

SECTION THREE  
VILLAGE OF  
CHEVY CHASE

# News & Views

JANUARY 2010

## CALENDAR

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9**

**Christmas Tree Pick-up**

**No plastic please—these trees are turned into mulch!**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13**

**Council Meeting**

**CCUMC Room 109**

**7:45 p.m.**

**Meeting will conclude with an Executive Session to discuss the Village Manager's performance and salary**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

**Council Meeting**

**CCUMC Room 109**

**7:45 p.m.**



## BIG SNOW BRINGS EXTRA CHALLENGES

Missing the weekend before the holiday for last-minute Christmas shopping was only one of the many challenges Section 3 residents faced during the big snow storm of December 18-20th. At first, streets and sidewalks were covered in a lovely powdery snowfall making navigation difficult. Most managed to park their cars off the street—kudos to all who complied, it made snow removal much, much easier!

Our snow contractor made some 6 or 7 trips to clear the streets in the first few days and keep them open. Our biggest challenge was where to put the snow? Narrow greenways didn't leave much room and at one point, we were prepared to off-load the snow onto a truck and take it away. Happily, the storm ended before we had to take that costly step. Snow Central's shoveling team helped our seniors by clearing their public walkways. They were out in force on the 20th and 21st and made quick work of most sidewalks. On Monday, we were still digging out fire hydrants to be certain that in case of a fire, no time would be lost in locating the hydrants.

Neighbors helped neighbors shovel out driveways and private sidewalks. Teenagers suddenly were in great demand and were making lots of much needed Christmas money—just in time! That strong sense of community was evident in the way people pitched in to help one another and clear walkways so others could get around without having to duck into the street. Our trash contractors braved difficult streets and collected as much household trash as they could reach without hiking through two to three foot drifts. Special thanks to those who hauled their trash cans and those of their neighbors out to the greenway to expedite their services.

In the event of severe snow storms, Section 3 families should assume that trash will only be collected if the roads are open, the landfill is open and our collectors can reach your household trash! Bringing the cans to the greenway during these difficult times makes it more likely that your trash will be taken. If you can help senior neighbors by bringing their trash to the greenway too, it would be appreciated.

It's only the beginning of winter!

## VILLAGE COUNCIL

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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, December 9 at the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church. All Council members were present. The meeting began at 7:55 p.m.

The Council approved the minutes from the November meeting as they appeared in the newsletter.

### PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

No unusual activity has been reported by the Chevy Chase Police. They continue to stop speeders on both Connecticut Avenue and Brookville Road.

### BUILDINGS AND ROADS

**Mr. O'Brien** has leased/sold his house at 6803 Florida Street, leaving only 7104 Florida to be completed. The County has been contacted regarding the condition of the property and if Mr. O'Brien does not comply, the County will "clean and lien" the property.

The County has also been notified of the condition of the yard at 3805 Raymond Street and the residents there will be receiving a citation. They have been informed of this fact.

Marc Weller of Denning Properties LLC is the designated developer for the two properties at the corner of Connecticut and Bradley Lane. Mr. Weller has already cleaned up the two lots which were in disarray and has been working with Carolyn Greis, the Council's Buildings and Roads Representative, the Village Manager and Council Chair Bill Brownlee. The plans for a house and garage on the lot closest to the **Terpeluk** residence are being revised and we expect that they will be submitting them to the County soon.

Problems of excess runoff continue to be a problem for **Anne Zehner** and **Nathan Billig**. Bill Brownlee, Carolyn Greis, and our consulting engineer have visited the areas in question. Mr. Billig's basement problems will be ameliorated by gutters and proper drainage on the property at 7104 Florida Street. There is some dispute as to what is causing Mrs. Zehner's excessive water problems, made worse by a very wet fall season. In both instances, the Council will continue to work with the property owners to resolve these issues.

Problems of excessive water flowing onto the sidewalk from private drains at Georgia Street between Raymond Street and Bradley Lane continue. The Council has volunteered to have a team go in and clean out the existing system on a one-time basis,

but has yet to receive any permission slips from the property owners to do the work.

**Street Light Progress:** A sample light has been shipped to Pepco to install in Section 3, but unfortunately, a portion of the light was damaged in shipping. We are awaiting the replacement part (the "skirt") before we can put up the light. We continue to gather information about the fair market value of the current lights which Pepco maintains should be \$390 per light, but research has shown that the actual lamp (not the bracket arms which are for the most part, considerably older and in poor condition) can be purchased NEW for as little as \$150. We haven't presented our findings to Pepco as yet because we are in the process of photographically documenting every light and every pole for which we would like to add or move a light. We will then present our findings to Pepco in hopes that we can come to a reasonable settlement regarding the fair market value of the lights currently on the poles in our community.

