

SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

News & Views

MARCH 2009

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
FIRST BULK TRASH PICKUP of 2009 *Curbside*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11
Council Meeting
CCUMC Room 109 7:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22
Deadline for those who wish to run for Council
to submit 250 word statements

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
Bulk Trash Pick-up Curbside

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon
Gazebo Park 12:00 noon sharp
(for children 6 and under—families welcome to
watch and eat lunch—be sure to bring a basket!)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
Council Meeting
CCUMC Room 109 7:45 p.m.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

WWW.CHEVYCHASESECTION3.COM

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COUNCIL DISCUSSES MAJOR BUDGET ITEMS

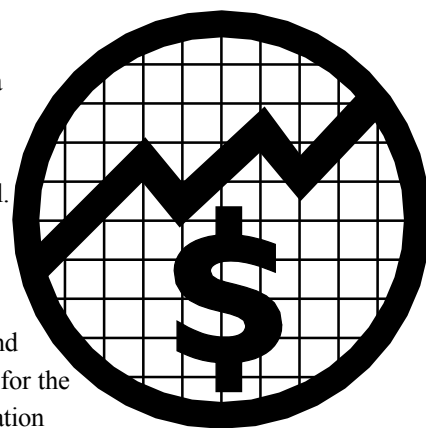
Section 3 residents will benefit from a series of new projects—including upgraded street lighting throughout the community—that are now under discussion by the Council.

At the most recent Council meeting, major capital improvement expenditures for public lighting were outlined, along with a project to improve street signage, lettering and posts in the village. Another project planned for the community will create a Geographic Information System (GIS) for Section 3. The system will allow the village to call up all past and present building activity connected with every lot and structure, to generate maps for contractors, locate street lights, trees, sewer inlets and other items related to our infrastructure—all on efficient, electronically generated GIS maps. Several other towns and village in the area either have installed a GIS program or are planning on doing so.

Regarding street signs, the Council last year hired a consultant to evaluate all existing signage. Based on the consultant recommendations, we have recently installed or re-installed street signs throughout the village for safety purposes (stop, no parking, bump, etc).

Our next step is to improve the actual street name signs with new and improved lettering and posts. The Council has discussed the type of signage it would like to see. A prototype order for a single intersection will soon be ordered. So before we put out for bid an order for all street signs, we can be certain that we find the new signs effective and appealing. The Town of Chevy Chase did this some years ago and its borders are clearly noted by the street signs. Section 3 is eager to improve the look of the signs with a different background and font style, but one which is more easily readable at night than the signs in the Town of Chevy Chase.

At the same time, the Council has determined that we need to better survey the community and install permanent markers at every corner in the community, that way, when a resident needs to have a boundary survey done, much of the work will have already been done and the cost for a boundary survey to the homeowner should be much lower. At the same time, it will make it possible for us to introduce a change in our ordinances such that when any addition or new construction takes place in the community, a boundary survey will be required and the data will have



MAJOR BUDGET ITEMS, 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.*



COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Council met on Wednesday, February 11th at CCUMC in room 109. The meeting began at 7:55 p.m. All Council members were in attendance.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

There were no significant police reports for the last month.

Street safety signs are being installed. It was discovered that we were missing three bump signs. They were ordered and will be installed along with the other new signage. New signage should be installed within about a week to 10 days, weather permitting.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

The two O'Brien properties are well underway. **Mr. O'Brien** will inform us when the well driller will install the geo-thermal pump at 6803 Florida Street. Otherwise, work is progressing on both houses.

There seems to be no activity on the two lots for sale on Bradley Lane. Once the weather is a bit warmer, the Village Manager promises to ask the property owner, **Patrick Strauss**, to clean up the area outside the wall which is filled with debris. We have already had our contractor clean the swale of debris when they did street cleaning.

The head of Buildings and Roads is working with the owners, neighbor and builder of the new house on Taylor Street to resolve shared driveway issues. Section 3 called in our consulting civil engineer who reviewed the drainage plans for the house and suggested a second discharge tank for the rear yard, which the builder has agreed to so that water problems will not impact on adjacent neighbors' rear yards.

The Council discussed the grass or lack thereof in the park and that we will have to overseed in the spring. Rules for dogs in the park are now posted and most people seem to be obeying them. Our irrigation contractor has noted the leak in the valve in the park and promises to repair it as soon as the weather is warm enough.

The **Barry** family's request for a variance (see February 2009 News and Views) will be voted on at the March meeting.

An educational forum has been organized by the managers of Martins Additions and Section 3 for all the Chevy Chase communities with a consulting lighting engineer to better inform us all about lighting issues. The forum's cost will be split among all the jurisdictions attending. Each jurisdiction is sending two represen-

tatives to the forum.

