

News & Views

DECEMBER 2023

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Last bulk trash until March 2024! Recycling, curbside

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Council Meeting, in-person/Zoom hybrid

CCUMC Library, 7:45 pm

Agenda, Meeting ID and password will be sent via email to residents. Interested members of the public can contact the Village Manager to obtain ID and passcode.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Silver & Sons BBQ food truck

Gazebo Park, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

On-line link for pre-orders will be emailed

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Santa visits good little boys and girls

12:30 to 3:00 p.m. Notice of stops will be emailed to those with children. (see story at right)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Farmers Market closed

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Yard waste and Christmas trees picked up curbside

(Christmas trees put out any Monday but January 1)

Regular household waste will also be picked up

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Farmers Market closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

Yard waste and Christmas trees picked up curbside

Regular household waste will also be picked up

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Council Meeting

Hybrid in person/Zoom 7:45 p.m. CCUMC Library

See above for Zoom information

** 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.*

SANTA COMING TO OUR GOOD LITTLE BOYS AND GIRLS

On Sunday, December 17, Santa will make stops throughout Section 3 to deliver special cookies to all the good little boys and girls in the community. A route will be detailed, with stops and times for children to meet and greet Santa in his Red Sleigh driven by his elf **John Stephens** of Delaware Street. Santa (aka **Matt Nader**) will be in the back of the sleigh with gifts for all good boys and girls. Children will have to arrive at the stop by the appointed time as Santa will keep to a tight timetable. If you are not going to be home on December 17 between 12:30 and 3:00 p.m., please let the Village Manager know.

SECTION 3 CONTINUES ITS GENEROSITY FOR MARTHA'S TABLE

Thanks to the generosity of Section 3 families, needy children and adults will have warm coats and sweaters. Section 3 residents filled an SUV and a half of clothing donations. Thanks to **Kirsten Williams and John Dorsey**, they were delivered to Martha's Table headquarters in Southeast DC well before Thanksgiving. This year all the warm blankets went to A Wider Circle as Martha's Table has narrowed their focus to just clothing needs. We thank all of you who donated.

In January, we will collect diapers, feminine hygiene products and detergent for a program sponsored by A Wider Circle that assists needy families in the Highland section of Southeast DC. The SNAP program does not allow purchase of these items with their benefits, making it difficult for families to meet basic needs. If you have a box of outgrown diapers, please donate them also.

VILLAGE COUNCIL & STAFF

WWW.CHEVYCHASESECTION3.ORG

SUSAN MANNING

Chair

(202) 716-6264

susan.manning@chevychasesection3.org

LARRY LANPHER

Vice Chair

(240) 355-9011

larry.lanpher@chevychasesection3.org

ELLIE NADER

Secretary

(202) 538-0810

ellie.nader@chevychasesection3.org

KATEY VALE

Buildings & Roads

(202) 365-0858

katey.vale@chevychasesection3.org

TOM CARROLL

Treasurer

(202) 641-3819

tom.carroll@chevychasesection3.org

ANDY LEON HARNEY

Village Manager

(301) 656-9117

villagemanager@chevychasesection3.org



COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Council met on Wednesday, November 8 for its monthly in-person/hybrid meeting. All Council members were present. The meeting began at 7:46 p.m.

The minutes of the October meeting as published in the November newsletter were approved.

BUILDINGS & ROADS

The **Whitesides** family of 7102 Florida Street received a permit for a fence. They were also the first family to take advantage of the Boundary Survey Grant Program initiated by the Council last year to help defray the cost of the mandatory survey requirement for fences and walls near property lines.

The Council agreed to hire Snow Central for snow removal this coming winter. Their fees have increased, according to the Village Manager, on average 6.41% for various services.

The Village Manager reported that the last bit of interior waterline replacement work by WSSC, Georgia Street between Raymond Street and Bradley Lane, is now complete.

The Village Manager reported that the streets will soon be swept. [The original December 5 date has now been moved up to November 29, weather permitting.] On November 30 (weather permitting), a contractor will power wash the curbs that need painting where WSSC or Section 3 has done recent work—Shepherd Street, Taylor Street, Raymond Street, and the no outlet sections of Delaware and Florida Streets.

