

SECTION THREE  
VILLAGE OF  
CHEVY CHASE

# NEWS & VIEWS

JANUARY 2009

## CALENDAR

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 2**  
Recycling, curbside pick-up

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7**  
Christmas Tree Pick-up Curbside  
No plastic bags please, these trees are recycled!

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14**  
Council Meeting  
CCUMC Room 109, 7:45 p.m.  
Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss the Village Manager's performance and compensation

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11**  
Council Meeting  
7:45 p.m. CCUMC Room 109

## VILLAGE COUNCIL

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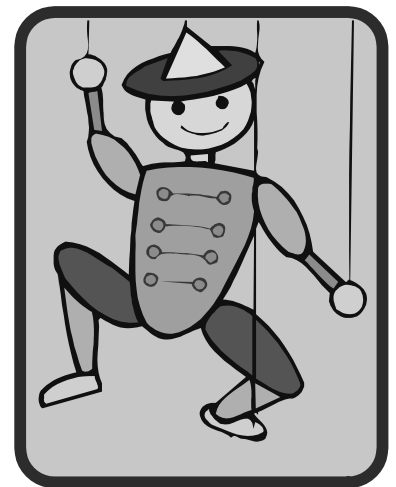
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## WARM CLOTHING AND BLANKET DRIVE SHOWS SECTION 3'S GENEROSITY AGAIN!

If ever there was a time when an SUV could be green, delivery of lots of warm clothing and blankets to be recycled was it! Thanks to tremendous generosity on the part of Section 3 families, we were able to fill a large SUV to almost-overflowing requiring two trips to Martha's Table. Homeless families and families in need pay \$1 to get into Martha's Outfitters where they select clothing and other household items from shelves and racks filled with your donations. This year, more than ever, warm clothing and blankets were needed and Section 3's generous families produced! Thanks to all of you who gave such lovely items so that others might enjoy this season. All the clothing was delivered before Thanksgiving. We'll dispense with the list of items this year, but suffice it to say, warm jackets and coats topped the list and they were the most needed. Clothing for newborns through the elderly finished out the donations. Martha's Table has sent us warm thanks for all your efforts in memory of Bill Prigg, one of Section 3's most charitable residents.

## PUPPET SHOW HUGE HIT!

A large crowd of parents and children from Section 3, CCUMC pre-school and CCUMC congregation filled Phillips Hall for a delightful afternoon with marionettes operated by Bob Brown Puppets. Dancing to tunes from the Nutcracker Suite, Brown introduced an array of wonderful characters that danced, juggled and performed tricks for a rapt audience. Keeping the attention of children from under a year to age 8 isn't easy and for 45 minutes, Brown completely captured the attention and delight of every child in the audience and their parents as well. Holiday cookies, milk and juice kept little people well fed throughout the event and a good time was had by all. We hope to continue to make this show a regular feature of our holiday celebrations and find it a wonderful way to thank Chevy Chase United Methodist Church for allowing us to use their building for all our Section 3 important events.



*\*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, December 10 at 7:45 p.m. All Council members were in attendance.

The Council voted to approve the minutes of the November meeting as they appeared in the newsletter.

Prior to the start of the regular agenda, the Council heard a presentation on a Geographic Information System by staff members from A. Morton Thomas, Inc. that they have implemented for Martin's Additions and are doing for Chevy Chase Village. Both communities now have GIS (Geographical Information System) software to track activities on every property in town and to record individual lots, permits, etc. The Council is considering purchasing this software and hiring a firm to begin the process of documenting every property in the community so that all records of building permits now in loose-leaf binders by street can be scanned and retained on a computer system that would contain additional information about each property. The Council also discussed having the entire community surveyed such that every block would have permanent monuments at each corner so that any survey work that needed to be done within the community by individual owners would not be very time consuming or costly. The Council plans on creating a line-item listing of the services it would like and get an estimate from the firm before proceeding. The software can be independently purchased but training to use the software would be required.

### PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

The Council briefly discussed the problem of thefts from cars and the difficulty Montgomery County police are having in discouraging the criminals who perpetrate these crimes because the act is considered petty theft and the courts simply charge the individuals and release them. The Village Manager is looking into possibly hiring additional police through off-duty Montgomery County police in the new year and in the meantime, we have asked Chevy Chase police to use their hours for us in the midnight to 6:00 am time frame as much as possible. Montgomery County undercover police are also working the area.

**Council Chair Bill Brownlee** and **Village Manager Andy Leon Harney** were briefed on the status of speed cameras operated by municipalities. Sadly, the prospects at the moment are not good. A policeman is required to certify the equipment and that the tickets issued are justified but the County does not want to have their police do this work and Chevy Chase Village does not

have the manpower to do it for us. Further complicating the issue is that the speed camera law passed at the state level ONLY for Montgomery County and by the thinnest of margins. More counties are eager to get cameras in their jurisdictions and there is a great deal of proposed legislation due to come in the upcoming session, including one which would allow jurisdictions like ours to hire someone to certify tickets from cameras in our jurisdiction. The County has received a number of complaints from obvious offenders but hasn't heard much from those who support the speed cameras. As many may have noted, Chevy Chase Village has been surprisingly pilloried in the press by AAA for having the company servicing the tickets receive a high percentage of the ticket revenue. That, combined with the large amount of money collected has made Chevy Chase Village a scapegoat for all those who don't like or want speed cameras, despite the fact that Rockville, Gaithersburg and the County government as well all operate speed cameras in a similar manner. So for the moment, speed cameras are on hold and we may have to institute a letter writing campaign to get the County to regularly enforce speeds on Connecticut Avenue through our community. Stay tuned....

### BUILDINGS AND ROADS

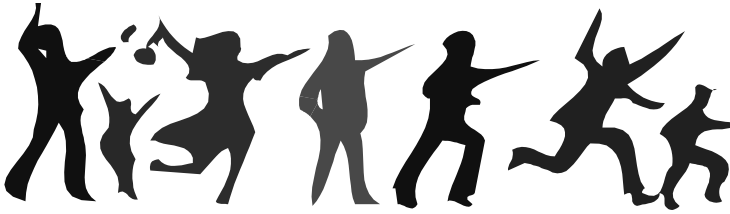
The property at 6803 Florida Street is progressing rapidly. There have been some complaints about noise which have been dealt with and the geothermal pit has yet to be dug but apparently all county permits for that dig are in place. The other O'Brien property under development at 7104 Florida Street has had a new basement poured and will soon be attaching walls and building on that foundation. Neighbors have been extremely cooperative in moving cars when large trucks needed access to the property for which we are grateful.

The **Lesmes** property on Taylor Street is also progressing rapidly. The materials used for the joint driveway have yet to be agreed upon and there are some drainage problems which need to be addressed.

It's not clear what's going on with the **Strauss** property at the corner of Connecticut and Bradley. A driveway apron was supposed to have been cut but that seems to be on hold and it's not yet clear if the potential buyer for the property is going through with the sale.

At long last we have resolved the problem as to why the "pole" hole next to a new Pepco pole kept washing out in heavy rains—it appears that when the new pole was installed, it broke the sewer line coming into the **Adler** home and the water that washed out the "pole hole" was actually coming from both above and below....Happily we managed to get both WSSC and PEPCO in the same place at the same time and the problem has been

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## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Congrats to **Kate Sheckells and Paul Dioguardi** on the birth of their son **Thomas ("Massey") Leonard Dioguardi** born December 19th at 10:40 a.m.—just in time to be home for Christmas! Massey weighed in at a whopping 9 pounds, 3 oz and is 21 inches tall. All are resting comfortably! Stay tuned, we have quite a few more new births to be announced at the beginning of 2009!

