

SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

News & Views

FEBRUARY 2010

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Council Meeting
CCUMC Room 109
7:45 p.m.

**THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 14**

Haitian Fundraising
CCUMC Phillips Hall
4:00 to 5:00 pm
(see story this page)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3
1st Bulk Trash Pickup in 2010, Curbside

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10
Council Meeting
CCUMC Rm. 109
7:45 p.m.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

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SECTION 3 HAITIAN ASSISTANCE EFFORTS

It is impossible not to want to help when you see the tragic aftermath of the Haitian earthquake.

Section 3 residents have risen to the challenge in a wide range of ways—from volunteering to sort through donations (**Kelly Derrick**) to collecting children's clothing to send via the Haitian embassy (**Pat and Steven Edelen**), to collecting adult and children's shoes and sandals (**Ben and Alix**

Slade) to working with the Haitian people through Habitat for Humanity and raising funds towards that effort (**Tom Jones and Caroline Grandy**).

Susan Murray of Spring Street is a long-time Red Cross employee working at the national level with corporate sponsors. Thanks in part to her initiative at the Red Cross, working with corporate sponsors, the heavily publicized fund-raising effort via text message (seen in ads featuring Michelle Obama on television), as of January 16th, the Red Cross had raised more than \$87 million. The availability of such an easy method to donate \$10 made it possible for everyone to participate immediately in doing something for the Haitian people. There are others, no doubt, who have also worked in various ways to assist this most distressed nation.

Caroline Grandy is spearheading a fundraiser at the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church Phillips Hall on Valentine's Day February, 14th from 4 to 5 p.m. Families with children are invited to attend and send valentines to children in Haiti (all the art supplies will be laid out for them to do so). Bring a plate of cookies to share and have a cup of Starbucks coffee (adults) or some milk and cookies(children) while the children participate in an effort to reach out to the children of Haiti. Families are urged to make a donation of \$25 or more per family to be made out to Habitat for Humanity International (a tax deductible contribution). If you can't make it to the event, Caroline will be happy to accept donations at her home at 3809 Raymond Street. All the Valentines will be sent via the staff of Habitat for Humanity International to be distributed in Haiti.

If you donate money instead of in-kind items, IRS has issued a series of

HAITIAN ASSISTANCE, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**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, January 13, 2010 in room 109 of CCUMC. The meeting began at 8:00 p.m. All Council members were present.

The Council approved the minutes of the December meeting as published in the newsletter.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Village Manager reported that the suit involving the speed cameras is due for its first hearing at the end of January but may be pushed back due to the ill health of the judge involved. The Council has decided to wait until this suit is settled before proceeding with any efforts to get cameras on Connecticut Avenue.

There was some vandalism of a car on Georgia Street.

There were no other incidents within the community to report.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

The Council decided to table the installation of a sidewalk on Bradley Lane between Georgia Street and Brookville Road. When the subject is taken up again, the Council will confer with the two homeowners at that location.

The County is due to send a contractor out to 7104 Florida Street to clean up the lot. The sediment control permit staff have also been advised that the sump pump is now pouring out directly onto the sidewalk. Mr. O'Brien, the owner of the property, did clear off the ice on the sidewalk when asked to do so.

The family at 3805 Raymond Street has been given a deadline of January 19 by Montgomery County to comply with the citation issued them regarding the condition of their yards, the unregistered Jeep in the front driveway and the lack of house numbers.

Marc Weller, the person handling the development of the two properties at Bradley Lane and Connecticut Avenue will be submitting his plans to the County soon. Buildings and Roads representative Carolyn Greis has drafted a letter of acknowledgement for him.

The **Cary** family is getting an underground Pepco line installed making it necessary to close the block of Delaware Street between Shepherd and Spring Streets.

Anne Zehner is consulting an engineer regarding the drainage problem she is having at the rear of her property. The Council will continue to work with her and with our consulting engineer, Bill Bissell, to try and resolve the source of the extra water in her yard.