The Council had lengthy discussions on the proposed traffic plan presented by Corso Chevy Chase to control Connecticut Avenue traffic and avoid cut-throughs in Section 3 (see story this issue on the proposed plan). The Council also discussed gas leaf blowing bans in the area and the upcoming County-wide ban on their sale (July 2024) and use (July 2025). Several people suggested that the current Town of Chevy Chase partial ban (which allows gas leaf blowing from October 15 through December 31, but bans use the rest of the year) might be a good transition ordinance for Section 3. The Council plans to include this issue on the agenda for its the December meeting.

FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

The annual audit is complete. Any resident who wishes to review the Village audit need only request a copy from the Village Manager.

Council members were asked if they had questions regarding the financial statements sent to them. There were no questions.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

The Village Manager asked for feedback on the two food trucks for Halloween. She announced that Masala Grill would be coming November 15.

The deadline for donations of warm clothing and blankets for Martha's Table was early this year—November 12. Residents were urged to go through closets to find gently used warm clothing they no longer need to give others a warm Thanksgiving.

On December 2, **Sarah Stephens** will be leading the charge to decorate the park for the holidays. Interested volunteers should get in touch with her as to the timing.

Residents were asked if they had any additional comments or questions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN COST OF LIVING

The 2023 Self-Sufficiency Standard (SSS) report released by Montgomery County's Community Action Agency shows substantial increases in the cost of living in the County, particularly in housing and childcare costs. The Self-Sufficiency Standard describes how much income families of various sizes and compositions need to earn to live without public or private assistance in specific geographic areas.

The report is a measure of income adequacy based on the costs of basic needs for working families: housing, childcare, food, health care, transportation, miscellaneous items, the cost of taxes and the impact of tax credits. The SSS changes based on the number of people in a household and the ages of the children.

The report shows that a Montgomery County family of four with two adults, one preschooler and one school-age child needed \$97,150 to meet expenses in 2019. Four years later, a similar family must earn \$122,943. This sized family will spend an average of \$1,934 on housing and \$2,698 on childcare each month. At the same time, the Federal government's official poverty measure (Federal Poverty Guideline) is \$30,000 for the same family, which only covers one-quarter of the cost of its basic needs.

"The Self-Sufficiency Standard illustrates in stark terms, the high cost of living for residents here," said County Executive Marc Elrich. "The cost of housing and childcare are basic needs for families and the information in this report illustrates the importance of locally funded housing and childcare supports, as well Federal benefits such as SNAP."

SNOW SHOVELING — SAFETY, SENIORS, ETC.

For the past several years, we have seen relatively little snowfall, with the Washington area receiving just .4 inches of snow last year. This year predictions are for a much colder winter. According to the *Washington Post*, forecasters are expecting six or seven accumulating snow events in our area. This does not include “dustings or ice events.”



In addition to shoveling your own walkways and driveways, please be aware that residents are also responsible for clearing ice and snow from the public sidewalks so that they remain navigable and safe. If anyone wishes to hire a local teenager to do the job, contact the Village Manager and she will try and pair you with a nearby teen eager to earn some extra money. Parents of hard-working teens should notify the Village Manager of their teen's availability to shovel walkways and their child's contact information so we can share with our residents.

Every winter Section 3 works to make it a little easier for our seniors to continue to live in our community by offering to do the heavy lifting on shoveling the public sidewalk. For snowfalls of two inches or more, after the roads are cleared, for seniors who have signed up, we will have the public walkways shoveled. This service is available to residents 65 or older. Seniors already on the list don't have to reregister. Seniors who have yet to receive the shoveling service and would like to begin should contact the Village Manager.

Section 3 has narrow streets—just 16 feet wide, except for Taylor Street. Chevy Chase Village maintains Bradley Lane and the State Highway Administration is responsible for both Connecticut Avenue and Brookville Road. The rest of our streets are maintained by Section 3's contractor, Snow Central, which can only use an extra wide pick-up truck to plow our narrow streets. If a car is parked on the street, the plow cannot pass and the remainder of the street will remain unplowed. **Please remember that there is no on-street parking when streets need to be cleared.** The Village Manager will send out emails when the forecast indicates the possibility of snowfall heavy enough to merit the use of a plow so you can be alerted to the necessity of off-street parking.

If you are traveling during the month of December, please be certain to park your car(s) in your driveway before you go away. If you do not have enough driveway for your cars (we have at least two homes without any driveway), we will help you find a willing neighbor where you can park to get your car off the street.

