

SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

NEWS & VIEWS

JANUARY 2008

CALENDAR

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

Christmas Tree curbside pick-up

(Please remove plastic as these trees become mulch.)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9TH

Council Meeting

CCUMC Room 109 7:45 p.m.

Executive Session follows the Council meeting for the Village Manager's Annual review

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

Christmas Tree curbside pick-up

(Please remove plastic as these trees become mulch.)

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

NO HOUSEHOLD TRASH OR YARD WASTE PICKUP

Martin Luther King's Birthday Holiday

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

Council Meeting

CCUMC Room 109 7:45 p.m.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

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HEARING HELD ON PROPOSED BRADLEY LANE/CONNECTICUT AVENUE RE-SUBDIVISION

The Council held a hearing on the proposed subdivision of Bradley Lane and Connecticut Avenue. Council Chair **Bill Brownlee** opened the hearing and then turned over the legal portion of the proceedings to **Paul Kiernan** to give an overview as to what the Council expected of the hearing and who ultimately made the decision regarding the re-subdivision. The purpose of the hearing was to hear comments and questions from residents so that a recommendation could be made to the Montgomery County Planning Board. In the event that the Council should recommend against the proposed re-subdivision, the planning board would be required to vote for it by a supermajority, e.g., if there were five members of the Planning Board, four would have to vote in favor of the plan, if one were absent, all four remaining members would have to vote for the plan.

To clarify for neighbors, the old Nigerian Ambassador's residence is not part of the plan. That house and the land it's on are owned by Stephen and Patricia Edelen. The lot next to their home, with the driveway entrance closest to Bradley Lane and extending back to and including the tennis court, is owned by Patrick and Patricia Strauss who live in Chevy Chase, D.C. Their proposal is to put two homes with driveways opening onto Bradley Lane and one home with a driveway (the existing southernmost driveway) opening onto Connecticut Avenue. So where one home now stands on what used to be the Nigerian's property, there would be four houses.

The overwhelming response from the neighbors was negative. The primary objection seemed to be the two additional driveways on Bradley Lane, one of which is proposed to be as close as 30' from the stop sign at Bradley and Connecticut Avenue-or less than two car lengths from that already busy intersection. Neighbors from both sides of Bradley Lane and one from Connecticut Avenue spoke. The density of the development was also questioned and the suggestion made that perhaps two lots facing Connecticut Avenue might be a better solution than three lots. Mr. Strauss, who indicated he hoped to live on one of the lots and an individual named Herb Kerner who claimed to be interested in occupying one of the lots but who seemed to have intimate knowledge of the entire plan and its development both spoke in favor of the re-subdivision plan.

Understanding that the planning board considers more than traffic congestion in making their recommendations, some found fault with the "neighborhood" selected by the engineering firm showing what they felt to be lots of comparable size and shape in preparing the plan as not reflective of the immediate

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**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 held its regular Council meeting following the hearing. The meeting began at about 9:30 p.m. All Council members were present.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Village Manager has been in touch with the County detectives regarding the robbery of a single woman living alone in nearby Chase Village. An e-mail alert was sent out on this incident, which occurred at 12:15 a.m. on Tuesday, November 27th. A suspect, described only as a slim, Hispanic male broke into a home on Montgomery Street via a basement window. He confronted the homeowner and demanded money. The victim was tied up while the suspect searched the home for cash and valuables. The victim managed to free herself after hearing the suspect flee the home and contacted police about a half hour after the robbery. A search of the neighborhood (near Wisconsin and Western Avenues) ensued but no one was apprehended.

At least one similar robbery had taken place in Bethesda a few months earlier and another in Chevy Chase, D.C. as far back as 2004. Police are looking into all three robberies to see if they lead to any possible linkage or additional clues.

No additional police activity was reported. Chevy Chase police have yet to get a permit from the state for permanent installation of speed cameras on Connecticut Avenue and continue to use their mobile units.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Scott and Missy Lesmes had a question regarding the established building line and Section 3 setbacks as regards a front porch. The home they plan to build at 3707 Taylor Street will conform to the established building line, which in their case is 42 feet from the street, but they will have an open porch, similar to the Vita's porch next door, that will bring it out another 9 feet (the county maximum for allowable front porches), making it 33 feet from the street. This conforms with our setback requirements and the County's established building line requirements.

