



SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

NEWS & VIEWS

JUNE 2015

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Bulk trash pick-up, curbside

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Annual Wine Tasting Event, 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Council meeting

CCUMC Epworth Room, 7:45 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Shred-it Event

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

Bulk Trash Pickup, curbside

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

Council Meeting

CCUMC Epworth Room, 7:45 p.m.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

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ANNUAL MEETING REVEALS HIGH DENSITY PLANS FOR BETHESDA



Section 3's uncontested election on May 12 didn't exactly draw huge crowds, but those who did vote re-elected of all three Council members running for office with the following vote totals: Bill Brownlee 33, Natasha Saifee 31, and Carolyn Greis 32 votes.

Chairman Bill Brownlee opened the meeting by recounting some of the year's highlights from the heavy snows which our snow removal contractor kept at bay, to the upgrades in the signage program now complete throughout the community, to the new Princeton Elm trees we've planted in 27 locations. Bill mentioned the new Little Free Library in the park and the wonderful CPR and First Aid and Senior Safety classes we offered to our residents. Said Brownlee: "Every year that I have lived here, and that now totals some 55 years, I find the community gets closer and closer and we're always looking for new ways to build that sense of neighborhood identity." He asked everyone to thank Andy for all that she does for the community to make it such a nice place to live.

Helping to seal that special sense of neighborhood identity, our Vice Chair **Natasha Saifee** outlined the many social events we hold that bring us together...from the Everybody's Irish Party to the Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon, the Food Truck nights, the Annual Wine Tasting, the Welcome New Neighbors party, the Halloween Parade and Pizza Party, and of course, the Party in the Park.

Saifee also noted all the charitable efforts our residents participate in, the 300 plus children's books we donated as a holiday effort to A Wider Circle for formerly homeless children who are just settling into their first permanent home; to the warm clothing and blanket drive we do before Thanksgiving; to the soaps, lotions and towels that we donate to Shepherd's Table for their showers for the homeless. Even the Triathlon event in which so many in Section 3 participate is for charity. Of course, none of this would be possible without our volunteers.

Secretary **Melissa Brown** spent some time thanking our many volunteers who help make all these events successful from **Ellen McKenney**, who welcomes everyone who moves in with wine and flowers; to **Jan Augustine**, who manages our website; to **Bob Salmon**, who is busy archiving our records. She noted both **Tim Healy** and **Russell Weil** help us by representing our interests on the fire board every month.

ANNUAL MEETING, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**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.*

ANNUAL MEETING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Then there are the volunteer Halloween parade leaders (thanks to **Jimmy Dodson**) and the Easter Bunny (thanks to **John Carroll**), the Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon (thanks to **Debby and David Glynn**), the cake walk (thanks to **Jen Roberti**) and of course, the **Barry** family who so graciously allow us to use their front lawn as part of our many community events.

Finally, Brown took a moment to single out the hours and hours of work done by our Buildings and Roads representative, **Carolyn Greis** who helps us understand our ordinances and helps us comply with them.

Greis took a moment to catalogue all the building activities in the Section this year. In addition to three variances, Greis reported issuing four fence permits, four permits for decks and patios, one shed, two driveway permits, seven permits for additions, one permit for a demolition, and one permit for a new home constructed in Section 3. Finally, there were seven permits issued for sump pump and air conditioning installations.

While Carolyn catalogued all the ways we have been spending our money improving our houses, Treasurer **Mike Dietrich** discussed our budget, pointing out that we once again are being very conservative in our approach to next year's budget, recognizing that there is belt-tightening at both the state and county levels which may impact us. Said Dietrich, "As a community, we are in a very strong position financially because of our conservative approach to spending." On the income side, the budget for next year increases our anticipated revenues over this year but only marginally. On the expense side, the largest expense anticipated is for road repairs. We have not only budgeted a sizeable number (\$110,000) but we have added another \$200,000 to cover the possibility that we will have to do some more extensive road work if testing reveals flaws in the roadbed that need to be addressed.

In summary, Dietrich recommended that we retain the property tax rate of \$.02 per \$100 of assessed valuation and \$.05 per \$100 of assessed valuation on personal property for businesses in Section 3. The Council voted to retain the tax rates and the budget was adopted.