CORSO DEVELOPER PRESENTS PROPOSED TRAFFIC ACCESS PLAN

On Thursday, November 2, the Village held a informational session for interested residents with traffic engineer Devon Hahn, of Mead & Hunt, regarding the traffic plan proposed by Corso Chevy Chase's developer. Everyone in the community received an emailed copy, and it is reproduced here as well. This revised plan addresses concerns expressed by both the Town of Chevy Chase and Section 3's Council and makes several improvements over previous traffic plans to reduce traffic backups on Connecticut Ave., avoid cut through traffic within Section 3, and create safe pedestrian access for adults and children. The State Highway Administration (SHA) is responsible for determining the final plan.

The original developer plan used the same openings as exist at the moment but did not allow for a left hand turn out of the facility, forcing all exiting traffic to head south toward the District. Drivers wanting to head north would have needed to go all the way to the Circle, attempt at a U-turn on Connecticut Avenue, or cut through Section 3 by heading east on Shepherd Street, north on Delaware and west on Taylor to get back on Connecticut Avenue. Both the Town and Section 3 observed that was a recipe for multiple crashes as the new Corso will have over 500 units in a mix of independent living and assisted living. The original Corso plan also had no proposal for pedestrian safety for persons wishing to cross Connecticut Avenue.

The new plan adopts many aspects of a proposal originally developed by an SHA traffic engineer which included a traffic signal that would give drivers an option to exit Corso in a northern direction. Section 3's own traffic engineer, looking at the layout of the entry and exits at Corso and Taylor Street, recommended further refinements to improve safety and traffic flow (see October *News & Views* online). The most recent plan submitted by Corso moves the crosswalk with an eye toward pedestrian safety and includes a pushbutton to activate the light for pedestrians (just as there is currently at Rosemary/Raymond Street) and signal lights (marked on the plan as black-filled arrows) to be tripped by traffic at one of the two “cross streets” (Taylor Street and the Corso left turn exit).

WHY IS A TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT TAYLOR STREET BEING CONSIDERED?

The three traffic engineers who developed and enhanced the current proposed plan (the SHA engineer, the Corso Chevy Chase consulting engineer, and Section 3's consulting engineer) all concurred that a signal would minimize the risk of serious crashes

CORSO TRAFFIC PLAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

from people who want to go northbound on Connecticut Avenue from Corso without either cutting through Section 3 or making dangerous U-turns on Connecticut Avenue. It also creates a safer, more convenient pedestrian crosswalk.

A traffic signal will also make it easier to make a lefthand turn from Taylor Street onto Connecticut Avenue southbound. This facilitated lefthand turn from Taylor Street may also reduce traffic on Raymond Street somewhat as some drivers wanting to head south on Connecticut Avenue now cut over to Raymond Street since the left turn from Taylor Street is now somewhat difficult.

The northbound and southbound Connecticut Avenue traffic signal will remain green unless there is demand from either Corso or Taylor Street or a pedestrian crossing Connecticut Avenue.

The traffic signal will operate similarly to the existing traffic signal at Connecticut Avenue and Raymond Street/Rosemary Street, where the traffic light remains green for Connecticut Avenue until someone wants to leave either Raymond Street or Rosemary Street, or a pedestrian pushes the button.

The only difference is that the Corse driveway and Taylor Street will not receive a green signal at the same time since approaches are offset from one another. The lights are phased so that

the light for exiting Corso will not trigger the light for exiting Taylor Street and vice versa. The lights governing north and southbound Connecticut Avenue traffic will turn red on both lanes for either exit.

