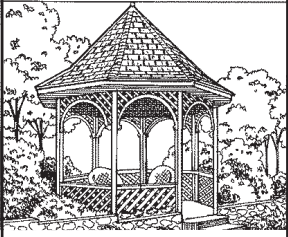


SECTION 3

Village of
CHEVY CHASE

News & Views

OCTOBER 2020

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Section 3 Fall Fest, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Recycling & Bulk Trash Curbside

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

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

See email for meeting ID & password

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Halloween Block Parties 5:00-5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Election Day

Jane Lawton Rec Center, B-CC HS are the closest in person (with masks) voting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Bulk Trash and Recycling Curbside

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

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

Meeting ID to be sent via email with agenda

VILLAGE COUNCIL

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FALL FEST FOR SECTION 3 SLATED FOR OCTOBER 4

It's fall—and there is no Party in the Park. But we are undaunted...we will manage to socialize despite COVID-19, but we'll do it responsibly. For those of you who participated in the Driveway Crawl at the end of the June, we've planned a Fall Festival on the same pattern to allow for small masked groups of residents to gather at an appropriate social distance at spots throughout the community. Save the date, Sunday, October 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The added feature of this event is to help newly arrived neighbors to meet more neighbors and get a good sense of what a great welcoming community we have.

This time we're featuring fall beers, water and juice boxes along with goodie bags for kids and adults (one bag per person for the entire event). We are ordering an interesting range of beers so that you can try more than one—if you don't like the offering at one station—try another. Six wonderful neighbors have volunteered their driveway aprons and their time as bartenders. The event's special feature is our hope that ALL the newest neighbors will have a chance to circulate and meet their new neighbors. We will be sending new residents either Mardi Gras garlands or leis to wear (with plastic leis for the children) along with name tags so everyone will know who they are and can introduce themselves—from a social distance, of course.

Where are the stations? 3810 Raymond Street (**Benhards**), 3704 Spring Street (**Dioguardi/Sheckells**), 7006 Delaware Street (**Schnure**), 3619 Shepherd Street (but on the Fulton Street side—**Dorsey/Williams**), 7005 Georgia Street (**Hoffman**) and 3704 Taylor Street (**Wilson**).

So start at the place closest to where you live and roam—meet as many of the new neighbors as possible. We have about two dozen families who have moved in since a year ago last summer and we want to make sure they have a good sense of how welcoming this community is even during COVID-19.

EARLY VOTING OPPORTUNITIES: WHERE AND WHEN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Ballot Drop Box at Jane Lawton Rec Center through Election Day

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Last Day to Sign Up for Absentee Ballots

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 THRU ELECTION DAY

Ballot Drop Box available at B-CC High School

OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 2

Early in Person Voting, Jane Lawton Rec Center, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Council met via Zoom on Wednesday, September 8 at 7:45 p.m. All Council members except Bill Brownlee were in attendance.

The minutes of the July meeting as published in the September newsletter were approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Council spent a good deal of time discussing the various options for extending dog visiting hours in the Gazebo Park.

Ultimately the Council decided the following which was posted:

The park is open to owners and their dogs during these hours ONLY: 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Owners must wear masks and maintain proper social distance from others. No more than six dogs can be in the park at any one time during those hours and must be accompanied by their owner (no more than two dogs per owner). To make the park available to as many as possible, dog owners are asked to limit visits to 15 minutes if someone else wants to come into the park. Owners are responsible for the behavior of their dogs.

Please care for our park, including the grass and plants, as you would your own yard. On rainy days and immediately thereafter, the park will be closed to preserve the turf.



It was decided to re-institute Tiny Dog Tuesdays for Tuesday afternoons from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. exclusively for dogs 20 lbs and under using the same regulations regarding how many dogs can be together in the park at any given time.

