

SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

NEWS & VIEWS

MARCH 2014

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12
Council Meeting
CCUMC Room 107, 7:45 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 17
Everybody's Irish
Gazebo Park, 5:00-7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2
Bulk Trash Pick-up, Curbside

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9
Council Meeting
CCUMC Room 107, 7:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon
11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

EVERYBODY'S IRISH: CELEBRATE ST. PADDY'S DAY IN SECTION 3!

Our 2014 social season kicks off with our annual "Everybody's Irish Party" by the Gazebo Park from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 17. We'll offer light snacks and drinks for all and Irish adult beverages for the grownups! Green food and good drink are the unifying themes for the event... green



eggs and ham, green bagels, guacamole and lots of other fine food to celebrate the occasion. Come rain or shine, we'll have a tent if the weather is inclement! Come join your neighbors in celebrating the first hints of spring!

BURGLARY IN SECTION 3

On Thursday, February 20th, sometime between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., the home at 6806 Brookville Road was broken into, ransacked and burglarized. It appears the thieves came in through a rear door that may or may not have been locked. They went through virtually every drawer, every closet, apparently looking for cash, because other than cash, the only item taken was a pair of gold earrings. It's clear, whoever was there spent a great deal of time searching the first and second floors of the house.

Sadly, none of the neighbors saw anything. The police came and took fingerprints and foot prints and so we are hopeful that they will find the person or persons who committed this daring daytime break in. So be aware, make sure your doors are locked, and report any suspicious person immediately to police with as much descriptive detail as you can.

Our police community relations specialist recommends that all residents take the time to make digital photographs of all their valued belongings. Should you ever experience a burglary, or even some sort of insurance loss, having this information on a flash drive, preferably NOT in your home, could save you a lot of grief. He says they regularly send out photos of things that have been stolen from homes to area pawn shops and frequently can catch suspects trying to pawn items stolen in home burglaries. So take a moment to pull out your valuables or items that you think someone might want to purloin, or even items that mean a great deal to you that in a flood or a fire might be damaged, take some digital pix of them, put it all on a flash drive and bring it to a safety deposit box or your office and mark it for safe keeping.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

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, February 12th. The meeting began at 7:55 p.m. with all members present except for **David Ohrenstein**.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police continue to patrol the neighborhood and monitor stop sign compliance, particularly at Brookville Rd. and Taylor St. We have asked them to monitor compliance with the stop bar at Raymond and Connecticut Ave as all too often vehicles creep into the intersection making it impossible for Section 3 residents turning into Raymond from Connecticut Avenue to make the turn into their neighborhood.

The CCUMC pastor and the neighbor living next door in what had been the parsonage had a strange encounter with a woman who appeared to be looking for a hand-out. The woman appeared confused and after some time with both the pastor and the next door neighbor, drove off.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Buildings and Roads Representative **Carolyn Greis** reported that two permits had been issued, to the **Horwitz** family of 3807 Bradley Lane for their rear fence and to the **Michael/Myers** family of 3705 Taylor Street for a second floor addition. Several permit applications are pending and will be reported in upcoming newsletters once granted.

The Village Manager reported that we have contracted with John Strong and his firm, Nobis Engineering, to draft the specs for the upcoming contract to mill and pave portions of both Raymond and Shepherd Street early this spring. Our attorney has also provided us with a draft contract for the same job. We expect to put it out to bid to three already recommended contractors, two of whom

we have used in the past successfully. Any job having to do with our streets presents a particular challenge because of the narrow roadway; certain contractors do not have equipment small enough to work in our community so we have to vet vendors in advance of putting out a bid package. Any work with an estimate of \$10,000 or higher must be put out to bid according to our charter.