The Council discussed the need to impose some sort of regulation on PODS and other temporary storage solutions. The proposed amendment to the existing dumpster ordinances is included elsewhere in this issue. The intent is to have some say as to the location and duration of time someone could have a PODS or simi-

lar temporary storage unit on their property.

The Village Manager reported that street cleaning had been done by our landscape contractors and that she was going to ask them to touch up a few areas she felt were missed. She also agreed to see why Serviceberry trees on Connecticut Avenue were not mulched and weeded as they should have been.

The Village Manager said that she would check with the landscape contractor as to when the park could be opened for use with the new sod down.

Carolyn Greis and the Village Manager will be meeting with Verizon regarding possible installation of fiber optic cables in Section 3 in 2008. The biggest concern is that private property not be damaged and that we have a clearcut idea as to when and where the workers installing this equipment will be working. A further problem they intend to discuss at length with the Verizon people is the homes that are on Raymond, Bradley and possibly Connecticut Avenue which have their telephone poles in the rear, requiring access by workmen and equipment onto private properties and through private gardens.

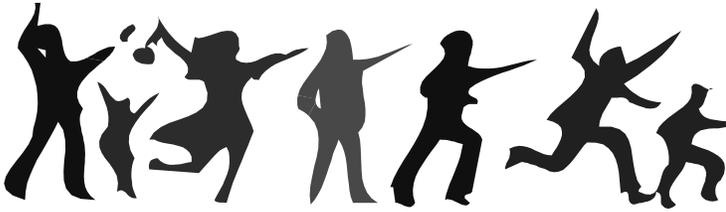
Bill Brownlee and the Village Manager are meeting on December 18 regarding the proposed new swimming pool construction for the Chevy Chase Club which will be located on the edge of their property on Bradley Lane. As there is a five ton limit to traffic on both Bradley Lane between Wisconsin and Connecticut (a state highway) and on Connecticut Avenue, the large number of trucks needed to haul away the existing pools and tennis courts and then bring in more concrete and building materials for three new pools and a pool house is extensive. It's hoped that working with the construction group at the Club and the Town of Chevy Chase, that the problem of a constant stream of construction trucks and equipment can be worked out.

The Village Manager announced that she was working with a contractor getting a price to do some extensive trimming of trees over sidewalks and the street before ice on these limbs creates a problem. The recent run-through by fire trucks (see story this issue) made it clear that we would benefit by trimming back the street side of a number of serviceberry trees and also trimming low hanging limbs on trees throughout the community. Residents whose trees overhang these areas will be notified. Tree trimmers will only take limbs back to the property line and only touch those limbs that could or do create problems for those 6' or more walking on our streets.

The Village Manager has contacted a consultant, Joe Cutro, whose services have already been used by the Village of Martin's Additions, to help do an inventory of signs, make a list of signs needing replacement. We are also going to be moving some signs or changing them based on our tour of the neighborhood with a fire truck (see story this issue).

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SECTION THREE VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

It is with great sadness that we share the recent untimely passing of **Michael McDonough**, son of **Mary and Don McDonough** of Raymond Street. Michael, age 50, was an avid sailor and lived aboard his sailboat in Annapolis where he taught sailing at the Chesapeake Sailing School. He went out sailing on November 30th and his boat was found floundering at Kent Island later that day. His body was found four days later.

Along with his parents, Michael leaves a son Henry, age 17 of Philadelphia and his wife Colleen, two brothers, Joe and Jim and a sister Maggie. Those who wish to make a donation in his name can do so by sending a contribution to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Two Florida Street houses have been purchased by same builder-developer. Jim O'Brien. O'Brien demolished the house at 7005 Fulton Street and built the home in which the Beebe family now lives. He has indicated his plan to demolish both 7104 Florida Street and 6803 Florida Street and replace the houses with non-brick houses. While his plans have not as yet been drawn, his intent, he says, is to build two "green" homes that are in keeping architecturally with the neighborhood. As soon as he has initial drawings for both houses, the Council will arrange a meeting of all interested neighbors and Mr. O'Brien so that he can share his plans and get any input neighbors might have. We have already had discussions about special parking restrictions that will be imposed so that neighbors on these two densely populated streets are minimally inconvenienced by the on-going construction. The meeting is planned for early 2008 and neighbors will be notified.