BUILDINGS & ROADS

Buildings and Roads Representative **Carolyn Greis** noted that the **Stephens** family got a permit to demolish a tree house in their back yard at 6814 Delaware Street. The **Scupi** family of 6802 Delaware Street received a permit for a retaining wall and a permeable driveway, and the **Mimikakis/Owens** family received a permit to replace their fence at 7001 Florida Street.

Progress is being made on construction of the new home at 3602 Taylor Street and the builder has been working well with Village representatives.

See story on page 4 regarding the discussion of the draft ordinance changes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Village Manager reported that the audit by Lindsey & Associates was almost complete. She has been working with our auditor to sew up last-minute details and a draft report should be ready soon for review. The annual audit is required by state law and is submitted to both the state Legislative Auditor and also the Federal government.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

The Village Manager reported that we have six hosts for the Fall Fest (October 4 from 5:00 to 7:00p.m.). They are **Paul Dioguardi and Kate Sheckells, Seth and Nellie Benhard, Nancy and Eric Schnure, Brad and Sondra Hoffman, Carolyn and Tom Wilson, and John Dorsey and Kirsten Williams.**

The Council discussed possible ways to handle Halloween and agreed that the annual parade and pizza party is not a viable option this year. The Village manager had been discussing the need to find a safe way to keep the magic of the holiday for the younger children. It was decided we would split the community up into ten block parties where there are lots of younger children and invite block captains to organize small, safe events so that everyone in the community would have their neighborhood event at the same time (from about 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Halloween). The goal is to keep the block parties small and let neighbors decide what everyone is comfortable doing for the holiday. We want to help parents retain the magic and fun of the holiday without COVID-19 anxiety.

The Village Manager asked people for other suggestions for future social/COVID-19 compliant events or ideas.

The Village Manager also reminded people who have not responded to the census to go to census2020.gov to put in their address in and respond accordingly. If you have a second home, you should enter that as well and report that it is a residence used for seasonal recreational purposes only and not a primary residence so that you don't force census workers to come to your second home unnecessarily.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Spring Street neighbor **Ted Voorhees** has just written a new book on the Cuban missile crisis that was published by University of Michigan Press in May 2020: *The Silent Guns of Two Octobers: Kennedy and Khrushchev Play the Double Game*. There will be a free livestream book talk on October 12 at 9:00 p.m. ET via interview format presented by The Commonwealth Club in San Francisco. People can link in but must pre-register. Go to commonwealthclub.org/events and scroll down to October 12 and click on register to sign up for the free livestream.

Simon Nesbitt of Spring Street is a sophomore at Occidental College taking classes remotely this fall. Simon is offering his services tutoring students in grades 1-6 through the fall. He was in the IB program in high school at B-CC on the Dean's list both semesters of his freshman year at Occidental. You can reach him at (301) 980-9746 or srn3615@gmail.com.

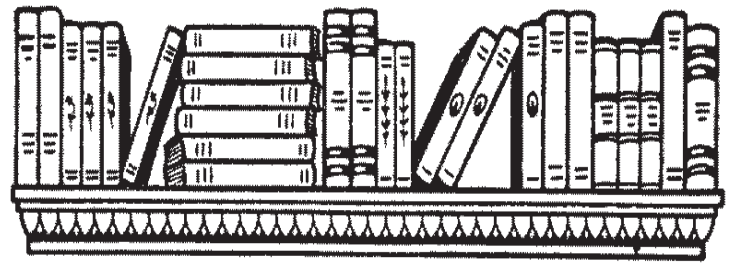
Welcome to several people who have made Section 3 their home this September. **Simon and Julia Limage** and their two-year-old son **David** have moved into 3610 Shepherd Street after having some work done before they moved in. **Louisa and Boyce Whitesides** and their four-month-old **Liam** have moved into 7102 Florida Street a few days after the Limages arrived. Both families come to us from DC. Moving during COVID-19 is no easy feat, but both families managed without too many glitches and we welcome them both. A welcome back is what we should say to **Jennifer Scupi** and welcome to her husband **Adam Witwer** who have been remodeling Jennifer's childhood home at 6802 Delaware Street. They have finally moved into a totally new, modernized home. And just down the street, welcome too to **Suzy and Brent Richards** and their 13 year-old daughter **Clare** who moved into 6822 Delaware Street. The family had been living in Alexandria, Virginia. Brent works at the Federal Reserve and Suzy with U.S. Customs and Immigration Services. Clare, who has studied ballet for many years, is studying online with the Dwight School in New York and is also a residential student with the Kirov Academy in Northeast DC...that means lots of long hours of practice in addition to rigorous online study.

