

SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

NEWS & VIEWS

JULY 2009

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

Bulk trash pickup-curbside

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

Council Meeting 7:45 p.m.

CCUMC Room 109

THURSDAY, JULY 16

Welcome New Neighbors Barbeque

6:00-8:30 p.m., Gazebo Park

No Council meeting in August

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

Bulk household trash pick-up-curbside

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Party-in-the-Park

Gazebo Park, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

COUNCIL KICKS OFF NEW TERM WITH DECISIONS ON LIGHTING DESIGN & GIS SURVEY CONTRACTORS

LIGHTING SURVEY COMPLETE, DESIGN WORK BEGINS

Our lighting consultant, Scott Watson of The Lighting Practice, completed his survey of our lighting and provided the Council with a report. In addition to having a complete detailed survey of all our lighting, Watson took night time light level measurements at a number of locations. Needless to say, the level of lighting for both safety and pedestrian traffic at night were found wanting. We have a number of dark spots because our lights are spread so far apart (average 300 feet between lights) and because mercury vapor lights degrade dramatically over time, giving off less and less light. We do not have sufficient light levels for people to comfortably walk at night on our sidewalks.

The Council's goal is to provide an even, non-glaring overhead light that will make our streets and sidewalks safe but not too bright. In addition to an educational forum organized by Section 3 and Martins Additions where many different lighting types from sodium vapor to LED lights were discussed and demonstrated, the Council has looked at a number of installations in the field.

The Council took a field trip to look at two different lighting installations in Chevy Chase View and Garrett Park. The light levels in Garrett Park (on the interior streets, not on Strathmore Road) the Council felt were too dark, with brighter areas next to dark areas. The lighting in Chevy Chase View the Council felt was a bit too bright, but definitely more even. The Council then went back to Section 3 to compare our light levels and to view one light specifically that seemed to do a better job than most, the single newer light that hovers almost over the center of the street on the no outlet portion of Georgia Street.

At the June 10th meeting, it was decided to hire The Lighting Practice to design a new lighting pattern for us using what is called a "teardrop esplanade pedestrian luminaire" using induction light bulbs(see picture). Based on the field trip and subsequent discussions with Mr. Watson, it was decided that since our streets are so narrow, that we could install lights on 8' brackets and have a single soft induction light illuminate both sides of the street from the center. The "teardrop" style lights (visit Franklin Street in Chevy Chase View to see the fixtures) would have a "skirt" at the top to prevent any possible glare in second story windows and direct the light downward towards the street and sidewalk in a wide triangle. As to lighting on Brookville Road and Connecticut Avenue, because both of these are state highways, we will have to have discussions with the State

COUNCIL DECISIONS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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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 met on Wednesday, June 10th at 7:45 p.m. All Council members were present except Jon Newhard who was traveling abroad on business.

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

The Council heard a progress report and a note of thanks from Julie Thomas of the Chevy Chase Historical Society regarding the oral histories taken by the Society of Section 3 residents. Section 3 gave a donation to the Society in 2006. The Historical Society, located in the basement of the Chevy Chase library, now has oral histories of the following Section 3 residents or former residents: **Elsie Irving, Carol Blair, Mary Weadon and Sheila Pickford, Henry Ravenel, Mary Smith, Irene Tamagna, Jeanette Hall, William Pennington, and Don Robertson.**

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

The Chevy Chase Police report indicated that more enforcement has taken place on Brookville Road and Connecticut Ave. regarding safety issues (seat belts) and proper registration, etc. Some speeding was noted.

Residents with cars left open have had items taken from their cars. An e-mail was sent out regarding this to alert residents to the need to lock their cars.

A Fed Ex Truck plowed into two cars parked on Spring Street on Saturday, June 6th...seriously damaging the **Jest and Haller** cars as well as the greenway.

A large limb from the Gazebo Park fell onto the **Steptoe-Carson** car in their driveway. The tree had just been examined by an arborist and there was not sign of weakness in the branch

LOCK YOUR CARS AT NIGHT!