A special thanks to **Tom and Carolyn Wilson** for the decorations on the Gazebo for the holidays! As soon as the sod has taken hold, you'll be able to see the lights and greenery up close!

2008 MOTOR VEHICLE VISITATION

A mobile office of the MVA visits Friendship Heights once a month to serve residents having need of simple express services such as driver's license renewal, etc. The hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the mobile office parks right by the Friendship Heights Community Center at 4433 South Park Avenue. The dates are: January 28, February 25, March 24, April 21, and June 30th (no service in May).

PROPOSED ORDINANCE REVISION TO INCLUDE TEMPORARY STORAGE UNITS

The Council proposes the following wording change in our ordinances to deal with temporary storage units. The Council will vote at the January 9th meeting. Anyone with any comments should contact Council members and/or come to the next meeting.

SECTION 7-312 DUMPSTERS & TEMPORARY STORAGE UNITS

No person shall place a dumpster or other large receptacle for rubbish, solid waste or temporary storage on any street or sidewalk without the prior consent of the Buildings and Roads Council person. All temporary storage units (known as PODS) shall be placed only on residential property with no portion protruding into public space. All such units or receptacles must be removed no later than thirty (30) days after their original placement. In extreme circumstances, the Buildings and Roads Council Person may grant a limited extension of that time. The Council may require that a person seeking to place a dumpster or large receptacle on a street or sidewalk to post a bond or other security with the Council in a form and amount approved by the Council to secure the Village as well as other property owners for any costs incurred or damages caused by the placement, use, or removal of the dumpster. Any person placing a dumpster on private property, along with the owner of the property, shall be responsible for compliance with the provisions of this Code concerning collection and disposal of refuse, maintenance of containers, and disposal devices, and protection of public health and safety.

Anyone getting permission to place a temporary storage unit on his or her property does so with the full agreement that they will assume any costs incurred or damages caused by the placement, use, or removal of the temporary storage unit. It is further understood that the placement of the temporary storage unit should take into account the health and safety of the larger community, for example, it should never block the view of oncoming traffic.

PLEA FOR BEDS A SUCCESS

When A Wider Circle sent out an emergency request for beds for several recently homeless families, the BCC list serve, a Tenleytown list serve, Chevy Chase United Methodist Church's list serve and Section 3's list serve all came to the rescue. Over 40 individuals called with a ready donation of a bed. and as of December 18th, all the families that the group was trying to keep together got their beds. Ten children that they knew were at great risk of being removed from their families are now in beds and families intact. They are still collecting beds pledged to them from that e-mail plea for assistance.

FIRE TRUCKS TAKE A RIDE THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD

In October, the Chevy Chase Fire Department, under the leadership and watchful eye of District Chief Robert Stefan and Fire Board members Russell Weil, Joe Burke and Mary McDonough observed the fire truck as it traveled through the neighborhood on a pre-selected route designed to expose any problem trees, intersections or signs that needed to be relocated, trimmed or altered.

As a result of the trip, one turn (at Spring and Delaware Street) was determined to be impossible for a fire truck to manage quickly so that now drivers have been instructed to take another route to that location. Several stop signs will be moved to locations closer to the sidewalk and away from the greenway to allow for the engine bumpers to clear the corner and a number of trees throughout the Village will be trimmed on the street side.

The Council plans to hire a consultant and explore the possibility of replacing some signs with "breakaway" signs (ones if hit will break away without scarring the underside of a truck or car if hit), to make access to our homes by emergency vehicles as easy as is possible given our 16' wide streets. For those of you not aware, it's impossible for us to expand the width of our streets because the storm drain system throughout the community lies beneath the greenways and inlets are on almost every corner. We would have to install and build an entirely new storm drain system, the cost of which would be prohibitive.