They arrived just in time to sample our food truck night with Go Fish Truck.

Our favorite Go Fish seafood truck visited Section 3 on

Thursday evening, September 17. Sadly, half of their ability to heat up dishes failed at the last moment (it had been tested before they left Rockville and worked perfectly). So the lines took a little longer and it rained. Go Fish staff and owner Missy Carr wanted to make sure we thanked everyone for sticking with them and being so patient. Folks were patient, stood six feet apart with masks and brought home delicious food for the family. If you missed this opportunity, the same food is available through their catering firm and will deliver to your door any Friday if you order online by Wednesday. Go to www.othpreparedmeals.com where you can see the full array of offerings and subscribe to their newsletter to keep up as menu offerings change.

Karenn Warden of Raymond Street is a senior at Sidwell. She recently undertook an ambitious effort to assist two nonprofit organizations: HER (Her Education is her Right), which provides resources to schools in the Middle East, and A Wider Circle, a local nonprofit that fights poverty. She wrote notes to families in Section 3 with children, asking them for book donations to these



two causes and arranged for drop-offs at her home.

As usual Section 3 families were enormously generous. Karenn collected about 700 books and divided them so that books that were more universal in content went to Islamabad and those books more appropriate for American children went to A Wider Circle. The Pakistani embassy arranged for the transport of the 350 books to the girls' school in Islamabad and Karenn and her family delivered 350 books to A Wider Circle.

Thank you to all the families who donated books to these two worthy causes and kudos to Karenn for taking on this project!

CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Section 3 residents continue to generously donate funds to the Capital Area Food Bank during the Saturday farmer's market, and we are now well over \$2,000 in donations. Five dollars provides enough food for 12.5 meals—so we continue to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate by making these weekly donations. Keep up the good work!

ORDINANCE REVIEW— A WORK IN PROGRESS

The Council has been working on a series of possible changes to our ordinances. Susan Manning, Carolyn Greis and the Village Manager have been working on a draft for the whole Council to consider. Significant progress has been made, although there are a number of issues that the working group continues to investigate, and the Council has sought the advice of the Village attorney. While there is not yet a full set of draft proposed amendments, the Council anticipates reviewing and discussing a draft at the October Council meeting. At that meeting, the Council may (1) determine to publish the draft as a set of proposed amendments and solicit community input, or (2) may refer the draft back to the working group for further work. No vote will be taken until the November council meeting at the earliest in order to ensure appropriate time for the proposed amendments to be published and for residents to provide comments.

As discussed at the September Council meeting, with a few exceptions, the Village Code has not been updated since 2006. Since that time, we have confronted a number of issues we need to address as a community, including:

- **Stormwater runoff problems.** Due to the topography, climate change and the increasing trend towards larger homes and more impervious surfaces, more and more residents have experienced serious water issues on their property.
- **Greenspace.** Section 3 is the third most densely populated municipality in the state. Open greenspace, light and air are increasingly important to our overall quality of life.

- **Parking.** Section 3 has unusually narrow streets. Other than Washington Grove, there isn't another municipality in the County with such narrow streets. We have many joint driveways and many households with more cars than driveway. With most of us working from home due to COVID-19, we have seen a plethora of parked cars on our streets.
- **Public Welfare.** The Council wants to fashion updated regulations that will manage growth and change while protecting the character of our community now and in the future.
- **Fairness and Enforcement.** While we want to address these issues, we also want to make certain that our rules and processes are fair, clear and properly set expectations for developers and contractors as well as homeowners. We want to make certain the Council's enforcement authority is clear while also giving the Council the flexibility to problem solve.

