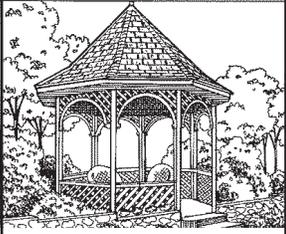


SECTION 3



Village of
CHEVY CHASE

NEWS & VIEWS

MARCH 2021

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Recycling and 1st Bulk Trash of 2021, Curbside

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Schmaltz Brothers Food Truck 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Gazebo Park. To order online go to
www.schmaltzbros.com.

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

Residents will be notified as to meeting ID and passcode via email. The meeting is open to all; interested members of the public are invited to contact the Village Manager for the meeting link and password.

MONDAY, MARCH 22

Candidate Statements for Council election due 5:00 p.m. to the Village Manager email

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

Pepe Food Truck, 4:00 to 7:30 p.m., Gazebo Park.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

Recycling and Bulk Trash, Curbside

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

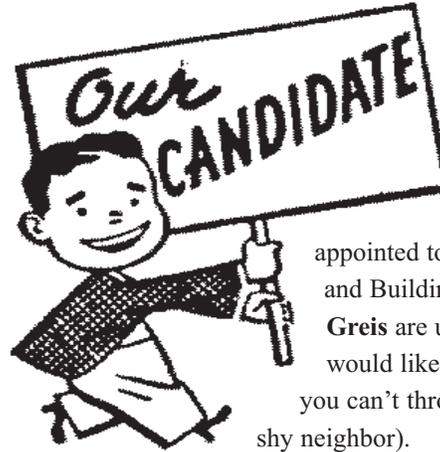
Council meeting via Zoom @ 7:45 p.m. (See March 10)

PEPE VISITS SECTION 3

José Andreas' food truck "Pepe" visited Section 3 on February 24 and everyone has raved about the food. Chef José Rivera manned the truck, most people ordered on line and there were no lines, no waiting for orders. All on-line orders had specified pick-up times and the whole process was efficient AND delicious!

Pepe has been invited back by popular demand. The menu is different every month and we will send it out via email before we send the link for ordering. Another "hump day" benefit of living in Section 3!

ELECTIONS IN MAY



Section 3 has a five-member elected Council whose terms rotate every two years for the sake of continuity. Every other year we elect three members. This year, the terms of Chair **Susan Manning**, Vice Chair **Larry Lanpher** (who was appointed to fill out the late Bill Brownlee's term) and Buildings and Roads Representative **Carolyn Greis** are up. All three have indicated that they would like to serve again, but that doesn't mean you can't throw your hat into the ring (or nominate a shy neighbor).

Council members meet once a month, on the second Wednesday of the month except for August and the Annual meeting and election which is always on the second Tuesday in May. If you are interested in serving, submit a 250-300-word statement as to why you would like to run and what you feel you could do for the community to the Village Manager by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 22. If you would like to nominate someone for a position, we ask that you do so sooner so that if they want to run, they will have sufficient time to write their statement.

Statements will be published in the April newsletter.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

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TAXES TAXES TAXES

APRIL 15 IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. WHEN YOU FILE TAXES, DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE THE CODE 1614 FOR SECTION 3! IF YOU USE A TAX PREPARER, REMIND THEM TO DO THE SAME.



COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Council met on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:45 p.m. via Zoom. All Council members were present. The Council approved the minutes from the January 13 meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Village Manager reported that our patrols continue to work both day and evening shifts. We are fortunate that no cars have been broken into because neighbors are taking precautions to lock their cars.

BUILDINGS & ROADS

Carolyn Greis, Buildings and Roads Representative, reported that the **Lanpher** family of 3614 Spring Street has received a permit to replace their front walkway. **Susan Hamburger** of 3600 Taylor Street has received a County permit for her proposed screened porch and has applied for a Section 3 permit.

The **Grossfeld family** of 3701 Bradley Lane was granted two of the three variances they requested. They were granted a variance to build a covered entry porch which will extend a maximum of 3'4" into the 30' front yard setback on Bradley Lane and a variance to build a covered porch which will extend 4'8" into the 30' front yard setback on Brookville Road. They were not granted a variance for a patio located entirely in the rear and front yard setbacks on Brookville Road.

