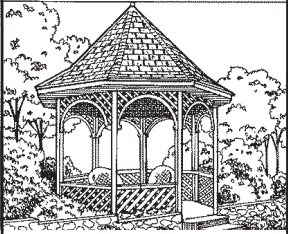


SECTION 3



Village of
CHEVY CHASE

News & Views

MAY 2021

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

First Wednesday bulk trash curbside; Recycling
Pepe's Food Truck 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., Online ordering
Mariachi Band in the Park (TBD!!)

TUESDAY, MAY 11

Annual Meeting via Zoom @ 8:00 p.m.

Voting closes at 6:00 p.m. (See story page 3)

Residents will be sent meeting ID and passcode via email. Meeting is open to all. Interested members of the public are invited to contact the Village Mgr. for meeting link and passcode.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

Recycling, Bulk Trash Pickup, Curbside

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

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

Residents will be sent meeting ID and passcode via email. Meeting is open to all. Interested members of the public are invited to contact the Village Mgr. for meeting link and passcode.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

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INTERSECTION CONCERTS CAPTIVATE SECTION 3

Sunday, April 18 brought live music to our lives in the form of two "second line" New Orleans style jazz bands roaming our streets and performing for folks at intersections in the community. There definitely was dancing in the streets in Section 3!

The **Sac Au Lait** band out of Baltimore, a group of six hard-working musicians, started on Bradley Lane and worked the southern half of Section 3. On the northern end of the Village, the **Naptown Brass** Band out of



SAC AU LAIT BAND



NAPTOWN BRASS BAND

them to finish out their set at the Gazebo Park, much to the enjoyment of all!

Groupings at any given stop were small, and everyone was masked. The musicians, who haven't had many gigs during the pandemic, loved the community feedback and enthusiasm. For many of the younger children, it was their first experience with live music. And for the rest of us, it was just a delight to hear live music fill the air. It brought us all out of our houses at about the same time from street to street. Neighbors who don't get to see one another did and a great time was had by all. The event brought joy to everyone who experienced it.

We hope to bring you more live music in the coming months.

Annapolis began on Brookville Road and swung around to Shepherd playing at intersections along the way. The group of 12 band-members played their hearts out. Because they paced themselves a little

quicker, we asked



COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Council met on Wednesday, April 14 via Zoom. All Council members except Tom Carroll, who was out of the country, were present. The meeting began at 7:50 p.m. The Council approved the minutes from the March 2021 Council meeting. Council Chair Susan Manning inquired whether any Council member or other attendee had any additions to the agenda circulated on April 11 and no additions were suggested.

After an overview description of the previously proposed code amendments by Manning, the Council voted to adopt the ordinances that have been distributed to everyone in the community and posted online. Two additional minor amendments were made: a change to the effective date of the grandfather provision of Section 6-304(d) to reflect the date of adoption, and a change to Section 6-302 (e)(iii) to allow the Building Inspector to waive the site plan requirement in appropriate situations. The ordinance amendments are available on the Section 3 website at <https://www.chevychas-section3.org/governance> and will be effective May 4.

The Council agreed to send a letter to the County Council regarding tax duplication and supporting the recent resolution passed by the Montgomery Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League demanding that all municipalities within the County get full funding from the County for the services that municipalities, rather than the County, deliver to residents. In effect, the County is keeping money paid through residents' property taxes for services provided by Section 3, not the County. The Council voted to designate Council Chair Susan Manning to review and then send the letter in support of this demand. State law mandates that the County should reimburse municipalities for the services that municipalities provide, but does not mandate how the reimbursement is to be calculated. The County and municipalities have been debating formulas for reimbursement of road maintenance, parks, police, and other expenditures for close to 30 years. The full funding has never been achieved and we have had the same level of funding determined by the County Executive for a number of years. We are asking that the County Council codify the reimbursement formulas so that the uncertainty of this budget item for us is removed. Subsequent to the meeting, the supporting letter was sent to the County Council. Village residents are welcome to review, and may request a copy from the Village Manager.

BUILDINGS & ROADS

The Council voted to grant both variance requests submitted by the **DeLaquil** family of 7104 Fulton Street. The first is to build

reconfigured steps to grade (to accommodate a new portico and front stoop) which will intrude a maximum of 3'- 0' into the 30' front yard setback. This variance request is supported directly by the configuration of the property and indirectly by the Council's consistent approach to the construction of front porticos and their attendant steps to provide entry shelter. This variance would be moot under the village's newly adopted ordinances, which are effective as of May 4. The second variance is to build a new roof over the existing and expanded garage in the front yard on Florida Street (which is being converted to conditioned living space) the eave of which will extend 12" into the existing 5' side yard building setback. This variance request is viewed as reasonable and narrowly tailored to facilitate conformance with existing side setback exemptions.

