



SECTION THREE  
VILLAGE OF  
CHEVY CHASE

# NEWS & VIEWS

OCTOBER 2016

## CALENDAR

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5**  
Bulk Trash Pickup, Curbside

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9**  
Food Truck Night, Gazebo Park, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
(see story this issue)

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12**  
Council Meeting, CCUMC Room 107, 7:45 p.m.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 31**  
Halloween Parade and Pizza Party  
4:45 at the Gazebo Park (see story this issue)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2**  
Bulk Trash Pick up, Curbside

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9**  
Council Meeting CCUMC Room 107, 7:45 p.m.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24**  
Thanksgiving  
NO TRASH OR RECYCLING PICK UP

## VILLAGE COUNCIL

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## PARTY IN THE PARK WAS TONS OF FUN!

We had a terrific turnout for our Annual Party-in-the-Park on September 18. Despite the prospect of scattered showers, the day was hot and humid and the showers didn't come until the following morning. The Face Paint Lady transformed lots of neighbors into characters that were alternately funny, scary and just plain adorable. The Pirate Ship and the Giant Slide were a huge success...many thanks to all the parents who took turns monitoring those "rides" to insure the children's safety. A perennial hit, the train ride especially popular with the little ones. Special thanks to the grandma volunteers who made sure children were properly buckled in.

Mindy's Catering did a terrific job and made us all a delicious dinner. DJ Keith Robinson of Bristol Sounds kept everyone occupied with hula hoop games and then ran the highlight of the event, **Jen Roberti's** amazing cakewalk with chances for everyone to win an incredible cake. This year we had 45 cakes baked and donated for the event, a splendid array indeed! And the ice cream man helped us all forget how hot it was.

Special thanks to the **Barry** family for letting us use their front lawn and their front porch for storing supplies in advance and to the **Manning** family for letting us use their front porch for stockpiling supplies in advance as well. Thanks to those who helped set up and clean up. As usual, fun was had by all.

## HISTORY OF THE PARTY IN THE PARK

The first documented Party-in-the-Park was held in September if 1979 before we even incorporated as a municipality. It was a pot-luck affair and folks were asked to bring extra desserts for others and Section 3 provided a keg. Residents were urged to bring a picnic dinner for their family and blankets for the lawn. Games were organized and one of the three original planners, **Helga Bulter**, still lives in Section 3. In the following years, we had politicians visit (Congresswoman Connie Morella one year), guitar players entertain (Bob Devlin, a folk singer) and one year, two Clydesdale horses pulled a hay wagon through the neighborhood.

As time went on we divided the community by streets and asked folks on one street to prepare vegetable dishes for their family plus 6 to 8 more, or bread, or meat, whatever would make a full picnic meal. But we were still eating on the ground on blankets when some older residents said it was hard getting down

PARTY IN THE PARK, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



*\*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, September 14 at CCUMC in room 107. All Council members were present. The group approved the minutes of the July meeting as published in the September newsletter.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Police patrols are going well. The Village Manager reports that we continue to have our patrols issue citations for folks running the stop sign at Brookville Road and Taylor Street. No issues so far with parking around the preschool. We may have one of our patrols at the Party in the Park but his schedule is uncertain. Our other patrolman will be away on vacation during that time.

### BUILDINGS AND ROADS

**Carolyn Greis**, Buildings and Roads representative, reported re-issuing a previously granted permit to the **Edelen** family of 6705 Connecticut Avenue to put in a semi-circular driveway for which a curb cut has already been granted and installed by the state; to the **Benhards** of 3610 Raymond Street for their rear and side yard additions, as well as a rear-yard patio; and to the **Mandi-Perrott** family at 6700 Brookville Road to reconstruct a driveway and add a front walkway.

**VARIANCES** (see September News & Views for a more detailed description of each variance)

The **Carroll** family at 3806 Shepherd Street received two variances: one to build a landing with steps to grade in the west side setback, and the second to build two low walls creating an alcove for trash cans in the "rear" setback running along the shared property line with their neighbor to the east. These variances are pending notification of their confronting and adjoining neighbors.

