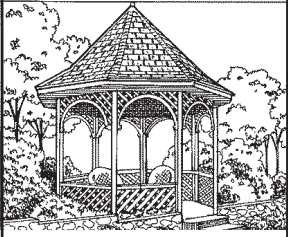


SECTION 3



Village of
CHEVY CHASE

News & Views

OCTOBER 2023

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

Bulk Trash, Recycling, curbside

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Council Meeting (Hybrid in-person/Zoom)

CCUMC Library, 7:45 p.m.

Residents will be sent Zoom meeting ID and passcode via email. Interested parties may contact the Village Manager for meeting ID and passcode.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Hangry Panda Food Truck

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31



Halloween Parade and Food
Truck Night
Gazebo Park Parade at 5:45
p.m.

Food Trucks El Sazon Mexicano
& Rocklands BBQ
5:00-7:30 p.m.
(see story this issue)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Bulk Trash, Recycling, curbside

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Council Meeting (Hybrid in-person/zoom)

See Council meeting listing above

** 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 handi-capped 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.*

PLEASE NOTE ALL NEW COUNCIL MEMBER AND
STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES



SOGGY BUT FUN!

We had an amazing turnout for the **Party-in-the-Park**, which had originally been slated for September 10 but was postponed because of rain forecasts to September 17. The rain date turned out to be rainy but fun. Lots of neighbors braved the

weather; great food was served; the Moonlighters live band was terrific; the cakes people baked looked delicious— all 30 of them. The train down Fulton Street was fun and the hoops in the park was wonderful. And it stopped raining just in time for

the cakewalk! A lot of folks went home full and with a lovely cake.

Many thanks to everyone who helped – setting up, serving drinks, taking down, etc. – with a special shout-out to **Jen Roberti** for doing a great job as always with the cakewalk. And many thanks to those who loaned tents to protect the cakes from the rain.

Given all those who came out, Mindy's Catering served up a lot of food despite the drizzle. As always, nothing went to waste as any excess food was donated to Bethesda Cares for their lunch program for the homeless.



VILLAGE COUNCIL & STAFF

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COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Council met on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:45 p.m., in person at the CCUMC library and via Zoom. All Council members were present. The Council approved the minutes of the July meeting as they appeared in the September newsletter.

BUILDINGS & ROADS

The Village Manager reported the sudden passing of Permitting Services Coordinator, Gabriel Nathaniel on September 1 (see notice this issue). The Village Manager has expressed our condolences to Gabriel's family on behalf of the Council and the entire community. The Council voted to pay his estate an estimate of what was owed him for his work in August. In the absence of an available invoice, the Council agreed to pay the estate for Gabriel's August time based on the average number of hours he worked each month. They also voted to donate \$2,500 to his family's GoFundMe campaign to help pay for funeral expenses for the 47-year-old architect.

The Village Manager will help take over permitting work until we hire a new Permitting Services Coordinator. She has contacted most of the residents who have been in touch with Gabriel via permitting@chevychase3.org, but if you had communicated with him and the Village Manager has not been in touch with you, please contact her.

VARIANCE REQUEST

The **Saifee** family of 6813 Florida Street is applying for a variance to add second floors to two non-conforming first floor additions built prior to their ownership flanking each side of the main house. The Saifee property is non-conforming and triangular in shape lying between Spring and Florida Streets. A portion of the proposed second floor addition on the Spring Street side requires a variance for 42 square feet of the addition and on the Florida Street side, 33 square feet. Only a portion of each addition intrudes into the 30' setback because the house straddles two streets and therefore has two front yards.

The Council discussed the Corso Chevy Chase access plan and traffic plan developed by a State Highway Administration engineer and enhanced by our own traffic consultant (see story this issue). One resident suggested that when the final plan is selected that we also insist that State Highway put up more No Parking signs on Connecticut Avenue except Sunday to allow for Church parking.

The Village Manager reported that work with Pepco and the Public Service Commission staff was progressing to make it clearer just what steps are required to acquire our own streetlights. The question of how to calculate the fair market value of existing streetlights is still to be worked out. In the meantime, we are working with Pepco to schedule installation of a second demonstration streetlight.

The WSSC waterline replacement project is nearing completion in Section 3. They are finishing up on Taylor Street and the dead end of Florida Street and have moved on to Georgia Street between Raymond Street and Bradley Lane. Another contractor will then mill and pave Taylor Street and the dead ends of Delaware and Florida Streets. They will then do the same for the Georgia Street block. Once the milling and paving is completed, yellow curbs will be painted by a Section 3 contractor.