Montgomery County continues to be plagued by break-ins to unlocked cars...so don't be a victim, lock yours and take any valuables inside your home with you!

that fell. Happily, no one was hurt and a small amount of damage (relative to what might have been) was sustained to their car.

Council Chairman Bill Brownlee signed the new contract with the Chevy Chase Police Department which begins in August.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Carolyn Greis reported that Mr. O'Brien still has to provide us with a drainage plan for the house at 7104 Florida Street before constructing the driveway and front walk. The Strauss property will have some of the garbage removed, but the dirt will remain because he has a County sediment control permit to do so.

The builder of the **Lesmes** house has been struggling with the excessive rain pooling in his back yard before he has had an opportunity to put in sub-surface voids to capture the water underground. Because the ground is so saturated, it's sitting in the back yard like a lake. He has pumped out excessive water and removed it from the site but more keeps on coming. We are working with him to resolve these problems.

The Council agreed to new rules for the dog park (see story this issue).

The Council voted to hire lighting consultant Scott Watson of The Lighting Practice to design a new lighting system for Section 3 (see story this issue for more details).

The Council agreed to hire the firm of Charles P. Johnson & Associates of Silver Spring to do the Geographical Information System Survey and accompanying work. Their bid of \$49,868 was a little less than half the other bidder. The Council reviewed both bids and the other bidder removed one of the key specifications, marking the front property lines of every home, in their bid. A third bidder declined to submit a bid after agreeing that they would. Charles P. Johnson & Associates has done the same kind of work for the Village of Chevy Chase View and has an excellent reputation. Work began on the research phase of the project on June 15th. Actual survey work will not take place until later. (see story this issue for more details)

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council reviewed the financial reports and will be trying to nail down some additional investments soon. With interest rates going down, it's more and more difficult to find a good rate.

The Council agreed to hire Dennis Alexander, CPA to do this year's audit for a price not to exceed \$7,500.

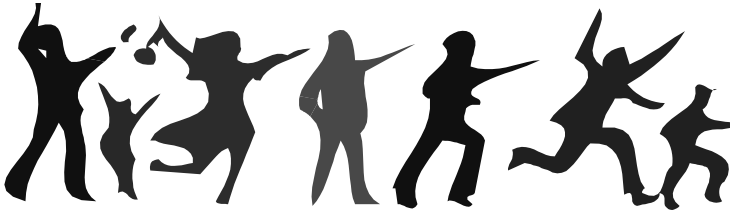
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

The wine tasting event was a great success (see story this issue).

The Welcome neighbor event will be held on Thursday, July 16th, with Rocklands Barbeque food (see story this issue).

The Council set the date for the Party-in-the-Park for Sunday, September 20th with a rain date of September 27th.

The meeting ended at 9:30 p.m.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to **Elliot Blanchard** and his bride, **Akemi Tanaka** who were married in New York City on April 16th. Elliot is the son of Roberta and Jack Blanchard of Raymond Street. The couple lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Father of former resident **Natalie Hamilton** and former Raymond Street resident himself, **Arthur Fern** passed away on June 18 in Bloomfield, Connecticut. He lost his battle with cancer at 76.

The **Kane** family plans to put on a modest ground floor addition on their home requiring a small variance of 1' into the 10' side setback of the property to continue an eave to maintain the architectural integrity of the of the bungalow style of the house. The variance will be voted on at the July 8th meeting.

FIOS INSTALLATION ALMOST COMPLETE!

As of early July, Verizon should have completed the FIOS cable installation for Section 3 so that anyone who wants to subscribe to their services, can contact Verizon and get pricing. The Village Manager will send out an e-mail when the job is definitely completed because until it is listed in their computers as having been fully installed, they won't give out pricing or talk to consumers. So wait for the e-mail!

Some people on Brookville Road already have FIOS and seem genuinely pleased with the service. The group had some challenges in that all the phone lines for most of the residents of Bradley Lane and Raymond Street and Delaware and Connecticut Ave up to almost Shepherd Street come from the backyard where there is no easement or alleyway. Imagine big guys with hard hats on a hot day clumping through backyards to climb up poles surrounded by vines, gardens, fences, etc.-very difficult installation conditions!