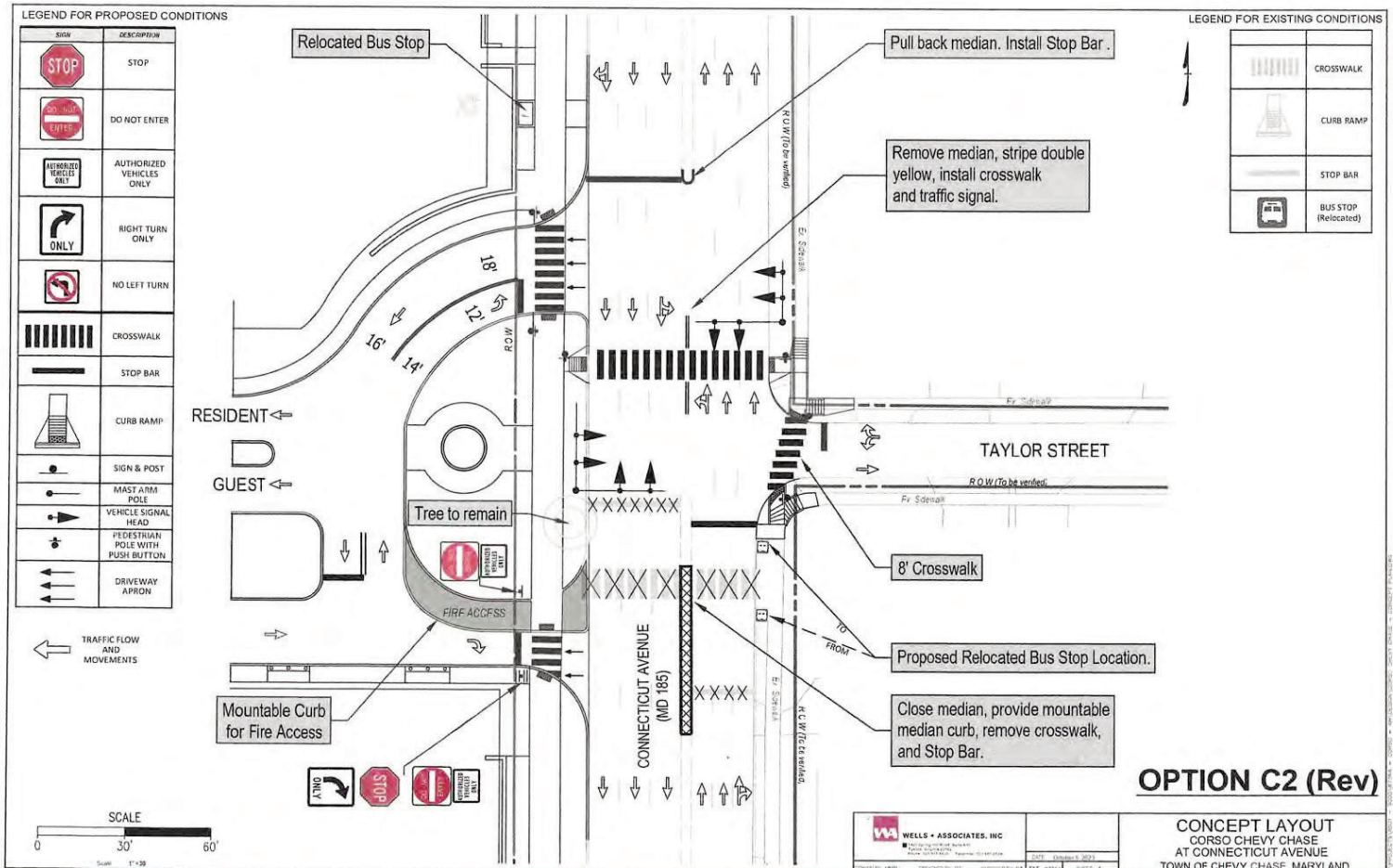
Here are some questions about the conceptual plan with answers provided with the help of our consulting traffic engineer:

WHAT WILL THE SIGNAL TIMING BE? HOW MUCH TIME WILL TAYLOR STREET RECEIVE?

The signal timing by approach will be decided during the traffic signal design process by SHA. However, it will probably operate similarly to Rosemary Street/Raymond Street, which receives 34 seconds (27.5 sec green + 3.5 sec yellow + 3 sec red) during the morning peak.

WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO TURN LEFT ONTO TAYLOR STREET FROM CONNECTICUT AVENUE WHEN TRAVELING SOUTHBOUND?

Southbound motorists will still be able to make a left into Taylor Street. Northbound motorists will still be able to make a right into Taylor Street.



HOW WILL THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT TAYLOR STREET IMPACT MY TURNING RIGHT?

Just as now, individuals leaving Taylor Street to go north-bound on Connecticut Avenue will be able to make a right on red when it safe to do so.

WILL VEHICLES ON TAYLOR STREET BACK UP PAST MY DRIVEWAY?

Based on the systemwide Connecticut Avenue cycle length and existing traffic volumes on Taylor Street, the likely worst case “back up,” or queue, would be two to four vehicles, which is approximately 50 – 100 feet. The duration of the backup would not be long based on the timing of the light. It will be like the current situation on Raymond Street.

WHAT IF CUT-THROUGH TRAFFIC BECOMES A PROBLEM?

If we find there is increased vehicular traffic on Taylor Street between Connecticut Avenue and Brookville Road, we can limit access as we do on Raymond Street during peak hours.

COULD TRAFFIC EXITING CORSO FROM THE NORTH EXIT TURN RIGHT AND THEN MAKE A QUICK LEFT ON TAYLOR STREET?

