

SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

News & Views

DECEMBER 2009

CALENDAR

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 2**

Bulk Trash Pick-Up, curbside—

Last of 2009—next pick up is March 3rd

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Council Meeting

CCUMC Room 109

7:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

4:30 –5:30 p.m.

Bob Brown Puppets Holiday Show

Great for families with children 6 and under

CCUMC Phillips Hall

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

Christmas Tree Pick-up

No plastic please—these trees are turned into mulch!



HOLIDAY SNOW SHOW, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 4:30 P.M.

Mark your calendars for this year's terrific Holiday Puppet show with Bob Brown Puppets...the "Snow Show" will introduce children 6 and under to a fun-filled romp through a winter wonderland with trick marionettes performing for the audience...Children will meet Peter the Penguin, Sammy the Snowman, Jimmy, the Jolly Juggler and of course, the dare-devil skier, Benny Bunny!

The one hour event begins promptly at 4:30 p.m. in Phillips Hall of the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church. Cookies and milk and juice will be served. Families with older children are welcome but the age group for which the show is aimed is 6 and under. Older children may enjoy seeing the magic worked by this master puppeteer.

COUNCIL ADOPTS DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR STORMWATER RUNOFF

Several years ago, in response to growing problems of stormwater runoff between neighbors building additions, the Council adopted new rules for stormwater runoff (Chapter 6, Section 6-301(g)). To better assist residents seeking to meet the new requirements, the Council asked our consulting engineer, Bill Bissell, to draft a set of design guidelines to help people understand the Council's overall goals and to arrive at a solution best suited to their situation. The guidelines also provide a sample drawing to demonstrate what is expected in terms of a stormwater plan for any improvement that might have an impact on a neighbor or the right of way.

When you want to get a permit in Section 3, the first step is to get a County permit. However, residents of all Montgomery County municipalities cannot obtain a permit without first getting a letter of introduction from the head of Buildings and Roads in their community. This letter is not a permit, but merely a way of notifying municipalities of the intentions of a resident. The design guidelines will be made available to any citizen at any time, but for those applying for a County permit, they will be provided with the guidelines at the time of a letter of introduction so that any additional drawings can be developed while the County is processing their portion of the permit process. The overall goal is to do no harm to a neighbor or public property and to provide residents with enough information to comply with the guidelines.

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**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 handicapped 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.*



The Council met on Wednesday, November 11, 2009. The meeting began at 7:55 p.m. with all Council members except **Natasha Saiffee**.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

The most dramatic news in the neighborhood was the brazen burglary of a home in Chevy Chase Village at night when the family was home asleep. In addition to taking a woman's purse and its contents, a laptop and several other items, the thief also took the car keys and the family's Land Rover. The thief broke in a basement window and the alarm system was not on at the time of the burglary. This news was conveyed in a Crime Alert to our residents via email. The message—don't just lock your cars and your doors, if you have an alarm system—use it! That's why you pay for it!

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

The condition of the property at 7104 Florida Street continues to be a problem. The Village Manager has contacted the County to see if a citation to the builder and a copy sent to his lender will get some action to improve the appearance and cleanliness of the lot. The Village manager disposed of empty paint cans and other debris left in the front yard on bulk trash day and Mr. O'Brien reluctantly cleared a path for children to walk on the public sidewalk by Halloween. We later had a contractor come and properly clear the entire walkway which will need to be replaced as it is so cracked and damaged from construction equipment.

The Strauss property at Connecticut and Bradley Lane has been cleaned up thanks to a new partner working with Mr. Strauss, Marc Weller. Mr. Weller plans on developing the property closest to the Terpeluk residence first and is beginning discussions with our Buildings and Roads representative, Carolyn Greis and the Village Manager.

STORMWATER ISSUES

The Council approved a set of supplementary guidelines to be distributed to residents who intend to build additions or make changes to their homes at the time that they get a letter of introduction to obtain their County permit. The guidelines were prepared by our consulting engineer, Bill Bissell (see story this issue).

The Council agreed to have our consulting engineer look at the **Lesmes, Vita** and **Zehner** properties to try and see why so much water was being retained in Ms. Zehner's rear yard.