**GIS Survey Progress Report:** The laptop computer has been ordered for the GIS survey and a list of properties for which one corner could not be marked because of pre-existing conditions has been provided to us. We are still researching the terms and other conditions surrounding the drainage reserve that runs from Fulton Street down to Brookville Road. An initial map has been presented to the Council for review and should be handed back to our contractor with changes shortly. It's expected that in the new year, the entire system will be up and running. We will still have to enter data regarding building permit history, but the basic system will be operational and both the Village Manager and the Buildings and Roads representative will get training in how to use the software.

As of December 9th, the change in our ordinances will require that everyone getting a permit submit a full boundary survey if their fence and/or addition comes within two feet of a building restriction line or the property line. Because the two front corners are already marked and there are markers on every block in the community, the cost of having a full boundary survey executed by a licensed surveyor should not be great. If residents use the firm which surveyed the front corners, it's estimated that the cost might even be lower as all their data is current. If a homeowner already has a boundary survey executed within the last five years, they can use that as part of their building permit submission.

**Building Permits issued:** The **Rodgers/Tudge** family has received a letter of acknowledgement regarding their desire to replace an existing rear yard fence with a taller one, but they have yet to apply for a permit from Section 3. The Frissell and Shannon families have both received fence permits.

**Gordon Miller** of Georgia Street has received a permit for a rear deck. The **Alvarez/Cabrol** family of Raymond Street has received a permit for a second story addition and the **Slidell** family

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Welcome to **Jeremie Waterman and Rachel Robboy** who have recently moved into 6803 Florida Street. Jeremie works on China issues with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Rachel is with the Interamerican Development Bank. They've moved from Georgetown to Section 3 and are looking forward to getting to know the neighbors!

Welcome too to **Mike and Penelope Frissell** who moved into 3615 Shepherd Street and have already gotten to know many of the neighbors! Having grown up in the area, the two are happily settling in.

The community wishes long-time resident **Carol Blair** the best as she recuperates from a bad fall and a resulting broken hip. Mrs. Blair is recovering at Asbury Nursing home in Gaithersburg.

A special thank you to **Tom and Carolyn Wilson** who every year decorate our Gazebo Park for the holidays—this year they went all out and extended their efforts to a lovely line of lights on the fencing. It looks beautiful. Thank you!

State Assemblyman Al Carr has withdrawn the legislation he proposed that would have had owners of historic properties bypass local municipal ordinances by going before the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. (see Council Actions this issue).

## VARIANCE REQUEST

The **Slidell** family has asked for a variance into the side setback of their Spring Street home to put several steps into a side entrance/mud room in the addition to the house. The steps would intrude a few feet into the side setback.

The variance request will be voted on at the January meeting.

## POST OFFICE PARKING ISSUE: STILL SIMMERING

In November, several residents who live across from the Post Office in Chevy Chase Village petitioned the Village Board of Managers to restrict parking on the north side of the street. Clearly such a move would affect all of us who regularly use the post office. The side closest to the post office is limited by the box on the corner and the handicapped spaces. Any more limits on parking would discourage current users and diminish the use of the post office and possibly hasten its closing as the postal service looks for ways to cut costs. When we got wind of this petition through one of our residents, we alerted many in the community via e-mail and asked everyone concerned about this issue to write to the Chevy Chase Village Manager so that she could pass on your comments to the Board of Managers. Many of you were good enough to express your concerns to the Board at that time.

The initial hearing was slated for November 9th. Unfortunately, there were several parking issues on the agenda and testimony on all the parking issues lasted until midnight! The Chevy Chase Village Board voted to table discussion until their December meeting. At the December 14th meeting, several parking solutions were discussed for three different areas of the Village and the Board voted to postpone a decision and have an additional hearing at their January 11 meeting. If you have already responded and sent a letter, it is in the record and there is no need to send another note. If you are concerned about the impact parking restrictions would have at the post office and have not yet written to the Board, then we urge you to contact the head of the Board of Managers, Douglas B. Kamerow or Vice Chair David L. Winstead by sending an e-mail to their Village Manager so that she can in turn share your concerns with the entire Board of Managers. Her email is: [shana.davis-cook@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:shana.davis-cook@montgomerycountymd.gov). You can also attend the Jan. 11th hearing/Board meeting which begins at 7:30 p.m.