The Village Manager reported that Chamberlain contractors will be milling, paving and patching the no outlet segment of Delaware Street as soon as it is warm enough. All residents will have plenty of notice before the work begins but it shouldn't take more than two or three days at best for the work to be started and completed. This is one of the few streets that hasn't had any repairs in many years. In addition to milling and paving, there is a large area requiring a deep patch on that block where the underlying foundation of the street has deteriorated.

The next block that will be milled and paved will be the block of Florida Street between Spring and Raymond Streets but that won't happen until after all the construction on the new house on that block at 6803 is completed.

The Council discussed all the big-ticket items that it would be putting out for bid or exploring in the near and distant future: evaluating our lighting system, putting out for bid a package to provide us with a working GIS system and boundary markers throughout the community, new street signs for the entire community to distinguish our community and make the streetscape more attractive and unified, and possible new lighting for the community. It was agreed that for this upcoming budget, we will use some of our reserves for these long-term investments.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council agreed to seek out one additional bank with FDIC insurance in which to place some investment funds. It was agreed that this year's budget process is going to be challenging as we won't have a very accurate assessment of our income tax revenues because of the downturn in the economy. As always, we will budget conservatively with that in mind.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

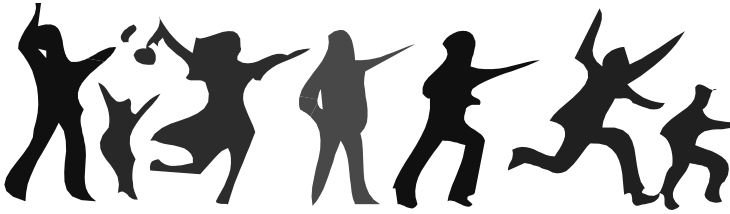
The Council discussed the pros and cons of a date for the Easter Egg Hunt and agreed to check last year's calendar and check with the volunteer organizers before setting that date. They agreed to re-hire Mindy's Catering for the luncheon.

OTHER

The organizing meeting for the new Chevy Chase Seniors Village is set for February 17th, and a number of Section 3 residents have been asked to or volunteered to be involved. We will continue to report on their progress.

The Council agreed to update the website with new building permit information and a revised, updated copy of the ordinances which are now being proofread.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

She just couldn't wait to move into Section 3, so **Margot Olivia Derrick** decided to arrive five weeks early! Congrats to mom and dad **John and Kelly** and big sister **Lindsay**. Born on February 4th, Margot is at home enjoying her new environment!

Welcome to Meghan Burke Cross and her son James, age 1, who will be staying with parents **Vincent and Kate Burke** on Fulton Street while her husband serves 13 months in Iraq.

EASTER EGG HUNT AND LUNCHEON PLANNED

Mark April 4th on your calendars for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon for Section 3 families at the Gazebo Park. As usual, we will "hide" eggs in the park for toddlers and children up to the age of 6 (in shifts by age group). Volunteer organizers **Debby Glynn, Donna Harmon, Ev Gerson, Natasha Saifee** and **Carolyn Greis** are at work on planning a delightful low-key event and tasty finger-food luncheon.

A reminder: only those 6 and under can participate but siblings and their parents are invited to lunch. You have to bring your own basket and each child is limited to 10 eggs or fewer!

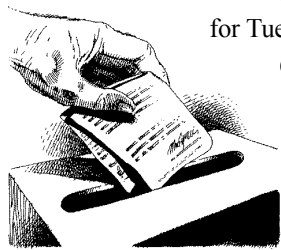
Parents of children in that age group will be receiving further notification with details.

ELECTIONS ARE COMING!

The Annual Meeting and Elections is slated for Tuesday, May 11th. The terms of three

Council members are up and all three have indicated that they intend to run again. They are: **Natasha Saifee**, Council Vice-Chair, **Carolyn Greis**, head of Buildings and Roads, and **Bill Brownlee**, Council Chairman. If you

are interested in running for office, please write up in 250 words or less, who you are and why you want to run for office and your qualifications. The deadline for submissions by email to the Village Manager (AndyLeon2006@earthlink.net) or in person (3801 Bradley Lane) is 5:00 p.m. March 22nd so that it can be printed in the April newsletter.



STREET LIGHTING GETS A CLOSER LOOK

As of January, 2008, the type of light which illuminates all Section 3 streets—a mercury vapor model—can no longer be manufactured because of its environmental impact. Pepco has some stock of replacement lights, but ultimately, we will have to select a different kind of light to illuminate our streets. At the moment, Section 3 pays Pepco not only for the street lights (including those on Connecticut Avenue and some on Brookville Road in our Section), but we pay Pepco to maintain those lights. Almost a third of every month's Pepco bill is for "maintenance" charges. Our average Pepco bill for all street lighting (excluding the gazebo in the park) is about \$600 per month.