No. Traffic exiting Corso from the north exit would be allowed only to turn left on Connecticut Avenue.

IF CORSO WORKERS DRIVE FROM SILVER SPRING AND USED TAYLOR STREET, WOULD THAT CONFLICT WITH CHILDREN WAITING FOR THE SCHOOL BUS?

Most retirement facility staff work from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We expect that many Corso staff will take public transportation. Even for those who drive, their likely schedule would not conflict with school children heading to the bus stop at Taylor Street. Corso has also pledged in a binding element, that they will contain all parking on site.

WOULD THE MOUNTABLE MEDIAN STRIP BE NARROWER THAN THE CURRENT ONE?

This will likely be the same width as existing median strips.

WHY WILL THE CROSSWALK BE RELOCATED?

The crosswalk was relocated to the safest location with the most sight distance for side street (Taylor Street and Corso) turning drivers.

In the proposed location it also (conveniently) splits the distance between bus stops encouraging pedestrians to use the crosswalk rather than cross illegally outside of the crosswalk.

If the crosswalk is relocated beyond either Taylor Street (southside) or Corso (northside), there are concerns about side street turning motorists accelerating towards the crosswalk, creating an

unsafe situation for pedestrians. Locating the crosswalk between the Taylor and the Corso northern entry/exit is the safest location.

COULD MOTORISTS COME WEST ON TAYLOR STREET AND THEN MAKE A RIGHT ON CONNECTICUT AND A LEFT INTO CORSO?

They could. If this becomes a problem then, as noted above, we can limit access during certain hours.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MEDIAN BETWEEN CORSO DRIVEWAY AND TAYLOR STREET?

A double yellow centerline replaces the median on either side of the crosswalk so that those turning left into Corso or Taylor Street have more room to safely maneuver.

WHEN WILL THE DECISION BE MADE ON THE TRAFFIC PATTERN?

The Montgomery Planning Board has a tentative hearing on February 1, and anyone can sign up to speak. However, the Planning Board is not the ultimate decider in this instance, it is SHA. We do not yet have a date when they will deliver their decision.

WHAT IS THE VILLAGE COUNCIL’S POSITION ON THE PROPOSAL?

As discussed at the November Council meeting, the Village Council recognizes that some residents on or near Taylor St. strongly oppose a new traffic signal at Taylor Street. Since spring 2022, the Council has been intensely focused on improving the Corso development plans, and has worked directly with the developers, the Town of Chevy Chase, and SHA, and provided written input and testimony to the Planning Board. Corso has been discussed at every Village Council meeting in the last year and residents can find a discussion of Corso in every issue of News & Views since May 2022, with just one exception.

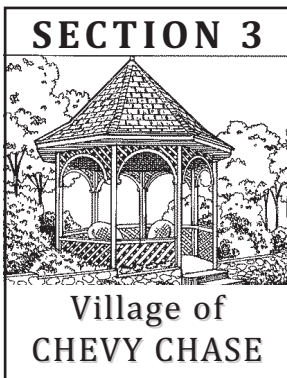
Since work began, there have been numerous improvements to the Corso plans, including to setbacks (larger), massing (reduced), parking (onsite only), traffic (rationalized), and pedestrian access (safer). Based on extensive discussion and the views of multiple professional traffic engineers, the Council is persuaded that a traffic signal at Taylor Street and Connecticut Avenue makes sense for reasons mentioned above. Whether the State’s Office of Traffic Safety will ultimately agree to a signal at this location remains to be seen.

**PLEASE PICK UP AFTER
YOUR DOGS... THERE ARE
BAG DISPENSERS
THROUGHOUT THE COMMU-
NITY, PLEASE USE THEM!**





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



News & Views

DECEMBER 2023

GOING AWAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

PLEASE LEAVE CARS LOCKED AND IN YOUR DRIVEWAY AND LEAVE ON SOME LIGHTS.

NOTIFY NEIGHBORS WHERE YOU ARE GOING, WHEN YOU WILL RETURN, AND YOUR CONTACT INFO. PLEASE ALSO ARRANGE IN ADVANCE FOR SOMEONE TO SHOVEL YOUR PUBLIC WALKWAY IN CASE OF SNOW.

NEIGHBORS SHOULD BE RECRUITED TO REMOVE PAPERS OR PACKAGES THAT MAY BE DELIVERED DURING YOUR ABSENCE.