Vice Chair **Larry Lanpher** asked the Village Manager to put her institutional memory to work and document in writing all the stormwater and water issues facing various areas of the community. The Village Manager promptly put together such a compilation, which will be discussed at a future meeting.

Snow clearance was much improved after the last storm because everyone cooperated and parked in their driveways. The Village Manager noted, however, that ice on sidewalks is sometimes present and is hazardous to our large number of pedestrians, including dog walkers.

A broken water main on Taylor Street was repaired. We were fortunate that the main opened up right next to a storm drain inlet, thus preventing solid ice disturbing the intersection at Taylor and Fulton Streets.

No questions were raised about proposed ordinance changes.

The Village Manager reported that she is working with State Highway regarding "Lake Bradley" ponding of water at the intersection of Bradley Lane and Brookville Road.

Pepco is asking the Public Service Commission to approve a multi-year rate change that includes a number of both concerning and encouraging issues that will impact our plans for new street-lights. The good news is that Pepco intends to convert all lights in the state to LED at pricing which seems to be more favorable than when they quoted us \$2,000 per light several years back. The bad news is that their current proposal does not allow us to select the style or the brightness of the lighting we want to acquire. We have reached out to the Office of the People's Counsel to see if they can help us and we will, in any event, make comments on Pepco's proposal now due by the end of March. Improved lighting will be an extended discussion topic, likely at the April meeting.

The Council discussed proposed Zoning Text Amendment 20-07, which is pending before the Montgomery County Council. If passed, the ZTA would rezone R-60 single-family residential housing to allow multi-family housing within a one-mile radius of any Metro station, an area that includes part of Section 3 along Connecticut Avenue and in the northwest corner of the neighborhood. The Council also discussed the separate proposal to alter single family zoning through the County-wide general plan "Thrive 2050," which is still being drafted. Although Section 3 and other jurisdictions have previously urged the Planning Board to postpone consideration of Thrive 2050 to allow for more public comment and until we better understand the economic and housing needs affected by the pandemic, the Board is moving ahead with submitting the plan to the County Council this spring. We have also joined with our neighboring jurisdictions and homeowners' groups to address concerns about the plans proposed in both ZTA 20-07 and the draft Thrive 2050 plan. We are working with this coalition to ask questions and raise issues of concern.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tabitha Bailey of Georgia Street came to the meeting to ask for a donation in support of the renovations planned for the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church Preschool playground. Lee Walsh, the preschool head, made a presentation. The school is an important part of our community, and many Section 3 families have or are sending their children there. For many years, the preschool has generously allowed local residents to use its playgrounds during hours when the school is not in session, and the playground is the only public space with play equipment in our community. The church also generously makes space available for Council meetings when there is no COVID emergency. The Council unanimously decided to make a \$30,000 contribution to the climbing structure for the playground. The preschool anticipates that the play equipment installed as part of the renovation will have a useful life of 15 or more years.

COUNCIL ACTIONS, CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



ZTA 20-07

In December, County Councilmember Jawando proposed a zoning change that would affect single family (R-60) neighborhoods near the red line. Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 20-07 would create a zoning exception to allow property owners within a one mile radius of a Metro station to build duplexes, townhouses, and multi-unit apartment buildings in neighborhoods that are otherwise zoned for single family homes as long as they were no taller than a single family home. If passed, ZTA 20-07 would affect between 10 and 30 properties in Section 3, most of them located along Connecticut Avenue or the northwesternmost area of the neighborhood. The Montgomery County Council held a February 11, 2021 hearing at which a representative of the County Executive as well as representatives of several downcounty communities testified in opposition to the ZTA, including Section 3 Buildings & Roads Representative Carolyn Gries. As Gries noted, ZTA 20-07 has been fast tracked outside of Thrive 2050, the County's still-in-process long term development plan. The ZTA offers a one-size-fits-all approach that is not appropriate for all communities (including ours with already-high density and unique challenges), and Gries observed that it needs more conceptual thought and practical consideration for the communities it will affect. It's not clear where the County Council stands on this ZTA; it has the option of referring it to the PHED (Planning, Housing & Economic Development) Committee to refine and recommend passage. Two of the three members of the PHED committee are believed to support the plan and Thrive 2050.