In another area, Bill Bissell recommended that the Council first try to thoroughly clean out the private storm drains behind five houses on Raymond and Georgia Streets that adversely affect the public sidewalk in heavy rains. The Council agreed to get permission from the homeowners for this one-time clean-out and hire a crew to come in and try and improve the water flow so that it doesn't become a problem at the sidewalk on Georgia Street. If this works, then neighbors will just have to continue to monitor the drains themselves on their own properties. If it doesn't work, then other measures will have to be explored.

STREET LIGHT PROGRESS

The Holphane Company is sending a free induction light with bracket arm and "skirt" to Pepco to install on Georgia Street to be sure that we are happy with the style of the light and the quality of light. Our attorney and the Council are in the midst of researching the actual fair market value of the current lights in our community to come to a better understanding of what we would be willing to pay Pepco for these lights. We are also exploring the possibility of selling the lights elsewhere.

GIS SURVEY

All the properties in Section 3 have been marked and a preliminary map has been presented to the Council which they reviewed at the meeting. After reviewing the overall map carefully, the Council will give our contractor feedback and the final maps will be drawn. The new computer will be acquired and loaded with the proper software and all the building permit data loaded so that information will be much easier to access and update.

NEW ORDINANCE

The Council agreed on the wording of a change in our permit requirements (see story this issue). Assuming there are no objections, the Council will vote at the next meeting on December 9th on the change.

VARIANCES AND PERMITS

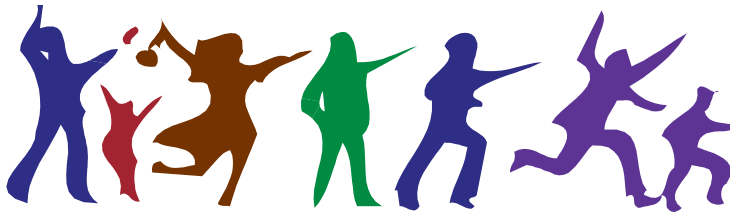
The **Miller** family was granted a temporary variance which will last until their children are age 18, to have a tree house at the rear of their yard, inside the setback. The family also agreed to plant two Leland Cypress trees by next April so that their rear-facing neighbor, the **Benson/Vogel** family, will not be able to see the treehouse.

The **Mathais** family got a permit to replace and enlarge their driveway.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council reviewed our financial status. Two CDs at relatively low interest rates rolled over. The Council now has 18 differ-

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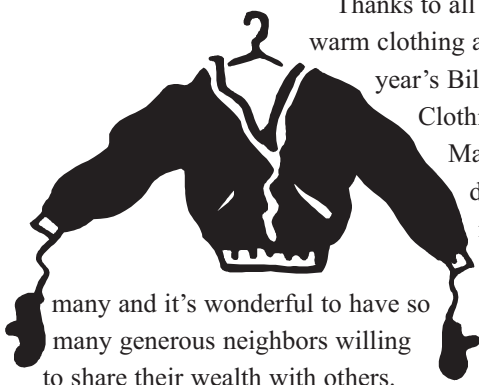


NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

WASHINGTONIAN'S "TOP LAWYERS" LIST INCLUDES MANY SECTION 3 RESIDENTS

The December issue of *Washingtonian* magazine lists the area's top lawyers and while we have MANY talented attorneys in town, a handful were mentioned in this special issue including: **Rob Cary** of Williams & Connolly for those who have "Trouble with the Law," **Jay Epstien** of DLA Piper for real estate related legal expertise, and **Marna Tucker** of Feldesman Tucker, Leifer Fidell for divorce and family law matters. Congrats to all.

BILL PRIGG MEMORIAL WARM CLOTHING DRIVE YIELDS A GREAT HAUL!



Thanks to all those who donated warm clothing and blankets to this year's Bill Prigg Memorial Warm Clothing Drive. The folks at Martha's Table were delighted with the much needed clothing—this is a difficult time for

many and it's wonderful to have so many generous neighbors willing to share their wealth with others.

SENIORS' BRUNCH A BIG SUCCESS—CHEVY CHASE@HOME BUSY, TOO!

About 30 seniors met at Chevy Chase Village Hall on November 14th for a "Mr. Omelette" brunch. Instead of just seeing old friends, many seniors had a chance to meet new neighbors they'd never met before!

