



SECTION THREE  
VILLAGE OF  
CHEVY CHASE

# NEWS & VIEWS

APRIL 2016

## CALENDAR

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6**

Bulk Trash Pick-up, Curbside

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13**

Council Meeting

CCUMC, Room 107, 7:45 p.m.

**APRIL 21-23**

CCUMC Annual Rummage Sale (see page 5)

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 4**

Bulk Trash Pick-up, Curbside

**TUESDAY, MAY 10**

Annual Meeting and Election

Voting 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Meeting begins at 8:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MAY 15**

Section 3 House Tour

2:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 4**

Shred Event

Brookville Market, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## DOUBLE HEADER PARTIES KICK OFF SECTION 3 SOCIAL SEASON

Our annual "Everybody's Irish" party got off to a rousing start on March 17 with some interesting adult beverages, great food which was quickly consumed, and some welcome patio heaters on Fulton Street. Special thanks to the **Barry** family who so graciously allow us to use their front porch to store supplies and allow the whole community to use their front yard. In two short hours, we managed to consume an amazing amount of food and adult beverages!

Happily we had the heaters and the tent for a few days later, when we experienced the coldest weather ever for the Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon. **Seth Benhard** did a great job of impersonating a very large Easter Bunny, posing for pix with children, leading the "hunt." **Ellie Nader, Elizabeth Hudson** and **Debbie Glynn** were indispensable in making the event go off without a hitch. Youngsters scooped up the "hidden" eggs, secreted away by the **Virbikas** girls, **Summer and Sadie, Alec and Madison Mostofi**, and others. A quick delicious luncheon followed the "hunt" with food provided by Mindy's Catering.

## COUNTY COUNCIL HOLDS HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING, REGULATORY CHANGE TO B&Bs

The County Council held a hearing on a proposed change in zoning that would have allowed anyone who wanted to to rent out rooms with "self-certification" and minimal licensing in neighborhoods zoned residential like Section 3. The Planning Board had earlier held a hearing on the same proposal coming from Councilmember Hans Reimer. The Planning Board staff recommended against allowing rooming houses in areas zoned R-60 (like Section 3) and R-90, another single family designation in Montgomery County. The proposal also would have allowed similar "shared economy" rentals of rooms in condominiums.

At the March 8 hearing on the two companion pieces of legislation, the Village Manager spoke on behalf of Section 3, pointing out that such lax rules would make a mockery of single family zoning...with no special restrictions on parking and no restraints on how many homes could rent out rooms, or even if the homeowner had to be present. Out of 22 speakers, only four spoke in favor of the legislation, two of whom were attorneys representing their clients.

Subsequently, the County Council withdrew both the zoning change proposal and the companion ordinance and asked Planning Board staff to research the possibilities for such activity a la Air B&B and make recommendations by June or early summer.

## VILLAGE COUNCIL

[WWW.CHEVYCHASESECTION3.ORG](http://WWW.CHEVYCHASESECTION3.ORG)

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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.*



## COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Council met on Wednesday, March 9 at CCUMC in room 107. All Council members except Chairman Brownlee were in attendance. The meeting began at 7:55 p.m.

### PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

The Council discussed a problem of a loud party on Fulton Street where guests were shouting obscenities at 4:00 a.m. The police were called, but the ruckus had died down before they arrived.

### BUILDINGS & ROADS

The Council's Buildings and Roads representative reported that there were a number of projects in the offing. A permit for a dumpster and a three-story addition and deck was issued was to the **Hauswirth** family of 3703 Taylor Street. A permit for a temporary storage unit was issued to the **O'Neil** family of 6808 Georgia Street but they then decided not to use it.

The County expects to begin work on building a new storm drain on Shepherd Street sometime in May. Test pits will have to be done in advance of the work. The Village Manager will notify residents as soon as a plan and schedule have been shared with the community. Right now it's still in the process of design.

The Council has decided on the road work to be done late this spring. A bid package is being developed to send out to three civil engineering firms to draft the technical specs which will accompany the bid package we expect to send out.