News and Views and our e-mail alerts will continue to keep you informed on this important resource for our community.

## PUPPET SHOW A BIG HIT

About 85 parents and children enjoyed the annual Holiday Puppet show with master puppeteer, Bob Brown. Puppets leaped, turned into other creatures and danced to holiday music to the delight of the audience.

Cookies and milk topped off the event. Many thanks to CCUMC for letting us use the facility—happily, in addition to Section 3 residents, some families from the preschool and the Church also attended.

## COUNCIL ACTIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has received a permit for their Spring Street house. The permit does not include permission to put in a set of steps which will intrude into the side setback unless and until a variance is granted (see story this issue).

Based on the GIS Survey, it's clear that Section 3 owns a significant strip in front of the last two homes on Bradley Lane between Georgia Street and Brookville Road. The Council agreed to install a sidewalk linking the Brookville Road sidewalk to the Georgia Street sidewalk. Both homeowners have been notified and the Council will pay to have a fence moved and other alterations made to accommodate the new sidewalk which may be done this winter or wait until early Spring depending on what our contractor advises. This will make it safer for those walking to not have to cross the street to get to a sidewalk and circle around from Brookville Rd to Georgia Street if they so choose.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council adopted a change in our charter that will allow the Council to hire individuals providing professional services without going out to bid (all other contracts exceeding \$10,000 will still require bids). That change became law as of December 3. There were no objections from the community.

The financial condition of the town's treasury is excellent. Several CDs were rolled over. We continue to look for beneficial rates for investment purposes.

## COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

The Council reviewed the excellent response to the Bill Prigg Annual Memorial Warm Clothing and Blanket drive. Donations were made to both Martha's Table and Shepherd's Table for the homeless.

The special trash pick-up was a great success. About 78 homeowners participated and we hauled away 10.11 tons of trash. The total extra cost to the community for dumping fees and personnel was about \$1500. The Council agreed that we should consider doing this "sign up ahead" special pick-up once a year as it was so successful.

The Senior's Brunch went off without a hitch...a number of people met new faces in the community and, of course, old neighbors and friends had an opportunity to chat with one another.

The Holiday show is planned for December 13th, everything seems in place (see story this issue).

State Assemblyman Al Carr paid a visit to the Council meeting and described a piece of legislation he had developed that would allow owners of historic properties in municipalities to bypass any individual municipality setback rules and have the Park and Planning Commission rule on the setbacks.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Montgomery County's Volunteer center is recruiting a staff to join their team. They are looking for folks in the Pro-Bono Consultant Program, where they match highly skilled volunteers with specific short-term projects at nonprofits—sounds like a perfect retirement option! They also have "Advisors and Ambassadors" to spread the word about volunteering in the County and to help match volunteers with opportunities to serve with more than 800 registered nonprofit agencies... And finally, if you have a specific language skill, the County is looking for folks to join their Language Bank to help serve as volunteer interpreters and translators.

Go to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer), or contact Laura Brown at 240 777-2638 or [laura.brown@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:laura.brown@montgomerycountymd.gov).

## NEED A PLUMBER YOU CAN TRUST? OTHER HOME SERVICES?

Washington Consumer Checkbook has one of the most outstanding records on a wide range of services for area consumers. The publication is produced quarterly and Section 3 is subscribing and will lend it to residents who are in need of certain services. When new issues come out, the services surveyed will be listed. Available for viewing now from the Fall/Winter issue are articles highlighting: **Finding the Best Plumbers, ratings of primary care physicians, auto body shops, tree care services, household movers, garden nurseries, lawn care services and watch repair shops.** Contact the Village Manager if any of the above articles meet your needs and she will provide copies for you.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT!

Hopefully we won't have that problem this winter, but *should you lose power, be certain to contact Pepco as soon as possible.* Their computers record calls and it is the quickest way to get attention. If you don't call, it's the sound of one hand clapping...The number to call—write it on your directory is: 1 877-737-2662. If you should be in the odd position of being elsewhere with power while someone at home has lost power, you can actually go to [www.Pepco.com](http://www.Pepco.com) and see how extensive the outage is. Sadly, however, they only know how extensive it is if you call and let them know you don't have power!