The developer at **3617 Taylor Street, Albermarle Realty LLC** was issued a variance to build a covered entry with steps to grade (at the location of the existing front stoop) which extends into the the front yard setback.

The **Bruetman** family at 3823 Bradley Lane was re-issued a lapsed variance to build a six-foot-tall entry gate across their driveway on Connecticut Avenue, the height of which will match that of the existing stone wall along the street. .

The **Manning** family at 7005 Florida Street was granted a variance for a code-required egress window in the south side setback.

The Village Manager discussed the problem of drivers during rush hour "blocking the box" at Raymond/Rosemary and

Connecticut Avenue. This problem has been exacerbated by new longer left turn signals at Bradley and Connecticut to allow drivers to turn west onto Bradley Lane during afternoon rush hour but the difficulty exists at both morning and afternoon rush hours. She has been in touch with the County traffic people and the State Highway Administration only to discover that there is no law on the books fining drivers for blocking the box. With the Council's approval, she will research the problem and work to get legislation at the next session in Annapolis to correct this problem (see traffic story this issue).

The head of Buildings and Roads, Carolyn Greis, briefly discussed some of the issues we have had in clearly defining the building envelope for purposes of rear and side setbacks in Section 3 where open space on many lots is so limited. She hopes to have some language to present to the Council at the November meeting where it would be discussed, then printed in the next newsletter for the community to review before any vote is taken.

The Village Manager gave a report on the status of the proposed Rooming House legislation, now called Short Term Residential Rentals by the Planning Board staff (see story this issue).

The County Council has proposed that traffic studies be eliminated from developments around metro stops. The Section 3 Council agreed that this was not a good idea and a letter will be written to the Planning Board and the Council to reflect that position. Without traffic studies and more densely populated buildings around metro sites, traffic studies are absolutely necessary.

The Council agreed that Section 3 residents benefit from the free and extensive use of the playgrounds owned by the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church. To compensate them for that use, they agreed to pay for the special play mulch that the preschool has put down each year to make it a safe playground.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

The Auditor is completing his tasks and should have a report at the October meeting. The Council agreed to have our attorney draft a Maryland Freedom of Information Act request for the state audit report on local income tax distributions (see story this issue).

### COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

The Village Manager expressed concern that the weather forecast for the Party in the Park was "iffy" and the Council agreed that even though we have it written into all the contracts by our vendors that the following week is a rain date, it would be much better to hold the event on the original date. They agreed that if they had to pay the caterer some additional money in the event we cancelled, it would be worth it as the caterer had to begin preparations prior to the date required by other vendors. It was agreed we would make a definitive decision based on conversations with the National Weather Service forecaster for Baltimore

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## FOOD TRUCK NIGHT OCTOBER 9

Mark your calendars for Sunday night, October 9 for our fall FOOD TRUCK NIGHT! Bring friends, family, neighbors...picnic blankets and adult beverages. Last June, we held the Spring night to coincide with the end of school...but it also coincided with a lot of activity at neighboring pools and we did not have enough people. If that happens again, they will NOT come back! So plan on coming from 5:30 to 7:30...early bird gets the food! We've invited Section 5 and Martins Additions folks to join us so if you have friends there, ask them to come and bring their wallets, their blankets and join us!

## HALLOWEEN PIZZA PARTY AND PARADE



Plan on joining us on Halloween for our annual Pizza Party and Parade from the Gazebo Park up to the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church. Ghosts and Goblins in the first grade and under can join the parade, families with older children are welcome to follow

along and take photos. Pizza will be available for young and old alike. The festivities start at 4:45 p.m. sharp! In the event of rain, the whole parade and party will be held indoors in Phillips Hall at the Church. Join us, it's tons of fun, a great way of families to avoid having to make dinner and start out trick or treating right from the Church.