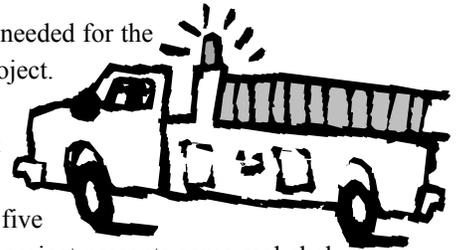
CHEVY CHASE CLUB BEGINS DIALOGUE WITH NEIGHBORS RE: NEW POOL AND TENNIS COURT CONSTRUCTION

The Chevy Chase Club has notified neighboring jurisdictions that it hopes to create a new pool complex on the Bradley Lane side of the club that will involve the demolition of the existing pool and the tennis courts. The new plan, in its preliminary phases, would involve the construction of a pool up to international competition standards, a smaller pool and a kiddie pool, a pool house and the construction of new tennis courts with properly managed irrigation beneath.

As part of the process, the manager of the project, Les Nicholson and some of the Club's consultants have met with representatives of Chevy Chase Village, the Town of Chevy Chase and Section 3 of Chevy Chase. The main issues are the route and

noise made by trucks needed for the construction of the project.

Since both Bradley Lane and Connecticut Avenues have a limit on trucks of less than five



tons, the construction project presents some real challenges. The club is working on a solution to the truck route first and will continue to consult all of the jurisdictions to work out a mutually amenable plan.

Construction will not likely any sooner than September of 2008, with completion to be by the following summer season. We'll continue to keep you informed of the progress of these meetings.

COUNCIL ACTIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The Council discussed the next steps in making the recommendations to the County Planning Board vis-à-vis the proposed re-subdivision (see front page story). Paul Kiernan volunteered to take a cut at the first draft of the Council's recommendations and send it around for review. The Council agreed that as it now stands, they would recommend that the proposed re-subdivision be denied approval by the Planning Board.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council agrees to invest in the highest possible returning CDs with new income tax revenues which just arrived and a CD that has matured.

The Council discussed the County tax duplication efforts and the threat that funds from the County may be diminishing despite the fact that we continue to provide services that they would otherwise have to provide.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

The Council discussed the Holiday Puppet Show party. It was agreed to serve both sodas and hot cider as well as holiday cookies.

OTHER

The Council was delighted to accept Whole Foods' kind offer of re-usable shopping bags. Thanks to Debra Thompson's careful reading of the newsletter last month, she volunteered to donate 500 re-useable Whole Foods bags to Section 3 to encourage a "greener" neighborhood. Many thanks to Debra, who is Whole Body Regional Coordinator, Whole Foods Market Mid Atlantic Region and to Jane Pearson, her partner, who is manager of the Dupont Circle Whole Foods store and to Sudi Press who came up with the idea of distributing re-usable bags. What great neighbors!

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

SECTION TRAFFIC THIS WINTER

As we approach the "snowy" season of the year, be mindful we must allow for clearance for emergency vehicles first, trash trucks and delivery trucks as well as our own cars. It's important to point out the need for proper access to our streets by snow plow. Unlike other jurisdictions, we cannot use large trucks to clear our streets....we are limited by the size of the streets to a pick-up truck with a plow on the front. Snow Central, selected again this year by the Council to clear our streets, does the best job they can, but parked cars on streets make this job very difficult and make for problems once the snow has been cleared around people who neglected to park their cars in their driveways before the snow.

IF THERE IS EVEN A CHANCE OF SNOW, PLEASE PARK ALL YOUR CARS IN THE DRIVEWAY TO ALLOW FOR PROPER CLEARING OF THE STREETS. If you have more cars than driveway, consider asking a neighbor to share their driveway—that way they'll have that much less to shovel! We need everyone's cooperation this winter!

PUPPET SHOW LOTS OF FUN!

Section 3 children along with children from the Chevy Chase United Methodist Preschool and Church had a wonderful afternoon with the Blue Sky Puppet Theater on December 16th. In a participatory show, the children were absolutely fascinated with the puppets—talking back to them when asked, singing when asked and thoroughly enjoying the tale of "Rufus, the Red-Nosed Raindog."