## SIDEWALK SHOVELING A MUST

The last major snow storm challenged us all—the snow removal contractors, the State Highway



Department, and those of us who must shovel our own sidewalks. To clarify a Montgomery County and Section 3 rule: **homeowners are responsible for clearing the sidewalks abutting their property.** Shoveling the car out is important, but being a good neighbor is equally important—that means clearing a path so that pedestrians aren't forced into the street. This ordinance has been part of our Code of Ordinances for many years:

### Section 7-211 Unremoved Snow or Ice

It shall be unlawful for any person to maintain or neglect a hazardous condition resulting from an accumulation of snow or ice upon any sidewalk within the village. The owners and occupants of properties abutting a sidewalk shall:

- (a) Remove or cause the removal of snow and ice for a reasonable width for the entire length of any sidewalk abutting upon their property.
- (b) Refrain from depositing or causing a deposit of removed snow or ice upon any public street.
- (c) Remove or cause the removal of snow and ice within twelve hours, or a reasonable time, after a snowfall.
- (d) Be charged a removal cost in the event that the Village shall have caused the removal of accumulated snow and ice upon the failure of the owner and occupant to comply with the Village's notification and order to remove such snow and ice.

Failure to comply can result in a fine of \$200 plus the cost of hiring people to remove the snow or ice.

If you need assistance in getting this job done and you are a senior citizen, Section 3 can help you and we already have a hefty list of individuals who regularly get their public walkways cleared. For those who want private sidewalks and driveways cleared—both seniors and the younger set, feel free to contact the village manager for the names of teens near your home. If you are a teenager who hasn't been contacted and you'd like to earn a little extra cash,

please feel free to contact the Village Manager to let us know you're interested. We have a very small number of teenagers living in Section 3 right now—many more kids age 10 and under, so it won't be long before we'll have lots of kids looking for some extra work, but at the moment, the ranks are thin. A number of lawn services also provide snow removal services and, if you have a lawn contractor, you may also want to get in touch with them as soon as possible as the snow begins falling.

## MVA ON WHEELS

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration takes a mobile office to Friendship Heights once a month between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Basic functions that you would do at an "express" office can be done there. For example, for those who want a photo id card instead of a driver's license if they no longer drive, the mobile office can provide that. License renewal, tag returns, registration renewals, can all be done at the mobile office parked in front of the Village of Friendship Heights community center at 4433 South Park Avenue. If you want to cut short your wait and get "express" business taken care of, the dates for the first half of 2010 are: January 25, February 22, March 29, April 26, May 24, and June 21.

## CHEVY CHASE@HOME

CHEVY CHASE AT HOME will welcome the New Year with another Mix and Mingle on Tuesday, January 5th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. The Book Club will discuss *Founding Mothers* by Cokie Roberts. They will have the game tables set up, the Computer Coaches back, and fun and refreshments for all! A wonderful musical program is planned for January 19th, when Section 3 resident **Tim Healy** will be on hand to entertain us with his guitar. And looking ahead to February 2nd, the group will be adding an exciting new feature called "Myself Growing Older: Stories and Reminiscences," where you will have the opportunity to share your own memories with the group. All seniors are welcome for these events.

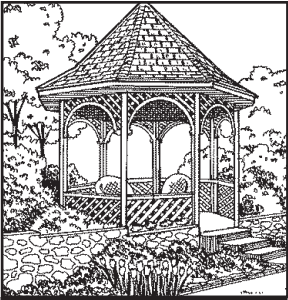
The group's Tradesmen's Committee needs the names of area experts in all the skills required to keep up an aging residence—excellent plumbers, carpenters, etc. And the Volunteer Services Committee would love to hear from more neighbors willing to volunteer their skills and time. If you have names of tradesmen to offer, please get in touch with Naomi Kaminsky at [gruffian@verizon.net](mailto:gruffian@verizon.net). To volunteer, please contact Joan Urban at [JBUMoscow@aol.com](mailto:JBUMoscow@aol.com).



**SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE**

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**SECTION THREE  
VILLAGE OF  
CHEVY CHASE**

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# News & Views

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JANUARY 2010

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**IF YOU HAD AN EMERGENCY, COULD THE AMBULANCE  
DRIVER/FIRE TRUCK/POLICE DEPARTMENT SEE YOUR  
HOUSE NUMBERS?**

HOUSE NUMBERS SHOULD BE AT LEAST 5.5" HIGH  
AND BE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED—IT'S A COUNTY LAW!  
A SMALL INVESTMENT FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.

