

SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE

NEWS & VIEWS

OCTOBER 2012

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10
Council Meeting
7:45 p.m., CCUMC Room 107

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18
Planning Department Hearing on Chevy Chase Lake
Sector Plan, MNCPPC 3:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31
Halloween Parade and Pizza Party
Parade begins at 4:45 sharp from Gazebo Park for
2nd graders and under (see story this page)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7
Bulk Trash Pick-up, curbside

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14
Council Meeting
7:45 p.m., CCUMC Room 107

HALLOWEEN PARADE AT GAZEBO PARK

Get all the little ghosts and goblins ready for the annual Section 3 Halloween Parade! Children in second grade and under are invited to join us in costume to



march up the hill to Phillips Hall at Chevy Chase United Methodist Church where the parade participants and their families are invited for a pizza party before they go off trick or treating!

The parade (with the necessary photo ops) begins at the Gazebo Park at 4:45 p.m. on Halloween. In the event of rain, the parade will begin at Phillips Hall. We love having older siblings and parents watch the parade but to be certain that the little ones won't be frightened by older children, we limit the parade to second grade and under.

If you're interested in decorating Phillips Hall for the event or helping with serving pizza, please contact the Village Manager.

PARTY IN THE PARK REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

This year's Party-in-the-Park had an impressive attendance—some 400 residents joined in the fun. The train had its own station this year to the delight of young and old alike. The carousel, another favorite, took the little ones on an exciting ride...but the "throw up" machine (the "human whirl"), that was amazing...in two respects: 1. No one threw up and 2. Everyone LOVED it! The fire station slide in the park was tons of fun, the obstacle course a challenge. This year's newest attractions, other than the "throw up machine" were the face paint lady, who transformed dozens of faces in short order—imaginative, fanciful faces flew by on their way to the wonderful catered dinner, or off to the Photo booth, another new attraction that almost 90 groups used!

The event would not have been possible without the help of all those who did everything from set up to clean up, manned the rides and baked the most amazing cakes! Special thanks to everyone on the Council who worked to make this such a success and thanks to **Jen Roberti** for organizing the cakes and the cakewalk, this year, one of the most exciting ever.

The evening finished with the ice cream man's arrival with free ice cream for everyone and lots of folks walking home with delicious cakes and cupcakes!

VILLAGE COUNCIL

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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 Monday, September 10th at 8:00 p.m. Both Council Chair **Bill Brownlee** and Treasurer **David Ohrenstein** were absent. The quorum met in Room 107 of CCUMC. The regular meeting date was changed to September 10th because of conflicts in the schedules of several Council members making a quorum impossible. Notice of the change in date was included in the September newsletter.

The minutes of the July meeting as published in the August newsletter were approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

Police patrols continue to work stop sign compliance and help citizens when required. The Council discussed the need for a third member of the fire board. Any interested member of the community should contact the Village Manager about serving on the volunteer fire board. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month.

The Council discussed recent but recurring problem of school buses getting stuck in the first block of Raymond Street because of landscape and other trucks blocking the way. The greenways are getting destroyed and children are delayed getting to and from school. The Council agreed to consult with the residents of the block to come up with several possible solutions to keep the street clear for school buses to pass.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

The **Clark/Chaturvedi family** of Florida Street is in the process of getting the proper permits for their new fence.

The **Howard family** of Taylor Street has received permits for the demolition of their garage and the construction of a new guest house in their rear yard.

The **Vergara family** of Brookville Road is planning an addition as is the **Rodriguez family** of Georgia Street.

Clare Wolfowitz of Shepherd Street is planning to demolish her garage and put up a small storage shed in its place.

The **Harrison family** of Shepherd Street has received a permit for a sump pump.

The **Dittersdorf family** of Delaware Street is beginning their addition.

The Council voted on three variances. Because one involved the Saifee home, **Natasha Saifee** recused herself from the vote. Two absent Council members sent in their proxy votes for the

variances. The variances voted on were as follows:

The **Steptoe/Carson family** of Shepherd Street received a variance for the placement of a generator in their west side yard which will intrude into the side setback approximately two feet.