The **Dobbins** family of 3702 Raymond Street was granted a variance to renovate the existing, non-conforming garage in their rear yard (converting it to conditioned living space) and which will entail changes to the massing, wall heights and roofline of the existing structure which sits 5' from the side property line, which is 3' less than the required 8' minimum side setback. The footprint of the existing structure will not be changed and will not intrude further into the setback. This variance addresses the practical difficulties that would otherwise occur due to an inability to renovate and improve an existing non-conforming structure.

The **Miller-Croghan** family of 3806 Raymond Street was granted a variance to construct a permeable patio of approximately 275 square feet which will extend 20' into the 20' rear yard setback, locating it entirely within the setback, as part of a comprehensive stormwater management plan for their property. This variance request is supported by the extraordinary condition of the property due to uncontrollable runoff from sources outside their property.

Buildings and Roads Representative Carolyn Greis noted that six permits were issued since the last Council meeting. The **Wilcox** family of 3613 Raymond Street received a permit to construct a patio in their rear yard. The **estate of Colette Kavanagh** received a permit for the use of a dumpster at 6809 Connecticut Avenue. The **Catany-Baldini** family of 3808 Raymond Street received a demolition permit to remove the existing greenhouse in their rear yard. And three building permits were issued to build fences: the **Penningtons** of 3808 Taylor Street to construct one in their rear yard; another to the **Billig-Weinmanns** of 7106 Florida Street to construct one in their rear and north side yards; and another to the **Cohen-Morells** of 3606 Spring Street to construct one in their rear and west side yards.

There was a discussion of the County Planning Board's "Thrive 2050" plan, as well as two proposed zoning text amendments, all of which are proposing significant zoning and use changes in single



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Hopefully by next fall, all of our high school seniors will be heading off to in-person college. We are excited to report the following:

NEIGHBORHOOD COLLEGE NEWS

Congrats to all our Section 3 high school graduates this spring! We have already heard where **Eleanor Jacob, Samantha Whatley** and **Madison Daw** will be going next year (see April News & Views) and here is some more news about where our seniors will be next fall:

MacKenzie Peacock of Raymond Street will be in the global program at the University of North Carolina so she will be starting out her freshman year in Stirling, Scotland for the first semester and then will shift to the UNC campus in January. MacKenzie will be graduating from the Academy of the Holy Cross.

Karenn Warden also of Raymond Street will be headed to Colgate University in upstate New York. She will be graduating from Sidwell Friends School.

Georgia Beebe of Fulton Street will be at Syracuse University next fall. She graduates from St. John's College High School.

Anna Lesmes of Taylor Street will be headed to University of Wisconsin and graduates from Stone Ridge.

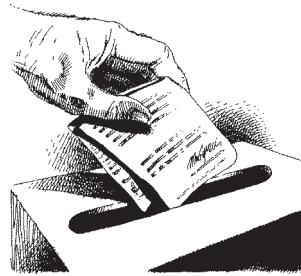
Ella Naddelman of Shepherd Street will be at Tulane University in New Orleans next fall. She will be graduated from St. Andrew's Episcopal School.

Gabriel Scheck of Taylor Street is headed to University of Michigan. **Liam Dietrich** of Florida Street will be at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. Both boys are graduated from BCC High School.

Ezekial Adler of Florida Street is participating in the Verto Education Study Abroad program which offers full college credit for students' study abroad. He will be spending his fall term in Spain and hopes to go to Italy for the spring term. He graduates from BCC.

There are still a few seniors who haven't yet made up their minds and we will report on their decisions in the June newsletter.

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION



In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the May 11 Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom, and the annual election will be conducted by drop-off ballot. All adult Section 3 residents should have received ballots by April 27. Instructions were included with the ballots, which were delivered by

Section 3 teenagers living on each street in Section 3.

Four candidates are running for three seats on the Village Council. The candidates are **Carolyn Greis, Larry Lanpher, Susan Manning and Ben Weinstein**. You may vote for up to three candidates. To vote, please place your completed ballot in the smallest accompanying envelope, place that envelope into the larger envelope provided, and fill out the affidavit on the outside envelope. Bring your completed ballot to the drop box located at Judge William Rowan's home (3709 Shepherd Street) anytime between April 27 and May 11 between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Ballots must be received by 6:00 p.m. on May 11 to be counted. Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting that evening.

All adult Section 3 residents are eligible to vote, including non-citizens and persons who are not registered Maryland voters. If you are not registered to vote in Maryland, you merely need to register with the Village Manager then you can vote in our election as well. If you have a child 18 or older at home who wishes to vote, just let the Village Manager know and she will provide you with an additional absentee ballot packet. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the Village Manager.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the May 11 Annual Meeting!

