

SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

NEWS & VIEWS

FEBRUARY 2018

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14
Valentine's Day!
Council Meeting
CCUMC Room 107, 7:45 p.m.

No bulk trash this month

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7
First Bulk Trash Pickup of 2018!
Curbside

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14
Council Meeting
CCUMC Room 107, 7:45 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17
Everybody's Irish Party
Gazebo Park, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

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LA FERME GET TOGETHER A BIG HIT

What better way to catch up with folks than to meet at our local French restaurant? That's what a fun group of Section 3 residents did on Sunday, January 9. Delicious hors d'oeuvres and free wine and beer at Le Bar made for a convivial atmosphere for our first ever January Get Together.

This year the Council decided we were indeed all too busy to do something around the holidays, so they opted to try something new—an early in the year informal evening out for Section 3 friends and neighbors. If you missed it, plan on attending next year because we had a great cross-section of folks enjoy a fun way to unwind on a cold Sunday evening. Special thanks to La Ferme for helping us put together such a fun event!

DEADLINE FOR MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In December, members of the Board of the Chevy Chase Historical Society presented plans for their new headquarters at 8401 Connecticut Avenue and asked for a contribution to fund the specialized HVAC unit that will be necessary for the preservation of the historic documents and materials held by the nonprofit. The Council agreed at that time to make a base contribution of \$7,500 and agreed to match contributions made by Section 3 residents up to February 15 until \$10,000 was raised.

The Council's policies regarding donations are listed on our governance page. Contributions cannot be for operating funds, rather they must be for a specific item that would not be possible within the group's existing income stream. Section 3 rarely makes donations, but when it does, it must be to nonprofit groups who directly benefit Section 3 residents. Wherever possible, the Council prefers to leverage Village funds by getting support directly from the community through matching donations. So if you are supportive of this group, mail your check by February 15 to The Chevy Chase Historical Society, P.O. Box 15145, Chevy Chase, MD 20825.

**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, January 10, 2018 in room 107 of CCUMC. All Council members were present. The meeting began at 7:50 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Our long time patrolman, Chris Jordan has decided he can no longer afford the time to patrol our streets and we have interviewed and hired Yves-Didier N’Kodia, a Montgomery County policeman. So if you see “Diddy,” give him a big welcome.

We briefly discussed the problem of backed up traffic bringing more traffic into our community, particularly on Georgia Street due to WAZE software. We have asked our police when they are in the community during evening rush hour to monitor stop sign compliance in the event of heavier than normal traffic on Georgia Street. The Village Manager reports that other Chevy Chase jurisdictions are experiencing similar difficulties and that there is no easy way to combat this problem, such as one-way streets, that would not inconvenience our own residents. Putting up signs that say “local traffic only” is difficult to enforce. The State Highway Department has a traffic specialist; the Village Manager will reach out to him for suggestions.

PLANNING ON DOING SOME WORK ON YOUR HOUSE THIS SPRING?

Make sure to read over our ordinances, available on our website. Remember to run your plans by our Council Buildings and Roads Representative Carolyn Greis before you get too far into the project in case what you plan requires a variance (granted for hardships or peculiar configuration of the lot only on a case-by-case basis). When you are ready, you’ll need a letter of acknowledgement from Section 3 before you can apply for a County Permit. That letter is not a Section 3 permit (that comes AFTER the County has approved your plans). You will then need to apply for a permit from Section 3 with a copy of the County-approved plans. Then you can start your project!

BUILDINGS & ROADS

Carolyn Greis, the Council representative for Buildings and Roads, reported that no building permits were issued in the past month but that several projects would soon be ready for permitting. The Council voted to deny the variance application by the **Altamar** family of 6805 Delaware Street for a patio built in the rear setback and a second curb cut. The family will be asked to remove the patio without a permit or a variance. In addition, they will need to provide a drainage plan that adequately addresses the remaining paved area in the rear yard and apply for a building permit for that work.

The Council discussed the current status of 3602 Taylor Street and agreed that the Village Manager would ask the lender to pay for the removal of a dying tree on Georgia Street after Pepco has done some free pruning and after we have permission from the legal property owner, Taylor Rd. LLC. The Council also agreed to determine the timetable for action on the property now that it has been sold at auction to the lender.