Congrats to grandparents Ric and Janet Chap on the birth of grandson, Timothy Paul, born on December 16 here in Silver Spring. Parents Laura and Jay Hanssen are thrilled. Timothy joins sister Charlotte, age 3 for a very special Christmas this year.

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of long-time Section 3 resident, **Sheila Pitchford** of Shepherd Street, sister of **Mary Weadon**, also of Shepherd Street. Sheila fought a long and noble battle with cancer and passed away at Casey House on Tuesday, December 2nd. She will be remembered in a memorial service at Our Lady of Lourdes, on Friday, January 2nd at 10:00 a.m. Contributions in her memory can be made to Montgomery County Hospice.

## CCUMC PRE-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Last month the preschool opened its doors to an enthusiastic group of prospective parents who attended its Open House. When asked how they heard about our program, most responded that a friend or neighbor had recommended the school. The preschool thanks to its families for spreading the good word about CCUMC! The next open house will be held Thursday, January 22nd.

Registration for the 2009-2010 school year will begin the last week in January. Priority registration for children currently enrolled in the program will be offered the week beginning January 26th. Members of Chevy Chase United Methodist Church will also be registered at that time. Registration for siblings of currently enrolled children will be held on Monday, February 2nd and alumni families will be registered Tuesday, February 3rd on an in-person, first-come, first served basis.

## GAZEBO PARK RULES FOR DOG OWNERS

There is a misconception afoot that the Gazebo Park has become a "dog park"—it is NOT! It is a park that belongs to all of us and we trust those with dogs will be more considerate than they have been of late. Specifically, we ask that you follow the rules listed below:



**If there are people in the park without a dog, you must keep your dog on a leash.** You can ask if they wouldn't mind if you took the leash off—if they do, we ask that you honor their right to use the park, too. If they have small children, we prefer that you don't even ask, just keep your dog on a leash.

**If someone wants to come into the park without a dog, we ask that all dog owners put their dogs back on the leash out of courtesy.** If the non-dog owners have no objection once they enter the park, you can remove the leash, but ONLY if they have no objection—not everyone is a dog lover and other people's small children should never be left a park with dogs not on leashes. It is the dog owner's responsibility to be considerate.

**If it has rained, consider walking your dog elsewhere instead of tearing up the lawn in the park—I'm sure you wouldn't want your own lawn torn up that way, why would you do that to a public park?**

**DON'T allow your dogs to bark and snarl at one another in the park in the early morning hours—it's very disturbing to neighbors who might not get up as early as you do.**

**ALWAYS clean up after your dog—this is a park where children play and we don't want them playing in dog poo.** If you see another dog owner ignoring the rule, call them on it and demand that they clean up after their animal. You don't want to step in dog poo anymore than the next person I'm sure.

**Think of the park as your back yard and treat it accordingly, Remember this park is for all residents of Section 3 as well as dogs.** Of late, that complaints have come in showing a clear resentment of the lack of access (real or perceived) by non-dog owners who want to use the park too.

**COUNCIL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2**

resolved, but not, unfortunately, until AFTER the Adlers endured a flooded basement on Thanksgiving morning and had to be put up in a hotel days later courtesy of WSSC! All's well that ends well, the Adlers have a new sewer line connection and the "pole hole" is gone forever we hope!

We are working with Verizon on the building permit for FIOS in Section 3 and we hope that in early spring of 2009 we will have the first phase of the fiber optic cable installed.

Sod in the park has been installed; however some was bad and will be replaced by our contractor. We need to ask that dog owners refrain from allowing their dogs to tear up the park so dramatically as the park is NOT A DOG PARK but a park for everyone. Dogs must be on a leash at all times unless permission has been granted by those already in the park. We had a two-year old playing with his father in the park decked by a well-meaning dog whose owner had him off-leash without asking the others if it was okay.

The storm drain inlets have been cleaned out and our civil engineer is checking to be certain other repairs requested of the County have been made.