SHEPHERD STREET REUNION

About 150 former and current residents of Shepherd Street joined forces for an amazing reunion on Saturday, June 13th at the Gazebo Park and the adjacent block of Fulton Street. People who haven't lived here for 30 to 40 years came together from all over the country due to the amazing organizational skills of the **Davitt** family formerly of 3617 Shepherd Street. (the **Kirsch/Epstein** home now) and **Rusty Flint** of 3610 Shepherd Street. The Davitt children number 10 and with spouses and children, they alone would fill up most of the block, but added to that were the **Brownlee** brood (four former residents plus some children and, of course, our current Council Chairman, Bill), the **Brewers** (mother and two daughters), the **Flints** (four former residents plus children), current residents also participating were **Mo Robertson**, the **Warners**, **Jackie Gardiner** and sons **John and Tim**, **Carol Blair** and her son **Tom**, and **Mary Weadon**. Returning to celebrate were the **Worsleys** (formerly of 3705 Shepherd Street, now the **Cameron** residence), the **Richardeaus** (formerly of 3608 Shepherd Street, now the **Chaps'** house), the **Liebman**s (formerly of 3616 Shepherd), and the **Priggs** (formerly of 3619 Shepherd Street) Three Shepherd Street "alums" came all the way from California for the event and some of the Davitts came from as far away as New Hampshire. The oldest reunion guest was Camille Richardeau at 86. The youngest reunion guest was Tommy Gardiner, son of John Gardiner, grandson of Jackie Gardiner of 6823 Delaware Street.

The group set up a blog and shared memories, photos and lots of good info to generate enthusiasm for the event. They managed to bring with them a whole generation new to Shepherd Street, some progeny of the original occupants of Shepherd Street attended.

Special thanks to the **Barry** family for lending their front lawn. It's so nice that Section 3 continues to hold fond memories for both those who live here now and those who have long ago moved away!

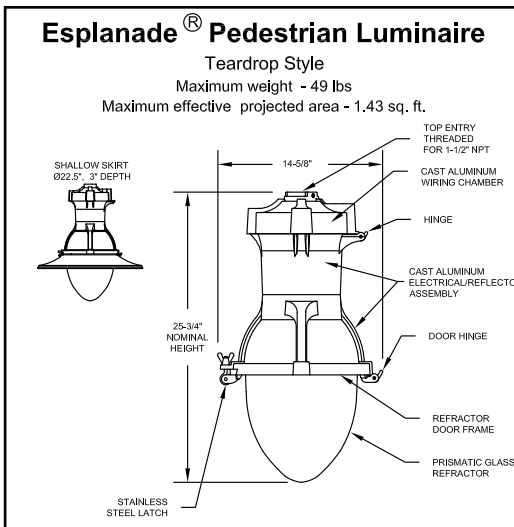
MOSQUITOS—ALL THE TIME! HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Did you know that the tiger mosquito can lay eggs in as small a vessel as a bottle cap of water? Unlike other mosquitos, they aren't afraid of the light and bother us at any time of the day...so if you want to be a good neighbor, take a survey of your property and dump out those saucers of water, take in that tarp that collects water and try and improve all the drainage problems you might have that would be a good breeding ground for mosquitos.

COUNCIL DECISIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
 Highway Department regarding their lighting standards for the streets but we would try and keep the same basic design, perhaps with a longer bracket over Connecticut Avenue. The State Highway Department has indicated that they would need us to submit plans but that what we had in mind should sufficiently light the sidewalks so that would satisfy them. Our lighting designer is working with the District supervisor for the State Highway Department regarding the type of lighting we would like to use. We will still require a structural engineer to be certain that the poles can take the brackets and new fixtures we have in mind.