The **Buchanan family** of Bradley Lane received a variance for a patio in the rear setback adjacent to their existing garage.

The **Saifee family** of Florida Street received a variance for a front porch addition which will intrude into the front-yard setbacks by three feet on one side and four feet on the other.

The Council reviewed preliminary reports by our utilities engineers evaluating the electrical service to our community. Once the final report is complete, the Council will ask Pepco for a meeting to discuss other improvements that need to be made to better serve our community.

The Council discussed the testimony that the Village Manager was going to make at an upcoming County Council hearing regarding the problems associated with liberalizing the rules for accessory apartments (see story this issue).

The Council discussed the latest developments with the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan including the pressure to include more development in phase one and the sympathetic response it seems to be getting from the members of the Planning Commission. The next hearing on the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan is October 18th. Community members are urged to review the plan and other documents at www.montgomeryplanning.org and sign up to speak with the County Council if they want their voice heard. A representative from the community will be testifying.

All the trees identified by Pepco as being at risk have been removed. Two additional trees have been identified by Pepco and the Village Manager will be double-checking with owners and arborists before pursuing Pepco. Pepco also cut down trees and limbs in the area near uninsulated lines between Bradley and Raymond Streets.

The State Highway Department has approved the plans for a combination of dwarf crape myrtle and ornamental grasses in the median strip in Section 3. These will be installed once the milling and paving is completed on Connecticut Avenue. A Memorandum of Understanding with the State Highway Department will be drawn up to cover our agreement to maintain the plants once installed. If after three years of maintaining the plants, the Council views the effort as unsatisfactory, the Council will pay for the installation of the "rustic pavers" that are planned for the rest of the median strip. It is hoped, however, that the refreshing greenery will survive and thrive and that those who live in and pass through Section 3 on Connecticut Avenue have something more attractive to look at than "rustic pavers."

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Tracy Gensler of Raymond Street is collecting items for the Chevy Chase Elementary School auction. It's the school's biggest fundraiser of the year and auction proceeds are used for capital improvement items not in the County budget such as SMART Boards, orchestra and band equipment and computers. Look around your home for NEW items—bottles of good wine, gourmet food items, specialty soaps and lotions, stationary, pens, candles, kitchen gadgets, anything you wouldn't mind getting as a gift. Perhaps you have some items left over from a birthday or other special occasion that you wouldn't mind "re-gifting?" Your item will be beautifully wrapped and auction attendees will pay \$10 for your mystery gift. It's a lot of fun and a popular event at the auction. Tracy will pick up any items you'd like to donate.

To contact her, email her at tracygensler@gmail.com or call (301) 657-4436. Or you can drop things off at her home. All items, since they are donated to the Foundation, are a tax-exempt contribution and Tracy will give you a receipt for your gift.

CHEVY CHASE AT HOME SPONSORS SESSION ON SLEEP PROBLEMS

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 10th to hear an informative lecture by a sleep disorder specialist, Dr. Richard Waldhorn, MD, who will be talking at Chevy Chase Village Hall, 7:30 p.m. on "Sleep as We Grow Older". Dr. Waldhorn is Clinical Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine and former Chief of Medicine at Georgetown.

Chevy Chase at Home will be the beneficiary of Whole Foods Friendship Heights "Nickels for Non-Profits Program," a community giving program which features a local non-profit for four months. From now until December 31st, take your re-usable shopping bags to Whole Foods Friendship Heights and tell the cashier you want your nickel refunds to be donated to Chevy Chase at Home. You get tokens to deposit in a collection box near the exit. So by just being prepared, you can help support Chevy Chase at Home in this modest way.