The **Gormans** are working with civil engineer Bill Bissell on drainage problems in their yard. Sadly, the water table in the yard

has been discovered to be only 28" deep, making resolution of their excess water problems very difficult, particularly in cold weather.

There are a number of locations in the community where sump pump discharge has resulted in large ponds of ice several houses away from the source due to the cold weather. These locations have been treated with extra salt and sand and with shoveling of excess ice to make the streets safer. We will be working with individual homeowners to try and resolve these problems. The most difficult locations are on Georgia Street in front of the **Kornbluth** home and the **Murphy** driveway, Spring Street in front of the **Millian/Jest** home and the **Blattners'** home, Delaware Street in front of the **Millers'** driveway, Fulton Street in front of the shared driveway between 7007 Fulton Street and the **D'Ambrosio** home and Taylor Street in front of the **Shannon/Mathias** driveways. Boxes of sand have been dropped at several of these locations to help residents between plowings if excess ice builds up.

The sample street light is still missing the "skirt" that goes with it and should be delivered to Pepco soon so that it can be installed. Because there is no leaf cover now, the impression of the light will have to be evaluated in both winter and spring. Our consulting engineer has checked the light to be certain that it was manufactured as he specified to give the light levels required by the Council. The sample light will be installed on Georgia Street between Raymond and Bradley Lane.

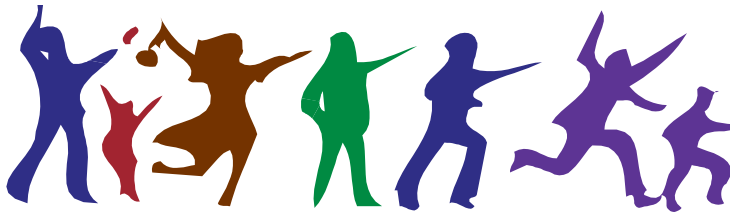
The GIS Survey is complete, the final touches have been loaded into the new computer, and the Village Manager and the Buildings and Roads representative will be getting training on how to use the system shortly. The Council voted to hire CPJ Associates (the firm that handled the survey) to scan all the plans we have, all the historical documents, and all the building permit information so that it can all be digitized for long-term storage and not stored in paper only. The Council agreed that we should engage an off-site back-up system for the computer once all the data is loaded on. At the moment, Section 3 data and communications are located on three different computers and all will be consolidated onto a single computer. Paper documents of interest will be donated to the Chevy Chase Historical Society with some limitations on their use to protect individual homeowners' privacy.

Buildings and Roads representative Carolyn Greis reported that the **Rothermels** have received a letter of acknowledgement for two small additions which fall within our existing ordinances.

The Council voted to allow a variance of 4 feet for a set of steps to allow for a side entrance into the **Slidell** home on Spring Street now under construction.

The Slidells have applied for an additional variance for a set of steps leading from the basement up to grade on the same side of the house and behind the steps leading to the exterior. This will intrude

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Congrats to **Anjali Chaturvedi and Terrence Clark** on the birth of Section 3's newest resident: **Kiran Chaturvedi Clark**. Weighing in at 8 pounds, 7 ounces, he was born January 23, the same day as his older cousin **Jaya Conner**. **Aunt Anu and Uncle Cormac**, also Section 3 residents, are delighted! Welcome to the neighborhood Kiran!

Welcome to **Anna and Nate Reeves** and their brand new baby **Sophia** who are moving into 6811 Georgia Street. The couple have been living in an apartment in the area and have had some work done on the house prior to moving in. Sophia will have an opportunity to play with Kiran Clark, also "new" to the neighborhood (and the world...)

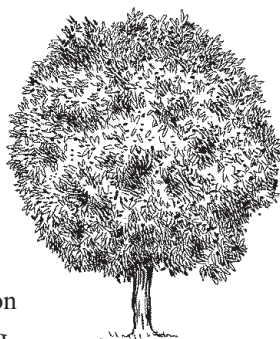
Congratulations to Section 3 resident **Dr. Rebecca Barry** of Fulton Street who once again has been listed in *Washingtonian* magazine's "Top Doctors" coming out this March. Rebecca is a dermatologist practicing in Virginia.