We are working with WSSC to get permission to move some waterline services on Raymond Street in order to put in the 12-inch storm drains.

FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

There were no questions from the Council on the financial reports.

Green rolling bins for paper recycling will be delivered this month at a date that is still to be determined.

Three charter amendments were introduced (see story this issue with the full text of the changes proposed). These proposed amendments will be on the October Council agenda for discussion and a vote.

The Council briefly discussed possible plans leading up to the Village Manager's ultimate retirement, starting with an assistant who would handle social events and similar matters. The Village Manager is to draft a proposed job description for the Council to review. We will be discussing the phasing in and training of both an Assistant Village Manager and a new Permitting Services Coordinator.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

The Party-in-the-Park is on September 17! Everyone is coordinated and supplies are in place. Silver and Sons BBQ is slated for Thursday, September 21. The Village Manager is working on more upcoming food truck dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A special welcome to our newest little neighbor, **Lachlan Oliver Arble**, born September 8. “Lachie” weighed in at 8 lbs., 13 oz. and is almost (21”) two feet tall already! Congrats to Raymond Street parents **Zach Arble and Alexis Dieter**. Lachie’s big sister **Ellis** (7) and big brother **Augustus** (5) are excited to welcome their little brother.

Welcome to **Emily and Tyler Threadgill** who moved into 3808 Raymond Street on September 29 with their son **Hackett**, age 5, and daughter **Caroline**, age 3. Emily is a lobbyist on Capitol Hill working for 1607 Strategies, LLC representing firms in the finance and insurance industries. Tyler is V.P. of Government Affairs with LKQ’s Washington office. LKQ Corp. is a leading distributor of alternative and specialty parts to repair and accessorize automobiles and other vehicles and employs approximately 51,000 people.

HALLOWEEN PARADE AND FOOD TRUCK NIGHT

Section 3 little ones love our annual Halloween Parade around the neighborhood. We meet at 5:45 p.m. at Gazebo Park to be led by a fearless costumed leader who will take the children up Shepherd Street, across Delaware Street and down Spring Street back to the Park. Older children are welcome to follow with parents but, to keep little ones from being frightened by older children, we limit the participation age to first grade and under. If you want visitors at your door, please have your porch light on. If you prefer social distancing, feel free to leave treats at the end of your front walk or driveway. If you do not want visitors, simply turn off your front lights.

For those who don’t want to cook dinner (a treat indeed) we will have two food trucks parked on Fulton Street from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. **Rocklands BBQ** will return—they are going cashless this year, so bring plastic or digital payment. **El Sazon Mexicano** will bring a delicious menu of tacos, burritos, quesadillas, cheese steaks, fries and more! We will email both menus closer to the event. Rocklands takes preorders; El Sazon does not.

NATIONWIDE ALERT TEST

On Wednesday, October 4 at 2:20 p.m. EDT, every TV, radio and cellphone in the United States should blare out the distinctive, jarring electronic warning tone of an emergency alert.

It’s a test – only a test.

Officially, the trial is called the Nationwide Emergency Alert Test. You will know it’s a test and not an actual emergency because it will be accompanied by an explanation of the test.

LEAF BAGS: NO LAWN SERVICE—OPT-IN

Every year we distribute 25 leaf bags to each Section 3 household who opted in. If you have a lawn service, and they take away your grass clippings and leaves, please do not ask for bags. If you rake your own leaves or you need them for yard waste, then let the village manager know as soon as possible so we can place an order by October 20.

We do not allow leaves to be swept into the street because our streets are so narrow and we would hate for a child playing in a pile of leaves in the street to be hit by a car. It’s simply too dangerous. Because so many folks work at home, we would ask that you consult with your lawn service and ask that they NOT blow your leaves and grass clippings every week and do one large cleanup in the fall. The noise is extremely annoying to neighbors. Once a season, not terrible. Once a week, not neighborly.

TOO SOON GONE

GABRIEL NATHANIEL

1976-2023

It is with great sadness we report the passing of our Permitting Services Coordinator Gabriel Nathaniel who passed away suddenly on September 1 of diabetic ketoacidosis. Nathaniel received his Bachelor of Architecture in 2002 from Howard University. He lived alone in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

He is survived by his brother, Danladi Nathaniel, his sister, Elayne King and many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

At the September meeting, the Council introduced three different proposed amendments to the Section 3 charter, which was first adopted in the 1980s and last amended in 2021.