## TRAFFIC CHALLENGES

Section 3 residents are already challenged trying to get across Connecticut Avenue to southbound Connecticut Avenue or to Chevy Chase Elementary School with the change in the light at Bradley Lane and Connecticut Avenue. During afternoon rush hour, the light at Bradley Lane now offers a left turn light at the beginning AND at the end of the cycle to allow drivers to head towards Bethesda. This change has eliminated fender-benders by individuals caught in the far left hand northbound lane who dart into the middle lane, but it has had the domino effect of limiting the light cycle at Raymond/Rosemary Street.

We have asked SHA to study this problem to make an improvement, which they have committed to do, however, that takes 60 to 90 days AND there is NO MARYLAND LAW preventing folks who regularly "block the box" making it impossible for

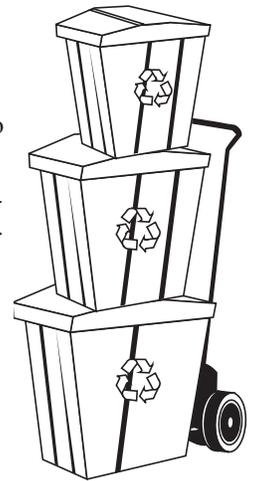
drivers going westbound or southbound to get through. Needless to say, Section 3 was not consulted about any of these changes. We are not only exploring solutions with the State Highway traffic staff and they have a sign up on the southbound lane of Connecticut Avenue, but we have asked for better signage. They have also promised to outline the entire "box" in diagonal striping which will take some time to install. At the same time we are exploring ways to get the state to pass legislation regarding blocking the box. In order to do so, we have to research more intersections suffering the same fate. The Maryland Municipal League has sent out a query regarding other areas throughout the state where this is a problem so that we have good examples statewide to address this issue.

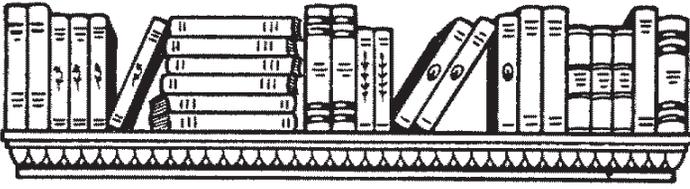
For those who leave Section 3 via Raymond Street early in the morning, say before 7:00 a.m., they may have discovered that the light does NOT turn green...the reason for this is that they may have probably landed on the stop bar and missed the wire sensors set in the street which trip the light to turn. So if you are one of those who has experienced this problem early in the mornings, try running over the sensors.

## RECYCLING RULES

Section 3 uses the County facilities to dump our recycling. The County does not have the ability to "single stream" all recycling, which is why we issue a blue bin for bottles, cans and plastic containers and a covered green bin for paper. Other communities pay more for "single streaming" but in that process, much is wasted...soggy pizza boxes have to be discarded from the paper, for example, and it costs a lot more in energy costs to have a plant which separates paper from the other co-mingled recycled items. On rare occasions when you see our trash contractor mixing the two, it's usually because they are short a truck or personnel and they have to pay extra to recycle those items at a private, single streaming location. So, for the environment, and for per our contract, PLEASE SEPARATE YOUR RECYCLING. If you need a new bin, or a new top, let me know. If you want to put cans and bottles in a green bin, that's fine, we'll give you a sticker to put on top so that our contractor knows which bin is for which item. And finally, if you are missed, contact the village manager immediately. Our contract calls for them to pick up any misses the next day IF we are notified in time.

Thanking you all in advance for being green!





## CHEVY CHASE LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Many of these programs are supported by the Friends of the Library, Chevy Chase chapter. No registration needed unless specifically noted.

For more information, please call (240) 773-9590.

**AUTHOR TALK WITH NEW TEEN AUTHOR RAHUL KANAKIA.** Saturday, October 8, 2:00 pm. Join us for an afternoon with Rahul Kanakia, a contemporary young adult author who recently released his first novel, *Enter Title Here*. *Publisher's Weekly* called it "mordantly funny story of an overachiever who takes 'write what you know' to new extremes."