ZONING/PLANNING UPDATE

The County Council will be voting on the Zoning rewrite in February, but will wait on voting on the district map amendment defining specific zone building limits. They have also recently voted to allow for a “zoning text amendment” in advance of the Bethesda Master Plan getting underway, to allow the building where the Regal Cinema is to be re-developed (torn down and a new building put in its place) that will be 250 feet high, making it potentially the highest building in Bethesda by many stories. The problem is that the County wants to put the terminus of the Purple Line at the base and needs space to also accommodate the Crescent Trail and a connection to the Metro line. Unfortunately, they did not plan ahead for this and the owners of the building are weighing their options and awaiting proposals from developers as they would have to move out of the building, break leases they have with others, move into another location and then move back, all of which is a costly proposition. The Maryland Transit Authority has said that they will not seize the building by eminent domain as it would be too costly and federal funding for the Purple Line is also not yet assured. For more information: www.purplelinemd.com

On top of this still unresolved issue, there are environmental concerns that have been raised about a rare, small Rock Creek watershed shrimp being endangered by the Purple Line AND a controversy over the French company that is bidding to build and manage the Purple Line due to its alleged ties to a firm that had transported Holocaust victims to death camps during World War II. There is a petition and bill in the Statehouse that would ban this firm.

With all the questions surrounding the Purple Line as yet to be resolved, the Planning Board has begun the process of developing a master plan for downtown Bethesda. For more information on the Bethesda plan, go to http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/bethesda_downtown/index.shtm

We urge you to follow this planning process and participate so that when you go to run an errand in Bethesda, you know that your voice is being heard about what you would like to see in the future. You can sign up for periodic updates, attend public meetings and get involved! The smooth and reasonable development of this area is crucial to traffic and infrastructure concerns for the entire area. The proximity of Bethesda as a successful, attractive urban center is cru-

BCC High School Education Foundation is holding a Wine, Chocolate and Cheese fundraiser at the Woman’s Club on Connecticut Avenue on Thursday, March 13th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person and reservations need to be made by Sunday, March 9th. For more information, email bcchsedfoundation@gmail.com.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

The **Stuart-Kret** family is both creative and productive. No doubt, many of you have seen the CD of songs written and performed by daughter **Isabel Margaret** available at Brookville Pharmacy. Now it's **Elizabeth's** turn to share her many talents, she's part of a three-person photography show at the Levine School of Music's DC headquarters at Upton Street, N.W., a short ride down Connecticut Ave and left on Upton right near the Edmund Burke School.

Congrats to BCC Bocce Team Captain, **Isabel Kessler** who led her team to victory first in Montgomery County against 23 other teams and then on to win the silver in the statewide tournament...go Isabel!

Congrats also to sister **Olivia** who has just been named Vice President for Social Action for the nationwide 7000-member North American Federation of Temple Youth. Olivia will have an internship this spring with the Religious Action Center here in Washington, D.C. as well. Kessler twins rule!

Interested in art and cooking? Section 3's own **Judy Kearns**, an artist and art teacher at Blessed Sacrament, and her friend Dorrie Argentine-Gleason are leading a Culinary and Art Adventure tour of Umbria, Italy from April 19-25th. If you are interested in the trip (\$2,850. per person) contact Judy at jkearnsart2@gmail.com or (301) 704-2470.

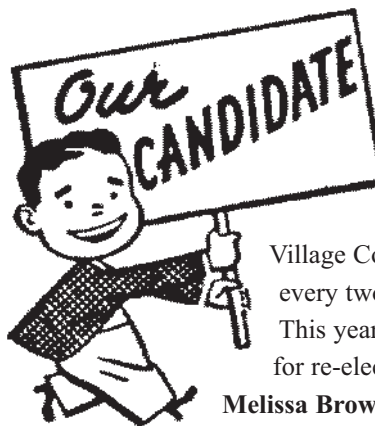
MISSY LESMES FEATURED IN BETHESDA MAGAZINE

Our own **Missy Lesmes** of Taylor Street is featured in the March/April issue of Bethesda Magazine with photo on the cover. The story is titled "We Don't Know How She Does It" by Julie Rasicot and follows the Lesmes family life through an average day, with particular focus on Missy. Far too modest to ever say this about herself, the author says in the piece, "...a case could be made that Melissa "Missy" Lesmes is the best, a veritable Supermom, the kind of mother just about every woman I know aspires to be."

Congrats Missy! So nice to see one of our own recognized for all she does!

