

SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

NEWS & VIEWS

JUNE 2008

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4
Curbside, Bulk Trash Pick-up

SUNDAY, JUNE 8
BARK AT THE PARK
10:00 a.m.-12 noon Rain or Shine
Doggie Gazebo Park
ANNUAL WINE TASTING
BRING A GLASS!
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Advanced sign-up required

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9
Council Meeting
Room 109 CCUMC 7:45 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 17
Welcome New Neighbors' Barbeque
Gazebo Park 6:30 p.m.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

WWW.CHEVYCHASESECTION3.COM

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ANNUAL MEETING: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Donna Harmon and **Jon Newhard** were elected to the Village Council at the annual meeting in May. Each received 27 votes. Following their swearing in, the new Council voted Donna as incoming Secretary and Jon as the Council's new treasurer. All the other Council members kept their positions from last year.

Council Chairman **Bill Brownlee** summed up the key activities of the past year as related to public health and safety, **Natasha Saifee** summarized the many social activities which have taken place in the community. **Mike Shannon** took a moment to welcome our many new neighbors, including a number of new babies in the community and remembered those who recently passed away. **Paul Kiernan** outlined the Village's financial condition and the community approved the budget for next year.

Plans for next year include expanding community activities to bring together more diverse groups of Section 3 residents. Upcoming events include the "Bark at the Park" event slated for Sunday, June 8th for dog owners and would-be pet owners considering adoption through the Humane Society. That same day, in the evening, the annual Wine Tasting event will occur with three gracious residents hosting the event: **the Glynn family**, **Susan Toffler**, and **the Murphys** on Raymond Street. Residents will be receiving a brochure describing these events in detail along with a sign-up sheet for the Wine Tasting Event.

Natasha Saifee mentioned an offer by Section 3 Resident and official DC Tour Guide, **Frank Vita**, to set up a special guided bus tour of the Nation's Capital for the enjoyment of Section 3 residents. Parking is often such a problem, but with our own bus it wouldn't be. Plus you can brush up on your appreciation and understanding of some of the many historic sites we have at our fingertips that many of us just don't visit that often. Please contact the Village Manager to express and interest in this event.

Carolyn Greis recounted all the permits issued this year and then discussed next year's plans which include improving the signage in Section 3 following the recommendations of our consulting engineer, Joe Cutro. We'll begin by replacing many of the signs in poor condition or in bad locations with new ones. We'll repaint the yellow curbs throughout the community and then renovate all the street signs to be easier to read, better placed and more distinctive. We are still awaiting approval from the State Highway Department for the sign that would grace the entrance to Section 3 at Bradley Lane and Connecticut Avenue in front of the light control box recently installed on that site. We hope to mill and pave the dead end

YEAR-IN-REVIEW, CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**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.*

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS IN BETHESDA

Thanks to the work of the Bethesda Urban Partnership and the sponsorship of Polinger Shannon and Luchs, we can all take advantage of Wednesday afternoon concerts at Bethesda Place Plaza at 7700 Wisconsin Avenue and Thursday evening concerts at the Veterans Park at the corner of Woodmont and Norfolk Avenues across from the Starbucks.



June's 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. offerings include Gus Alzona's Trademark performing rock music on June 4, Kenny Holms Band performing variety rock and pop on June 11, Level 3 playing variety rock and pop music on June 18 and finally, The Reasons playing oldies on June 25, all at Bethesda Place Plaza, tucked into the outdoor courtyard at 7700 Wisconsin Avenue under a stunning contemporary awning.

On June Thursday nights at Woodmont and Norfolk Avenues, you can hear the group Jumptown playing Swing, Rock and Blues on June 5, The Players Band performing Ska and Reggae music on June 12, GHz playing classic rock on June 19 and Patty Reese singing original alternative rock and blues on June 26. What a great opportunity to hear live music with the family in a casual setting!