The Montgomery County Council has introduced a zoning text amendment and a bill to allow "Air B&Bs" and similar short-term rentals in residential areas throughout the county. The Council determined that as drafted, the "regulation light" proposal would invite the destruction of single family neighborhoods by allowing strangers to come to homes where homeowners need not even be present and there are no limitations on how many days of the month someone could rent out spaces to up to five guests, no inspections, no parking restrictions, and no liability coverage requirements. The Village Manager, on behalf of the Council testified against the bills at their hearing before the County Council. Of the 22 individuals who testified on short notice, only four were in support of the bill, two of whom were attorneys representing clients. (see story this issue)

### FINANCIAL REPORT

The Office of the Comptroller at a meeting attended by the Village Manager announced that a number of municipalities were

owed back income taxes for errors made by assigning revenues to other jurisdictions. At the February 26 meeting, they announced that they would be sending us a check in March in the amount of \$67,128 (see story this issue).

The Wynne decision claims are being processed by the same office and the state has determined that they will begin taking funds back from the municipalities to reimburse the state for those claims in FY 2017. The repayment will be spread over nine quarters. To date, they have claims from Section 3 residents totaling a little over \$42,000.

The Office of the Comptroller has provided us with their study of the various "bands" of income for each year from 2010 to 2014 which may help us in budget planning.

The budget planning challenge is not knowing how much the later Wynne claims will amount to, the insecurity of not knowing if the Office of the Comptroller has finally accurately identified all Section 3 residents for the purposes of income tax revenues, and the impact of the Wynne case going forward on our budgets.

The Council went over the proposed budget for the next fiscal year which will be voted on at the May Annual Meeting. The figures for that budget will be printed in the May newsletter.

### COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

Plans are in place for both the Everybody's Irish Party and the Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon three days later. Because of the proximity of the two events, the Village Manager arranged for the delivery of a tent, tables and chairs and patio heaters prior to the first event to save money. If the weather is warm enough, she has made arrangements to have the tent picked up early. If the forecast is for colder weather, we will retain the tent.

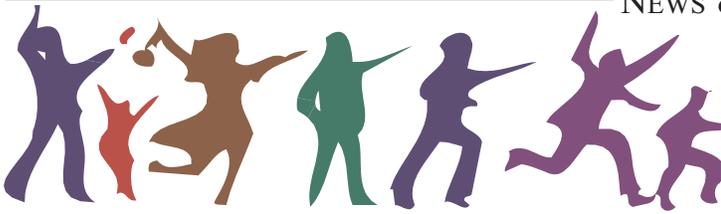
### OTHER

We are working on putting together two upcoming events... the last day of school with games for kids afterschool and hopefully a food truck night for parents that evening. We don't yet know when the last day of public school will be and may opt to simply hold this event on Friday, June 17, the currently scheduled last day of school. That has yet to be decided.

We are also working on a Market Day for Section 3 and working hard to find a farmer who will come that one Saturday to sell veggies. We have a baker (our own **Karen Jacob**) and a florist for the event.

The shredding event is now scheduled for June 4 at Brookville Market for those who want to get rid of old tax records and private papers.

The meeting concluded at 9:15 p.m.



## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to Northwestern University for selecting not one but two Section 3 residents to join their ranks this fall.

**Octavio Bruetman**, son of **Charles Bruetman and Analia Poras** of Bradley Lane, and **Leo Scheck**, son of **Howard and Deborah Scheck** of Taylor Street, will both be attending Northwestern next fall. Octavio will be graduating from Sidwell Friends this spring and Leo from B-CC High School.

Congrats to **Jake Franze** of Georgia Street on his choice to attend NYU this fall. Jake will graduate from B-CC this June. His parents **Anthony and Tracy Franze** have a lot to celebrate this spring. Not only did their son get into his first choice school but Anthony's novel, *The Advocate's Daughter* (St. Martin's Press, March 22, 2016) came out in hardcover and audiobook and has received a lot of advanced praise. *Suspense* magazine called it "the 'best of the best' when it comes to suspense."