While The Lighting Practice designs our new lighting pattern, we will begin to work with Pepco to determine the cost of removing the ugly "cobra" lights and work on a new fee structure for the proposed new lights. Our current mercury vapor (MV) lights are no longer manufactured because they are environmental-

ly unsound. The average MV light lasts 10 years, but they degrade over those years giving off less and less light each year, which is why the light levels in our community are so uneven. Watson in his study notes that mercury vapor



lights after only 10 years, produce only 30 percent of their original output. The new induction light bulbs after 15 years, will still produce over 60 percent of their original illuminance. The light they give off is a clean white light...it doesn't glare the way our current lights do because of the lens or cover over the light. By contrast, LED lights, which have yet to be designed successfully for residential uses, cast a harsh glaring light and require many more fixtures at lower heights to get a similar light level. LED lighting was demonstrated at the educational forum attended by all the Chevy Chase communities and found to be far too harsh and glaring for use on our streets.

Overall, the induction light seems to be the best fit for our needs. Mr. Watson pointed out in his report that if, for example, the quantity of lights were to be increased by 50 percent and the lamps changed to the 55 watt induction lamps, the overall energy usage for the Section's street lights would decrease by around 37 percent.

We have many hurdles yet to cross regarding the way in which these lights are installed, the cost, who will maintain them, etc. but we are on the right road. We expect to have a final design for the community before the end of the summer.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) CONTRACTOR SELECTED

At the June 10th meeting of the Council, Charles P. Johnson and Associates was selected as the contractor to install monuments at every corner, find and/or install iron pegs at the front two property lines of every home and provide us with a full GIS map with key elements of our community infrastructure. The entire system will be entered into a town computer and training will be provided for Building and Roads representative and Village Manager so that the system can be continually updated.

The bid package was sent out to three excellent firms—all of whom expressed an interest in bidding on the job: Charles P. Johnson, A. Morton Thomas and Greenhorne and O'Mara. For unexplained reasons, Greenhorne and O'Mara did not submit a bid. The A. Morton Thomas bid was \$100,000 and in their bid, the firm declined to mark the two front property boundaries requested in the bid package.

The firm selected, Charles P. Johnson, has already begun work, their bid was \$49,868, less than half the other bidder. Charles P. Johnson has done this same type of work for Chevy Chase View. You can expect to see surveyors in the community for the next several months as they mark the corner boundaries of the Section 3 right of way and the edges of private property. Once completed, should you need a survey done of your property, the corner monuments and the two front property markers will make the cost of doing the survey much less costly for all Section 3 residents. Iron pins will be set to mark all front property boundaries but where residents share a driveway, a special "pk nail" will be driven which is smaller and less obtrusive. If you already have iron pins set, if there is disagreement in the CPJ findings, we will contact individual homeowners to discuss the discrepancies before going further. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please don't hesitate to contact either the Council's Buildings and Roads representative, Carolyn Greis, or the Village Manager, Andy Leon Harney.

With these two big steps, we are bringing the community safer, more attractive and better lit streets and 21st century record-keeping. All our building permit records will be digitized as part of this process and we will have a much better grasp of property lines when providing building permits.

WINE TASTING EVENT BIGGER THAN EVER!

The June 7th Wine Tasting Event drew more Section 3 residents than ever before and was a huge success! We began the evening with three lovely French white wine selections by our host, **Chris Lombardi**. **Chris and Shoshana** lived in Paris for two years and during that time, got familiar with both good wines and good food. Shoshana made some lovely pastries to eat with the wine that complimented them perfectly!

For the red wine selection, we traversed the section and ended up at the lovely **Mohr-Baranes** home. Thankfully, no rain and so we all had wonderful hors d'oeuvres around the pool along with three red wine selections by **Ken Harney**. After having had so much rain, it was just delightful to sit outside and sip wines and chat with neighbors.

The last but not least event of the evening was the Ports and Madiera wine tasting at the **Hovda's** home. Delicious walnut and cheese spreads, Godiva chocolates and fruit put a beautiful finish on the evening. Everyone stood around the Hovda family kitchen island eating, drinking and talking into the night. In all, it was a delightful evening, one we all look forward to each year!