COUNTY COUNCIL HOLDS SPENDING INCREASE TO 4.3 PERCENT

The County Council adopted a stringent budget that will hold property tax rates at their current level, offer taxpayers a lower "credit" on their taxes than last year, and expects to make up the deficit through increased assessments, higher energy taxes and other cost cutting measures. The property tax plan proposed by County Executive did not pass. Instead, the County Council agreed to give residents a property tax credit of \$579 (down from \$613 in FY 08) and not raise the property tax. The average assessment on a Section 3 residence is about \$1,125,285.00 for FY 09. Under the adopted plan, that will mean that in FY09 taxpayers with houses of that value will pay approximately \$11,236.49 a year in property taxes. The County Council voted a \$579 "tax credit" but the rate, when you figure in the County and State taxes and Section 3's annual \$.02 per \$100 assessed valuation comes out to about \$1.05 per \$100 assessed valuation, less the \$579 credit. This is better than the proposed \$1.11 per \$100 assessed valuation but it still represents a large increase, particularly considering that most residents were recently re-assessed. Section 3 pays the county landfill charge that appears on all tax bills for every Section 3 resident. While last year's fee was \$29.50, this year's charge has yet to be announced.

For those of you who took the time to write your Council members regarding the larger proposed increase, it's clear that the Council acted with your protests in mind.

On other fronts, the Council did increase the energy tax on your Pepco bill 10 percent and your Washington Gas bill energy tax will go to five percent.

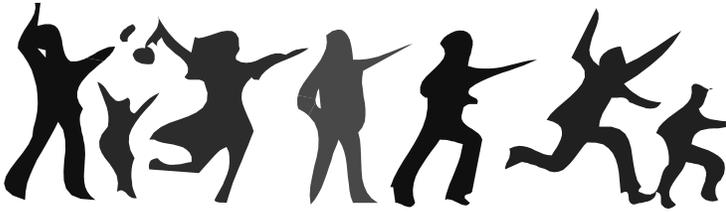
YEAR-IN-REVIEW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of Delaware Street soon along with milling and paving the area of Fulton and Taylor Streets where the water lines have been replaced.

At the moment, we are having our civil engineer, who assists us with water and drainage issues, evaluate the condition of all the storm drain inlets in Section 3. This has never before been done and, to properly maintain these inlets, it's good to check them to be certain they are in working order. We have also identified concrete repairs that need doing and expect that, within a month to six weeks, we'll have D & F Construction make those repairs. Hopefully, by early summer, all the streets will be in good condition and the signs upgraded as well.

On a more sobering level, at the State and County level, funds for "tax duplication" are in the process of being re-calibrated and it appears that in FY09, Section 3 will receive a significantly lower payment from the County for park maintenance and for other services based on new formulas now being developed by a joint municipal/county task force. Similarly, there is talk that the County may want to ask the state to lower the income tax allocation that goes to all municipalities, which is our largest source of funding for Section 3 activities and responsibilities. This year the state created new tax brackets for those at the higher end of the income scale but that money goes directly to the state, not to the County or any municipalities to help cover the state deficit.

Our reserves may come in handy as the economy slows and income tax revenues are lower than anticipated. Section 3 always budgets conservatively but having a large reserve is a means of making sure that we are not caught without sufficient funds to execute our plans.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Congrats to **Chris Erceg and Susan Murray** on the birth of their son **Brendan** in March. He weighed in at 6 pounds, 12 ounces and in two months had doubled his weight! In addition to sister **Katie**, Brendan has a new playmate in the neighborhood at the **Chernack** residence, where new baby **Andrew** born in March joins brother **Ben**. Up the street and born almost at the same time (February) is **Stewart Allan**, son of **Scott and Natanya**...welcome to all!!

Yet another baby has joined the booming population on Spring Street! Congrats to **Lavanya Sithanandam and Felix Amerasinghe** on the birth of their second son, **Dhiren Mark** in mid May.

Long-time Section 3 nursery school teacher **Mary Weadon** has finally decided to retire. In 1962, Mrs. Weadon began a pre-school in her home on Shepherd Street called "The Little Group." In 1968, the group moved to Blessed Sacrament Church and then in 1978, she moved the program to Our Lady of Lourdes Church where she has been ever since. A special Mass was said at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 17th followed by a retirement party.

