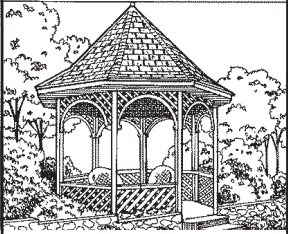


## SECTION 3



Village of  
CHEVY CHASE

# News & Views

JANUARY 2021



## CALENDAR

### MONDAY, JANUARY 4

Christmas Tree and Yard Waste Pick-up, curbside

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

Regular Household Trash Pick Up

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

Recycling, curbside

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

Council Meeting via Zoom @ 7:45 p.m.

Agenda, meeting ID, password will be sent via e-mail  
(Executive Session after the regular meeting for annual review of Village Manager's performance and salary)

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Council Meeting via Zoom @ 7:45 p.m.

Agenda, meeting ID, password will be sent via e-mail



## SANTA PAYS SECTION 3 A VISIT!

Santa paid a special visit to about a hundred Section 3 boys and girls on Wednesday, December 23. Parents of young children were notified in advance and the COVID-compliant visits were made outside, with Santa talking to every mask-wearing child (through his mask and beard). The excitement was palpable!

All the children received a special Christmas cookie from Santa and kids and parents had a moment of Christmas magic. Special thanks to **Matt Nader**, who makes a right jolly old elf, and to Santa's helper, **John Stephens** who drove Santa around in his vintage 1991 red BMW convertible fitted with a reindeer on the hood and complete with a red light bulb nose! We are grateful to them both for bringing such holiday cheer to everyone.

## VILLAGE COUNCIL

[WWW.CHEVYCHASESECTION3.ORG](http://WWW.CHEVYCHASESECTION3.ORG)

### SUSAN MANNING

Chair  
(202) 716-6264  
[susan.manning@gmail.com](mailto:susan.manning@gmail.com)

### CAROLYN GREIS

Buildings & Roads  
(301) 718-1737  
[CAGreis@msn.com](mailto:CAGreis@msn.com)

### Vice Chair

### TOM CARROLL

Treasurer  
(202) 641-3819  
[tkc91@aya.yale.edu](mailto:tkc91@aya.yale.edu)

### ELLIE NADER

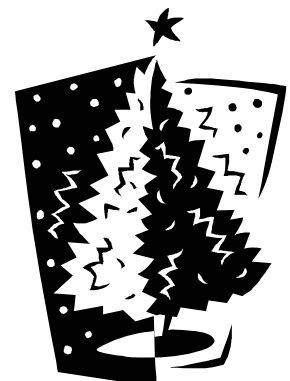
Secretary  
(202) 538-0810  
[EllieNader@gmail.com](mailto:EllieNader@gmail.com)

### ANDY LEON HARNEY

Village Manager  
(301) 656-9117  
[villagemanager@chevychasesection3.org](mailto:villagemanager@chevychasesection3.org)

## CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Leave curbside any Monday starting January 4. Trees will be turned into mulch, so no plastic bags please.





## COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Council met on Wednesday, December 9. All Council members were present. The Zoom meeting began at 7:50 p.m. The minutes of the November meeting as printed in the December newsletter were approved.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Police patrols continue. The Council voted to give our patrol people Christmas bonuses.

### BUILDINGS & ROADS

Carolyn Greis, Council Representative for Buildings and Roads, reported that three permits were issued. The **Lanphers** at 3708 Raymond Street received two permits, one for a driveway and one for a fence in their rear, east side and west side yards, and the **Fernandes-Shapiros** of 3710 Raymond Street received a permit to build a shed in their rear yard.

The Council approved the contract for snow removal with Snow Central again. The Village Manager reported that we have signed a three-year agreement with the State Highway Administration that allows us to get road salt from the SHA depot at the ramp to 495 for a significantly reduced price. This reduces our costs but only if the snow is appropriate for the coarse salt they use. We share costs with the Village of North Chevy Chase because we also share the same contractor.

The Village Manager discussed the unveiling of the Planning Board's "Thrive 2050" plan (see story December News & Views) and a zoning text amendment introduced by County Councilmember Will Jawando that would alter all single-family zoning to allow for duplexes, townhouses and low-rise multifamily dwellings in single family neighborhoods near employment and transportation nodes. Section 3, along with a number of other neighboring jurisdictions, had a very informative session with the Planning Board staff on the Thrive 2050 plan and some of the questions raised by it. In that meeting, the staff made it clear that Councilmember Jawando's proposal was a surprise to them. While staff had proposed this change, it was their understanding that these changes would be made as part of a long-term master plan for each area, not a county-wide change. The same group of communities that met to discuss Thrive 2050 plan to meet with Councilmember Jawando in early January via Zoom to discuss this. Hearings will take place in early February.