The first proposed amendment would raise the minimum threshold for when competitive bidding is required from \$10,000 to \$15,000, or such other amount established by the State of Maryland as the amount requiring the advertisement of procurement solicitations on the eMaryland Marketplace, whichever is greater.

The other two amendments relate to elections. The first would change the date of the annual meeting from the second Tuesday in May to the second Wednesday in May, or such other date in the second week in May as may be determined by a majority vote of the Council. This would align the annual meeting with our usual Wednesday council meeting schedule and give the Council flexibility to make minor scheduling adjustments as warranted. The other amendment related to elections would remove the requirement that voters have a reason to vote absentee, affirm that all candidates must comply with the requirement to be nominated or otherwise declare their candidacy, and allow cancellation of an election if uncontested after the passing of the nomination deadline.

RAISING THE PROCUREMENT THRESHOLD

The State of Maryland's procurement platform requires municipalities to advertise any bid package on their site with a value of \$15,000 or more. This proposed amendment would raise the Section 3 threshold from the 1980 level of \$10,000 to the state threshold of \$15,000. The actual wording is included here with the new wording underlined. **Boldface Brackets** denote deleted language.

Section 703, Contractual Authority

The Council shall not contract for material or work, other than personal or professional service contracts, without having first invited bids for the same, in the sum exceeding the greater of [Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)] Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000) or such other amount established by the State of Maryland as the Amount requiring the advertisement of procurement solicitations on the eMaryland Marketplace, [without having first invited bids for the same, after which]. After inviting such bids, the Council may purchase such material or contract for such work and have such work done by employed labor or otherwise as it deems best; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not apply to contractual or other arrangements with Montgomery County, Maryland or the State of Maryland. No Council member shall sell supplies or services of any kind to Section 3 or contract in any manner with the Council.

CHANGES IN THE ELECTION PROCEDURES, RULES

All Village Council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month except in August, when we have no meeting. Yet the Charter has always mandated that the Annual Meeting be held on the second Tuesday in May. To better align the Annual Meeting with our standard procedures, this change would move the Annual Meeting to the second Wednesday of May and give the Council an opportunity to alter that date slightly so as long as the meeting takes place the second week of May.

Section 601, Annual Meeting

There shall be an Annual Meeting of the residents of Section 3 held on the [second Tuesday] second Wednesday of May each year, or other such date in the second week in May as may be determined by majority vote of the Council. The meeting shall be scheduled to follow the balloting for Council elections. At least two weeks' written notice of the time and place of such meeting shall be given. Such notice shall include (1) a list of candidates for election to the Council as required by Section 602(c); (ii) a proposed budget for the following fiscal year, any proposed change in the tax rate levied by Section 3 upon the owners of real property located within Section 3. Notwithstanding the above, the Council may, at its discretion, postpone the Annual meeting for not more than 31 days after the election required by Section [601] 602.

NO CONTEST ELECTIONS

During the pandemic we shifted to mailed ballots for all our elections and provided a two-week period for residents to vote. This practice was in sharp contrast to the two-hour voting period which used to precede the Annual Meeting. This new procedure has led to dramatically improved participation, but has also entailed increased costs (e.g., the printing and mailing of ballots, transportation of the official ballot box) and significant staff time.

However, if the election is uncontested—that is, there are the same number of candidates running as Council seats up for election—this expense seems unnecessary. Chevy Chase Village and Chevy Chase View have implemented rules that allow candidates to take office if an election is uncontested without a formal community-wide vote.

In Section 3, we have no barriers to running for office other than you must be 18 years of age, a resident of Section 3, and a qualified voter in Section 3. All candidates are required to submit a statement of up to 300 words outlining their credentials and why they want to be on the Council. This statement must be submitted by the published deadline in late March, which allows all candidate statements to be printed in the April newsletter in plenty of time for residents to read and digest prior to the May election.

Those are the only requirements. Unlike other jurisdictions, Section 3 does not have a nominating committee, or otherwise vet candidates. For this reason, a write-in candidate process is unnecessary, and the requirement that all candidates must announce their candidacy enables us to determine whether an election is contested. This is consistent with the processes adopted by Chevy Chase Village and the Town of Chevy Chase, both have prohibitions against write-in candidates.

