buildings and Roads Council person (Carolyn Greis). Use of the units is limited to 30 days from their original placement. In extreme circumstances, the Buildings and Roads person may grant a limited extension of that time.

SECTION 3 GOING GREEN

A special thanks again to **Debra Thompson** for all her help in getting Whole Foods to donate 500 recyclable shopping bags for Section 3 residents. Thanks to the coordinating efforts of Sudi Press, and the efforts of **Heidi Blaker, Helga Butler, Kristen Dettleff, Susan Murray, Mary Gorman, Carolyn Greis, Larry Leon and Mark Salans, Kate Picard, Susan Toffler, Kelly Virbickas and Andy Harney** for distributing the bags and the information about recycling to all our residents. If you did not receive a bag, please let the Village Manager know. Households with a single occupant got one bag, everyone else received two bags.

Our next challenge is figuring out a way to handle battery disposal so that used batteries don't go into the landfill!



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Congrats to Section 3's Washingtonian of the Year—

Jim Bugg of Bradley Lane! Bugg is chairman and one of the founders of the Yellow Ribbon Fund, a nonprofit devoted to assisting wounded soldiers at Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The fund has collected \$1.5 million so far and has 120 volunteers who drive soldiers and their families, babysit, feed them, shop for them and who raised funds for them. *Washingtonian* reports that they are building a playground and barbecue patio at Walter Reed, they've negotiated hotel and apartment use for military families at cost so that families can stay near wounded service members during their recoveries.

In addition to meeting needs for soldiers in our area, he's building a network of volunteers nationwide so that when these soldiers go home, they'll have someone who can help them find work, get into school, and get other services they need.

Bugg's portrait in the magazine shows him with soldiers on his duck farm where they've had an opportunity to hunt and fish.

A special welcome to **Kristin Kaepplein**, the new Director of the Office of Investor Education and Advocacy at the SEC. Kristi has moved into the long unoccupied house at the corner of Brookville and Shepherd Streets and we're delighted to have her in the neighborhood. "I am extraordinarily pleased that Kristi has agreed to join the Commission at a time when we are facing so many issues important to retail investors," said SEC Chairman Christopher Cox in naming her to the post.

Frances Borders, a longtime resident of Raymond Street and mother of **Molly Borders** and grandmother of **Cynthia Grimes**, passed away in her sleep on Wednesday, January 23rd. For many years she was the headmistress of the Beauvoir School. There will be a funeral service at the Bethlehem Chapel of Washington Cathedral on Monday, February 11 at 10:30 a.m. A reception will follow at the Beauvoir School. Her ashes will be buried this summer on Martha's Vineyard.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED BLOOD FOR KATE KIERNAN

Section 3 residents have rallied around the Kiernan family by helping organize the dinner menu well into February and by generously donating blood. With the help of **Noel Sottile**, a former Section 3 resident who sent out an e-mail to the B-CC list serve, and our own Section 3 list serve, we have reached many people who have been kind enough to donate blood as Kate and her family deal with her treatment for leukemia. **Tracy Gensler**, of Section 3, has been helping coordinate the meal donations and educate donors about the peanut and shellfish allergies in the Kiernan home, so a special thanks to her as well.

If you were unaware of Kate's diagnosis and her need for blood and blood platelets and would like to make a donation, you can make an appointment with Children's Hospital Blood Center by calling (202) 476-5437. The Children's National Medical Center, where Kate is receiving treatment, is only 15 minutes from here at 111 Michigan Avenue, NW. The blood center is on the second floor, room 2302. Their hours are Mondays Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays, 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Fridays, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The blood bank will test your blood prior to your donation. You must be at least 17 and not older than 70 to make a donation and if you have lived in England for three months or more, or have had other travel to places which might affect the quality of your blood, you may be disqualified. The office will give you a careful screening questionnaire and also screen your blood prior to your donation. If you do give blood or platelets (RH positive is needed) plan on spending several hours there and make sure you indicate that you want your donation to go to Kate Kiernan. If you are not a match, your donation will be given to some other deserving recipient.