Welcome to **Jill and Mitch Butler** and their 20 month old daughter **Blake** who have moved into the house at 3701 Bradley Lane.

On February 16, Chevy Chase@ Home will be holding their regular Mix and Mingle, with Book Club, computer coaching, games and refreshments at the Village Hall in the afternoon.

SPRING TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

The County is offering a tree planting program this fall called Leaves for Neighborhoods. The County's Program offers a \$25 coupon off trees purchased from participating nurseries throughout the county. The retail value of the trees must be \$75 or higher. Coupons can be printed out and used before the end of May 2010 by going to www.montgomeryplanning.org/events/leaves/index.shtm.



COUNTY BUDGET CUTS TO AFFECT RIDEON FARES

The County Council will hold a public hearing on proposed RideOn fare increases at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 4th. The proposal is to increase the fares by 10 to 20 cents. The hearing will take place in the third floor hearing room of the Council Office Building at 100 Maryland Avenue and will be televised live by County Cable Montgomery (Cable Channel 6 on Comcast, Channel 30 on Verizon). The broadcast can also be viewed via streaming video through the County's website, www.montgomerycountymd.gov.

If you would like to speak, register by calling (240) 777-7803 on or before February 3 by 5:00 p.m. Written comments can be emailed to the County Council by the close of business on February 5 at county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov or mailed to Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Ave, Rockville, MD 20850. While this may affect a limited number of residents in Section 3 who use the RideOn, it does affect many who work in the homes of Section 3 residents.

COUNTY ADOPTS NEW RULES ON RUBBISH, PARKED VEHICLES IN DRIVEWAYS

The County Council adopted some revisions to the Housing and Building Maintenance Standards Code and Solid Waste Code which will be effective as of April 15, 2010. Under the new rules, rubbish and unused vehicle are better defined.

It has long been illegal to have an inoperable or unregistered vehicle on your property unless it is completely enclosed or in a garage or other building. The new law now includes trailers as well. An individual can no longer store an unused vehicle on residential property for more than 20 days unless a person living in the household has received a specific extension which is defined in the law. (Section 27-17A).

Unused, unregistered or inoperable motor vehicles or trailers must be completely shielded from the view of individuals on adjoining property. Exceptions to this rule are noted, but a permit is required. A copy of the full text is available on line or you can request a copy from the Village Manager.

COUNCIL ACTIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

less than a foot into the side setback. The current set of stairs from the basement to the exterior is located in an old-fashioned "storm" entrance right out of the Wizard of Oz and does not meet code. The rear addition blocks that access and a basement entrance is required by code.

The County has new rules regarding the storage of unused vehicles on residential properties and a new definition of rubbish (see story this issue).

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council reviewed the CD schedule and discussed the CD that matures in January. The Village Manager hoped to get the best rate possible. The Council discussed the fact that in this low interest rate environment, it doesn't make much sense to invest for much longer than 12 to 18 months, in hopes that rates will rise before that period ends.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

The Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers turned down the petition to restrict parking opposite the Post Office. Thanks to all those in Section 3 who responded to our emails and let the Board of Managers know how harmful this would have been for us all. Thanks to the Heller family for bringing this situation to our attention.

The public meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. and the Council voted to go into Executive Session to review the Village Manager's salary and performance.

TOT SWAP— A COUNTY-WIDE EVENT

Consider recycling your used toys, equipment and clothing into cash by attending an event at Montgomery County Fairgrounds on March 10-14, 2010. The event, sponsored by www.totswap.net makes it possible for you to sell items you don't want or need and acquire ones you do. After a "participation fee" of \$8, you can consign items and receive 50% of the price you set. Items are inspected prior to sale for quality control. Sounds like a great way to clean out closets and make some money towards new items you do need!