Section 602, Elections

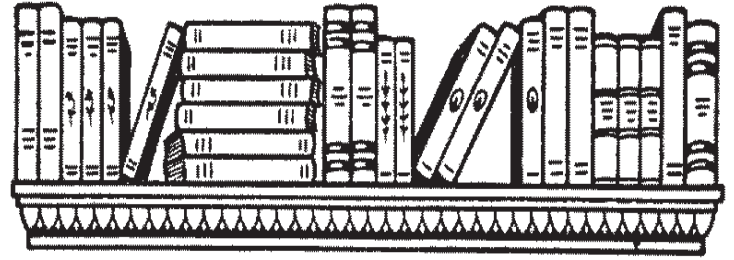
Elections of Council members shall be held on the second [Tuesday] Wednesday of May each year, or such other date in the second week in May as may be determined by majority vote of the Council. Two Council members shall be elected in even-numbered years and three Council members in odd-numbered years. Elections shall be governed by the following procedures:

(a) Written notice requesting nominations to the Council shall be circulated not less than 45 days prior to the election. Any individual who qualifies under Section 402 may declare his or her own candidacy or be nominated by any qualified voter. Nominations must be received in writing by the third week in March as announced in the March newsletter. [Council not less than 30 days prior to the election.] To be eligible for election, a candidate must be nominated by the deadline. Write-in candidates who have not been nominated by the deadline shall not be eligible for election.

Items (b) through (g) remain the same

(h) In the event that an election is uncontested at the expiration of the nomination deadline, no balloting shall take place. The duly nominated candidates will be deemed elected at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

If passed, these amendments would become effective on November 30, 2023 (fifty (50) days from adoption), unless on or before November 20, 2023 (forty (40) days from adoption), a petition signed by twenty percent (20%) or more of the persons who are qualified to vote in municipal elections of Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase, requesting any or all of the proposed amendments be submitted on referendum to the voters of Section 3. A complete copy of the Resolutions can be obtained by emailing villagemanager@chevychasesection3.org.



BCC USED BOOK SALE COLLECTION DAYS

If you missed the September 30 day for donating books to the BCC Book Sale (which will take place on March 9 and 10 to support BCC scholarship programs), there are two more dates to donate books: Sunday, November 5 and Saturday, January 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Organizers are looking for gently used books (but not textbooks) in good condition. They do not accept CDs, DVDs, record albums, audio books, college and grad school textbooks, encyclopedias/dictionaries, oversized coffee table books, games and toys, cassettes, VHS tapes, magazines and journals, pre-2020 travel or test prep books, or books in poor condition.

COUNTY BANS GAS- POWERED LEAF BLOWERS AS OF JULY 1, 2025

The Montgomery County Council has passed legislation to prohibit the sale and use of combustion engine-powered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums in most areas of the County. The bill exempts the use of leaf blower equipment for agricultural producers on agriculturally assessed properties. It also establishes a grant program to be established by regulation to partially offset the cost of replacing a combustion engine-powered leaf blower or vacuum with an electric model.

NEW GREEN PAPER RECYCLING BINS

New green recycling bins with a Section 3 logo were delivered to all residents on Saturday, September 30. Those who opted out did not receive a bin. If you are wondering what to do with your old, smaller bins, you can keep them for overflow during the holidays, or you can bring the extras to the area just outside Gazebo Park until everyone who doesn't want one has dropped them off then we will store them. If your small bin is damaged, please mark it *basura* and put it out with recycling on any Wednesday.