PARK HAS NEW HOURS AND RULES FOR DOGS

In an effort to open the park to both those with and without dogs, we have established new hours for dog owners to use the park...from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. In addition, the Council has agreed on a new set of rules for dogs and their owners which is posted in the park.

ALWAYS clean up after your dog—children play here

This park is for everyone, not just dogs. Hours for dogs and their owners are posted

**There is a limit of two dogs per adult allowed in the Park
If it has rained, walk your dog elsewhere instead of tearing up the sod**

Owners are legally and financially responsible for any damage or injury inflicted by their dogs

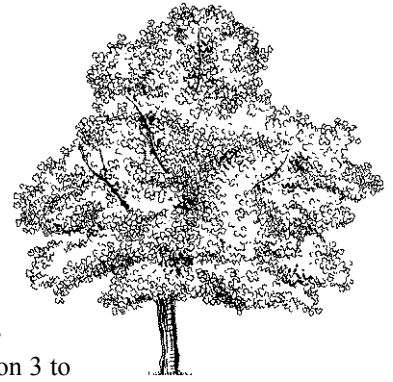
Don't allow your dog to bark a lot, particularly in the early morning hours

Treat this park as if it were your own back yard, with care and consideration

Hopefully, users of the park will respect the above rules.

SHADE TREES PLANTED IN SECTION 3

Seven neighbors have new shade trees planted close to the sidewalk so that we can all benefit from that shade thanks to a continuing program by Section 3 to improve our green umbrella by planting on private property.



A number of years ago the Council realized that with our small greenways, large shade trees could not be sustained and adopted a program to offer a limited number of trees to residents who agreed to care for them and plant them within 4 or 5 feet of the sidewalk so that we all get the benefit of their shade. Lots of maple trees in front yards over the years are the result of that continuing effort.

All the trees were planted with a feeding tube which should be filled with water (when it's not pouring of course) twice a week for at least the first few months of the tree's life. Any owner having problems with a tree should report it to the Village Manager as soon as possible as the trees are guaranteed for a year.

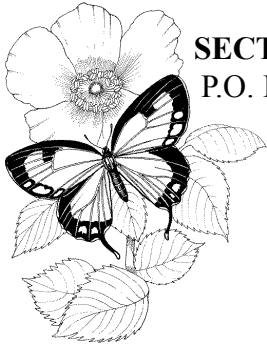
SERVICEBERRY TREES STAKED; NEW ONES PLANTED

A number of new serviceberry trees have been planted in the greenways and sod has been put down in a number of locations. For those who received either new trees or new sod, we appreciate your watering both to make sure they get a good start.

Because a number of trees have begun to lean one way or the other, our contractor, Level Green Landscaping, has staked a number of existing trees so we can train them to grow in the right direction. If we get a drought (as unlikely as that seems in late June), please don't forget to water the serviceberry tree in the greenway in front of your home and cut back any suckers that may be growing at the base of the tree.

IF YOU DON'T WANT THE EXAMINER....

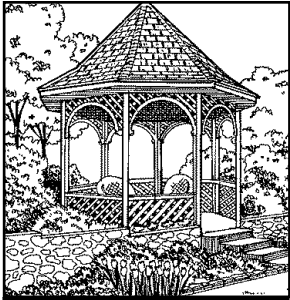
Instead of leaving it on the driveway, or having to put it in recycling, consider calling the paper to stop delivery by calling their circulation desk at (800) 531-1223 or e-mail them at circulation@washingtonexaminer.com. Thanks to **Helga Butler** for the tip!



SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

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**SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE**

NEWS & VIEWS

JULY 2009



WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS BARBEQUE SLATED FOR JULY 16

Mark July 16th on your calendars for a delicious barbeque for everyone and a way to welcome new neighbors to the community! Rocklands Barbeque will cook up some delicious chicken and ribs, a tent in the park will make the event a rain or shine opportunity and soft music will make it pleasant for all. The event, in the Gazebo Park, takes place from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Rain or shine!