Until recently, we had no choice but to pay those fees. However, the state legislature recently passed a law that allows us to decide to continue that relationship with Pepco, or arrange to maintain the lights ourselves, and even to purchase and maintain our own lighting. This leaves the field wide open for many choices. Another separate option is to possibly join with other municipalities in Montgomery and Prince Georges County interested in purchasing electricity at a cheaper "co-op" rate. That consortium has yet to form, but we are being kept in the loop by the individual organizing the group.

The Council is currently exploring options for the future street lighting of our streets. Several local jurisdictions have already made the switch. The Village of Friendship Heights has for many years, installed and owned their own sodium vapor lights which they pay a private contractor to maintain for them. Chevy Chase View (south of Kensington) has recently added 30 lights to their 50 light inventory and had Pepco switch the style and type of light to a less maintenance intensive but very attractive "induction" light. Garrett Park has also made dramatic changes in their lighting, not just on Strathmore Avenue (mandated in part by the State Highway Administration) but also on their interior streets. Kensington is working with a private contractor to purchase all their street lights from Pepco and shift to a different fixture and maintain their own extensive (some 300+) street lighting. Chevy Chase Village is exploring the possibility of abandoning Pepco poles entirely and installing a whole new system of street lights and poles of their own with underground wiring. As this relates to pedestrian safety, they will be able to use the revenues from their speed cameras for this purpose. Other local jurisdictions are also exploring their options.

REMEMBER: SUNDAY, MARCH 8

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME—SPRING FORWARD!

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IS MARCH 19 COMMUNITY LECTURE TOPIC

Historian and author Anthony Cohen, who has traced the steps of runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad, will present the Chevy Chase Historical Society's spring lecture on Thursday, March 19, at 8 p.m. at Chevy Chase Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Avenue. The community is welcome to the free program.

"The Underground Railroad in Montgomery County History" will be the topic of Cohen's illustrated talk. Cohen describes the Underground Railroad as "...one of the most positive aspects of our heritage, although it grew out of one of the most insidious chapters in our history." He is the founder and president of The Menare Foundation, Inc., a national non-profit which offers tours of Underground Railroad landmarks in Montgomery County, a major starting point on the secret escape route for runaway slaves.

As a complement to the lecture, CCHS will offer a two-hour walking tour of Underground Railroad sites, "In Their Steps," in Rockville on Saturday, March 21. The cost is \$15 per person for CCHS members and \$20 for non-members. Detailed registration information can be found at www.chevyCHASEhistory.org. Questions may be directed to Susan Elwell at (240) 277-3137.

Questions about the March 19 lecture may be directed to Shelly Brunner at (301) 907-8072.

MAJOR BUDGET ITEMS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to conform to the GIS system so that we can over time, input all property boundaries correctly and not have concerns about the accuracy of property lines between houses. The Council has already agreed to this in principle but would not like to impose the boundary survey requirement until after the monuments are in place.

None of these items is inexpensive. We asked one firm to bid on the GIS system; their bid, however, far exceeded our \$10,000 ceiling for contracts issued without bidding. We will now prepare and send out a package to three recommended bidders for this work. As part of this effort, we will also have to acquire a PC laptop exclusively for the purpose of holding the GIS system and our community database which is now operated by the Village Manager on her own software and her own machine. Consolidating these two functions will make the flow of information and tracking of jobs far more flexible and make it possible for the Council member in charge of buildings and roads to maintain records without heavy reliance on paperwork. At the moment, all the building permits ever issued since we incorporated in 1981 are bound in 10 loose-leaf notebooks, a clumsy way to maintain community records!

The next year promises to be an ambitious one, but one which will create long-lasting improvements for the community.

And while we will spend down some of our reserves for these efforts, the Council is keenly aware that our main source of funds, income taxes, may well be depressed for the next several years, so we will be prudent in our use of those reserves to be certain that we don't overspend at a time when we may have to rely on that "rainy day" money.

THE B-CC BOOK SALE IS BACK!!! GIVE YOUR BOOKS A NEW HOME!

DONATE BOOKS TO THE B-CC HIGH SCHOOL PTSA USED BOOK SALE
MARCH 28 AND 29, 2009

FICTION AND NONFICTION: CHILDREN'S, YOUNG ADULT, MYSTERY, ART, SCI-FI,
TRAVEL, BUSINESS/ECONOMICS, COOKING, HOME AND GARDEN, POLITICS,
HISTORY, TEST PREP, FOREIGN LANGUAGE, SCIENCE, AND MORE!
PLEASE NO ENCYCLOPEDIAS, OUTDATED TEXTBOOKS, OR MAGAZINES.