TAXES TAXES TAXES

MAY 17 IS THE NEW APRIL 15 AND STILL 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, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

family residential neighborhoods, including Section 3 and the vast majority of Montgomery County, with the changes largely implemented in down county communities and those near Metro stations. Many of the proposed changes would allow two, three and four unit “missing middle” housing as well as small apartment buildings, although the plan lacks specifics on how this would be accomplished or how these changes would be carried out in established neighborhoods. The County Council has been presented with the draft Thrive 2050 plan and there will be hearings soon. Section 3 continues to participate in a coalition of homeowners associations and municipalities concerned about the lack of specifics about whether and how the Planning Board’s proposals can be made compatible with local infrastructure, schools, and budgets, or whether they are able to achieve the stated goals of expanding housing options in the County.

The current PEPCO tariff case was discussed. The Council sent a letter on March 29, 2021 to the Public Service Commission (PSC) to urge changes to the PEPCO tariff proposal to ensure that Section 3 (and other similar municipalities) have the ability to purchase and maintain the street lights of their choice. The Council has urged PSC to reject the PEPCO proposed tariff as it would limit our choices and cost us more over the long run. (See story April issue.)

The Village Manager announced that potential tripping hazards in sidewalks will be taken care of soon by a contractor hired by the village. This is the first time we have had raised areas ground down instead of replacing entire panels of sidewalk. It should be more cost effective. Several neighboring jurisdictions have used this service and found it to have satisfactory results.

The intersection at Georgia and Raymond Streets will be rebuilt at the end of April as it has deteriorated.

We will put out for bid a speed bump on Raymond Street to the west of the Georgia Street intersection to replace the not-so-effective raised intersection. We are milling and paving the dead end of Delaware Street along with any necessary repairs to the road base.

The Council discussed concerns raised by community members about the use of gas powered leaf blowers and decided to ask residents to voluntarily limit their use (and their contractors’ use) of the devices, with an appreciation for the need to blow out leaves once for a spring clean-up of beds and a fall leave clean-up. Subsequent to the meeting, the Council sent all residents an email urging reduced noise, both by residents and contractors. A copy of that communication is below. (See story this issue.)

The Council discussed ongoing stormwater cleanup and assessment progress (see story this issue).

FINANCIAL

In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case *Comptroller of the Treasury of Maryland v. Wynne* that Maryland’s policy of not

providing full credit for income taxes paid to other states violates the U.S. Constitution. As a result, Maryland taxpayers were able to seek refunds for certain previously paid taxes. The state paid those claims up front, and has sought reimbursement from local jurisdictions for their share of the refunds. Municipalities have the option of paying the sum they owed the state for those claims in 80 payments, or paying it in a lump sum. Since interest rates are so low right now, the Council voted to make a single one-time payment of \$105,959 to pay off Section 3’s Wynne debt and to get that liability off our books.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

The Village Manager announced everything was set for the Intersection Concerts on April 18 with a rain date of April 24. She said if it worked out, she hoped to do more live music events.

We had a food truck night the same night as the Council meeting with Rockland BBQ’s Food Truck. And on May 5, we are expecting Pepe’s Food Truck as well.

The Village Manager is working on the Community Directory as we have so many new residents.

The meeting concluded at 9:30 p.m.

STORMWATER INQUIRY MOVING INTO HIGH GEAR

Many residents have serious stormwater problems. The Council hopes to devote its resources and the expertise of our civil engineers to addressing as many of these areas as possible in the next fiscal year, as discussed in the draft budget published in the April newsletter (available online at www.chevychasesection3.org). We hope to have a more holistic approach to the problems we all face.

In an effort to evaluate and better address our frequent stormwater issues, Section 3 hired a firm to flush and vacuum out a number of known problem drains in the community. Once cleared, the drains were video-taped to determine their effectiveness and condition. The video is now in the hands of our civil engineers, Clark/Azar Associates, for analysis. They are also gathering data from the County Planning Department and our geographic information systems (GIS) maps in order to make recommendations.

What did we look at? There is a storm drain that runs down the north side of Raymond Street from 3618 to 3608, ending at the corner with Georgia Street. This drain has had to be flushed several times over the past few years to be effective. We now know the reason: the drain runs parallel for some of its run with an 8” water main above it. It also goes from 12” in diameter to 8” (probably 1920s terra cotta) and then balloons up to 12” near the intersection at Georgia. Small wonder this has not been an effective storm drain.

There is another drain that runs from the dead end of Florida Street down the boundary line between Section 3 and Section 5 on

the **Shuchart/Sebeok** property to the dead end of Fulton Street. That drain is in good condition, but was filled with debris as it had never before been cleaned.

We wanted to flush and film the drain in the Gazebo Park to determine why the park becomes so spongy so quickly, but were advised by the County of the location of the manhole only after our contractor left. We have asked the County to flush it in hopes of discovering the condition of that drain.