The Council adopted a resolution that would exclude Section 3 residents from Chapter 54 of the County Code, thereby making it impossible to get a license to offer short term rentals in Section 3.

The Council discussed the street lighting plan and agreed that an article in the February newsletter for those new to the community would be a good idea to catch people up on what we have done so far and what we plan to do in the coming year (see story this issue).

The Council spent a great deal of time discussing the best way to bring residents into compliance with our building regulations, specifically the need to apply for and adhere to the plans for both building permits and variances. Discussions will continue after consultation with our municipal attorney to formulate a user-friendly way to put teeth into our regulations so that the Council never has to retroactively approve either a building permit or a variance.

FINANCIAL REPORT

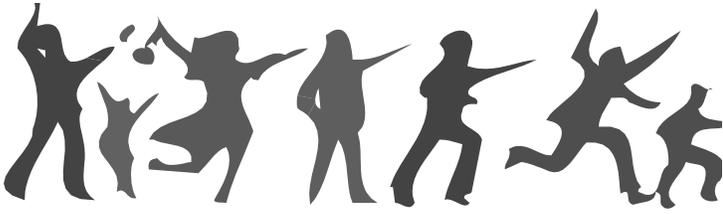
The Village Manager reported that we are doing well in terms of income tax revenues and that the budget is in good overall shape as is our balance sheet.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

A good time was had by all who went to our first ever January get together at La Ferme’s Le Bar on January 9. The consensus was that we had a great turnout and that people really enjoyed touching base with one another after the holidays.

The Council voted to go into executive Session to review the Village Manager’s performance and salary.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Congrats to **Zachary Harmon** of Florida Street on his recent appointment as Chief of Staff to FBI Director Christopher Wray. Zach, a partner with King & Spaulding where he has been employed since 2003, has worked with Wray when both were at King & Spaulding for the last decade. Prior to joining that firm, Harmon was with the Department of Justice.

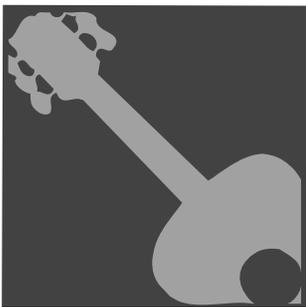
We're getting ready to send off a whole new batch of high school graduates next fall and the acceptances are beginning to trickle in. If you have a child who has made a decision based on an early acceptance, let us know so we can share your news. At this writing we want to congratulate:

Jeremy Scheck of Taylor Street will be attending Cornell University this fall. Jeremy is one of several young entrepreneurs in Section 3 with his baked goods catering business, The After School Bakery. Congrats Jeremy.

Sara Apfelbaum of Taylor Street will be attending her dad Perry's alma mater, University of Michigan. Sounds like many trips to the midwest in the Apfelbaums' future, what with son **Benjy** attending Northwestern and Sara at University of Michigan! Congrats Sara.

Thomas Haffenreffer of Brookville Road will be attending Denison University in Granville, Ohio next fall. Another Section 3 resident on his way to Ohio is **Elijah Adler** who will be attending Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

CHEVY CHASE AT HOME HOLDS JAZZ RECEPTION



Guitarist Steve Herberman will entertain for Chevy Chase At Home members and guests at the Chevy Chase Village Hall on February 10 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. The event is free and no reservations are required.

For more information, contact Chevy Chase At Home. www.chevychaseathome.org

3602 TAYLOR STREET STATUS UPDATE

Last month we chronicled the foreclosure sale of the 3602 Taylor Street property. We reported the auction of the property in November.

Following foreclosure sales, the lender must submit

all the relevant documents to the Court to validate the sale. Unfortunately, the attorneys neglected to execute those documents according to Montgomery County and Maryland law, invalidating the sale. So the lender must offer the property for sale again. The new date is February 13...which pushes back the date of any resolution on the property until late spring or early summer.

The Village Manager has had discussions with the lender, who may help the legal owner to facilitate demolition of the condemned house before the sale validation process is completed.



CHEVY CHASE LIBRARY FEBRUARY EVENTS

On Saturday, February 3 and 10 at 2:00 pm., drop by the library and make a craft to celebrate Valentine's Day and Library Lovers' Month.

