



SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

NEWS & VIEWS

JANUARY 2016

CALENDAR

SATURDAY,
JANUARY 9

Christmas Tree pickup—curbside
(trees can be left curbside any Monday
post holiday)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

Council Meeting
CCUMC Room 107, 7:45 p.m.
Council Executive Session to follow regular meeting
to discuss Village Manager's salary & performance

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

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



CHRISTMAS CAROLING AROUND THE FIRE LOTS OF FUN!

Thanks to the musical talents of Section 3 residents **Richard Barry** and **Lee Bodner** who, with their guitars, joined forces so our Section 3 Christmas Caroling event was a great success. Everyone gathered around a warm fire pit donated by the **Jacob** family and sang from song sheets lit by the ever present cell phone flashlights. While muddy, the fences and the Gazebo were ablaze with lights and garlanded with evergreen boughs. Christmas cookies, some homemade by our own **Jan Augustine**, went quickly along with egg nog and juice boxes. The event brought families together and a wonderful time was had by all. We hope to continue this modest annual tradition, a great way to bring folks together amidst all the hubbub of holiday shopping and preparations.

DENSITIES IN BETHESDA GETTING THEIR FIRST TEST

The ink is barely dry on the Bethesda Master Plan and already a developer has asked that an area zoned for lower heights be raised to 145 feet for a 200-unit residential tower development. The area in question runs from the Bray and Scarf shop and parking lot on Wisconsin Avenue to Trader Joe's. Neighbors in the Town of Chevy Chase are understandably upset because the traffic jams on Bradley at Wisconsin are already bad and West Avenue would become a cut—through street with this additional density.

In the past, planners have always lowered the height of buildings bordering single family residential areas. The master plan calls for lower heights on West Avenue (the street behind Trader Joe's) and a maximum of 120 feet facing Wisconsin Avenue. In this case, however, the Planning Board is considering the possibility of raising the height, against the outlines of the plan and in the face of concern over school overcrowding and traffic issues...many of the same problems faced in the Chevy Chase Lake plan and also in other parts of the Bethesda Master Plan. If you are concerned about this issue, you can write to the Planning Board before January 7, as they vote that day on this new request. The montgomeryplanningboard.org site has the Bethesda Master Plan outlines for your review. If you are concerned about the traffic/school impact this large development might have on our community and our access to downtown Bethesda, write to mcp-chair@mmcpcc-mc.org to express concern by neighboring communities. There may be other opportunities to voice concern down the road if it has to come before the County Council.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

WWW.CHEVYCHASESECTION3.ORG

BILL BROWNLEE

Chairman
(301) 652-6351
whbrownlee@aol.com

NATASHA SAIFEE

Vice Chair
(240) 497-1889
natasha.saifee@verizon.net

MELISSA BROWN

Secretary
(301) 312-6059
mabfrica@aol.com

CAROLYN GREIS

Buildings & Roads
(301) 718-1737
CAGreis@msn.com

MIKE DIETRICH

Treasurer
(301) 656-3203
mfdietrich@starpower.net

**ANDY LEON
HARNEY**

Village Manager
(301) 656-9117
(202) 361-3801 cell
villagemanager@chevychasesection3.org

**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, December 9. All Council members were in attendance. The meeting began at 7:50 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

Our police patrol continues to serve us well, giving citations both within the community and on Brookville Road and Taylor Street for failure to observe stop signs. Our patrolman was also made aware of some suspicious activity observed by one of our residents. We hope to have a second patrolman hired in the new year.

Katherine Carroll of Taylor Street tripped and fell on Georgia Street near Taylor due to a railroad tie protruding into the sidewalk. She was rushed to the hospital and had to have wood removed from her face and suffered two fractures of her eye socket. Happily, she is recovering well, but her fall calls attention to the need for all our residents to make certain that there are no tripping hazards at or near their sidewalks or front walkways, particularly as we look forward to ice and snow.

BUILDINGS & ROADS

Scott and Kristin Burns were issued a permit to construct a shed in their rear yard at 3612 Shepherd Street.