These draft ordinance amendments are forward thinking, meaning those who have a use not allowed by the new regulations, would be granted an exception for that existing usage.

The bulk of the changes proposed focus on Chapter 6 (Licenses, Permits) of our ordinances.

In terms of greenspace and lot coverage, we are discussing new front yard vegetation requirements, new draft rules for maximum size of a wall plane (to avoid large expanses of blank walls facing neighbors), and the maximum size of front-loading garages. The Council is still grappling with whether and how to limit building size relative to lot size, something most of our neighboring jurisdictions already do.

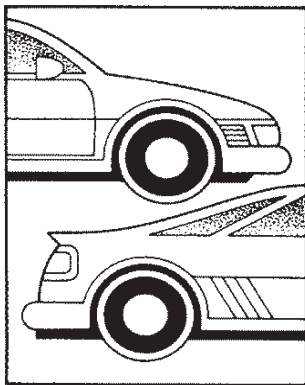
In terms of setbacks, the Council is not currently considering any changes to the size of the setbacks. The current draft amendments confirm that the setback rules apply to all structures and define express exemptions for certain structures commonly placed in setbacks such as driveways, walkways, steps and access ramps.

In terms of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), the Council is considering defined setbacks for detached units. For both attached and detached ADUs the Council is discussing defined required parking, fencing and registration requirements.

For **Variances**, the draft amendments set out revised criteria, map out a process for disability and emergency situations, confirm inspection authority, and mandate that all variances be recorded with the land records.

The draft permitting requirements and process have been restated for greater clarity, provides for penalties for making false statements, and gives the Village the right to inspect for compliance with issued permits.

FALL WEATHER CONTINUES TO LURE PEOPLE WHO TOSS UNLOCKED CARS FOR CASH AND VALUABLES. THOSE SAME FOLKS OFTEN FIND A BICYCLE CASUALLY LEFT ON A LAWN THAT CAN BE STOLEN. DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR FAMILY.



Completion bonds. Most projects in Section 3 have been asked for a completion bond and the new draft amendments authorize the Council to dictate the form and amount of that bond. Our intent is to make it clear that if a contractor or builder does not repair public property (for example damaged sidewalk) within a certain period of time, Section 3 can pay for those repairs out of the bond or escrowed funds provided when the permit was granted.

Compliance and Enforcement. The draft amendments expressly require compliance with the Village Code, the permits and approved plans, and allows for the revocation of permits for violations.

Fences and Walls. The draft ordinances clarify how fence and wall height and distance from the property line are measured.

Other amendments. The draft changes would authorize the Council to appoint one or more persons to assist the Building Inspector (as an example, a civil engineer to advise on a complex drainage plan). We have added common definitions making frequently used terms generally applicable instead of chapter specific, deleting duplicative definitions and deleting terms not used in the Code.

We have moved substantive provisions of overgrowth to include grass and weeds and we have cleaned up grammar and punctuation, phrased the regulations with gender neutrality and created a more uniform section and subsection pattern.

WHAT'S LEFT TO BE DONE?

The hope is to have ironed out several open issues and have a complete set of draft amendments in time for discussion at the next Council meeting on October 14. Interested residents are encouraged to attend the meeting, which will be held via Zoom. Residents who would like to see a copy of the in-process draft amendments are welcome to ask the Village Manager and she will send you a copy via email.

As noted above, after the October meeting, the Council will either publish the complete draft amendments on our website and invite public comment, or table the draft for further revisions. If published, we would then hope to take in those comments and then the Council will discuss it further at the November meeting. At that meeting, the Council may choose to take or vote or table the amendments for further revisions and consideration at a later Council meeting. Once the final vote is taken, the changes will have to be submitted to the County Council and they have 30 days before the changes could be formally integrated into our code.