On Monday, February 5 at 4:30 pm, Chevy Chase Library is partnering with P.A.L. for a read to a dog program the first Monday of every month! Young readers will be able to share stories with a furry friend. Dogs will never judge or correct them, which allows them to really improve their reading skills. Drop in.

On Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21 and 28 at noon, join us for another round of Gentle Hatha Yoga which is perfect for seniors, those who are just starting out with yoga, are less mobile, or simply want a more relaxed yoga experience. Classes are taught by Carolyn Ericson, a certified yoga instructor, will teach and asks students to bring their own yoga mat and bath towel. Register online or by calling (240) 773-9590.

On Saturday, February 17, join us at 3:00 pm to celebrate Chinese New Year with a Lion Dance performance by the Chinese Youth Club of Washington, DC. For all ages

On Saturday, February 24 at 1:00 pm, celebrate Library Lovers' Month in the lobby as violinist Gray Dickerson plays classical pieces and folk tunes! Then at 2:00 pm, enjoy a movie screening of "Remember the Titans" in honor of Black History Month. Afterwards, learn more with virtual reality Google Expedition Kits.

PLANS FOR LIGHTING IN SECTION 3

Take a walk around Section 3 at night— we have a lot of dark spots making a stroll through the neighborhood less pleasant than it might be. A number of years ago, the Council decided to look at ways to improve the quality of lighting in our community and hired a professional street lighting engineer to measure the lighting in the community and draw up a plan that would eliminate the dark holes.

He quickly concluded that there aren't enough lights for our streets. We will need to move some and add some to give us the even safe lighting we want. The best demonstration of how dark some areas are is to take a look at Delaware Street between Raymond and Shepherd Streets...it's a problem we have to address.

Armed with the engineers' lighting plan, Section 3 began talks with Pepco to make our dream a reality. The dream was somewhat clouded by several unfortunate Pepco actions: first, they changed all our street lights in the middle of the night to harsh yellow sodium vapor lights (we had had mercury vapor lights, now illegal). They didn't ask, they just executed the work and when we objected after the lights were in, they point to an 18 month old press release that said they would be changing out all mercury vapor lights to sodium vapor. That was the first problem.

When we met with Pepco, we told them we wanted to pay for the lights ourselves and own them, and that we wanted to maintain them (which is our legal right). After viewing various nearby LED

solutions on streets similar to our own, the Council opted to select induction lighting and to take advantage of our narrow streets by placing the lights over the center of the street. Every LED light we reviewed seemed to provide light that was too blue and too harsh; "warm white" solutions for street lights are not yet available.

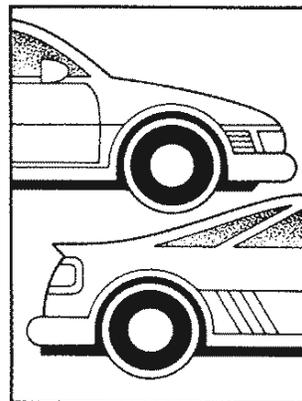
The impetus for placing lights at the center of our narrow streets came from a light that Pepco installed several years ago on the no-outlet segment of Georgia Street. The light illuminated both sidewalks much better than those with short arms that illuminated one side of the street without shining lights into anyone's bedroom windows, a key consideration. Pepco helped solidify this decision by installing a sample induction style light at Georgia Street near Bradley Lane where it serves us today.

About one third of our municipal "light" bill goes to maintenance. Induction lights require very little maintenance. Chevy Chase View has had 110 of these lights for the past 12 or so years, and have had to change only two! Otherwise, they require minimal maintenance and last between 20 and 25 years.

When we told Pepco that we wanted to cut out the middle man and purchase and maintain the lights ourselves, there was an understandable reluctance to acquiesce—a fear that other jurisdictions would do the same and soon an anticipated income stream would dry up. Their response was to list ridiculous costs to remove the then two year old lights, and very high costs to acquire and install new lighting. Those costs and their reluctance to allow us to maintain them ourselves caused us to appeal to officials within the Public Service Commission who initially were sympathetic, but when

PICK UP THE POOP, PLEASE!