The drain at the southwest corner of Delaware and Shepherd Streets was completely full with debris that has now been cleared.

The drain in the southbound lane of Brookville Road, whose manhole cover often floats off in heavy rains, has an 8" PVC pipe that runs through it; we continue trying to ascertain with State Highway where that drain originates and ends.

The final mystery is a "private drain" that runs from the corner of Raymond and Georgia Streets all the way through front yards and a few back yards to Shepherd Street where it ties in with our storm drain system. That drain has a series of grates on private property but we haven't discovered all of them as yet. Parts of that drain were 95% filled with debris (several neighbors did not even know of its existence) and the condition is very poor in other areas. We are hoping with spring rains it will be more effective since cleaning so that, while we work on a long term solution for many problem areas, it will better serve us all.

CHEVY CHASE AT HOME

Chevy Chase At Home is highlighting or sponsoring a series of excellent zoom programs. Some require advance registration, others you can dial in with the appropriate prompt.

THE BIAS METER: THE BATTLE FOR YOUR BRAIN. TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1 TO 2 P.M.

Are accusations of bias clogging your news feed? Are your friends quick to point out that something's unfair — but not as ready to explain why? Tune up your "fairness meter" to assess how objective or biased content really is in this interactive class taught by an educator from the Freedom Forum (formerly the Newseum). Reevaluate your media, win the battle for your brain! Hosted by Chevy Chase At Home (advance registration at the Chevy Chase at home website required)

CC@H GUEST SPEAKER: AMBASSADOR MARK PEKALA ON "EASTERN EUROPE AND RUSSIA: PAST AND PRESENT", FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1:00 TO 2:00 P.M.

A brief look at Russia over the last 30 years and what to expect from the Biden-Putin relationship, from the point of view of a former U.S. Ambassador to Latvia (2012-2014) who has worked with President Biden — and worked on Vladimir Putin since 1999.

Ambassador Mark Pekala retired in October 2020 after serving 30 years in the U.S. Department of State. His long career includes postings in Paris, Tallinn, Brussels, Warsaw, and Baku, Azerbaijan. In Washington, Ambassador Pekala was on the Russia desk, and he served as Senior Director for Russian Affairs on the National Security Council staff. (Registration required at the Chevy Chase At Home website)

COUNCIL ASKS FOR GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

The Section 3 Village Council has heard input from a number of residents who have expressed concerns regarding the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in our community. A few have expressed concerns about the environmental impact of gas-powered leaf blowers (which some of our neighboring jurisdictions have moved to ban starting in 2022). In response to the request for resident input in the April newsletter, we heard from quite a few neighbors who object to the noise created by these devices. The noise levels can be particularly trying with many residents working from home and multiple lawn service companies often working simultaneously.

During the April 14 meeting, the Council discussed the possibility of limiting the hours that these machines could be used. The Council decided not to implement a regulatory solution out of concern that any such restrictions might both be impractical for some while not adequately addressing the noise concerns expressed by several residents.

Instead, we hope to raise awareness of the problem and ask for a neighborly solution. As a courtesy to your neighbors, we are asking all residents to voluntarily limit their use of gas-powered leaf blowers except once or twice a year for spring and fall cleanup. For those residents who use lawn service providers, we ask that you direct them not to use gas-powered blowers as part of your weekly lawn service. Right now their primary function is cosmetic. Having a few grass clippings on the sidewalk or a driveway is far less objectionable than the ubiquitous noise of gas-powered leaf blowers. We're fine with a little quiet messiness, and hope you will be too.

The Council hopes that if we all follow this good neighbor behavior we can all continue to work from home in peace. And so we ask not only for your cooperation, but your help in making our neighborhood a quieter place to live and work. Thank you in advance for your help in asking this goal a reality.

The Village Manager will be sending a short version of this decision in English and in Spanish to residents who wish to convey this information to the crews and contractors who work for them. Electric and battery powered leaf blowers are not included in this good neighbor request.

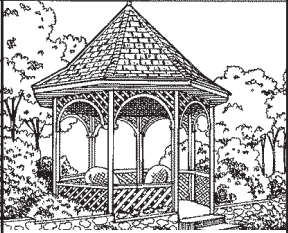


SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

P.O. Box 15070

Chevy Chase, MD 20815

SECTION 3



Village of
CHEVY CHASE

News & Views

MAY 2021

YOU ONLY HAVE ONE HEAD!

REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR HELMET WHEN RIDING A BICYCLE. NEIGHBORS ARE ASKED TO BE CAREFUL IN DRIVING THROUGH THE COMMUNITY AS MANY OF OUR CHILDREN ENJOY RIDING BIKES AND SCOOTERS WITHOUT ALWAYS LOOKING AT WHAT MIGHT BE COMING.