For the first time ever, *Newsweek* magazine has ranked six Montgomery County public high schools in the top 100 high schools in the nation—more than any other school district in the United States. In the previous four years, five high schools have appeared in the top 100. All of the county's eligible schools are counted among the top three percent in the country, according to *Newsweek*. The six top high schools and their rankings are: Richard Montgomery, 32; Thomas S. Wootton, 59; **Bethesda-Chevy Chase, 63**; Walt Whitman, 68; Walter Johnson, 75; Winston Churchill, 96.

BARK AT THE PARK

If you have a well-behaved, vaccinated dog, come join all the neighborhood dogs for a large "Bark at the Park" event sponsored by Section 3 with the able organizing skills of **Michelle Ballarini**. The first-ever event on Sunday, June 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon will have a doggie yoga expert, a grooming expert and an animal behavior coach who will advise owners on different behavioral challenges. There will be a



raffle with great prizes (a dog training lesson from Bark Busters, a month of Tae Kwon Do lessons and a uniform from Coles Martial Arts and a gift from PetSmart).

We'll have a van from the Montgomery County Humane Society parked on Fulton Street right next to Zoomin' Groomin' RV. Those interested in adopting pets (or making a donation of some wonderful equipment needed for pets) can stop by the Humane Society and those interested in mobile grooming services can see the place where it all happens!

If you are a dog owner, consider donating old blankets and towels, squeaky toys, grooming items, large hard nylabones, dog treats, baby gates, working hair dryers, dog toys for dogs. For cats, they are looking for soft washable stuffed toys, cat- or nature-oriented DVDs, catnip mice, bound carpet squares, and washable fleece beds. They also want items for birds, hamsters, and guinea pigs). So if these items are just taking up space in your basement or attic, consider bringing them to the Bark at the Park and donating them to the Humane Society. A complete "wish list" is available at www.mchumane.org.

Call Michelle to volunteer to help at the event.

ANNUAL WINE TASTING SUNDAY, JUNE 8

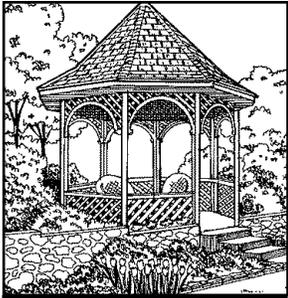
Looking for some interesting wines to serve at a dinner party? Consider joining the annual Section 3 wine tasting event. For \$15, you get to taste nine different wines, all at about \$15 a bottle. The idea is to provide you with tastes of wine that you might like to serve at home or for guests and meet neighbors at the same time. This is strictly a walking tour-with your own wine glass in hand.

We begin at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 8th at the **Glynn family** home to taste three refreshing white wines. From there, we're off to **Susan Toffler's** house to try three red wines...and finally, we end up at the home of **Arantza and Pat Murphy** to try three excellent dessert wines. There will be hors d'oeuvres at each location along with a list of the wines, their prices and where they can be purchased. In the past we've had sparkling wines, sangria, ice wines and dessert wines as our third selection. Come and experiment, meet some new people and enjoy the evening. Again, this is a rain or shine event. If you are interested, you can sign up and drop off the \$15 per person at the home of the Village Manager (3801 Bradley Lane), or you can e-mail her and drop off the funds before June 3rd so that we have time to purchase enough wine for everyone. As usual, this promises to be a fun event...some say they'd never miss it! Just bring yourselves and a wine glass!





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



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JUNE 2008

REGISTRATION COUPON FOR WINE TASTING EVENT



YES, SIGN ME/US UP FOR THE JUNE 8TH WINE TASTING EVENT. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR \$15 PER PERSON TO COVER THE COST OF THE WINES.

Name(s) _____

E-mail address for confirmation _____

Make checks payable to Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase and either mail or deliver them to 3801 Bradley Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, no later than June 3rd.