HALLOWEEN IN SECTION 3?

LOOK FOR 10 BLOCK PARTIES FROM 5:00 TO 5:30 ON HALLOWEEN!

Section 3's traditional parade to the Church and pizza party will, unfortunately, not go forward in light of COVID-

19. So how will we retain the magic of Halloween for our little people?

The Council discussed this at the last

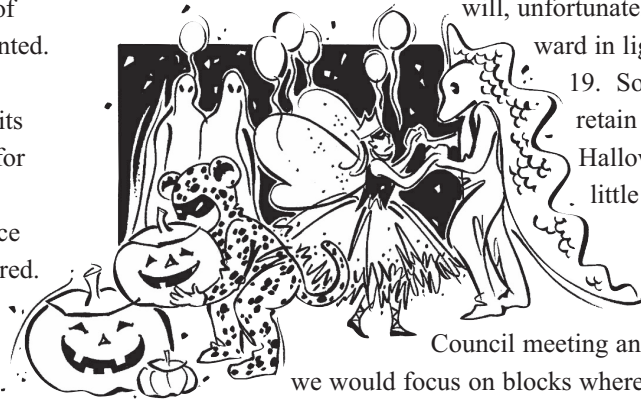
Council meeting and decided that

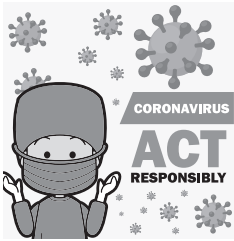
we would focus on blocks where there are

more children 6 and under and invite block captains to organize safe and socially distanced block parties from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. A mini-parade of costumed kids with their parents (6' apart) could be arranged by the block captains on their blocks. Families can decide if they are going to allow trick-or-treating in that block or if families wanted to contribute treats to single goodie bags for each child in that grouping. This way parents are in charge of what they feel comfortable doing and we have limited the numbers of kids involved in any one celebration. We have identified ten blocks with enough children under 6 to form a Halloween event and figured out how to "assign" families from other blocks with small children to join a nearby group. We are in the process of contacting folks to serve as block captains throughout the community and will share email addresses for everyone (including folks not in the directory) so that they are all included.

By making the event just a half-hour long, we can include little ones and still give families with older kids or families in pods elsewhere in the community a chance to visit with others.

What about Section 3 as a whole? The answer is simple. If you want to offer treats, keep your light on. If you prefer not to participate, keep your light off. If you want to offer "contactless treats," you can either set out a bowl on your porch or front walk, or you can set out small bags of goodies, one per customer. This way, children whose parents feel it's okay can "trick or treat" or not depending on how comfortable their parents are having them do so.

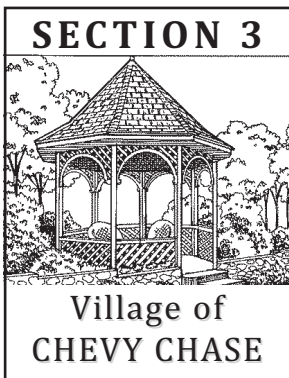




SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

P.O. Box 15070

Chevy Chase, MD 20815



News & Views

OCTOBER 2020

HALLOWEEN NIGHT



IF YOU ARE OFFERING TREATS—PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN YOUR FRONT WALK IS CLEAR OF LEAVES. IF YOU ARE OFFERING GOODIE BAGS, PUT OUT A SIGN THAT SAYS "ONE TREAT PER PERSON." IF YOU CHOOSE TO LEAVE OUT A BOWL, YOU MAY WANT A SIGN LIMITING HOW MANY TREATS PER PERSON—IT'S UP TO YOU.

IF YOU DO NOT PLAN ON LEAVING OUT TREATS, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR FRONT LIGHT OFF.