

SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

News & Views

MAY 2010

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

Household bulk trash pick-up, curbside

TUESDAY, MAY 11

Annual Meeting and Elections

Voting 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Meeting 8 p.m.

Speaker on Water-loving plants, shrubs and trees

SUNDAY, MAY 16

Annual House Tour

2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

See story this issue

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

Bulk Trash Pick-up, Curbside

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

Council Meeting

CCUMC Room 109

7:45 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING TO FEATURE RAINSCAPES SPEAKER

Virtually every house in Section 3 sports a sump pump. This past spring and winter, we were all challenged by the amount of water in our yards, and in some cases, in our basements. For some of these problems, careful planting of just the right species, would help ameliorate the situation. Other non-high tech solutions include rain chains in lieu of downspouts, and rain barrels to capture and direct rainwater to our gardens. To discuss all these solutions with us, the Council is pleased to announce this year's Annual Meeting speaker, Ann English, a member of Montgomery County's "Rainscapes" staff who will discuss County incentive programs for items like rainbarrels as well as the kinds of plants that thrive with what gardeners call "wet feet".

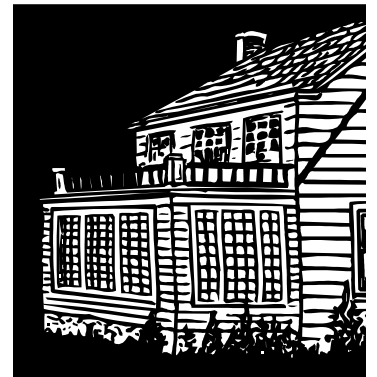
English is a landscape architect and planner. The County program promotes projects on residential, institutional and commercial properties to reduce stormwater pollution.

Join us for this fascinating talk which will begin as soon as the business of the Annual meeting is completed. Voting is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., followed by the Annual Meeting at which the year is summarized by various Council members and the budget is discussed and voted on.

HOUSE TOUR SLATED FOR MAY 16

This year's House Tour is a combination of remodeling projects and spectacular gardens. Join us to tour five wonderful Section 3 homes/and or gardens. The price of admission? Bring gently used towels and all those lovely travel soaps and lotions that you bring back from hotel stays. We'll collect them at the first house you go to and then bring them to Shepherd's Table, a Montgomery County nonprofit serving the homeless in Silver Spring. Their "Progress Place" facility in Silver Spring offers showers to the homeless and they need all the soap, shampoos and towels they can get. In addition, we will be collecting used eyeglasses to donate to the Lions Club who will then ship those to poor countries where people in need of vision correction will be given your old glasses.

This year's tour includes a work in progress: the renovation of 7003



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HOUSE TOUR, CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

**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, April 14, 2010. All Council members were in attendance.

The Council approved the March minutes as they appeared in News & Views with one correction, Council Chair Bill Brownlee was not in attendance, he was out of the country.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

The Council discussed the various approaches to hiring police starting July 1st. Our current arrangement with Chevy Chase Village police is being terminated due to budget cutbacks by Chevy Chase Village. The Village Manager has learned that we may be able to hire off-duty Montgomery County officers at a reasonable cost. She agreed to contact our County police community liaison to find out the best means of reaching out to police who might like some extra income.

We have submitted our bills for partial reimbursement for the December snow storm to MEMA (Maryland Emergency Management Agency). At best we will get 75 percent of the 48 hour period we reported. The two back-to-back February storms have yet to be declared emergencies as there is much discussion about linking the two storms, picking a 72 hour period within the period of the two storms, etc. New FEMA rules make getting reimbursed far more challenging. The Village Manager has already attended two FEMA meetings on the first snow storm and will have to do the same once the second storm is declared.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

The property at 7104 Florida Street continues to be a problem. The County has been involved in citing the property owner and he has responded by cleaning up the land, but not yet to the satisfaction of the County. They have threatened him with fines and has notified the Council that he is working to comply.

Section 3 has asked the owner to provide us with a copy of his drainage plan for the site. The Village Manager promised to check with permitting services regarding their requirements vis-à-vis drainage plans.

The property at 3805 Raymond Street has been cleaned up. They have put in proper house numbers and removed the unregistered car from sight. The County has revisited the property and deemed it satisfactory.

The Village Manager is waiting for the copies of the titles from our GIS Survey team for all the properties in the “drainage

reservation” so that a proper title search can be made. A title search firm has been identified and will be presented with the task once all the titles are in hand.

Anne Zehner sent a letter to the Council saying that after having a visit by our consulting engineer, Bill Bissell, her consulting engineer and Carolyn Greis and the Village Manager, she has decided to try and dig a water retention ditch to prevent her rear yard from flooding after a heavy rain.