**Lila Dittersdorf**, daughter of **Hollis and Neal**, will be graduating this spring and heading to the home of all serious fashionistas, Parsons School of Design in New York City. The artistic apple apparently doesn't fall far from the tree—both Hollis and sister Pier are interior designers.

A special welcome to our newest Section 3 resident, **Madeline "Addie" Rose Friedland** of Raymond Street. Born Tuesday, March 15, Addie weighed in at 7 lbs 5 oz and was 19.5 inches tall at birth. Dad **Randy** and Mom **Molly** are all doing well.

We have an World "erg" champion in our midst! An "erg" or ergometer is a machine used by rowers to mimic rowing and keep in shape off season. All over the country rowers compete on erg machines for the best time possible. Council Chairman Bill Borwnlee, a lifelong crew enthusiast, went from a victory at the mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints held in Arlington, Virginia this January where he won his division with a score of meters in 8 minutes, 51seconds and went on to Boston to the C.R.A.S.H.-B. Springs, where he won the World title representing St. Andrews Alumni Racing with a final time of 8 minutes, 56.5 seconds in his age division, rowing the equivalent of 2,0000 meters. We should note that this is a serious cardio workout that would make younger folks shudder. Bill, age 88, beat out two youngsters, ages 87 and 85. Go Bill! And congratulations!!

## COMPTROLLER OFFICE STILL NOT CLEAR ON TOWN ADDRESSES

A massive error which resulted in at least five years of overpayments to the Town of Chevy Chase (to the tune of \$4.9 million) and underpayments to other municipalities has resulted in an independent audit of the manner in which income tax distributions are handled by the Office of the Comptroller for 2014. By confusing addresses and municipalities, some municipalities have been paid too much, others too little. The County has also been underpaid over \$6 million.

Both County officials and representatives from all the municipalities in the County have been meeting with the Office of the Comptroller staff and hope to resolve these issues. Unfortunately, the Comptroller's office has been reluctant to share addresses they have used so that we can check on their status as it relates to our jurisdiction. We are still awaiting final word on what the auditor evaluated and their methodology. It appears that Section 3 may be owed over \$67,000, however most recently they have informed us that they have already provided us with the bulk of that overpayment, so we are left without answers and awaiting more information at this time. The Village Manager continues to work with County, municipal and State officials to get a proper accounting. At the same time, Senator Rich Maldaleno has proposed a bill now working its way through both houses in Annapolis, which if it passes, may provide for independent audits of income tax distributions for some municipalities at state expense if the errors cannot be adequately explained and accounted for.

## SAVE THE DATE!

The Chevy Chase Historical Society will hold its architectural scavenger hunt on Saturday, April 30. It starts at Chevy Chase Village Hall at any time between 4:00-5:30 p.m., rain or shine and is appropriate for children ages 4-11 accompanied by an adult.

## VARIANCE REQUEST

The **Benhard** family of Raymond Street is requesting two variances for their proposed addition and renovation project. The first variance is to construct a rear porch that will extend two feet into the rear 20 foot setback. The second variance is to build a mud room and side entrance that will encroach a maximum of four feet into the existing east side setback. This will reduce the required sum of side setbacks from 18 feet to 14 feet.



## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

We are fortunate to have a group of elected officials who work hard to make this community the best place to live. Melissa Brown has served on the Council since 2012 and Mike Dietrich since 2014. Take a look at what they have to say and join us on May 10 at the Annual Meeting—vote and to hear what's happening and what has happened in the community. Residents are always welcome to come to any Council meeting. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month except in August when the Council does not meet.

### MELISSA BROWN

I can hardly believe that our family has called Section Three home for the past seven years—the longest that my husband and I have lived in any one place. There was never any doubt that this would be the case; as I have said before, Section Three "had us at hello." It has been a privilege to serve the community on Village Council for four out of these past seven years. During this time, I have learned much from many of you about what is important to and special about Section Three. I would be honored to have your vote and the opportunity to continue to contribute to the decisions, services and social ties that bind us together.