VARIANCE APPLICATION

The **Quigley** family at 3809 Raymond Street has applied for a variance to construct a 72-inch fence along their western property line on Connecticut Avenue. Per Section 3 ordinances addressing corner properties, fences are allowed to be a maximum of 48" along street property lines, therefore the variance requests an additional 24 inches of allowable fence height. The Quigley's proposed fence will align with the existing stucco wall of the adjoining fence at 6803 Connecticut Avenue (which is set back several feet from the sidewalk) thus preserving sufficient space for the existing bench provided by Section 3 for the benefit of those waiting for the bus.



COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MAY

Five individuals from the community serve on the Village Council. Their terms are staggered every two years to maintain continuity. This year, two Council members are up for re-election, David Ohrenstein and **Melissa Brown**. After more than five years of serving on the Council, Ohrenstein has decided to pass the torch to others and will not be running again. Brown, who has served only two years, has indicated she would like to continue to serve on the Council.

As always, this does not preclude others from offering their services in an open election process. If you would like to run for office, please submit a statement about yourself and your qualifications and why you would like to be on the Council. The statement should be between 250 and 300 words. Submit your statement by 5:00 p.m., Sunday, March 23rd. Either via email to the Village Manager or drop it off at her home at 3801 Bradley Lane. The statements will appear in the April issue of *News & Views* and voting will take place prior to the Annual Meeting, Tuesday, May 13th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The annual meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m.

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cial to our property values. The impact its growth will have on our schools, our roads, and our ability to use those amenities is all tied to this all-important planning process.

OTHER ROAD ISSUES

The rough weather and some building projects have resulted in a surprising collection of ice on Fulton Street between Shepherd and Taylor Streets. We are working with a civil engineer to determine how best to handle the issue and in the interim have had our snow removal contractor spreading more salt in that area. We also have another issue with two non-functioning storm drains on Raymond Street in front of 3618 Raymond Street and across the street that we hope to have repaired as well. Another problem has popped up on Bradley Lane in the west-bound lane at the intersection of Bradley and Connecticut Avenue where a pothole has developed due to wiring put in the street by the State Highway Administration. Chevy Chase Village has kindly put cold patch into the hole, but the ultimate repairs will probably be handled by State Highway this spring. Weather precludes making any repairs before warm weather.

The Village Manager has been working with WSSC and the owner of 3815 Bradley Lane to resolve some sanitary sewer issues.

PEPCO

Pepco notified the Village Manager that they would be trimming trees on certain streets within Section 3. She toured the neighborhood with their arborist, consulted our arborist about two of the trees and got an agreement from Pepco that they would notify her before coming into the community so that she can be with the crews to prevent excessive trimming while still achieving their goal, which is to keep tree growth away from electrical wires and account for about four years growth.

We have contacted our lighting designer and hope to sit down with Pepco soon to discuss new street lights again. Our lighting designer indicates that there is an LED light that will provide the same light level that we wanted in induction lights (sample still on Georgia Street.) We may need to have a second sample light with that type of light installed to see if it is as white and effective a light as the sample now on Georgia Street.

TREE CANOPY

The Council discussed County Bill 35-12 regarding the Tree Canopy and agreed to a proposed ordinance change which would exempt us from this law (see story this issue). The proposed ordinance change will be published in the newsletter and voted on at the next Council meeting in March.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tax Duplication has been kicked back to a joint county/municipal working group to come up with specific solu-

tions. In 20 years, there has been no agreement, so it's not likely that this group will be able to overcome what hasn't been resolved in all those years.

As higher yielding CDs roll over, we are finding it very difficult to get decent rates much above .5% per year. The Council rarely invests funds for over two years' time in hopes that when higher rates do arrive, we won't be locked into low rates.

The Council would like to make a gift to the CCUMC for their generosity in allowing us to use their facilities. We await a list from the Board of Trustees of possible items they would appreciate.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

We have three new neighbors at 6700 Brookville Road some of whom hail from Florida and are renting. **Ellen McKenney** will be welcoming them soon to the community.