COUNCIL ACTIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

possibility of banning or restricting the use of gas leaf blowers in Section 3 and later in the meeting Council members discussed the issue further, noting that Chevy Chase Village and the Town of Chevy Chase have each banned their use starting in 2022. Council members view this as a complicated issue involving at least noise matters, pollution matters and convenience and expenses for lawn service companies and it was noted that some gas leaf blowers (4 stroke) appear to pollute much less than others. The Council intends to investigate this matter further and address it at a future meeting but would welcome comments pro or con from Village residents (please send such comments to the Village Manager).

The Council reported that a resident had made a complaint to the state Open Meetings Board, saying that the Council violated the Open Meetings Act by holding Council meetings via a Zoom meeting that requires a meeting ID and password and necessarily not announcing how someone from outside the community could get the link to attend the meeting. The Council has denied any violation and has filed a response using outside counsel for this.

The meeting ended at approximately 9:45 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Congrats to **Madison Daw** of Georgia Street and **Samantha Whatley** of Spring Street on getting early decision admission to NYU. Congrats on heading up to the Big Apple next fall.

Congrats to **Eleanor Jacob** of Raymond Street who is heading up to Dartmouth in the fall. We would love to hear from families of other seniors in Section 3 so we can share your good news regarding their new home for next year.

We would love to hear from families of other seniors in Section 3 so we can share your good news about next year.

Family movie night at LaFerme parking lot had to be postponed at the last minute because of a fast-moving rain storm. Everyone who signed up got to take home fries or had them delivered. We will let all interested parties know when the hit "Trolls World Tour: Dance Party Edition" will be rescheduled. Apologies to everyone who came—the screen and set-up looked amazing. We will definitely reschedule and thanks to La Ferme for letting us use their parking lot.

The Village Manager announced that a request for proposals had been sent to three accounting firms for the FY 20-21 audit.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

It's not clear how many residents took to their firepits for s'mores night on February 7.

The Village Manager reported that 38 families were involved in sending Valentine's Day cards to seniors in the community.

The Family Movie Night was slated for Friday, February 19, weather permitting.

Pepe's food truck, part of José Andreas' many food service endeavors, was expected to be coming to Section 3 on February 24, weather permitting.

The response to the idea of free-cycling was not sufficient to mount the effort.

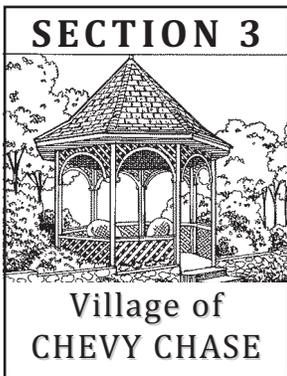
OTHER

The Council introduced an amendment to authorize emergency election procedures due to COVID-19 and an ordinance to adopt an Emergency Election Plan (see insert this issue).

A Village resident early in the March meeting brought up the



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



NEWS & VIEWS

MARCH 2021

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS THE POOP FAIRY

You are responsible for bagging your dog's waste, every time, from the lawn, sidewalk, a neighbor's yard, the park or wherever your pet relieves itself, and then depositing it in a trash can. There are poop bag stations scattered all over Section 3.

There are 142,000 dogs in Montgomery County, and approximately 42,000 pounds of their waste is left on the ground every day according to the County. When dogs or humans step in it, the bacteria is carried into the home, where it can spread between dogs and humans. Who wants to walk a child and find that they have poop all over their shoes by the time they get home? When it rains, the waste goes down storm drains and to our rivers and streams, contaminating them.

Be a good neighbor and help keep Section 3 free of dog poop on the ground. Scoop it, bag it, trash it.

SECTION 3 ELECTIONS DURING THE PANDEMIC

For each March newsletter, we invite residents interested in serving on the Council to submit a 250–300-word summary about themselves and why they want to serve on the Council. Last year because of the pandemic, the Governor declared a State of Emergency (which is still in effect). Last year we learned that if the election was uncontested (it was), the State said we could just put those individuals who had expressed interest in office without holding an election, which is what we did, since there were two candidates and two seats available.

It's clear that we will be wearing masks and living with COVID-19 in May when we hold our annual elections, with three seats available this year. In the event of a contested election, we need to have in place a mechanism for holding a "contactless" election.

To provide for this possibility, at the February meeting, the Council introduced an emergency Charter amendment (to Section 602) and an Emergency Plan to deliver ballots to everyone who is either registered with the County, known to live in the community by the Village Manager, or, if they are foreign nationals, registered with Section 3. The Charter amendment provides for developing a mechanism for voting in an emergency. The proposed Emergency Plan to conduct the election via universal absentee ballot is executed by ordinance. Both the Charter amendment and the Plan were introduced at the February meeting and will be voted on at the March meeting.