RIDE ON FREE FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

As of January 1, if you are 65 years or older and have a valid Metro Senior ID card or Medicare Card with photo id, you can ride Metro buses and Ride On buses in Montgomery County without paying a charge. If you have disabilities, you will need a valid Metro Disabled ID Card. To get more information on obtaining these cards, contact (240) 777 7433 .

IMAGINATION STAGE IN BETHESDA HOSTS PREMIERE OF "LOST AND FOUNDLING"

A savvy, silly contemporary fairytale will delight audiences ages 6 and up at the Imagination Stage. Shows are Saturdays and Sundays through March 2. For information go to www.imaginationstage.org, or call the box office at (301) 280-1660. There is nothing more magical for a child than live theater!

SAVE A TREE— GET FEWER CATALOGUES

The National Wildlife Federation and the Natural Resources Defense Council are sponsoring a great new website that lets you get rid of unwanted catalogues—fewer dead trees, less energy consumption, less recycling. The key to using the site is that you have your customer numbers on the back of the catalogs. Just go to <http://www.catalogchoice.org/#optouts>. It works!!!

DON'T WANT TO GET THE EXAMINER? WHO TO CALL

If you aren't interested in getting the free "Examiner"...and it appears that some people are unaware that old issues lie rotting on the sidewalk in front of their homes, you can call (800) 531-1223 and ask them to cancel your free subscription!!! Another tree saved!!

2008 MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR

February 12	No school—Presidential Primary Election
February 18	No school—Presidents' Day
February 27	Half day K-12—Grading/planning
March 21-28	Spring break
April 7	No school—Professional day for teachers
May 26	Holiday-Memorial Day
June 12	Last day of school for students

NOT ALL LIMOS LICENSED

Not that you take one every day...but sometimes a trip to the airport or someplace special requires a limousine. Montgomery County's Office of Consumer Protection has issued a report which found that 51 percent of all the firms listed in the Montgomery County Yellow Pages directory were not licensed with the Public Service Commission and 88 percent are not licensed with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission. They also found that 75 percent of the firms advertising "airport" service weren't licensed to pick up passengers at BWI by the Maryland Aviation Administration.

The study came about when wedding guests were left stranded when a limo service failed to provide a 47-seat passenger bus which had been pre-paid and reserved in advance...hard to get to the church on time without the bus for the guests!!! So before you hire someone for any important trip, you might want to check the list of licensed carriers with the Public Service Commission. <http://www.psc.state.md.us/psc/> Those licensed by Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission are listed at <http://www.wmatc.gov/>. This is important because these agencies make sure the firms are insured and that the drivers are licensed. To see if people have those two things, you can go to <http://www.psc.state.md.us/psc/Info/forms/form-28.doc>.

There are ways to check how long the firm has been in business as well. If you want more information, call the Consumer Protection office at (240) 777-3636 or visit their website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/consumer.

PROPERTY TRANSFER TAXES WENT UP; MUNICIPALITIES GOT NO SHARE

Several years ago, the cost of transfer taxes when a property is sold in the State of Maryland went up—but municipalities, in which many of these properties are located, did not get a share. Delegate Kumar Barve is the Maryland Municipal League's lead sponsor for legislation to permit municipalities to impose a maximum of 0.5% transfer tax on properties transferred within municipal borders. The legislation will require that one-half of the funds raised must be used for growth-related infrastructure such as roads, streets, water and wastewater facilities, emergency and public safety services, etc.

DONATE YOUR USED BOOKS!

Please help Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School raise funds for school programs by donating your used books for our annual sale to be held April 5th and 6th.

Donations can be dropped off at B-CC's Chelton Street entrance on January 27, February 10 and 24, March 2 from 10a.m. to 2 p.m.