The Village Manager reported that the requirements for an energy grant from the state of Maryland were so onerous regarding both bookkeeping and the need to hire contractors who met Davis-Bacon Act standards that the \$5,000 grant would probably cost us more in the end because it would so limit our selection of subcontractors for our street lighting project.

The Village Manager reported that the total cost for the “chipper” run following the February storm was \$3970. The contractor used one very large truck and three additional trucks to remove all the debris piled in the greenways by our residents. Without question, this effort saved everyone in the Village a significant amount of money had they had to hire contractors themselves. The Council discussed the possibility of doing another “chipper” run possibly annually.

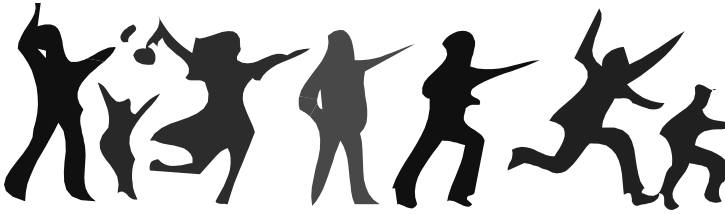
The **Edelens** came to the Council meeting and answered questions about their proposed expansion of their all day daycare center from 8 to 24 children. Lanny Johnson, a neighbor, also attended. The Council had heard from a number of residents prior to the meeting, all expressing the following concerns:

1. The precedent it sets for our community to have a resident operating a large home-business.
2. Traffic congestion on Connecticut Avenue and/or increased car traffic and parking on our local streets, particularly Raymond, Georgia and Bradley, related to drop off and pick up of children from the center (drop off between 8-9 a.m. and pick up between 5-6 p.m.).
3. Increased noise from 12 to 24 children using the facility's outdoor areas during the day.
4. The impact of granting the proposed Special Exception use on property values in the community.

The Council agreed to hire a traffic engineer to determine the impact on both Connecticut Avenue and on the adjacent streets as parents from both north and south come to drop off and pick up their children. The Council also agreed to summarize the concerns of those who had responded to the article in the last issue of News & Views and share those concerns and ask for responses from the community via e-mail.

The Edelens informed the Council that the hearing or meeting with the Planning Commission will take place on July 1 and

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to **Emily McKinnon** of Brookville Road who has been accepted at the University of Dallas. Emily, who has been home schooled since the sixth grade, received a Board of Trustees scholarship for academic achievement. She also auditioned for and received a special scholarship from the Theater Department. Emily, who has won four consecutive gold awards on the National Latin Exam has also applied for a scholarship awarded by the sponsoring organization of that exam. She also received the O'Hara Scholarship to a summer program at the University of Dallas to study Chemistry—a regular Renaissance woman: Latin, Chemistry and Theater!

Congratulations to **Sarah Baranes** who will be going to Colgate University this coming Fall.

We hope to hear from others as they make their final decisions.

IMPROVED WEBSITE COMING ATTRACTIONS

Section 3 has had the same website for about a decade, and it's time for an update. Calvert Design Group, which has designed websites recently for Chevy Chase Village, Martins Additions, Garrett Park and the Town of Chevy Chase, has been hired to revamp our website and become our new host. The remodeled website (www.chevychase3.com) should be up and running on or about May 1st. It will offer updated versions of our ordinances, more user friendly information for new neighbors or those exploring the possibility of becoming new neighbors. It will also provide an easy set of directions and a map for residents to direct family, friends and contractors to print out from their computers wherever they are. We expect to have more photos of neighborhood events and an easier way to get at information.

Donna Harmon, Council Secretary, and the Village Manager have been working on the content. Once the website is up and all the pages filled, we'd appreciate any feedback from our residents.

FLORIDA STREET FROM RAYMOND TO SPRING TO BE MILLED AND PAVED

The much delayed project to mill and pave Florida Street between Raymond and Spring Streets will be completed by June 30th of this year. We delayed the work first because of construction at 6803 Florida Street and then again because of the construction at both the Carters and the Kanes homes, so we are now in the process of getting bids on the work which should take only a few days.

Residents of the affected block will be notified in time as to when the work will be executed and how long they will be inconvenienced.