**AARP SAFE DRIVER COURSE.** Friday, October 28, 10:30 am. Tune up driving skills, learn safe driving strategies and update your knowledge of the rules of the road. Learn about normal age-related physical changes, and how to adjust driving to allow for these changes. Registration is required and open to the first 25 customers. Register online, by phone (240-773-9590) or in person at the library. Cost is \$15 for AARP members (please bring membership card) and \$20 for non-AARP members; checks are payable to AARP, payment due the day of the class (cash or check only, no credit or debit cards) Everyone should bring a pen to class. Please bring your driver's license. Feel free to bring bottled water and a light snack.

**TODDLER TIME.** Please join us Tuesdays at 10:30 am for fun learning activities. We'll read, sing, dance, explore and learn finger plays just right for two and three year olds. No registration needed.

**TODDLER ARTS AND CRAFTS.** October 6. Drop by between 10:30 am and 11:30 am for simple toddler crafts. No registration needed.

**STEM OPEN PLAY.** Come to the Chevy Chase Library on Thursday mornings from 10:30-11:30 am to have fun with Duplos, blocks, matching and sorting games and other STEM/STEAM activities. Preschool age. No registration needed.

**NON-FICTION BOOK GROUP.** Wednesday, October 12, 2:00 pm. Join the group to discuss *1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created* by Charles Mann. Copies of the book available one month before the session at the Information Desk. Registration is not required.

**GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP.** Wednesday, October 12, 7:30 pm. This month's selection is *King John* by Shakespeare. Join us for an intellectually stimulating exploration of some of the greatest fiction and non-fiction works published through the ages. Registration is not required. Attendees are responsible for obtaining the material to read in advance of the discussion.

**LITTLE FALLS LITERARY SALON.** Wednesday, October 19, 11:00 am. The fall 2016 Literary Salon will meet Wednesdays, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Chevy Chase Library. The theme of the discussions is *Memories Across Borders and Times*. We will be discussing *Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid. The book will be available for pick up at Chevy Chase Library.

**FICTION, MEMOIR AND BIOGRAPHY BOOK GROUP.** Wednesday, October 26, 2:00 pm. Join the group to discuss *Cold Comfort Farm*, by Stella Gibbons. Copies of the book are made available one month before the session, at the Information Desk.

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### PARTY IN THE PARK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on the grass, they'd like some tables...and what's more, they'd love it if they didn't have to cook. So soon we were renting tables and having the event catered, and then we began hiring a firm to bring in rides, and a DJ to entertain and most recently the face paint lady. At least a decade ago, we introduced the cake walk which Jen Roberti has run every year since its inception.

Every year, the event has grown bigger and bigger and more fun. It now totally takes over the heart of our community and has expanded to meet the wants and needs of the community. It's a great way for new neighbors to meet others, for old friends to reconnect and for everyone to have a fantastic time for a few hours. Thank you all who volunteered for making it such a special, memorable time for us all.

### COUNCIL ACTIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

and Washington no later than noon on Friday. The Council divided up bartending duties to be certain that no underage drinkers obtained any of the adult beverages at the event and no one drank too much.

The Village Manager reported that Food Truck night is slated for October 9 and that we need one additional truck but have Go Fish and Corned Beef King and Carmen's Italian Ices coming. To bolster the poor showing at the last event, the Village Manager has invited residents from Section 5 and Martins Additions. We are hoping for a good turnout.

The Village Manager indicated that we needed to remind folks about separating recycling—paper and bottles and cans do not go in the same containers (see story this issue).

## ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Section 3 is soon to mill and pave both the first and last blocks of Raymond Street. This means that we will have heavy equipment there and that the street will be closed for part of the time as they eat up the top layer of asphalt and make any necessary repairs to the foundation. Hopefully this won't take more than a day or two, but it will be an inconvenience. Parking on Raymond Street will be prohibited while we have heavy equipment running up and down the street.

Concrete work will begin on Delaware Street as they begin to reconstruct the entire roadbed from Shepherd Street to Taylor Street. The street will first get new concrete curb and gutter and driveway aprons, then the asphalt will be removed, a foundation of coarse asphalt laid and then a topping of asphalt.