We need fiction and nonfiction, paperbacks and hardcovers of all kinds and especially children's books, art books, test prep, cookbooks, foreign language, DVDs, and books on tape, but PLEASE NO encyclopedias, textbooks more than three years old, or magazines.

When you have made room on your shelves, please come back to our fabulous sale in April!

Thanks for helping B-CC continue its work for educational excellence, Book Sale Committee Chairs, Peggy Hsieh McIntosh, Amanda Manheim, Linda Wolpert, and Stephanie Rigaux

SECTION 3'S OWN LAURA APELBAUM TO SPEAK ON JEWISH WASHINGTON AT CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Chevy Chase Historical Society and the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington will offer a special illustrated lecture titled "Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community" on Sunday, February 10th at 4 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Section 3's own **Laura Cohen Apelbaum**, who is the director of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington, along with archivist Wendy Turman, edited the book, *Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community*, recounting the Jewish community's contributions to Washington area business and civic life. The book will be available for purchase at the talk which will span from 1795, when the area's first Jewish resident arrived to today. It will touch on the building of Washington's oldest synagogue, a beautifully restored structure (built in 1879) and restored with the help of the JHSGW and Section 3's own architect—**Shalom Baranes**.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURE TO FEATURE EARLY CHEVY CHASE INTERIORS

C. Dudley Brown, a noted interior designer specializing in historic properties and traditional home design, will deliver the Chevy Chase Historic Society's 2008 winter lecture at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, February 27, at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Avenue. His slide-illustrated talk, "Taste of the Times - Early Chevy Chase," will focus on the styles of house decoration during the early days of this streetcar suburb. The program is free and open to the community.

Dudley Brown's four decades in restoration and interior design work has included work for clients such as The Cosmos Club, the Australian ambassador's residence, Glenview Mansion in Rockville, Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, Kent Valentine House in Richmond, Virginia and a number of Chevy Chase residences. He was awarded the 2006 Mayor's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation, served as the first president of Washington Chapter of the Victorian Society in America and remains an active member of its board.

Brown's lecture will follow a brief CCHS annual meeting.

BUILDING/DEMOLITION PERMIT PROCEDURE

Before you get too far down the road with drawings and plans with an architect or builder, consider consulting Section 3's buildings and roads council person—currently Carolyn Greis—to be certain you aren't doing something that isn't permitted by Section 3 ordinances. It can't hurt to ask up front before you spend a lot of money for something you might not be able to build.

If you are planning an addition, a fence, adding a sump pump, re-doing your driveway or installing a temporary storage unit, you'll need first to contact Carolyn Greis.

If you plan on getting a County permit, you'll need to talk to Carolyn, not for a permit but for a letter which says that Section 3 is aware of what you are doing and will evaluate your request for a permit once a County Permit has been given. Without the letter, you can't even apply for a County permit.

Sometimes you don't need a County permit. For example, if you want to put a PODS or temporary storage unit on your property, or if you are installing a sump pump. But you do need one to do so in Section 3...so check first, it's a lot easier!!

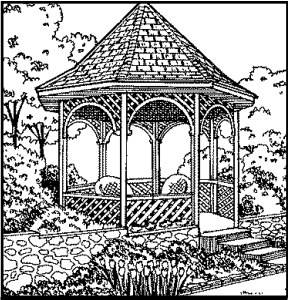


SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY

CHASE

P.O. Box 15070

Chevy Chase, MD 20815



SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
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NEWS & VIEWS

FEBRUARY 2008

SNOW AND CARS



Our last snowfall saw a majority of Section 3 residents act responsibly by parking their cars in their driveways, rather than on the street. If you are planning a trip, PLEASE don't put your car on the street...leave it in your driveway. And make plans to have someone shovel your walk while you are gone.

For those of you who left your cars on the street, we ask that at the next hint of snow, you too be considerate of your neighbors and get the car off the street so that we can plow our streets as well as is possible.