**POSSIBLE BUILDING ORDINANCE CHANGES**

The Council discussed the possibility of changing the ordinances so that if a resident were putting on an addition or someone was doing a "tear down" that a full certified staked boundary survey would be required as part of the building permit process. The Council intends to have every block surveyed and permanent monuments installed so that any survey would be considerably less costly than most because the monuments would be so close at hand. This way, there would be no doubt or dispute regarding side and rear setbacks on additions or new construction. At the moment, only an "as built" survey is required and that can be several feet off the mark as it does not rely on an actually boundary survey.

The Council has always required the owner of record to apply for a building permit, however that has been a matter of administrative practice and they Council feels that the ordinance should be corrected so that it's stated as a requirement for a permit. Both changes in wording will be discussed at the January meeting and then printed in the February newsletter.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The investments for Section 3 in CDs with FDIC insured institutions have been producing decent returns. More funds will be invested late in the year and also in early January so that we keep a relatively low balance in SunTrust and earn better interest elsewhere. We have seen a slight diminution in our large

November income tax payment but given the economic situation nationally, that's not surprising.

The Council voted to designate new official signers on some accounts that have older signers on them.

WSSC is about to issue us a check to reimburse Section 3 for the milling and paving done last summer after the work on the no outlet portion of Fulton Street and the last two blocks of Taylor Street was done.

**COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL**

The Senior's brunch was a success—Mr. Omelette made a delicious brunch and neighbors who've known one another for years met with neighbors they've never met, so a good time was had by all. A plan for some sort of wine and cheese event next spring is afoot for the same group of folks.

The Holiday Puppet show plans are in place...in addition to inviting parents of young children in Section 3, the population of the CCUMC pre-school and members of the CCUMC congregation were also invited as they are so generous in loaning us their facility. It was determined that a weekday afternoon during the holiday season is better for all concerned so the same pattern will be observed next year. The Village Manager was getting milk and cookies for all and water for parents and juice for those allergic to chocolate milk. At the suggestion of **Council Vice-Chair Natasha Saifee**, it was decided to serve the food first, then have the entertainment.

**OTHER**

The Council agreed that it is time to update the website, include an updated version of the ordinances, improve the overall usefulness of it with links and the addition of the Chevy Chase Redbook. One section will be devoted to pictures from recent Section 3 events so that everyone can share by looking at the photos which will be regularly changed. There will also be a short-hand version of the building permits, to give people a quick overview of what can and can't be done, what does and doesn't need a permit.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**YES, THAT WAS A RED FOX!**

Section 3's newest rare resident is a beautiful red fox who seems to be frequenting houses on Raymond and Bradley...He's probably eating someone's garbage and just looking for a safe place to snuggle up on a cold night... Keep an eye out for cats who roam and small dogs, but this animal seems quite timid and not at all interested in confronting anyone. Animal Control does not come out to capture healthy animals and this one is healthy and pretty elusive.

## SAFELY DISPOSE OF DRUGS

Make a New Year's Resolution to check all your medicine cabinets and cupboards for expired or no longer relevant medications and dispose of them safely. The old method—flushing them down the toilet—we now know simply pollutes the watershed. Montgomery County Environmental Protection folks advice that you crush all the pills (put them in a plastic bag and run a rolling pin or a hammer over them) and mix them with coffee grinds and put them in your regular household trash. Then take the vials they came in, either remove the labels or blacken them with heavy magic marker so no one can attempt to get another prescription using your name and put those vials into your weekly recycling bin.



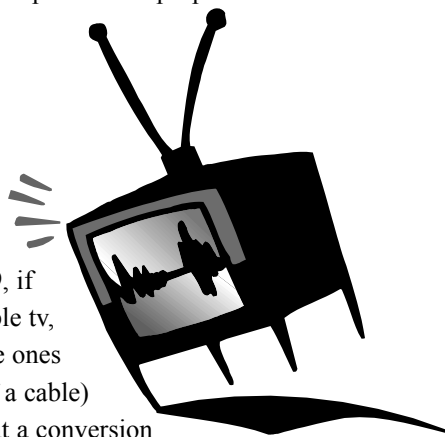
## PURPLE LINE DEBATED

There have been a series of public hearings regarding the choices for the purple line which will ultimately connect Silver Spring and Bethesda. The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board's Transportation Committee met to discuss the Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the purple line on Tuesday, December 2 to listen to community viewpoints on the Purple Line in order to provide advice to the County Executive. All views will be compiled and reported by the Committee's report to the full advisory board.