There is nothing more annoying than to take a walk in the neighborhood and come home with someone's dog poop on your shoes. There are seven doggie bag stations spread throughout the community so there is no excuse for folks not picking up after their dogs. Every winter we have a problem with dog owners being unwilling to bend over and pick up after their dogs...we ask that you be a considerate neighbor and if you see someone ignoring the obvious, challenge them to be a good neighbor on the spot please!



MVA ON WHEELS SCHEDULE

Need to get your license renewed? Get new tags for your license plate?

The MVA mobile office comes to Friendship Heights monthly at 4433 South Park Avenue (the Village of

Friendship Heights Town Hall) from 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. If you need any express services, they will be there February 26, March 19, April 23, May 29, and June 25.

faced with Pepco attorneys, the PSC staff became mute and nothing was accomplished back in October 2010.

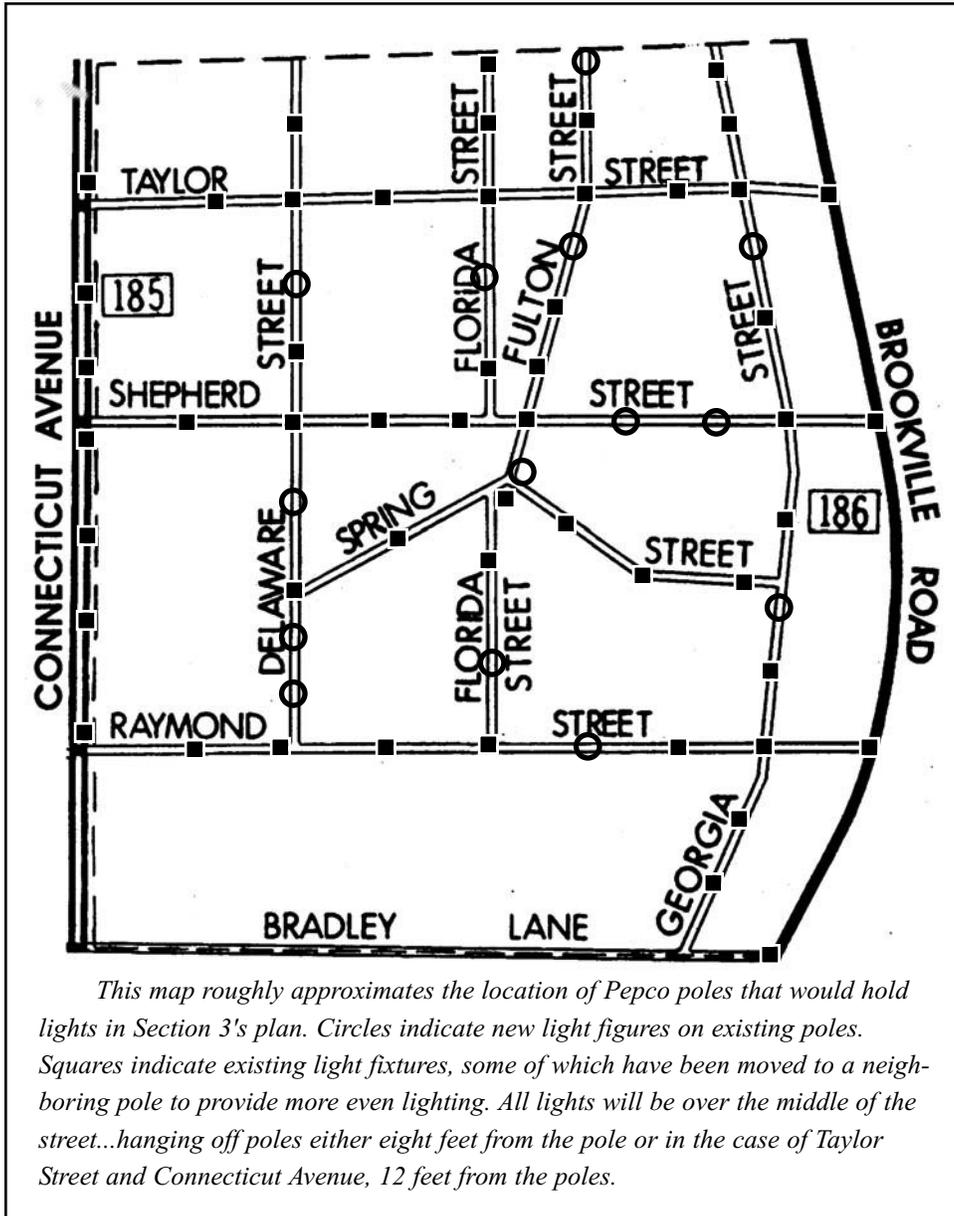
While we were pursuing the lighting, Section 3 and surrounding areas were experiencing incredibly frequent power outages due to aging feeder lines. Many will remember the July 2012 storms. The Council decided to table our plans for lighting temporarily and pursue better power reliability for our residents by hiring an independent electrical engineering firm.