St. Patrick's Day "Everybody's Irish" Party will take place as always, on St. Paddy's Day by the Gazebo Park (see story this issue).

The Council reviewed the draft directory with pictographs to symbolize land lines, his and her cell numbers. The layout should make it easier to contact people by email or cell phone as well as land lines. The typesetter is still working on the draft.

Work on Section 3 archives continues with hats off to our neighborhood archivist, **Bob Salmon** who is doing amazing work slugging through years and years of records.

The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

**CHEVY CHASE AT HOME
KEY EVENTS**

The Silk Road talk by Section 3's own **Jan Augustine** which was cancelled on January 21st has been re-scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 8th at Chevy Chase Village Hall. All are invited to attend. Jan is keeping up her international travels, having just returned from the Galapagos Islands.

On Tuesday, March 4th, seniors interested in reverse mortgages can hear from an experienced loan officer at the Chevy Chase Village Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Chevy Chase at Home and Chevy Chase Village are jointly offering several tech courses, taught by TechMoxie, a local firm specializing in technology classes for older adults: Social Media, March 13; Starting Online Genealogy Research March 20; and Digital Photos, a two part course meeting March 27 and April 3, all at the Chevy Chase Village Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Save May 17th when the organization will host "What it's Worth," an appraisal event at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Go to their website for more details and registration info.

To learn more visit www.chevychaseathome.org or call (301) 657-3115.

TREE CANOPY BILL NOT SUITED TO SMALL LOT NEIGHBORHOODS LIKE OURS

Earlier this year the County Council passed a bill that would require anyone getting a sediment control permit for a building project to either plant large trees on their property or pay a fee into a mitigation fund for not planting trees. The bill does not discriminate between those who take down trees and those who don't...everyone either has to plant a required number and type of trees or pay a fee. At the time this bill was introduced, representatives of several jurisdictions were assured that it would not apply to municipalities, however, on passage, it appears that in order to not be constrained by the requirements of the bill, our attorney advises us that Section 3 has to exempt itself from it in an ordinance, as we have over the years with a number of different ordinances passed by the County. Other neighboring jurisdictions are also considering this same approach.

At Section 3 Council's February 12th meeting, the Council decided that we had better and more complete efforts to conserve and encourage the shade tree canopy in Section 3 than the bill would ever provide for us, and in fact, the way the bill is drafted, it almost assured residents doing any kind of substantial addition or improvement would have to pay a fee because they most likely would not have the lot size to plant the trees required by the bill. For that reason, the Council has decided to opt out of compliance with the bill. The proposed ordinance is printed on page 7 and will be voted on at the March Council meeting.

Here is what the bill requires and the reasons why we feel it does not apply to small lot communities like Section 3. Bill 35-12, passed by the County Council mandates that if you get a sediment control permit (required for any "disturbance" of 5,000 square feet or more), you are required to comply with this bill. The bill requires that any "disturbance" of between 5,000 and 6,000 square feet would be required to either plant three specified types of trees or pay \$750. Usually a disturbance is about twice the area of an addition you might be putting onto your home. If you were to put on a large addition, say anywhere from 6001 to 8000 square feet of "disturbance" then you would be required to pay for six trees on the property, even if you had no room and hadn't taken down a single tree. That's \$1,500!

The law does not specify that the County will plant trees where the trees were taken down or the sediment control permit was issued, rather, all fees go into a Tree Conservation Fund where trees would be planted elsewhere in the County. There is no specified plan for the use of these funds other than planting trees.

In addition to specifying what types of trees should be plant-



ed, they require that each tree to be planted must have at least 400 square feet of space. Further, the tree cannot be within 10 feet of the foundation of the building, or 15 feet from any underground electrical, gas, water, sewer, phone, catv or other underground utility. The County also requires that new construction retain all stormwater runoff on site, which means the installation of either dry wells or rain tanks on the property and those cannot be near the planted trees. In mature neighborhoods like ours, it also does not take into account the fact that our lots may already have many trees on them. A great deal of extra paperwork is also involved in this ordinance, including aerial drawings showing all the trees and brush on site. The assumption is that three trees need to be planted for one tree to survive. In short, for our very small back yards, this is almost impossible...most homeowners would end up paying the fee, and yet the benefits of the tree planting fund would not be seen in Section 3, where the County plants no trees. Every new home or addition that has been built in Section 3 has of their own accord, planted trees for the same reason we don't take down trees without a good reason, most homeowners want a properly landscaped lot, it's as important as the architecture and it's certainly important for our environment. We have not had a problem of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

TREE CANOPY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

environmental abuse in this area in our community.