Mike turned the program over to Robert Kronenberg, Division Chief, Area 1 of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Staff, and Mark DeCampo of the staff to discuss the planning vision for the downtown Bethesda area which is about to be presented to the County Council for review and approval. The plan is so all-encompassing and there were so many questions that, with the constraints of time, the group never got the opportunity to even discuss the Westbard plan. Those who are interested and were unable to attend should visit www.montgomeryplanning.org and click on the downtown Bethesda plan.

SINK HOLE ON SHEPHERD STREET

It started as a small hole, maybe only eight inches wide in the pavement in the middle of the street...but a quick look into the hole and we knew we had a problem...a sink hole had developed and the roadbed was two feet below the surface! Thanks to observant neighbors and the help of A.B. Viers Company, the hole, which was two feet deep and measured more than two feet wide and seven feet long, has been patched.

The next step is to find the cause. Consultation with engineers and exploration with a video camera has led us to believe that the storm drain on Shepherd Street between Delaware and Florida Streets has collapsed. The challenge is to find out where and repair it so we don't have another such incident. The Village Manager is working with the County (responsible for our storm drain repairs) and a private consulting engineer to figure out the best approach. At the moment, the remaining storm drain is so blocked we can't pinpoint the location of the break in order to repair it. That is the challenge the County engineers will have to tackle in early June. Residents in the affected areas will be advised as soon as we have a solid approach to solving this problem. In the meantime, the sink hole is repaired.

SECTION 3 TRIATHALON PARTICIPANTS RULE!

Some 24 women from Section 3 made it for their third annual triathlon, this time in Chestertown, Maryland. Led by **Mary Jo Slidell**, the group from Section 3 included **Tabitha Bailey, Amy Doyle, Wendy Eaton, Jennifer Emmett, Carolyn Greis, Madaleine Hillsberg, Cindy Owens, Danielle Rinzler, Natasha Saifee, Dawn Wellspeak, and Kirsten Williams**. Olympic Distance was completed by **Mary Jo** and a sprint distance was by **Melissa**

Brown. In addition to several other women from neighboring jurisdictions, the group included honorary Section 3 residents **Kerri Gray, Susan Murray, and Allison Nordlinger**.





It's that time of year...for many, it will be their first time living someplace other than Section 3 and, for their parents, a whole new experience. So here's the news we know about where some of our high school seniors will be next fall. Congrats to all the graduates.

Benjy Appelbaum of Taylor Street heads off to Northwestern University this fall.

Gracie Cary of Delaware Street graduates from National Cathedral School and will be headed to University of Virginia where her sister **Annie** attends. To make graduation even more memorable for the Cary family, **Rob Cary** is the keynote speaker for Gracie's graduation! Congrats to all!

Matthew Dittersdorf also of Delaware Street graduates from The Maret School and is off to Kenyon College in the fall.

Hayley and June Peacock, daughters of **Stacy Murchison** of Raymond Street, will be headed in the same direction after graduating from BCC. Both will attend Auburn University this fall. Brother **Duncan** is in his junior year at Georgetown after taking a year off to explore Europe.

Nathan Jester, son of **Jennifer Giblin** and **Tom Jester** of Georgia Street, will be joining sister **Hallie** at Colby College in Maine.

Libby Gensler will attend Coastal Carolina University in the fall. Sister **Harper** is at George Mason University so **Tracy and Howard Gensler** will be empty nesters.

Jack Rost, son of **Deborah Benedict** of Taylor Street, graduates from the McLean School this June and is off to Frostburg State in the fall while **Debbi's** daughter **Lauren** was graduated from St. Mary's College this May and will be working at NIH. Congrats all around!

If we've missed someone, let us know and we'll be sure to put your news in the next issue of News & Views.

Congrats to **Nora Quigley** of Raymond Street who won the opportunity to compete at the Junior Volleyball National Championships this year. Two teams in each age group go from each region and her 13U team is headed for New Orleans at the end of June. Our region is Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Nora plays middle hitter and, at age 12, is already 5'8". Way to go, Nora!



JUNE WINE TASTING EVENT

Get your babysitters now, the Section 3 annual wine tasting event is slated for Saturday, June 6 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. The purpose of the event is to get everyone together to taste affordable wines...so the price of admission is \$15 per person (payable to Section 3 in advance). The wines to be tasted will all cost \$15 or less. Everyone brings his or her own wine glass and we start with three whites, shift to another house for three reds,, and finally, this year, we will taste three different recipes for Sangria, one with white wine, two with red wines. The evening is such fun, people have a chance to meet folks in the neighborhood they never expected to meet, and a good time is had by all.