EASTER EGG HUNT AND LUNCHEON A HUGE SUCCESS

Dozens of little people scoured the **Mimikakis/Owens** lawn for easter eggs dotting the ground like confetti on the Saturday before Easter. The Easter Bunny (aka **David Glynn**) hugged and posed with many of the eager hunters who quickly made a disappearing act of the hundreds of eggs "hidden" by **Olivia Ohrenstein** and her cousins, **Campbell Lombardi** and friends and **Will Lombardi**. **Andra Chernak** provided a festive musical mix. Families quickly went across the street to the Gazebo Park where tables were set up on the lawn on a beautiful sunny day and everyone had lunch.

Special thanks to **Debbie and David Glynn**, MC **Chris Lombardi** and all the volunteers who helped make the event such a success!

CHEVY CHASE @ HOME

Save the following dates for Chevy Chase@Home meetings at the Chevy Chase Village Hall on Connecticut Ave. at 2 p.m.:

Tuesday, May 4: Sandy Geller will continue her popular gathering of story tells, "Myself Growing Older" where participants share stories of their lives. She's asked participants to bring along childhood photos of themselves.

Tuesday, May 18th: Troy Fox, who works for the Royal Bank of Canada has prepared a valuable presentation on Financial Planning from a Senior's point of view.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND IN OUR BUDGET FOR 2010-2011

This year's proposed budget (published in the March newsletter) includes an additional \$100,000 contribution to the Capital Improvement Fund from our reserves. The budget, at first blush, appears to be operating a deficit of some \$600,000. In fact, were the Capital Improvement Fund removed, we would be \$56,625 over our estimated income. The entire Capital Improvement Fund is not taken from this coming year's income, but rather from reserves we have put aside for this purpose to earmark monies for big expensive improvements—most recently, our street lights will come out of this fund. Last year we earmarked \$500,000 for this effort, of which we have spent less than \$6,000 for engineering assistance and legal assistance. The actual cost of the lights will be about \$120,000, but there are many attendant costs which we can't quantify as yet, not the least of which is either purchasing the existing lights from Pepco (a mandate of a 2007 state law) or seizing a spot on the light pole via eminent domain if we can't agree on a price. Both options are still open as we haven't completed our negotiations with Pepco as yet.

It's extremely important that we earmark as much of our funds for specific purposes so that when we need the funds, we have them. The shift in the labeling of these funds makes it possible for us to take on ambitious projects like properly lighting the entire community, something that hasn't been attempted perhaps since the 1950's when lights were added to our streets. For the first time we have hired a consultant to provide us with a plan for clean, low energy lights that will more evenly illuminate our streets. So please don't be disturbed by the apparent "deficit"; it's merely a way of allocating a portion of funds from our healthy level of reserves for specific purposes.

PARK TO OPEN MAY 2ND

This past winter was tough on all our yards, not the least of which was the Gazebo Park, which gets a work-out on any given day. Our contractor, Level Green Landscaping, seeded the lawn but the seed didn't germinate adequately and they have subsequently re-seeded the ground. We expect that as of May 2nd, the grass will be sufficiently grown so that we can use it again.

COUNCIL ACTIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

that the hearing examiner will hear the case on July 23rd. The Village, through the Council, and through any individuals who would like to speak at either hearing, can be heard (see March 2010 News and Views, page 3).

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council agreed to have an article in the May issue of News and Views further explaining the Capital Improvement Fund and its relationship to our reserves, etc. (see story this issue).

There are 3 CDs maturing in April---the interest rate environment is very poor and the Village Manager promises to research new banks with more attractive rates.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

The "Everybody's Irish" event was a big success. The Council agreed it should be an annual event. Next year we'll offer more beer and more food. This year, attendance was fabulous, in part due to excellent weather. We were able to save money by cancelling the heater for the tent. Thanks again to the Barry family for loaning their front yard for the event.

The Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon was also a big success. We need to make it clear that everyone is invited, but only those under 6 can collect eggs. Next year we will promote the luncheon first and the Hunt second. Many thanks to Debbie Glynn for coordinating all the volunteer efforts, including those of David, her husband and this year's Easter Bunny!

The Council discussed possible sites for this year's House Tour. The Village Manager will pursue those listed. The Council agreed to hold the House Tour on May 16th, if we can get enough houses, the Wine Tasting on June 6th and the Welcome New Neighbors barbeque on July 15th.

We were still waiting to hear about the availability of a speaker for the Annual meeting.

Our web site host has notified us that as of May 1st, they will no longer be hosting non-financial websites. As a result, the Village Manager is searching for a new web host and, we will use this opportunity to review and revise the website to update it and make it more user friendly. (See story this issue.)