There was also be a December 15 meeting of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board to hear the Transportation Committee's report on the purple line.

## ARE YOU READY FOR DIGITAL TV?

On February 17, 2009, if you're not connected to cable tv, your analog televisions (the ones using rabbit ears instead of a cable) will no longer work without a conversion box. You can buy the boxes at almost any dealer in television sets. All new televisions will include built-in digital tuners, but if you have an old one and you're not connected to cable, then you'll need one of these conversion boxes...so don't delay!



## GO GREEN IN 2009

The current economic situation makes being thrifty with energy both attractive as well as green! Consider some of the items you have plugged in all the time or lights you leave on for long periods of time. Do you leave the charger plugged in for your phone, PDA or other electronic device? Unplug it and you'll save some bucks. Do you leave the lights on in the living room or hallway overnight? Consider replacing incandescent bulbs with compact florescent bulbs to save some \$\$.

Need a new appliance, consider Energy Saver appliances as they consume less energy.

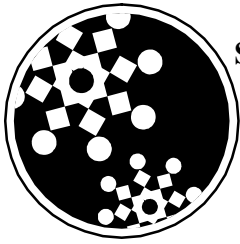
Throughout the year we'll be providing you with ideas to make 2009 a greener year...please feel free to e-mail or call in suggestions to share with others....

If Santa brought you some new electronic devices and you have old ones to shed...consider the following: You can drop off old cell phones and chargers at any Montgomery County Police Department. (try our local station at Montgomery and Wisconsin Avenues) and they will bring them to the Sherriff's office to use for abused women who need to be in touch with 911. And you get a tax deduction for your gift!

Have old books that are collecting dust at home? Consider donating them to either Chevy Chase library or if you have a lot, to Wheaton Regional Library at Arcola Avenue and Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring. You'll get a tax deduction for your gift and if you have the time, browse in their FABULOUS basement used book, record and video store—great bargains!

## DISCOUNTED OPERA TICKETS FOR SECTION 3 RESIDENTS!

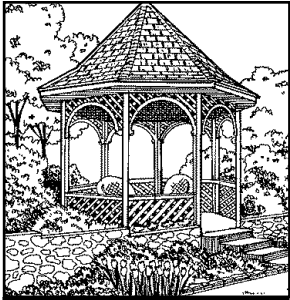
Thanks to **Clare Wolfowitz**, Section 3 residents can just mention Section 3 and get a 20 percent discount on tickets to the In Series presentation of Orpheus in the Underworld. The new family friendly version of the French opera at the Atlas Performing Arts Center in the new theater district at 2333 H Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, right near Union Station. The hilarious English version of the book and lyrics by Kelley Rourke is directed by Rick Davis and Joel Lazar. Tickets are \$39 adults, \$36 for seniors, \$20 for students and \$20 for children-plus you get 20% off that! For tickets, call (202) 204-7760 or -7763 and be sure to mention Section 3!



**SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE**

P.O. Box 15070

Chevy Chase, MD 20815



**SECTION THREE  
VILLAGE OF  
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# NEWS & VIEWS

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JANUARY 2009

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If there's even a hint of snow in the air or on the weather reports—**PLEASE PARK YOUR CARS OFF THE STREET!** With all the shared driveways in Section 3, this requires a lot of neighborly cooperation, but with your help, we can have cleanly plowed streets...without your help, it's difficult for anyone to pass, much less a snow plow!

If you're going away, please make arrangements for someone to shovel your walk while you're gone... you don't want a neighbor slipping and falling in front of your home!