Having previously announced that no vote would be taken at

the meeting, the Council and the community continued to discuss some of the proposed changes to the Section 3 ordinances (see story this issue).

### FINANCIAL REPORT

The Village Manager reported that a number of residents who signed up for Compost Crew services have not in fact actually used the service. Section 3 pays for each subscriber and will be asking those people to discontinue their services until they feel they can fully take advantage of it. As it is, the Compost Crew folks spend a great deal of time stopping by these houses at 5:30 in the morning, checking every week to see if anything has been left. So not only is it a waste of money, it's waste of time and energy for their staff. The Village Manager will be contacting the families involved, in hopes that they either use the service or for the time being, suspend their subscription.

The Village Manager reports that the interest rate environment for CDs in local banks is poor and, as we expected, as our investments turn over, there is very little competition for decent interest rates. As required by state law, all Section 3 funds are held in accounts that are FDIC insured and/or collateralized.

### COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

Tip Days are slated for December 22 for household trash and December 23 for recycling.

The Village Manager has proposed a Holiday Cookie Competition with residents sharing their art virtually.

The Village Manager discussed possibly supporting a community-wide "s'mores night" again in the New Year.

### OTHER

The Village Manager asks that anyone with suggestions for COVID-19 compliant activities contact her.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

## WSSC LOOKING AT OUR SEWERS WITH NEW EYES

For the first time ever, WSSC is taking a systematic look at our aging sewer infrastructure. Specifically they have brought in a large "flusher" to clear our sanitary sewers and then video the interior to check on the condition of the pipes. With the exception of a 15-inch pipe along Fulton Street, the bulk of the sanitary sewer pipes in Section 3 are six or eight inches in diameter. Thanks to cooperation from our residents, much of the work was done prior to Christmas. WSSC is reviewing the video now but found gravel and debris in the sewers on the dead ends of Fulton and Georgia Streets requiring a return visit.

If there is anything else to report, WSSC will let us know.



## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### FIRST SNOWFALL TO BRING OUT THE PLOW

We had our first snowfall on December 16. Thanks to community cooperation, cars were placed in driveways so that the plow could get through. The only exception were the dead ends of Georgia and Fulton Streets where cars parked on the street made it impossible for the plow to get through.

Most of Section 3 streets are only 16 feet wide with parking on one side. For that reason, we are limited to a pick-up truck with a plow on the front to provide snow removal services. Large plow trucks simply cannot make it through our streets because they can't make the turning radius at our corners.

Whenever snow is forecast, we ask that you park off the street. We have many residents with joint driveways, a few of our neighbors don't even have a driveway, and, with college students home, many of us have more cars than driveway. We realize it's challenging to find someone to loan you a little parking real estate during a storm, but for the sake of the larger community, we ask that, when we're expecting a storm, please get your cars off the street. It's the only way we can serve you and quickly make the community navigable.

### ICE

Please remember that you are responsible for the sidewalk in front of your home.

As it gets colder, the greater the possibility of water on the sidewalk forming ice. Please think of your neighbors who are out walking. They could easily slip and fall on your sidewalk if it's left icy. Please be mindful and salt, sand, or kitty litter your sidewalks and check them regularly. If you are going away, please make arrangements for someone to pay attention to the sidewalk in your absence.



### NEW STREET TREES PLANTED

In keeping with our efforts to enhance the area between the curb and the sidewalk, 18 new street trees were planted in Section 3 greenways this December. Section 3 is also looking to do another offering of shade trees for the community at an appropriate time. Our arborist has warned us that this spring is the year of the cicada and planting new trees right when they arrive is not a good idea because cicadas will eat at the bark and badly damage young newly planted trees. The plan then is to research a wide variety of trees that might be planted in the fall of 2021 and budget an appropriate amount for such a program in the next year's budget.

### COVID-19 MOMS IN SECTION 3

In the months since COVID-19 changed our lives, Section 3 moms have produced 11 new babies! The most recent one is **Hadley Drew Weinstein** born in early December. Mom **Gina** and dad **Ben Weinstein** of Raymond Street are busy adjusting their schedule to the newest family member. Other moms of new babies include **Gina Carlson**, her sister **Toni Nucci**, **Christie Heidenberger**, **Amy Klug**, **Allison DeStefano**, **Catherine Brevil**, **Louisa Whitesides**, **Ashley Kilpatrick**, **Muska Minkowitz**, and **Helen Reininger**.