CORSO TRAFFIC & PARKING

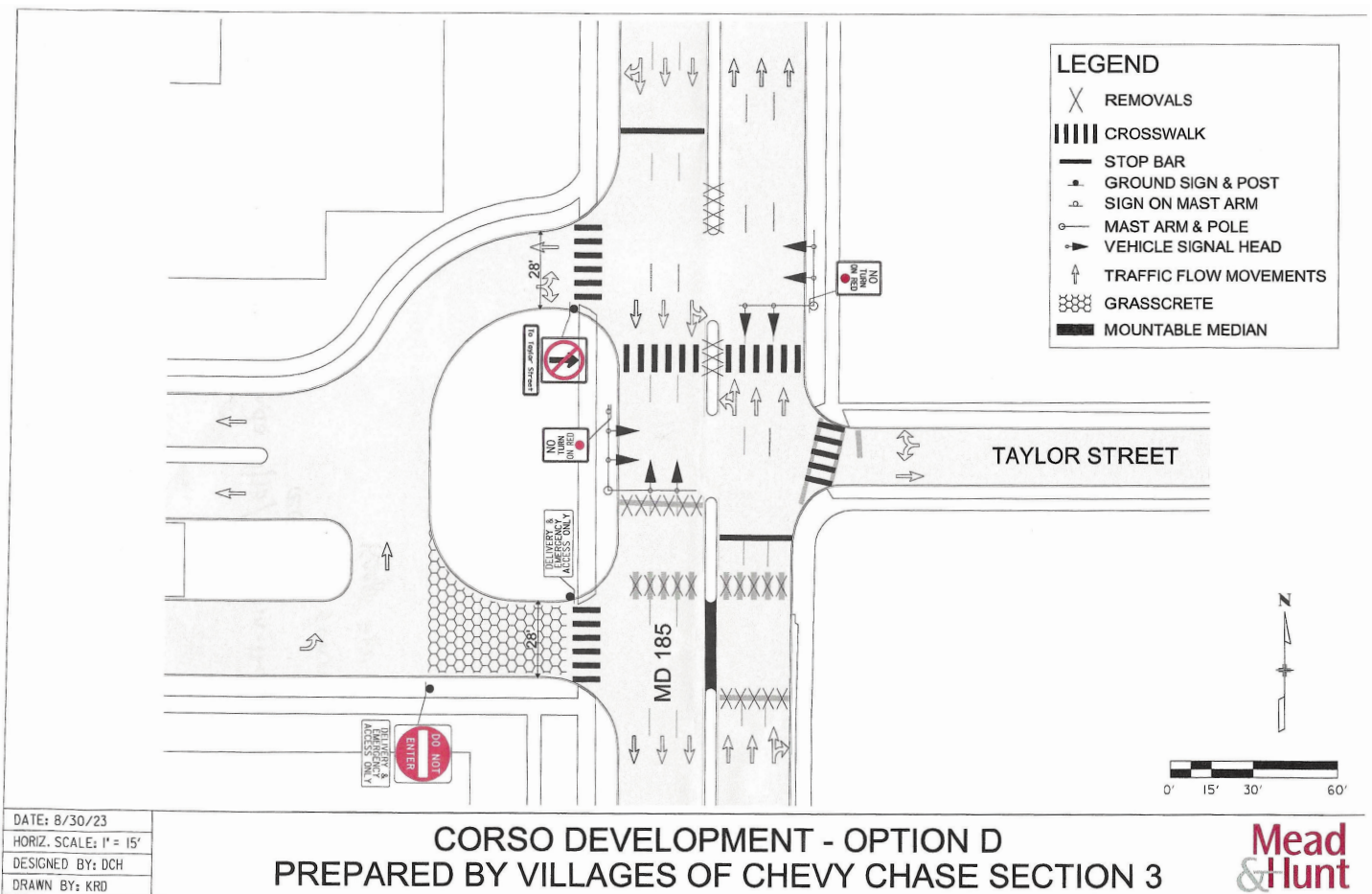
The two most concerning aspects of the Corso Chevy Chase development for Section 3 residents are parking and traffic. Corso issued a parking and traffic studies, as required by Binding Elements that Section 3 helped to put in place. Section 3 hired the transportation planning and analysis firm of Mead & Hunt to look at both in detail. We asked them to look at the access proposed by the developer.

The Corso developer's plan leaves both the existing entries and exits, but only allows those exiting to make a right turn out of the facility onto southbound Connecticut Avenue. Our concern is that many visitors and staff will want to head north in the direction of the Beltway, leaving them with the choice of quickly crossing three lanes of southbound traffic to make a left at Shepherd Street or cutting through our community to eventually head north on Connecticut Avenue. The other option would be for them to attempt a U turn on Connecticut Avenue, risking both accidents and backups up and down both the northbound and southbound lanes of Connecticut Avenue.

Looking at all the options, the Mead & Hunt team, headed by Devon Hahn, refined a plan that had been put forward initially by a State Highway Administration traffic engineer. That plan (seen here), as refined by Ms. Hahn, would make the north entrance to the facility a two-way 28' wide entry/exit with a traffic signal. The southern entry would be reserved for EMS and possibly delivery services and would be paved in "grasscrete" pavers that would make it look less like a roadway than the northern entry and would support all the emergency vehicles. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue requires a separate means for emergency vehicles to access a property like Corso with multiple buildings.

Under the Mead & Hunt proposed plan, signage at Corso would prohibit "through" trips to Taylor Street for vehicles exiting from the north entry. Drivers on Taylor Street would not be able to turn right on red because a safer crosswalk would be moved just north of Taylor Street, protected by phased lights. Pedestrians would push a button to activate that light, which would make access from bus stops on both sides of the street much easier. And it maximizes the Taylor Street and north entry sight distance to pedestrians when turning.