If you have children's clothing you don't want to sell but would like to donate to charities, Martha's Table on 14th Street is always in need of used clothing as is the National Children's Center (formerly the Baptist Home) out on Fernwood Road in Bethesda.

HAITIAN ASSISTANCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

guidelines which allow you to take a contribution on either 2009 or 2010's tax returns. The basics of their rules are shown here below:

1. A new law allows you to claim donations for Haitian relief on your 2009 tax return, which you will be filing this year.
 2. The contributions must be made specifically for the relief of victims in areas affected by the January 12 earthquake in Haiti.
 3. To be eligible for a deduction on the 2009 tax return, donations must be made after Jan. 11, 2010 and BEFORE March 1, 2010.
 4. In order to be deductible, contributions must be made to qualified charities and cannot be designated for the benefit of specific individuals or families.
 5. The new law applies only to CASH contributions.
 6. Cash contributions made by text message, check, credit card or debit card may be claimed on your federal tax return.
 7. You must itemize your deductions in order to claim these donations on your tax return.
 8. You have the option of deducting these contributions on either your 2009 or 2010 tax return, but not both.
 9. Contributions made to foreign organizations generally are not deductible. You can find out more about organizations helping Haitian earthquake victims from agencies such as the US Agency for International Development (www.usaid.gov).
 10. Federal law requires that you keep a record of any deductible donations you make. For donations by text message, a telephone bill will meet the record-keeping requirement if it shows the name of the organization receiving your donation, the date of the contribution, and the amount given. For cash contributions made by other means, be sure to keep a bank record, such as a cancelled check or a receipt from the charity. Receipts should show the name of the charity, the date and amount of the contribution."
- For more information, see IR-2010-12.



SECTION 3'S AVERAGE PRICE HOUSE SOLD IN 2009: \$1,023,850

According to real estate agent Dennis Coleman, last year 10 homes sold in Section 3 at an average price of \$1,023,850. The average days on the market, 76 as compared to houses selling in the town of Chevy Chase (96 days with 34 sales) and Chevy Chase Village (89 days and 36 sales), Section 5 with an average 122 days on the market with a total of 23 sales and finally, our other neighbor, Martins Additions with 13 sales and an average days on the market of 178.

At the same time, the County is in the process of re-assessing homes in our area, so watch for your notice (not sure anyone in Section 3 has received one as yet) and if you want to contest the assessment, follow the procedures indicated on that form.

SECTION 3 HOUSE GOES ON AUCTION BLOCK FEBRUARY 8

The two-bedroom home at 3600 Taylor Street will be going up for auction on Monday, February 8 at about 1:30 in the afternoon. The house has been vacant since October of 2008. A deposit of \$50,000 is required. Legal ads have been appearing in local newspapers since January 21st according to the auctioneer's website: www.hwestauctions.com. The deposit amount indicates that the minimum bid price will be \$500,000.