The Shred-It event has yet to have a firm date, the Village Manager has contacted Iron Mountain to see if they have availability on the dates agreed to with Martins Additions and Section 5. We will try and get a May date.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

CHALLENGING QUESTIONS FOR CHEVY CHASE ELEMENTARY 6TH GRADE

With Montgomery County facing serious deficits, the County Board of Education's budget has been cut and as part of that effort, a change has been proposed that would move sixth graders from Chevy Chase Elementary School (where there currently is no overcrowding) to Westland Middle School.

This proposal presents some difficult challenges for our neighborhood. In the early 1970s, in an effort to provide greater diversity for children in this area, it was agreed that children from our community would be bused to Silver Spring to Rosemary Hills Primary School for grades K through 2. Then the children from that area would be bused to our community along with our children for grades 3 through 6. This particular change was at the time extremely controversial and hard fought for those on both sides of the issue of busing. It also put our children in a different situation than all other children in the County except those attending North Chevy Chase Elementary School. Everywhere else in the County, all children attend middle school from sixth grade through eighth grade.

There are many issues regarding this proposed change. It means that the wonderful school and resources that we have created in our community at Chevy Chase Elementary will no longer be available to our 6th graders and they will have to be bused to middle school a year earlier than they had traditionally gone. Balancing this concern is the fact that there are enhanced programs now available at the middle school level in both sports and academics which are not now offered at Chevy Chase Elementary. But, at the same time, Westland students have not done as well on testing in English as Chevy Chase 6th graders by a considerable margin, whereas in math, the difference is one point in Westland's favor. No easy answers here.

The issue of overcrowding is also presenting a series of challenges. Right now, Chevy Chase Elementary School is NOT overcrowded by County standards. But Rosemary Hills, the feeder school, is significantly overcrowded, so much so that as many as six portable classrooms may have to be added. When those children get ready to go to third grade, Chevy Chase Elementary will have to accommodate them. Further complicating the issue of overcrowding is that with Chevy Chase students moving over to Westland, which is already overcrowded, it will become even more overcrowded. And while there is talk of building or expanding an existing facility closer to our neighborhood as another middle school, there are no operational funds for such an effort, only construction funds.

Aside from the many overcrowding dilemmas from kindergarten through sixth grade for all parents in this cluster, there are arguments on multiple sides of this issue/ There are those who are happy with the program and the school and see no reason to alter the opportunities now available to our children. There are others who feel that since the move is not tied to the budget but rather a victim of other planning by the Montgomery County Board of Education that affected families should protest the change and not move our children until there is a new middle school that would solve the overcrowding issue. Others feel that this change to send our children to Westland in the sixth grade would level the playing field for our area children by having them all start middle school at the same time as everyone else without sacrificing the goal of diversity. Still others feel that the promise of keeping our children in the neighborhood for four years in exchange for our children being bused to Rosemary Hills has been breached.

These and other issues connected with the proposed shift of the 6th grade will be the topic of discussion at a May 4 PTA meeting (babysitting provided). To be held at 7:30 p.m. at Chevy Chase Elementary, the meeting will cover these issues with representatives on MCPS. We urge you to come to this meeting even if your child is not yet sixth-grade age as this will affect the future of Chevy Chase Elementary School and the quality education it provides.

HOUSE TOUR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

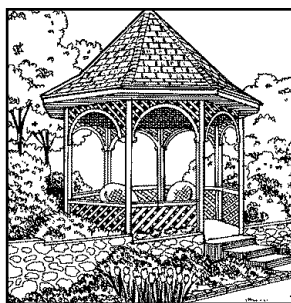
Florida Street by architect/owners **Neil Nott and Carolyn Greis**. Section 3's own **Mike Theide** is the contractor on the job. The couple designed the improvements and managed to re-sculpt the house so that every possible space has been re-purposed, reshaped for maximum efficiency. Also on the tour is the lovely garden owned by **MaryLou Steptoe and Peter Carson**. The rear yard, which has been lovingly designed by Andrea von der Pfordten, demonstrates how one can create a world apart with an imaginative use of water, various textured evergreens, perennials and a spectacular focal point, a life-size Xian Chinese soldier. Also on the tour will be the lush gardens of **David and Florence Isbell**.

Neighbors **Melissa Brown and Chris Whatley** recently purchased a meticulously maintained home on Spring Street. They've decorated it with a 2010 perspective and will share the results of this 1920's gem with you.

Stay tuned, more to come. Everyone will be sent a brochure closer to the event with details on each house/garden on the tour.



SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE
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**SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE**

News & Views

MAY 2010



**MAY 11 ELECTION &
ANNUAL MEETING**
Voting: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Annual Meeting: 8 p.m.

Donna Harmon and David Ohrenstein are running
for re-election. Please vote!
Come hear Ann English speak about wet gardens.