So, if you plan on attending, please drop off checks at the Village Manager's House for \$15 per person made out to Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase. We CANNOT accept payments at the door because we have to know in advance how many people are coming to provide sufficient wine and hors d'oeuvres for all. To make a reservation, contact villagemanager@chevychase-section3.org and drop off payments by Thursday, June 4.

PIZZA AND A MOVIE

Everyone had such a good time at Food Truck night we decided to try and do something for families with children in August when so little is going on...so we're going to try having an outdoor movie in the park (which will be sprayed for bugs) on a weekday night in August...we'll get a truck and fire up a movie and folks can bring their own blankets, children and adult beverages...so look for the notice, we think it will be a fun night for all...one where you can again invite folks from outside Section 3.

FOOD TRUCK NIGHT FANTASTIC!

The weather was perfect, the food trucks amazing and the company even better. Thanks to all who turned out for Food Truck night at the Gazebo Park on Friday, May 29. We had delicious mac and cheese from Linda's Luncheonette, fabulous popular Fish Tacos from Go Fish and the Corned Beef King served up delicious hearty deli sandwiches. Soft ice cream and ices or sorbets from Carmen's Italian Ices were the perfect cap for the evening. Lots of people invited folks from neighboring towns and everyone had a wonderful time. We can't wait for the next food truck night in October!

SUPREME COURT DECISION COMES TO SECTION 3

On Monday, May 18, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling in the case *Maryland v Wynne* which held that the state's practice whereby residents who earn income outside the state are credited for state income tax, but NOT the county and local jurisdiction taxes, is unconstitutional. The court found that the state and county income taxes are both state taxes and the practice amounted to double taxation for those who filed income taxes in other states. They ruled it was a violation of the dormant commerce clause in the U.S. Constitution.

Municipalities don't have the authority to impose income taxes, but we rely on the "piggyback" of the county income tax. Section 3 receives 17 percent of the county's income tax collected from local residents. Income tax represents the largest single source of revenue for Section 3.

For those who earned income outside the state and filed income tax returns for the tax years 2012, 2013 and 2014, they can file amended Maryland Tax returns to receive a refund plus interest. In addition, those who were watching the progress of this case through the courts and filed what are called "protective claims" on their taxes, have a longer look-back period based on when they began filing those protective claims.

If the state where you paid income taxes has a rate that is less than the Maryland tax rate, then the credit that you will receive on your Maryland refund will be limited to that rate. Consult with your CPA as Maryland has cooperative agreements with some states regarding how credits are applied which may also affect your refund. We have yet to hear how the interest will be calculated, as that will also affect your refund.

Once the state has processed your refund, they will notify Section 3 and we will reimburse the state for our portion of that refund and interest out of our reserves. Unfortunately, there is no way to assess our liability as that information is unknown at this time. A rough survey of our residents to get some idea of the impact on our reserves found that more than 10 percent of our households file in multiple states. We know some have already filed protective claims and others do not have income from other states for all the "lookback" years, while others, largely from some of D.C.'s larger law firms file in many states so that their CPAs will have a field day figuring out the refunds due. The amounts are not insignificant. Our Maryland Municipal League contact working on this situation with the Comptroller of Maryland gave Section 3 the example of a resident who earned \$500,000 in Virginia would receive a refund of Montgomery County taxes paid of \$16,000 for one year of which \$2,720 will come from Section 3

for that same year. The range of residents filing out-of-state returns from Section 3 from 2009 to 2013 is from 45 to 54 returns per year. That represents a significant portion of our 282 households. Because the comptroller is going to be processing so many claims, it is of some concern that we not be charged for refunds made to residents of other parts of Chevy Chase. **For that reason, we urge everyone filing amended returns for refunds to clearly state on the return that you are a resident of Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase.**

ANTI-SEMITIC SCREED RANDOMLY DISTRIBUTED TO AREA RESIDENTS

Residents of Martins Additions and Section 3, Silver Spring, Northwest DC and Takoma Park had the unpleasant experience of receiving a four-page flyer with anti-Semitic rantings. Montgomery County police were quickly called in and the matter is being investigated. Someone in Martins Additions saw an individual on a bicycle distributing the flyers so there is some hope of identifying the miscreant. The Section 3 Village Manager has been in touch all those who reported receiving this material. It appears that the distribution was random rather than targeted as both Jews and non-Jews received the same flyers. Similar mass distributions took place twice last year in Chevy Chase Village. It appears to have been disseminated by the same individual.