PRE-SCHOOL BOOK FAIR EVENTS MARCH 4 AND 5

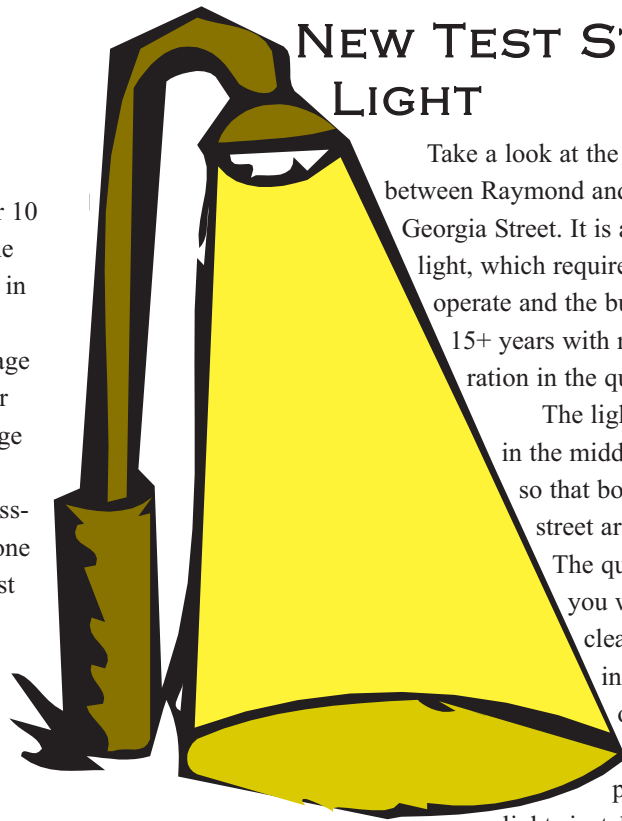
CCUMC Preschool's annual Book Fair will be held on Thursday, March 4th and Friday, March 5th from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the Wesley Room. Family Night will be Thursday, March 4th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., featuring read-aloud stories, Klutz Build a Book, contests, and light refreshments for everyone!

The preschool will receive 25 percent of the proceeds from the Book Fair, which will be used to purchase books for our library and other teaching materials for the school.

Please mark your calendar to check out the books and support the preschool.



NEW TEST STREET LIGHT



Take a look at the new street light between Raymond and Bradley on Georgia Street. It is an induction light, which requires less energy to operate and the bulb lasts about 15+ years with minimal deterioration in the quality of light.

The light is hung almost in the middle of the street so that both sides of the street are illuminated.

The quality of the light, you will notice, is a clean, white light instead of the orangey-yellow of the high pressure sodium lights installed by Pepco.

The light has a "hat" which helps to keep the night sky dark and prevents glare in second story windows. The only item missing is some decorative scroll work which hangs from the bracket arm which should be installed soon.

Our lighting designer counsels us not to look straight up into the light but to look at it from down the street to see the different quality of light. Of course, without the shade trees in leaf, the quality of the light is different than it will be in Spring, Summer and Fall. It will be up a minimum of 6 months so that we will be able to see how it looks with the trees fully leafed out.

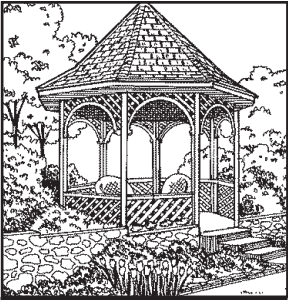
Let us know what you think. The plan developed by our lighting designer for the community will even out the quality of light by moving some fixtures to different poles and increase the number of lights from the current 52 to a total of 66 lights. The goal is to make it comfortable and safe for people to walk and drive at night without going in and out of "dark spots." The color green of the fixtures will give it a less industrial quality than the current rusty brackets and aluminum "cobra" lights now in place and the lights will blend in with the leaves. The Council feels the style is more fitting to the houses in the neighborhood and that when they are all installed, the improvement will be both safe and attractive and more fitting for a residential neighborhood.



SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

P.O. Box 15070

Chevy Chase, MD 20815



SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

News & Views

FEBRUARY 2010

FORM
502

MARYLAND RESIDENT INCOME TAX RETURN

OR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 2008, ENDING

SOCIAL SECURITY #		SPOUSE'S SOCIAL SECURITY #	
Your First Name	Initial	Last Name	
Spouse's First Name	Initial	Last Name	
PRESENT ADDRESS (No. and street)			
City or Town		State	Zip Code
Name of county and incorporated city, town or special taxing area in which you were a resident on the last day of the taxable period. (See Instruction 6)		Maryland county MONT	City, town or taxing area CH CH SEC 3



2009

IT'S TAX TIME!

By now you're well into getting your 2009 tax return prepared. Don't forget to indicate that you live in Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase on your Maryland returns!!!

It's the only way the state knows to credit us that portion of your income tax that flows through to municipalities!