Two of the blocks slated for reconstruction next year based on core samples and recommendations from our civil engineer are also slated to have water mains replaced in 2018. The Village Manager has been working with WSSC to try and get them to do the work prior to our road reconstruction. The two streets in question have no foundation—just asphalt on gravel in most instances—no concrete or coarse base of asphalt, hence the bumpy road with many cracks. We will also be milling and paving several blocks next spring and need our civil engineer to help draw up the specs for the bidding process. Until we hear a definitive word from WSSC, all we can do is develop specs for the milling and paving of the streets and then wait to develop specs for the road reconstruction. WSSC is under court order to replace its aging infrastructure and has a complex formula for deciding which mains require replacement and when. In our case, the two blocks on their schedule for replacement include the block of Delaware Street from Shepherd to Taylor Street and the block of Georgia Street from Bradley Lane to Raymond Street. The blocks to be milled and paved include Spring Street (including the intersection at Delaware Street) down to Fulton Street and the first blocks of Raymond Street from Connecticut Avenue to Delaware Street and

from Georgia Street to Brookville Road.

The Village Manager is working closely with the County government to find funding to replace the storm drain at Shepherd Street from Delaware Street down to Florida Street. We have worked with D & F Construction to create cost estimates and hope to have an answer from the County soon. At least they now have a dollar figure instead of just a sinkhole to worry about!

The 12 new street trees will be planted shortly by Integrated Plant Care, our town arborist. The locations have all been cleared with the homeowners and, in some instances, we have selected alternate sites for trees. We have had such a warm December that the Cherry *Autumnalis* trees actually bloomed already!

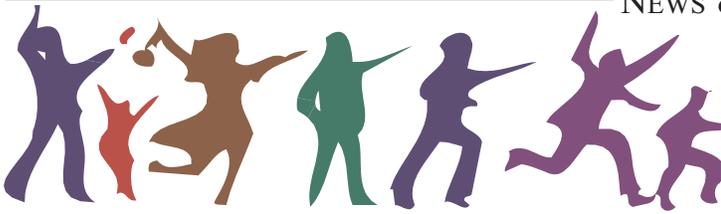
We will also be trimming trees over the street and sidewalk in a more comprehensive way than in prior years to avoid problems with ice and snow snapping limbs and low hanging limbs that might harm pedestrians.

The Village Manager is also working with the arborist assigned to our area by Pepco for their cyclical tree trimming projects. She has consulted with our arborist as well and she will soon be notifying residents that Pepco's tree trimmers, Davey Tree Service, will be in the area this spring clearing lines to anticipate four years of growth.

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the first time in more than five years, the income tax distribution from the state to Section 3 went down without explanation. It appears that there are some significant problems in the Office of the Comptroller in terms of income tax distribution...so much so that the head of the State Senate has become involved, outside auditors called in and Montgomery County, also short a significant sum, has called for a meeting and further action to determine the reasons for the shortfall. There will be a meeting in mid-January of all the municipalities and the County with officials from the Office of the Comptroller and it's hoped that these discrepancies can be worked out. With the added burden of hiring temporary workers to process Wynne v Maryland claims, we are very concerned that accuracy regarding the borders of the various municipalities is not being considered. The state recently told the Town of Chevy Chase, for example, that they have to repay some \$4.9 million because they inadvertently counted the income tax revenue of individuals who lived in an unincorporated part of Chevy Chase as being residents of the Town of Chevy Chase. The many problems that have turned up have led to a lack of confidence in the accuracy of all their distributions and an audit of the number of taxpayers in each of the jurisdictions has shown wide variations from year to year. Some of this has been featured in The Washington Post and the Village Manager has been working

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A special welcome to **Allison Joann Leleck**, a new sister for **Charlie** and daughter of **Colleen and Andrew** of Shepherd Street, born December 6 and weighing in at a healthy 8 lbs, 1 oz! Welcome to the neighborhood, Allison! I'm sure you'll have lots of fun playing on the new porch your parents just built!