We've tried to connect the moms with one another via email so that they can share their no-sleep stories and the experience of being a new parent during COVID-19. Congrats to all!

### WELCOME THE NEW YEAR WITH CHEVY CHASE AT HOME

CC@H is offering the public a diverse selection of on-line presentations during January, including: 2021 Resolutions: Let's Get Organized! (Wednesday, January 6); Astrobiology & the Search for Life Beyond Earth (Tuesday, January 12); Travels with Jan: Rajasthan, India (Friday, January 22); and Spies & Spymasters (Tuesday, January 26). Check out the Events Page on the website for full details and to register in advance [www.chevyCHASEathome.org](http://www.chevyCHASEathome.org).



## COUNCIL CONTINUES TO WEIGH UPDATING SECTION 3 ORDINANCES

For well over a year, the Section 3 Council has been studying whether and how to update the Village Code of Ordinances. Like the municipal codes of our neighboring communities, Section 3's Code addresses a number of issues that relate directly to quality of life in our area. These range from things like public safety, to the balance between Section 3 and Montgomery County regulations, to building and construction within Section 3. Section 3's Code, however, tends to be more limited in what it addresses than our neighbors' municipal codes.

Section 3 has neither reviewed its Code holistically nor revised it significantly in at least 20 years. In that time, we have experienced growth in many areas, including a large number of major renovations and an increasing trend toward tear-down-and-replace new homes. We anticipate that both trends will continue, particularly as Montgomery County moves toward greater density in general, and in particular as the nearby Chevy Chase Lakes area is developed.

Growth and change are not just inevitable, they are positives. It is the Council's hope that Section 3 will be well positioned to benefit from development and also to ensure that growth happens in a way that is good for the entire community—including those who are new to the neighborhood and those who have been here for

decades.

While all municipalities are called upon to balance change with existing interests, Section 3 has certain unique challenges. These include density (Section 3 is the fifth most densely populated municipality in the county); significant water management issues (resulting from both natural soil composition and topography and the aforementioned density); and unusually narrow streets. Open greenspace, air, and light are all important quality of life issues, and also important to property values across our entire community.

The amendment process has benefitted from extensive discussion, detailed input from a number of residents, and the advice of Section 3's outside attorney. The Council has also received community input at several meetings as well as in written comments, and made a number of improvements to the draft amendments in light of that feedback.

At the December meeting, the Council indicated that it would explore a "two phase" approach to the ordinance revision process, with some amendments to be considered and voted upon first, with other possible amendments to be given further study.

The first set of amendments will generally concern revisions to regulations that have been in place for many years, including, for example, defining the permitting process, clarifying the setback rules, setting out the variance criteria in more detail, and ensuring that the Council has the tools it needs to address those rare but challenging situations when a problem arises (e.g., the failed 2018 building project at 3602 Taylor Street).

## What Issues are We Trying to Address?



### Fairness & Enforcement

Clear rules and processes to set expectations for residents and third parties (e.g., developers and contractors) along with clear authority and flexibility to problem-solve



### Stormwater

Increasing problems with stormwater runoff in light of topography, climate change, increasing trend toward larger homes and more impervious surfaces



### Parking

Section 3 has unusually narrow streets and limited street parking



### Public welfare

Manage growth and change while protecting the character of our community now and into the future

Those “first round” considerations will include:

#### CHAPTER 6—BUILDING REQUIREMENTS, LICENSES, PERMITS; OTHER AMENDMENTS

- **Permit requirement & permitting process:** Greater clarity about which projects require a permit (consistent with long-time practice); detailed description of permitting process (also consistent with current practice); must show compliance with stormwater drainage requirements
- **Setbacks:** Creates express exemptions for certain structures commonly placed in setbacks (e.g., driveways, walkways, steps, access ramps); confirms that setback rules apply to all structures
- **Variations:** Revised criteria; clarified enforcement and inspection authority; decision in writing and to be recorded
- **Enforcement:** Expressly requires compliance with Code, permits, and approved plans, and where necessary allows revocation of permits for violations
- **Building Inspector duties:** Expressly authorizes the Council to appoint one or more persons to assist the Building Inspector
- **Restoration bond:** Expressly authorizes the Council to set form and amount of restoration bond
- **Greenway & overgrowth:** Greenway maintenance required; must not interfere with right-of-way; continued prohibition on overgrowth
- **Definitions:** Adopting common definitions; making definitions of frequently used terms generally applicable rather than chapter specific; deleting duplicative definitions; deleting definitions of terms not used in the Code
- **Fences & walls:** Clarification of how fence & wall height and distance from property line are measured
- **Technical amendments:** Grammar & punctuation; gender neutrality; uniformity of section and subsection numbering