Special thanks to the Blue Sky Puppet Theater for a fabulous afternoon. Hot cider and cookies finished off the afternoon on a high sugar note!

RE-SUBDIVISION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 neighborhood. The bulk of the lots on both Connecticut Avenue and Bradley Lane are larger than those proposed.

While the lots are in Section 3, the street, Bradley Lane, is managed by Chevy Chase Village. As a result, the Board of Managers of Chevy Chase Village reviewed the proposed plans and recommended against based on the potentially dangerous traffic problems it posed for the entire Bradley Lane/Connecticut Avenue intersection. A letter from the Chief of Police of Chevy Chase Village accompanied their recommendation against the proposed plan.

Letters from other residents also advised against approval. The meeting transcript, the letters and the Council's recommendations regarding the plan will all be submitted to the Planning Board and assuming the owner does not withdraw his proposal and come up with a different plan, the Planning Board will take up the proposal some time in the new year, at which time there will be another hearing and another opportunity for neighbors to have their say.

GREEN NOTES

- ❖ Look for your new re-usable shopping bags to be distributed soon along with a helpful article on the importance of taking the time to do so. Potential volunteers will be called soon to distribute on their block and around their immediate neighborhood.
- ❖ Re-gifting is an old tradition, as is saving some of that wonderful holiday wrapping paper for another grateful gift recipient. If you already have thrown away all that wrapping paper, hopefully you threw it into the recycling bin!
- ❖ Consider getting a rain barrel this spring (sold at places like Home Depot and on line at a number of different "green" outlets). With the drought, if you can preserve rainwater and use it in your garden, you'll save a little water that could be put to better use. The new and improved rain barrels are set up so that they are not mosquito-breeding receptacles and come with outlets you can tie into to water your garden with a hose!

ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED

Politics is a part of life here in Washington. And as you know, the 2008 election is "just around the corner." The Montgomery County Board of Elections is recruiting Election Judges for the February 12 Presidential Primary and then the November 4 General Election. There is a crying need for personnel. You will receive training and be able to staff local neighborhood polling places if there are vacancies. If you are interested, contact the Board of Elections. You can download the application (2008 Election Judge Questionnaire) or you can request an application be mailed to you by calling (240) 777-8533.

TREE TRIMMING COMING YOUR WAY!

By the time you read this, the job may already be completed, but just in case, as of this writing, Section 3 is planning on a careful, judicious pruning of all trees and shrubs overhanging the sidewalk and public street. While we have elevated a few trees here and there which might cause a problem to cars, trucks and emergency vehicles if covered with snow and ice, we haven't done a comprehensive trimming of trees in the neighborhood that may present a hazard to either pedestrians or cars and trucks.

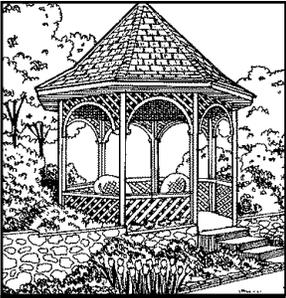
We recently had the Chevy Chase Fire Department ride through town to see what trees and signs might be a problem and one of the things we will be doing is trimming back some of the serviceberry trees overhanging the street so that they don't scratch trucks and buses as they go by.

Questions about the work should be directed to the Village Manager.



**SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY
CHASE**

P.O. Box 15070
Chevy Chase, MD 20815



**SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE**

NEWS & VIEWS

JANUARY 2008

ARE YOU PREPARED?

IF IT LOOKS LIKE ICE OR SNOW—PLEASE GET YOUR CARS OFF THE STREET THE NIGHT BEFORE! IF YOU ARE GOING ON A TRIP, MAKE SURE TO PARK YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY SO IT'S NOT LEFT ON THE STREET.

WE CAN ONLY CLEAR THE STREETS OF SNOW AND ICE PROPERLY IF THERE ARE NO CARS ON THEM...BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, TAKE YOUR VEHICLES OFF THE STREET AT THE SLIGHTEST POSSIBILITY OF SNOW!