Chamberlain contractors, with whom we have worked before, will be handling the job.

Work by Washington Gas on Bradley Lane will likely commence sometime in the last two weeks of October, so many of us will be surrounded by road construction work for a while as we work to better serve you with better, smooth roads and higher pressure gas lines.

## SHORT TERM RESIDENTIAL RENTALS (ROOMING HOUSES)

On September 19, the Planning Board held a second informational session on the proposed Short Term Residential Rentals (STRR) legislation...or rooming house legislation. While this session was better organized and less contentious than the earlier one (see News & Views September, page 5), it was clear that the County views such legislation as inevitable and is becoming increasingly aware of the specific challenges it presents to certain neighborhoods. The next step is for the Planning Board staff to draft some new proposed legislation. In advance of that, the Section 3 Council is planning on sending a letter outlining our objection to having rooming houses in our community.

We will continue to monitor these developments. Initially the Planning Board staff indicated that they did not think this use was appropriate for R 60 or R 90 zones (which would mean Section 3, for example), but it's not at all clear if this is still their position.

## VERIZON TO SWITCH OUT ALL COPPER WIRES IN SECTION 3

If you've got a land line with Verizon and you don't have

FIOS service, you have probably been notified by Verizon that they will be contacting you to switch you to fiber optic lines. It won't cost you more, but you should be aware that your new lines, unlike the copper wire system, will NOT work when there is a power outage. Thankfully, we haven't had one of those lately, but with this mandatory switchover, all homes will be switched to fiber optic cables by Verizon and you will have to be certain that the batteries they give you are working and remain charged in the event of an outage.

There is a phone number you can call on the letters you've received to schedule the work, which they say will take about three hours per household and they will require access to your home to do the work so someone will have to be there.

## LOCAL INCOME TAX DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM CALLED INTO QUESTION

A recently released audit by the Maryland Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) has found serious flaws in the systems and operations of the Revenue Administration Division (RAD) of the Office of the Comptroller. Readers of News and Views are aware of the problems with the local income tax distribution system (see April, 2016 issue). Of 22 jurisdictions in Montgomery County (including the County government itself), 15 had net under-distributions for the years 2010 to 2014 including Section 3. Only eight had over-distributions.

Just days before the State released the private auditor's report (but not their full audit) and the Legislative Audit, the Section 3 Council voted to issue a FOIA request for the private auditor's full report to better understand their methodology. It is the private auditor's study that resulted in a number of "adjustments" made to Section 3's local income tax revenues by the Revenue Administration Division. Sadly, the OLA audit only confirmed our worst fears regarding the lack of consistent monitoring of individual jurisdiction's addresses to be certain that income tax revenues were properly credited to the correct jurisdiction. These worries are further compounded by the close to \$90,000 that will have to be paid out for Wynne Claims which might well not be claims against Section 3. What is more, the recommendations made and accepted by the Revenue Administration Division of the Office of the Comptroller won't be fully implemented until 2017.

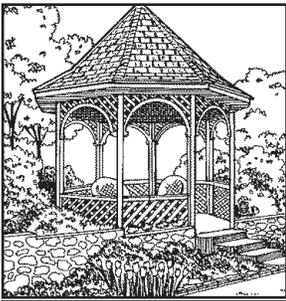
In light of the release of this information, the Council will review the data available to us and make a decision regarding a FOIA request for the private auditor's report which has been the basis for the corrections made to Section 3's revenue stream. Income tax revenues are our single largest source of support for all our community activities.



**SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE**

P.O. Box 15070

Chevy Chase, MD 20815



**SECTION THREE  
VILLAGE OF  
CHEVY CHASE**

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# NEWS & VIEWS

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OCTOBER 2016

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**HALLOWEEN MEANS LOTS OF  
LITTLE GHOSTS AND GOBLINS  
ON OUR STREETS!**

**LIGHT UP YOUR HOME IF YOU HAVE  
TREATS! PLEASE RAKE YOUR LEAVES AND  
CLEAR YOUR WALKWAYS SO CHILDREN  
DON'T SLIP AND FALL.**