The Council will continue to investigate other issues, including those that Section 3 has not previously regulated, but which our neighboring jurisdictions do. For example, the Council is in the process of identifying and retaining a consulting expert to advise on ways to manage stormwater runoff issues. The issues to be studied in the “second round” will also include lot coverage, minimum vegetation requirements, ADUs, and any additional regulation of wall plane lengths or front-loaded garages.

Our community is special. The evaluation and revision of Section 3’s ordinances is one important part of our long term planning for our welcoming, vibrant, and neighborly community. The Council invites residents to review and comment on the current draft Code amendments, which are available on our website at <https://www.chevyCHASEsection3.org/governance>, and which will be discussed at the January 13, 2021 Council meeting.

## RICHARD BARRY TALKS ON THE CONJUNCTION OF JUPITER AND SATURN

On December 20 and 21, our own Section 3 astrophysicist, **Richard Barry**, generously helped us see and understand the historic occasion of the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn. The talk’s response was so overwhelming (COVID-19 restrictions for open air meetings are limited to 25) that we had to schedule two talks.



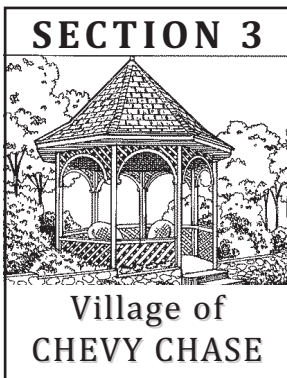
After scouting locations, Barry settled on Norwood Park where there was an outstanding view of the two planets. Sunday night attendees could see it in the night sky with their naked eyes but clouds and a tree obscured a view via the telescope Barry brought to the talk. Monday night, the evening of the actual conjunction, the sky was clear and attendees had an opportunity to see via the telescope the rings of Saturn, Europa, and the wonder of it all. The next time these planets will be seen together in this way, says Barry, will be in 2080.

Barry is the Hubble Space Telescope observatory project scientist at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, specializing in the overall health of the spacecraft, its instruments and their interfaces. He specifically works in the Laboratory for Exoplanets and Stellar Astrophysics. He holds three degrees in avionics and electrical engineering and two in physics and astronomy. Barry’s research includes exoplanet transits and microlensing and self-lensing black holes. The James Web Space Telescope, NASA’s next great observatory, will fly concurrently with Hubble and provide enormous light grasp. Barry has conducted research into superconducting actuators for the primary mirror. His team has developed a machine learning process to find new planets. He has co-discovered some 27 new planets and with the aid of artificial intelligence, his team has identified an additional 800 possible planets. If you are interested in further information, go to Richard K. Barry, NASA or [richardkbarry.com](http://richardkbarry.com).

We are honored to have benefitted from Barry’s knowledge to help us understand this historic moment.



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



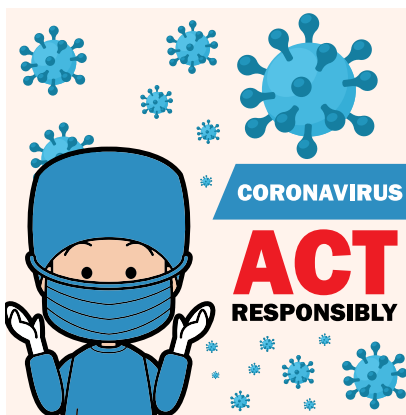
---

# News & Views

---

JANUARY 2021

---



**BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR—  
WEAR A MASK, KEEP YOUR  
DISTANCE, WASH YOUR HANDS!**

**COVID-19 INFECTION RATES ARE GOING UP NATIONALLY  
AND IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER.  
WE ALL NEED TO CONTINUE TO BE VIGILANT.**

**PLEASE WEAR A MASK IN PUBLIC, MAINTAIN AT LEAST SIX  
FEET BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN AND ANYONE  
WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD OR “POD,”  
AND WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY.**