As a bit of background, my husband and I have two daughters—one at Rosemary Hills Elementary and another at Westland Middle School—and a rescue dog who has become a fixture in the park. I have more than 20 years of government service, am active on our church council and, like most Section Three families, spend a lot of time involved in my kids' schools and activities.

For the past several years, the Council has been involved in a range of important issues—making sure the neighborhood stays safe and secure for its residents, maintaining and updating our streets and clearing them when it snows, considering the impact of local development initiatives on our community, and supporting the broad range of social activities that keep us close knit, from the epic party in the party to food truck night.

It has truly been a privilege to work on these issues with the Village Manager and other wonderful neighbors on the Council, a group driven by how to serve the residents of Section Three. I do hope that you will consider entrusting me once more with this special responsibility.

Again, I would be honored to have your vote.

### MIKE DIETRICH

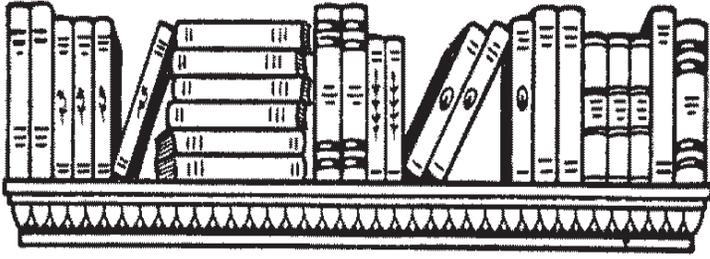
Thanks to your support, I joined the Chevy Chase Section 3 Council two years ago. At that time, I introduced myself as a bit of a Section 3 "addict": two Section 3 addresses in nine years, two boys attending our local elementary and middle schools, and a wife owns a small business just down Connecticut Avenue. Our roots in this neighborhood were—and are—deep.

My recent service on the Council has allowed me a different perspective than I brought to the role two years ago. I'll get to that in a minute, because what has remained constant is more important to me, as I imagine it might be for you; the safe environment, the easy interaction with neighbors, the access to parks, trails and downtown. But mostly, it's the people. Section 3 is a caring, interesting, fun, and active group that works hard to build and sustain a sense of community. The annual Party in the Park, the way we welcome new neighbors, and the Halloween Parade are but a few examples. It's a unique and special quality of life.

What the last two years on the Council has brought into sharper focus is the importance of the services that underpin that quality of life and the real work and thought it takes to maintain them. These are the important, but not-so glamorous things like snow removal, trash services, updating our roads, planting new trees and installing new street signs and street lights. Attention to, and investment in, these "little" things are important, and the Council plays a vital role in administering these things so you don't have to worry about them.

As for professional qualifications, I've proudly served on the Council as Treasurer for the past years. In addition, I've spent 20+ years in the nation's largest technology based businesses, including senior management positions in telecommunications, media, and global software businesses. As such, I have strong business, project management, budget and planning experience, and an ability to see problems clearly and act on them. But more important, I'm a father, a husband, and "VP of Everything Else" reporting directly to my wife.

In all seriousness, this community has given me and my family so much. I've greatly enjoyed giving back over the past two years on the Council, doing what I can to ensure Section 3 remains such a great place to live. I respectfully ask for your vote.



## EVENTS AT CHEVY CHASE LIBRARY

These programs are made possible through the generous support of the Friends of the Library, Chevy Chase Chapter. For more information, call the library at (240) 773-9590.

### STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

On Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00 pm, this program will cover when to enroll in Medicare, the four parts of Medicare, how to enhance your Medicare program and information on Income Support programs and updates on Medicare. The presentation is for people turning 65, disabled eligible for Medicare, health care professionals, family members and caregivers, and as a refresher for people already enrolled in Medicare. For more information, call SHIP (301) 590-2819 or visit [www.medicareabcd.org](http://www.medicareabcd.org)

### HYPNOTIZERS! BY FUTUREMAKERS

On Saturday, April 9 at 10:30 am, create spinning, glowing light machines that hypnotize and amaze at this STEM event! Use motors, LEDs, batteries and simple circuitry to invent the machine of your dreams. All projects go home. All ages, under 8 with an adult. Serves up to 30 children with caregivers; register child only.