As disturbing as the flyers are, the act of distributing them is not considered a hate crime but rather an expression of free speech. Nonetheless, police promise to pursue this incident. All local police departments and our patrolmen have been made aware of the situation.



MVA ON WHEELS

NEED TO HANDLE SOME SIMPLE BUSINESS WITH THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION?

Their mobile office will be in Friendship Heights between 10:00 am and 2:00 p.m. at 4433 South Park Ave in Chevy Chase on July 27, August 24, and September 28. If you need to renew a license or registration or get a non-driver identification card, it can all be done right there!

RESTORING THE BAY THROUGH CITIZEN ACTION: CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE LECTURE

If you are interested in sustainable communities and sustainable living and want to know what you can do to help restore the Chesapeake Bay, come to the talk offered by Chevy Chase Village's Environment and Energy Committee on Tuesday, June 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Diane Cameron, Conservation Program Director at the Audubon Naturalist Society, will speak.

Ms. Cameron has two exciting programs to discuss, one a cash rebate program offered by Montgomery County to encourage people to plant trees and native plants in their own yards and a smart phone app called "creek critters." If you are interested in attending, please rsvp to the Village at (301) 654-7300 or ccv@montgomerycountymd.gov so that they can be properly prepared for the number of people interested in this topic.

FREE SHRED IT EVENT

Have a load of personal papers you don't want in recycling? Come to the annual Shred-It event on Saturday, June 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for free shredding of five or fewer boxes of documents. Please make certain to remove all heavy metal clips (staples are fine) or metal binders as they jam the machine. The line will start on Taylor Street and the staff will help unload your car for you.

LAWN MOWING SERVICES

Declan Rogers is available for lawn work in the neighborhood. His phone number can be found in the directory. If other Section 3 youth are also looking for lawn mowing work, let us know and we'll be happy to publicize it.



BURGLARY IN SECTION 3



Residents at 3626 Raymond Street came home to find the rear door forced open and evidence of a forced entry burglary on Wednesday, May 27th. The owners were away for only about 3.5 hours in the middle of the day.

They think the burglary occurred between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. as they arrived home at 4:15.

The thieves may have gained entrance through an open back fence door. Since the yard is so protected, no one could see the thieves trying to pry open two windows and finally gaining entry through a door. They looked through costume jewelry in the master bedroom and one of the children's bedrooms, but it's not certain if they took anything. It is certain that they removed a laptop and a framed photograph of the Guggenheim Museum and possibly a set of house keys.

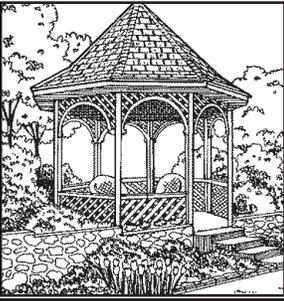
The residents have had all the locks changed as a result and will be using the alarm system more regularly. Police and forensic investigators are on the case and have lifted fingerprints and a shoe print from the site. If anyone sees anything suspicious, we advise them to contact the Village Manager so that she can direct the information to the investigating officers.

As we approach summer and children are in and out of the house and contractors are all over the neighborhood, it's difficult to have locked doors and know who rightfully should be here and who is casing a house. This most recent burglary may have been a crime of opportunity—an open garden door and no one around to notice. Please take a moment when you go out to pay attention to how you leave your home. If you are going away, make certain your let your neighbors know, that papers are stopped or picked up, that someone picks up any packages that might arrive, that the lawn is mowed (a sure sign no one is home) and lights and/or alarm systems are left on. Leave a car in the driveway if possible.

And please don't leave bicycles where they can be used as a handy get-away vehicle for someone with sticky fingers and a watchful eye....



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

NEWS & VIEWS

JUNE 2015



**YOU ONLY HAVE ONE HEAD....
PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU WEAR A
HELMET AT ALL TIMES WHEN YOU
ARE ON YOUR BICYCLE.**