TESTIMONY ON PROPOSED CHANGES IN ACCESSORY APARTMENT RULES

The following is the testimony to the County Council by the Village regarding the impact the proposed change in the accessory apartment would have on our community: "My Council has asked me to present their concerns about the proposed relaxing of rules for Accessory Apartments. Let me begin by urging you to vote against the proposed ZTA (Zoning Text Amendment) because the County cannot properly monitor these properties. There is also the very real possibility for gross abuse of the "by right" use of such apartments because the County has no right of entry.



Section 3 is concerned because our very small municipality could conceivably face an increase of about five percent of the total number of households in our community. We have over 60 shared driveways as it is, and the new rules mandate that the house must have parking for a single car instead of the two now mandated. With a limit of three renters per household, it's possible that we would have three additional drivers and three additional cars. The proposed ZTA does not limit the number of owners of cars or licensed drivers.

There is an assumption that homeowner occupants will be careful about who they rent to and any abuses to the property by tenants because it's in their home, yet the proposed ZTA allows owners to leave for half a year!

If the goal is to provide affordable housing for more people, then how are municipalities and the County government itself, going to provide services to people moving into these units? Will the schools be able to absorb the children? How will we pay our waste collection contractors who are paid per household when we add additional households AFTER the contracts have been signed?

We recently did an inventory of rental houses in our community of 280 homes and discovered that only 50 percent of the houses rented out were properly licensed with the County. Even though the County had information in most cases that the owner was NOT an occupant, they are so overwhelmed with licensing 28,000 rental units, that they were not inspecting or fining owners who were illegally renting out these single family properties. They were unaware these units were rented out.

Neighbors don't like to report on a neighbor with an illegal

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CONGRATULATIONS TO CCUMC ON THEIR CENTENNIAL



The weekend of October 26 to 28th marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church. First established on Williams Lane, the Church later moved to the site at Connecticut Avenue and Shepherd Street in a much smaller building. The Church will celebrate with a variety show on Friday, a reservations-required \$35-per-person banquet at the 4H Club on Saturday, and a special Sunday worship celebration and brunch.

COUNCIL ACTIONS, CONT'D FROM PAGE 2

The Village Manager reported that it may be possible to recapture some of the costs incurred in bringing in the chipper because of the derecho through FEMA.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The CD at the Bank of Georgetown matures in early October. The rate is less than we were able to get a year ago but about as good as we can get by just letting it roll over.

The auditor is well into his work for this year and a draft will be ready for the next Council meeting.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

The Village Manager is working on the update of the next directory.

The Council reviewed the preparations for the Party in the Park.

OTHER

The final draft of the records retention plan will be submitted to the state.



LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

A foreign film series at the Connecticut Avenue Chevy Chase Library will be showing a Japanese film titled *Throne of Blood* from 1957, a reinterpretation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in medieval Japan.

The preschool storytime program continues on Tuesdays—October 2, 9 and 16 at 10:30 a.m. for children ages two to 6.

If you are interested in your child learning sign language, Kathy MacMillan will be telling stories by hand on Tuesday, October 30 at 10:30 a.m. which introduces American Sign Language to kids of all ages.

TESTIMONY, CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

unit. The “by right” use will make many feel that they just have to create their own apartment in their house for extra cash and it’s okay...no inspection, no regulatory supervision.

How is the County staff going to cope with the additional 2000 units in private homes? How are we to be certain we won’t have a situation like what occurred in Georgetown not so long ago in which a student rented an illegal basement apartment and was killed in a fire? Who is going to inspect these facilities on a regular basis? Who is going to license them and make sure that they maintain proper standards?

For that matter, who is making certain that all the illegal apartments and rental houses which now exist are safe, don’t have lead based paint and adequate sanitary conditions? Is the County willing to put extra money in the budget to be certain that these units are properly maintained, safe and that no more than three individuals live in every unit?

We urge you to reject this proposal and take the time to develop a thoughtful way to streamline the special exception process for accessory apartments. But please, don’t force a badly conceived zoning text amendment on us. The consequences for everyone could be tragic.”