### NON-FICTION BOOK GROUP

Join the group on Wednesday, April 13 at 2:00 pm to discuss *The Universe Within: Discovering the Common History of Rocks, Planets and People*, by Neil Shubin. This work traces the unique qualities of human species to astronomical events that occurred billions of years ago. Copies of the book available one month earlier at the Information Desk. Registration is not required.

### JEFFERSON CAFÉ

On Friday, April 15 at 10:30 am, the discussion is American Exceptionalism, including the articles "The Myth of American Exceptionalism" by Stephen M. Walt, Foreign Policy, October 11, 2011 AND "America Really Was That Good" by Thomas L. Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum, Foreign Policy, October 11, 2011. We hope everyone will feel comfortable participating. The group is fairly small so that everyone can see and hear everyone else while seated around a table. Copies of the articles will be available without charge on the holds shelf at the library.

## CHEVY CHASE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

The CCUMC Spring Rummage Sale is fast approaching! The rummage sale will be April 21 (6-9pm), April 22 (9am-1pm) and April 23 (9am-1pm). You can find anything you need: collectibles, antiques, jewelry, clothing, toys and more! All proceeds will benefit programs by the United Methodist Women. Donations are also being accepted; please contact the church office at [office@chevy-chaseumc.org](mailto:office@chevy-chaseumc.org) for more info.

### VOTER REGISTRATION

Unlike most jurisdictions, if you live in Section 3, we want you to vote in our elections—even if you're not a U.S. citizen. Our only requirement is that you be 18 years of age and own or rent in Section 3. Those who have registered with us in prior years do not have to re-register. If you are listed in the Section 3 directory, you don't need to show us proof that you're a resident. If you're not listed in the directory, we will need a copy of a driver's license with your Section 3 address or a bill proving that you are indeed a resident.

Just fill out this form and submit it to the Village Manager (3801 Bradley Lane) prior to 5:00 p.m. on election day and we'll be happy to have you vote.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print your Name \_\_\_\_\_

### REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR MAY 10, 2016 SECTION 3 ELECTION

I (name) \_\_\_\_\_ of (street address) \_\_\_\_\_ am unable to attend the election for Village Council members from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on May 10th and therefore request an absentee ballot. I understand that I can pick up a copy of the ballot at the home of the Village Manager anytime after Friday, April 15th and that I must return my ballot no later than 5:30 p.m. on the day of the election in order for my vote to be counted. I also understand that facsimile votes will not be considered valid.

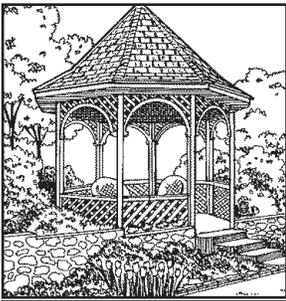
Signature \_\_\_\_\_



**SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE**

P.O. Box 15070

Chevy Chase, MD 20815



**SECTION THREE  
VILLAGE OF  
CHEVY CHASE**

# NEWS & VIEWS

APRIL 2016

## IF YOU LIVE IN SECTION 3, SAY SO ON YOUR TAX RETURN!

When you file your Section 3 return, be certain to indicate that you live in Section 3 of Chevy Chase on your tax return so that the portion of income taxes allocated to municipalities comes to us!



**MARYLAND  
FORM  
502**

**RESIDENT INCOME  
TAX RETURN**



**2015**  
5

OR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING \_\_\_\_\_ 2015, ENDING \_\_\_\_\_

Your Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Your First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Your Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Current Mailing Address (PO Box, number, street and apt. no) \_\_\_\_\_

CHEVY CHASE  
City or Town

MONTG  
Maryland County

CHCH SEC 3  
City, Town or Taxing Area

Name of county and incorporated city, town or special taxing area in which you resided on the last day of the taxable period. (See Instruction 6.)

MD 20815  
State ZIP Code