Section 3 has had a long history of tree planting and conservation projects:

- We have been able to convince owners of lots to donate trees and shrubs that would otherwise be destroyed in the building process to our park and our dead end streets. We will continue to work with homeowners and developers to further landscape our public areas.
- Over the years we have offered shade trees to residents who will plant them within four to five feet of the public sidewalk to compensate for the fact that we don't have a large enough greenway to sustain a large shade tree. The fruits of those efforts are most obvious in the fall when Section 3 is a riot of color with all the maple trees we have planted. The Council expects to offer a selection of shade trees on front yards again this spring.
- We plant Serviceberry trees which can live (if not knocked over) in a narrow greenway like ours.
- We have offered cooperative buying and planting programs for trees in back yards that are smaller as well because we don't have a lot of land to plant large trees.
- We have over the years offered special deep fertilization "co-op buying" of services for those who want to preserve and strengthen their trees. This has resulted in healthier trees and at a lower cost to our residents than if they went out on their own to get these services.
- We have had two "arborist for a day" consults with the town arborist for those who wanted it.
- Finally, the Village Manager takes an annual tour through the neighborhood with our arborist which results in letters or emails to homeowners alerting them to problems that might need to be addressed with their trees. We also are certain to trim back trees with dying or dead limbs so that for the past few years we have not had any damage due to downed limbs over our public streets.

So while this law might serve well in areas where there are subdivisions carved from farmland, or developers clear cutting properties, that has not been the Section 3 experience and this law simply adds another expense and complication to the process of building in Section 3.

The proposed ordinance that appears at the right will be voted on at the March 12 Council meeting. Anyone with questions is urged to contact either the Village Manager or **Carolyn Greis**, our Buildings and Roads representative on the Council.

TREE CANOPY OPT-OUT ORDINANCE CHANGE

The Town Council hereby provides notice that it proposes to adopt an ordinance that would amend Chapter 5, Section 5-103, of the Code of Ordinances, to exclude application of the new County law, as follows:

Section 5-103. Specific Exemptions from County Laws.

Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase is exempt from the following legislation, and regulations pertaining thereto, as codified in the Montgomery County Code, 1984, as amended (new language is shown in **bold underline**):

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cable Communications | Chapter 8A |
| Contracts, Purchases & Dispositions | Chapter 11B |
| Ethics | Chapter 19A |
| Finance | Chapter 20 |
| Financial Disclosure | Chapter 20A |
| Legislative Oversight | Chapter 29A |
| Motor Vehicles & Traffic | Sections * * * |
| Personnel | Chapter 33 |
| Solid Waste | Chapter 48 |
| Streets & Roads | Chapter 49 |
| <u>Tree Canopy</u> | <u>Chapter 55</u> |
| Silver Spring, Bethesda, * * * | Chapter 60 |
| City, Town and Village Charter | Chapter 71-84 |

BCC HIGH SCHOOL MULCH MADNESS

Looking for high quality shredded hardwood mulch for your garden? BCC's All Sports Boosters' annual fundraising sale is this March. Order by March 10th for free March 15 and 16 deliveries of 25 or more bags. The bags are three cubic foot bags...one bag, applied two inches deep covers 12 square feet. The cost is \$6 per bag. For further info or to order, contact Greggdoll1@gmail.com or go to www.bccmulch.com. Pick-up of orders less than 25 bags or placed after March 10th will be at BCC, 4301 East-West Highway.

CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TALK

On Saturday, March 15th at 4:00 p.m., the Chevy Chase Historical Society will present a talk by folksinger Peggy Seeger, half sister to recently departed folksinger Pete Seeger, about growing up in Chevy Chase. The program “Memories and Melodies: Peggy Seeger in Conversation with Mary Cliff” will be held at Chevy Chase Village Hall, just across the street where Peggy lived in the 1940s and ‘50s.

Peggy comes from a fascinating musical family. Her father Charles was a folklorist and musicologist, her mother composer Ruth Crawford Seeger. Her brother Mike and her half-brother Pete were influential in sparking the folksong revival in mid-20th Century America. Peggy has lived in the UK for more than 30 years and was married to the late singer/songwriter Ewan MacColl who wrote the now famous song, “The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face,” about her.

Mary Cliff, longtime radio host of the “Traditions” folk music show now heard on WAMU’s Bluegrass Country channel, will talk with Peggy about her years in Chevy Chase and subsequent musical career. Ms. Seeger will also sing some of her favorite tunes.

Admission is free, no reservations required, but seating is on a first come, first served basis. Questions can be answered by calling (301) 652-5726.



PEGGY, AGE 7 IN 1942

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SECTION 3

The “Everybody’s Irish” Party on St. Paddy’s Day marks the beginning of the “season” for social events in Section 3. We’re always looking for new ideas to connect friends and neighbors but wanted to let you know what is up and coming:

Food Truck Night—sometime in April, date to be announced in the April newsletter

Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon— April 3

House Tour— May date to be determined

Annual Meeting and Election—May 13

Wine Tasting Evening—June

Welcome New Neighbors Barbeque—July

Party-in-the Park— September 21

Halloween Parade and Pizza Party—October 31

Warm Clothing and Blanket Drive—before Thanksgiving

Senior’s Brunch—November

Annual Children’s Holiday Event—December

We’re hoping to add an adult “prom night” to the calendar and are currently working out the details so stay tuned! If you have an idea or would like to help with any of the events listed above, we always need assistance with set-up, clean-up, planning. Let the Village Manager know!

PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

For seniors who need assistance with their taxes, AARP Foundation Tax Aide offers free tax preparation by trained RSVP volunteers. The help is by appointment only. Call (240) 777-2577, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., to make an appointment. All appointments at the Chevy Chase Library will be on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. from February 6th through April 11th.

On Wednesday, March 12th, at 9:30 a.m., the Great Books Group will discuss *The Proud Tower* by Barbara Tuchman, Registration is not required.

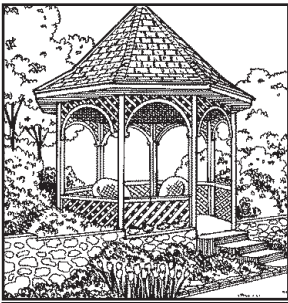
Preschool storytime for children ages 2 to 5 takes place on Tuesdays, March 4th and 11th at 10:30 a.m.

Storytime Extenders from 10:30 to 11:30 extend storytime for children with Legos, matching games, and STEM activities.

Check at the library for a more extensive listing.



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



NEWS & VIEWS

MARCH 2014

**SECTION THREE
 VILLAGE OF
 CHEVY CHASE**

**MARYLAND RESIDENT INCOME
 FORM 502 TAX RETURN**



135090049

2013
\$

Attachment
Sequence
No. **02**

OR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 2013, ENDING

| | | | |
|--|---------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Social Security Number | | Spouse's Social Security Number | |
| Your First Name | Initial | Last Name | |
| Spouse's First Name | Initial | Last Name | |
| Present Address (No. and street) | | | |
| City or Town | State | ZIP code | |
| Chevy Chase | MD | 20815 | |
| 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.) | | Maryland County | City, Town or Taxing Area |
| | | MONTG | CH CH SEC 3 |

TAXES TAXES TAXES

Please remember when you fill out your Maryland returns to indicate that you are a resident of Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase! Without that identification, we do not get our share of your income tax payments which we need to help support all the activities and services provided by your most local government.

FILING STATUS

1. Single (If you can be claimed on another person's tax return, use Filing Status 6.)
 4. Head of household