Drop Off Dates:

FRI. March 20 2:30-9:00pm SAT. March 21 8:00am - 6:00pm SUN. March 22 9:00am - 5:00pm

MON. March 23 thru THURS. March 26 2:30pm - 9:00pm FRI. March 27 2:30pm - 7:00pm

Curbside Drop-Off at the main entrance to B-CC High School (4301 East-West Hwy)

Tax receipts given at drop-off.

Proceeds support B-CC PTSA.

EDUCATIONAL FORUM ON STREET LIGHTING

Section 3 and Martins Additions were hosts to a recent educational forum on the subject with lighting consultant, Scott Watson, whose services have been used by several jurisdictions in this area.

Our street lights were probably laid out in the 1920s when much of Section 3 was developed. We have added a light here and there where dark spots have been of concern, but the entire system has never been evaluated for its effectiveness and for the best type of lighting for our streets.

The Council has agreed to the next step: hiring a consultant to review our current lighting system with an eye towards defining our needs and options. Pepco, sadly, offers a very limited series of options in terms of lighting type and styles for those who are switching from mercury vapor to other lighting systems and styles. There are many other options and we have begun the education process to better understand what makes sense in terms of quality of light, expense, duration of fixtures, etc.

The variables are endless but the goal is simple: good quality lighting for both cars and pedestrians; lighting that will not glare into bedroom windows; energy and cost efficient lighting; lighting that will provide safety for our residents without the "daylight" look of downtown commercial streets.

The Council fully expects that it will have to spend a portion of our reserves for this effort, but it is hoped that if properly executed, these improvements will last for generations and improve our safety and streetscape over the long term. As we continue the process of evaluating our needs, we will continue to keep the community informed.

ENGLISH CLASSES FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

Beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes will be offered at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane in Bethesda. Registration will be held Saturday, February 14 from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon. Classes are FREE; however, a \$10.00 deposit and \$20 book fee are required. For more information, call (240) 777-8210. Provided in partnership by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center and the Chinese Culture and Community Center.

THE SHREDDER IS COMING!!!

If you are working on your taxes, you know that you really don't have to keep detailed records for any more than the last seven years, and for most of us, the last three years should be sufficient. So if you're concerned because you don't want to just throw items with your social security numbers in the trash and you don't have a shredder big enough, we're coming to your rescue with SHRED IT!, a professional firm with a giant shredder that will do away with your precious information with dispatch...and at no cost to you!

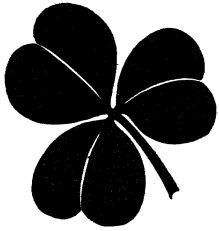
Section 3 and Martins Additions have joined forces to hire the firm exclusively for the residents of both jurisdictions on Saturday, April 18th (right after tax season) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The limit is five boxes per person-papers only. Don't worry about staples or a little bit of metal, that's for the home version of one of these chompers....You will be able to drive up near Brookville Market, wait in line, hand over your boxes and watch them chomp up your no longer valuable papers and be on your way. It's quick, it's easy, and it's free! If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Village Manager by phone or e-mail. In the meantime, mark the date on your calendar! Further information on the location will appear in the April newsletter.

BCC HONORS MONTGOMERY COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

On Thursday, March 12, 2009 from 7-9 p.m., the BCC high school community (alumni, parents, neighbors and community members) will hold the third annual "Wine, Chocolate and Cheese" event at the Women's Club of Chevy Chase.

The event will honor B-CC's math teacher and class advisor, Christopher Orlando; who is Montgomery County's 2008 Teacher of the Year. Contributions for this fundraiser held by the BCC Educational Foundation will be used to benefit important programs sponsored by the Foundation, including after-school tutoring, CollegeTracks, mentoring, staff development, grants and other academic support programs.

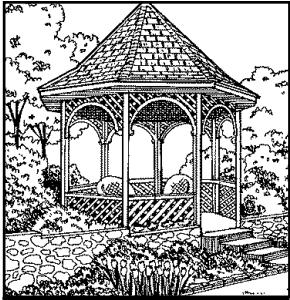
For more information go to www.bccedfoundation.org or call (301) 657-2547 for more information.



SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

P.O. Box 15070

Chevy Chase, MD 20815



SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

News & Views

MARCH 2009

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



2008

IT'S TAX TIME!

By now you're well into getting your 2008 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.!