Traffic signals would operate in three phases: 1 for north-



bound/southbound Connecticut Avenue, with left turns yielding to through vehicles (much as we do now for example, to access our community from Connecticut Avenue). There would be lights at the north entrance and at Taylor Street, making access to Connecticut Avenue from Taylor Street safer, including left turns from Taylor to head south on Connecticut Avenue.

The Connecticut Avenue pedestrian crossing would operate concurrently with the light at Taylor Street. The Taylor Street and north entrance pedestrian crossings would operate concurrently with Connecticut Avenue lights.

The plan allows site access to northbound Connecticut Avenue. It reduces potentially dangerous U- turns on Connecticut Avenue and cut-through traffic in Section 3. It provides a signalized pedestrian crossing that motorists can see.

Ultimately this is the decision of the State Highway Administration, albeit one we hope they will make in conjunction with the developer, the Town of Chevy Chase and Section 3. We will be sharing this refined option with SHA staff, the Town, and the developer. The Town has asked the developer to come up with a plan that would allow northbound traffic to access Connecticut Avenue, but to our knowledge, they have yet to do so.

In terms of process, all mandated by the County, the developer must submit the entire plan (phases one and two) for approval and the access and traffic patterns must be agreed to as part of the overall approval process. Once submitted, a 120-day clock begins, during which time the plan will be reviewed, hearings held, and final decisions made. As of this writing, the plan has not yet been officially accepted for review.

We are waiting for a meeting with Planning Board staff, SHA, the Town and Section 3 representatives to be scheduled and will keep the community informed.

As to on-site parking, our consultants find that there are excess spaces in the current developer plan and the developer has pledged to retain all parking on site in the binding elements of the plan as approved by the County. There are 10 above ground spaces reserved for the ice cream shop, the florist and a third possible retail shop, all to be built in phase 2 of the plan. We have asked the developer to consider a parking management plan for peak times when the allotted spaces might prove insufficient to guarantee that all possible eventualities are anticipated.

We will continue to work with all the concerned agencies and the developer and will keep the community informed.

MYSTERY MANSION AT WOMEN'S CLUB

Halloween is coming and so is the Mystery Mansion! The Mystery Mansion is a fun event hosted by the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase for all ages. Guests aged 5 to 12 will especially enjoy the haunted house and toasting s'mores at the outdoor Bonfire Bash, but there is something for everyone—live music, food, drink, and fun.

This year Mystery Mansion will take place each night from Thursday, October 26 to Sunday, October 29. Tickets may be purchased online in advance or at the door. This event has been enormously popular in the past. Being shorter this year, tickets at the door are not guaranteed. Visit mysterymansion.org for more information and online ticket purchases.

QUILT & NEEDLEPOINT SHOW IN KENSINGTON

NeedleChasers of Chevy Chase returns to the Kensington Armory/Town Hall for its 22nd quilt and fabric arts display "It's a Material World." Admire the amazing selection of 200+ beautiful quilts or buy a handmade item (bags, home goods, etc. in stunning modern designs) at the Artisan Boutique or Buy It Now Sale.

The show runs Friday, October 6 from 9:00am to 6:00pm and Saturday, October 7 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Kensington Armory/Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street. Admission is \$8; children under 12 are free. Credit cards, cash or checks accepted.

Proceeds support Community Service Programs and Guild Education.

HALLOWEEN NIGHT



IT IS HOPED ALL RESIDENTS WILL CLEAR LEAVES FROM THE SIDEWALK TO INSURE EVERYONE'S SAFETY THAT EVENING.

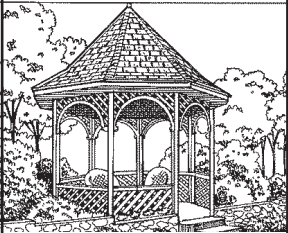


SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

P.O. Box 15070

Chevy Chase, MD 20815

SECTION 3



Village of
CHEVY CHASE

News & Views

OCTOBER 2023



DID YOU KNOW THAT TWO-THIRDS OF ALL MIGRATING BIRDS FLY AT NIGHT? BIRDERS TELL US THAT BRIGHT LIGHTS OFTEN CONFUSE THEM, SO THIS FALL TRY TO MINIMIZE YOUR OUTDOOR LIGHTING TO HELP THE BIRDS FIND THEIR WAY.