Special thanks to the great volunteer crew who helped **Carolyn and Tom Wilson** decorate our Gazebo Park for the holidays: **Mike Theide, Chip and Paula Jennings, Tom Nesbitt, Bill Brownlee** and **Nancy Smith**. Special thanks too to **John and Laura Fitzgerald** for donating the live evergreens.

Paul Dioguardi recently left the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services after six years of service in the Obama Administration. He is now a partner in a new consulting firm, Confluence Strategies. He is consulting with clients across the country on public policy strategy, particularly focused on healthcare reform issues. The firm's website is www.confluencestrategies.com.

SNOW SHOVELING



When it snows two inches or more, Section 3 has offered to shovel the public walkways of seniors who have asked for the service. If you are new to Section

3 or just hit that magic "medicare eligible" age and want to be included, just let the Village Manager know! If you have already been on the list, no worries, we've got you covered. Please remember, we are only helping with the heavy lifting...if it's icy or less than two inches, it's your responsibility to have your public walkway clear and free of ice and snow. We'll be happy to recommend neighborhood youths eager to earn some extra cash, just contact the Village Manager.

If you are a teenager who would like to earn money shoveling and/or snowblowing walkways and driveways, let the Village Manager know...we need lots of help every time it snows! Moms and Dads who read this newsletter, don't be shy about offering the services of your children who want to work...we'll be happy to recommend them.

WHEN CAN YOU PUT OUT YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE?

Mondays are yard waste pick-up days all year long, so if you miss the January 9 date for Christmas tree pick-up or want to set your tree out prior to that, feel free to do so any Monday. Just remember, no plastic bags please as the trees are turned into mulch!

COLLEGE BOUND?

The last of the applications went in just before the new year...but some folks applied for early decision and may already know where they are going next year. Let us know so we can share your good news!

COUNCIL ACTIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

with both County and Maryland Municipal League members and staff to try and get an accurate resolution to these problems.

Cable TV companies pay a franchise fee to the County. Part of these fees are granted to the municipalities, with the rest of the funds going to the Montgomery Municipal Cable Station (channel 16). Until recently, when a new contract was signed with the cable TV providers, we were unaware that a portion of funding from our community also went to this station. The Council voted to donate our share of these grants to the cable station because the restrictions on the use of the funds make it impossible for us to use it within our own community. As a result, we, and all the municipalities, are going to work to try and make the cable station more relevant to our residents

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

The Village Manager reports that both **Lee Bodner** and **Richard Barry** have volunteered to accompany us in caroling on their guitars on December 15th in the Gazebo Park (See story this issue).

La Ferme is planning on opening a bar on site this spring. The Council thought it would be fun to arrange for a special "Cash Bar opening" for Section 3 residents and will be talking to the owner of the restaurant to arrange the event.

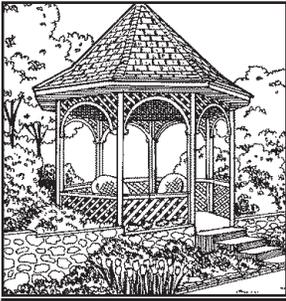
OTHER

The Council voted on the proposed changes in the charter to allow the Council to vote to relieve a Councilmember of their duties if they fail to attend three consecutive meetings. The change was not precipitated by any concern regarding any current Council members, but rather, that in the future, this might become an issue and it's always better to be prepared with a solution.

The Council adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE
P.O. Box 15070
Chevy Chase, MD 20815



**SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE**

NEWS & VIEWS

JANUARY 2016

PARK MAY BE CLOSED PERIODICALLY DUE TO MUDDY MESS

All the late December rains plus heavy use by residents resulted in the park being reduced to a muddy mess. For those of you who attended the October Food Truck Night, you will recall we had a beautiful new sodded lawn...now pretty much gone. We have arranged for a layer of mulch to be laid down until spring when we will once again re-sod the park per our contract with our landscaper.

So from time to time, if it gets warm again, we may temporarily close the park to allow it to dry out so you don't come home with dogs or children covered in mud. We hope our dog owning residents will understand—they surely wouldn't want their yard to look that way either!

We try and maintain a balance between the needs of our dog owning residents and others who want to use the park for recreation, reading and communing with friends.