The organizers of Chevy Chase@Home brought brochures on their organization and an invitation to the next meeting. The group is now meeting regularly at Chevy Chase Village Hall. On Tuesday, December 1st, the group will hold another informal event at the hall from 2 to 4 p.m. with refreshments. There will be bridge, scrabble and lots of good conversation. A new book discussion group has also formed and there will be Computer Coaches on hand to help anyone who needs it.

COUNCIL PROPOSES CHANGE IN BUILDING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Now that the Geographic Information System survey has been completed, the Council, as promised, has proposed a new requirement for anyone making an improvement to their property that is within 2' of either a property line or a building restriction line. The purpose of the ordinance is to be certain that setbacks from all lot lines are respected, and that fences aren't built on someone else's property. Because we have had the entire community surveyed, with monuments (larger markings used by surveyors) at every corner and the front two property corners marked, the expense for residents to have an accurate survey done should be much less than if the front corners and monuments were not in place. While most jurisdictions charge hundreds of dollars for building permits, Section 3 has maintained its extremely low \$10 fee for the permit itself. The benefit of an accurate survey is that the homeowner will know that the improvement they make is actually on their property and will have a clear understanding of all their boundaries. Many new homeowners now have a boundary survey done. A boundary survey is distinguished from a basic "house location survey" which can be off by a margin of 2 or more feet. If the survey is no more than five years old, that survey can be submitted.

The proposed change is underlined and would be part of Section 6-302(e) which defines what is required to get a building permit. As amended, the proposed new wording (underlined) reads as follows:

2. A copy of the house location survey with the addition or accessory structure clearly indicated. If any structure or improvement (including a fence) is to be placed within two feet (2') of any Section 3 building restriction line or property line, the applicant must submit a boundary survey executed by a licensed Maryland surveyor within the past five years showing the existing structures on the lot, the building restriction lines (setbacks) and the proposed improvements and their relationship to the restriction lines.

The ordinance will be voted on at the December Council meeting on December 9. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any Council member or the Village Manager via phone, email or in person at the meeting.

COUNCIL ACTIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ent CDs in many Maryland chartered, FDIC insured institutions. The interest rate environment is very difficult at the moment with rates very low. We continue to seek the best possible rates for our investments. The Council reviewed the CD schedule.

The annual audit was sent off to both the Department of Commerce and the State Department of Legislative Audit.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

The Halloween party was a great success (see story at right).

The Bill Prigg Memorial Warm Clothing and Blanket drive is in progress but getting off to a slow start.

The special trash pickup has been an amazing success with lots of people signing up.

The Senior's Brunch is slated for November 14th and we expect about 30 guests.

The Holiday puppet show is set for December 13th (see cover story this issue).

OTHER

The Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers voted to table their decision about parking restrictions on the north side of West Lenox St. next to the post office until their December 14th meeting. About 30 Section 3 residents sent e-mails protesting the proposed restrictions (see story this issue).

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

LOOK AT YOUR OUTDOOR LIGHTING— AND YOUR HOUSE NUMBERS

**Can a visitor get to your front door easily
with the lighting you provide? Can an emergency
vehicle see your house numbers?**

**If not, consider investing in one or both of these
items...your safety is too important.**

HALLOWEEN PARTY BIGGER THAN EVER

In the space of one short half hour, dozens and dozens of children and their parents in Section 3 consumed 18 large Ledo pizza's before going out to Trick or Treat. The array of costumes and talent was impressive. Special thanks to our Cat-in-the-Hat **Chris Lombardi**, thanks to **Shoshana Lombardi** and Natasha Saifee for decorating Phillips Hall to look scary and special. Many thanks to **Judy Corbett** and **Bicky Day** for serving up all that Pizza and to the two women plus **Susan Kneip** for helping with the clean-up. The Halloween Parade and Party is one of Section 3's treasured traditions and also probably the shortest event we hold every year. Many thanks to CCUMC for making Phillips Hall available to us for this event. This year, by way of thank you for allowing us to use their facility, we decorated the hall early so that the children in the CCUMC Preschool could enjoy the decorations as well.

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS GREEN WITH A TREE YOU PLANT!



Consider purchasing a living tree this holiday season! Dig a hole now, enjoy the tree in your home, and then remember the holiday forever with the tree in your yard. Lots of nurseries stock just this kind of tree and will provide you with guidance about how to handle the root ball indoors and how to plant the tree. Give it a thought!

SPECIAL BULK TRASH PICK-UP BIG HIT!