Both items are posted here and on our website for residents to see. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of the Council or the Village Manager. A similar plan has been adopted by several of our neighboring jurisdictions. The only difference in our plan is that, given the problems with the postal service, this plan circumvents reliance on that method of delivering ballots, relating instead on a drop box at 3709 Shepherd Street.

Under the proposed emergency amendment, the underlined paragraph below would be added to Section 602 (g) of our Charter. The full text of Section 602 with the proposed amendment is available on our website.

SECTION 602, ELECTIONS

Elections of Council members shall be held on the second Tuesday of May each year. Two Council members shall be elected in even-numbered years and three Council members in odd-numbered years. Elections shall be governed by the following procedures:

... (g) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Charter, if a state of emergency has been declared by the Governor of Maryland, within the corporate limits of Section 3, the Council shall be authorized to pass an ordinance to implement such emergency election procedures as may be deemed necessary as a result of the state of emergency, including but not limited to changing the election date and nomination deadline; altering the method, conduct, or voting system of the election; altering the manner of balloting; canceling an uncontested election; and eliminating the use of polling stations.

The Plan, proposed in the form of an ordinance, will also be voted on at the March Council meeting:

over

**SECTION 3 OF THE VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE
EMERGENCY PLAN FOR THE 2021 ELECTION**

ELECTION WITHOUT IN-PERSON VOTING

- At least 14 days prior to the election, to be held on May 11, 2021, the Village Manager will deliver a ballot and return envelope to the home address, in Section 3, of each qualified voter on the precinct register provided by the Montgomery County Board of Elections, and to each non-US citizen who has registered with the Village. Residents of Section 3 not currently on the precinct register but whose residence has been verified by the Village Manager will also be provided a ballot and return envelope.
- Polling stations will not be used; no in-person voting will be afforded.
- Voters can deliver completed ballots no earlier than 9:00 a.m. and no later than 6:00 p.m. from April 27 to May 11, 2021 to the drop box to be located at 3709 Shepherd St. Ballot envelopes must be delivered by 6:00 p.m. on May 11, 2021 in order to be counted.
- Ballot envelopes will contain an affidavit which must be signed requiring the voter to attest to the voter's eligibility.

NOMINATING PROCEDURES

- Candidates interested in serving must declare their candidacy and submit to the Village Manager by 5:00 p.m. on March 22, 2021, a 250-300-word statement about why you would like to run and what you feel you could do for the community.
- Candidate statements will be published in the April edition of News & Views.

VOTER REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

- A Section 3 resident who is a U.S. citizen and who is registered as a voter of the State of Maryland in Montgomery County is deemed registered to vote in a Section 3 election.
- A Section 3 resident whose residency has been verified by the Village Manager is deemed registered to vote in a Section 3 election.

- A Section 3 resident who is not a citizen of the United States, or a Section 3 resident who is not registered with the State, but who is at least 18 years old, may register to vote in a Village election by contacting the Village Manager. In order to allow sufficient time for a ballot to be issued and voted, the registration must be completed by 5:00 p.m. on April 22, 2021.

UNIVERSAL VOTING PROCEDURES

- Ballots shall be returned in the Section 3-issued return envelope.
- Voters shall write their full legal name and address on the Section 3-issued return envelope and sign the affidavit. Another envelope may be used to enclose the Section 3-issued return envelope, if the voter wishes, in order to hide the voter's signature. Ballots enclosed in an incomplete, illegible, or unsigned return envelope will not be counted. Section 3 will not accept copies of ballots or ballot envelopes.
- If a voter desires their ballot to be mailed to an address that is different than the address in the precinct register, the voter should inform the Village Manager of the address to which the ballot should be mailed. In order to allow sufficient time for a ballot to be issued and voted, any such request shall be made no later than **5:00 p.m. on April 22, 2021**.

THE ELECTION REGISTRAR

- Judge William Rowan has been appointed to count the ballots and report the outcome of the election at the Council meeting at 7:45 p.m. on May 11.

OTHER SAFETY MEASURES

- The Election Registrar and Village Manager may implement such other measures as are consistent with this Emergency Plan and necessary to assure a safe election and protect the public health, safety, and welfare.