On the grounds that Homeland Security would not allow Pepco to provide maps of our own power grid (we are fed by two separate lines), we hired the firm to map out what feeders serve which areas and what lines needed to be renewed—both primary and secondary. At about that time, Pepco announced that they would be putting in new feeder and primary lines in our area. Because we had done our homework, we were able to convince them to make additional improvements to worn secondary lines and patched primary lines. Those of you who live on Delaware and Shepherd

Streets will recall the new larger poles being installed on the street along with new lines. The result of that work has been fewer outages and those we have experienced have been of shorter duration.

We then set out to put in new signage and stop sign posts throughout the community and repair some roads. Pepco is now a part of Exelon and we are ready to revisit our desire for new lighting. At the moment, Section 3 has 52 lights illuminating our streets

(this includes the eastern side of Connecticut Avenue and the Western side of Brookville Road.) We want to move nine lights from one pole to a neighboring pole and add 14 new lights to handle the dark spots. All the lights will be evenly spaced throughout the neighborhood on existing Pepco poles. When completed, Section 3 will have a total of 66 street lights, evenly placed for safe pedestrian and vehicular traffic.



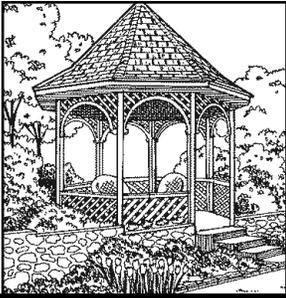
This map roughly approximates the location of Pepco poles that would hold lights in Section 3's plan. Circles indicate new light fixtures on existing poles. Squares indicate existing light fixtures, some of which have been moved to a neighboring pole to provide more even lighting. All lights will be over the middle of the street...hanging off poles either eight feet from the pole or in the case of Taylor Street and Connecticut Avenue, 12 feet from the poles.

The Village Manager is meeting with Pepco personnel to determine if our plans are easy to implement and the kinds of technical information that would be required. We are researching manufacturers of the induction tear-drop lights with "hats" to shield the night sky and direct the light downward. Like the sample light on Georgia Street, we want them in the same color green as are our street sign poles. Induction lights give a soft, white light that does not carry with it some of the health concerns that LED street lights are raising and will better illuminate our streets for safe nighttime walking. Once we have all this information in hand, along with estimates for

installation by private contractors used by Pepco, we will meet with the utility and see what kind of arrangements we can make anew. All Council members have copies of the map of the community showing the new and relocated lights, so feel free to ask anyone to take a look. We have been saving in our capital improvement fund for this major community safety improvement and are looking forward to well lit streets everywhere.



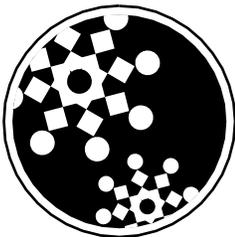
SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE
P.O. Box 15070
Chevy Chase, MD 20815



**SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE**

NEWS & VIEWS

FEBRUARY 2018



IF IT EVEN LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT SNOW,
PLEASE PARK YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY....
OUR STREETS ARE SO NARROW WE NEED AS
MUCH ROOM FOR OUR PLOWS AS POSSIBLE.
IF YOU PARK ON THE STREET, YOU MAKE IT
DIFFICULT FOR THE PLOW AND FOR YOUR
NEIGHBORS TO NAVIGATE OUR STREETS.