Talk about pent-up demand! Seventy-eight residents emptied their yards, garages, basements—sheds, amazing! Some greenways looked like someone was moving out there was so much stuff! Happily, many of us have cleaner houses and yards thanks to Montgomery County Sanitation and Recycling, our contractor, who came with three men and a truck and ended up making three trips to handle all the stuff set out!

Special thanks to everyone for getting their items out by Friday night so that they could pick stuff up starting early on Saturday. Although this wasn't a competitive thing, we can give kudos to all those living on Raymond Street who contributed to the mass clean-up...there were 16 houses with goodies for pick-up!

WHAT ABOUT THE CHEVY CHASE POST OFFICE?

The Board of Managers of Chevy Chase Village was presented with a petition to curtail parking from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the north side of West Lenox Street, the street on the post office side of the Chevy Chase town hall. There are three residents on that street and because they petitioned the Board of Managers, a hearing was set for Monday, November 9, to hear arguments pro and con. This particular post office is an important community asset for Section 3 residents and as soon as we were made aware of the hearing, we communicated with all our residents regarding the very real danger that if parking restrictions were enforced, that the use of this post office would quickly diminish because it would be so impossible to park and visit the post office with so few spaces available on the south side of the street. The Postal Service is looking for ways to cut costs and has already proposed closing the post office at Friendship Heights which serves many residents who no longer drive cars on the grounds that it isn't used enough.

Parking restrictions in Chevy Chase would clearly create a low-usage problem which might well lead to the Postal Service to decide to close our local post office as well.

Many Section 3 residents responded and sent e-mails and letters. There were so many issues relating to parking that the Board of Managers tabled making a decision until their next meeting December 14th, so if you haven't written, you have another chance to do so now.

You can write to the Chairman of the Board of Managers, Chevy Chase Village, 5906 Connecticut Ave. Chevy Chase, MD. 20815 or email him care of the acting Village Manager at shana.davis-cook@montgomerycountymd.gov.

LEAVES IN THE STREET

Every year Section 3 distributes leaf bags to all our residents. If you need more, just let the Village Manager know and you can arrange to pick them up. We do this because we have very narrow streets and it's difficult to find enough parking as it is. PLEASE DO NOT LET YOUR CON-

TRACTOR PILE LEAVES IN THE STREET!

We have 16' wide streets for the most part, and if a child decides to hide in a leaf pile, it's possible a car could ride right into the

leaves with a tragic out-

come. That is why we ask that you NOT pile leaves in the street.



SNOW SHOVELING



As always, Section 3 provides snow shoveling for public sidewalks for our seniors who have signed up for that service with us. If you have in the past, you

needn't contact us again, but if you're new to the age group or haven't signed up, let us know you'd like some help. We consider you eligible if you are eligible for medicare.

Just to review the service, Section 3 only shovels if the snow is 2" or more—we're hoping to help you with the heavy lifting, not the stuff you can sweep away. You are still responsible for any ice forming on the public sidewalk and for the walkway to your door from the public sidewalk. If you need someone to do that for you, we can provide you with the names of teenagers eager to earn some extra money for the holidays, just give the Village Manager a call.

Finally, please understand, the snow removal crew does the streets first, then the sidewalks, so allow some time for them to get to you.

FEED YOUR STREET TREES THIS WINTER...

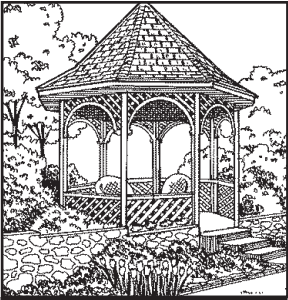
IF WE GO A LONG PERIOD WITHOUT RAIN OR SNOW, WATER YOUR SERVICE-BERRY TREES, WATER ANY TREES ON YOUR PROPERTY, PARTICULARLY ANY YOU MAY HAVE RECENTLY TRANSPLANTED TO HELP THEM SETTLE IN NICELY.



SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

P.O. Box 15070

Chevy Chase, MD 20815



**SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE**

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**IF IT EVEN LOOKS LIKE SNOW—
PLEASE PARK YOUR CAR IN THE
DRIVEWAY, NOT ON THE STREET!**

Be considerate of others, it's very hard for a plow to get down our narrow streets and around corners, when you park on the street, you make it doubly hard for the snow to be removed and harder for drivers to get around your car.