COUNCIL OFFERS TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

In an effort to improve our tree canopy, the Council has over the years, sponsored a tree planting program for shade trees to be planted in front yards. We're doing it again this fall!

Because our greenways are so narrow, large shade trees do not have enough room to grow, except in front yards. The reason we offer free trees to be planted on private property is that they benefit us all because they must be planted about four to five feet from the public sidewalk and away from power lines. As they grow, the larger community walking on the sidewalk, gets the benefit of their shade and their beauty.

The trees we plant will come with a built-in tube for homeowners to water the roots twice a week. The trees when planted will be leafless and will need attention for at least the first two years. We have used a variety of vendors over the years. The three varieties being offered have a history of doing well in urban areas, in drought conditions and in our climate. Two are native trees, the names alone will tell you. They are about ten to 12 feet tall, about 1-3/4" to 2" in diameter. The three varieties we offer can be seen on google images and around the community. Two provide brilliant fall color as you'll soon see. We offer residents a choice of a Legacy Sugar Maple, a Red Sunset Maple or a London Plane Tree.

If you are interested, contact the Village Manager at once, let her know which of the three you'd like in your yard and she will provide you with a marker for Stadler Nursery to plant your selection in late October. All orders must be in by Monday, October 15th. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Village Manager.

CAR BREAK-INS IN THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE, BIKE STOLEN IN SECTION 3

The last day of September was an unhappy one for a number of residents in the Town of Chevy Chase whose cars were broken into. At the same time, a one-speed Fuji Beach Cruiser with tan hand grips was stolen off the porch of a Section 3 family at Raymond and Georgia Streets. Another family on Raymond Street also had a bike stolen from their property.



Please remember to lock your cars at night and lock up your bikes.

County police brought out their K-9 unit looking to pick up a scent for the crimes in the Town of Chevy Chase to no avail. For all we know, they left the area on a Section 3 bike!

CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY KEY TALK NOVEMBER 11

History buffs will enjoy the talk sponsored by the Chevy Chase Historical Society on Veterans' Day. Anthony S. Pitch, author of the award-winning book, *The Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814*, Pitch will speak on "Dramatic Events in Maryland and Washington During the War of 1812" on Sunday, November 11th at 4:00 p.m. in the Chevy Chase Town Hall. The lecture is open to all and is free.

Mr. Pitch's book is a selection of the History Book Club and recipient of the Maryland Historical Society's annual book award. Copies can be purchased and signed by the author at the conclusion of his talk.

War of 1812 buffs will enjoy a CCHS History-Go-Round field trip to Baltimore on Wednesday, November 14th to visit the Maryland Historical Society's exhibit, *In Full Glory Reflected: Maryland During the War of 1812* and then take in luncheon at the new Visitors' Center at Ft. McHenry where Francis Scott Key wrote the words to the Star Spangled Banner during the War of 1812.

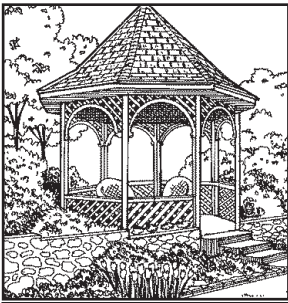
Reservations and advance payment are required for the field trip. \$60 covers the cost of transportation, luncheon and all admission fees. For details on either event or to reserve the field trip, contact Mary Anne Tuohey at 2/656-1779 or email maryanne23@mac.com



SECTION 3 VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

P.O. Box 15070

Chevy Chase, MD 20815



**SECTION THREE
VILLAGE OF
CHEVY CHASE**

NEWS & VIEWS

OCTOBER 2012



DOG OWNERS ARE ASKED TO BE CONSIDERATE OF THEIR NEIGHBORS' LAWNS AND CLEAN UP AFTER THEIR DOGS. THERE ARE NOW THREE STATIONS WITH DOGGIE BAGS FOR DOG WALKERS SO THERE SHOULD BE NO EXCUSE.

DOG OWNERS ARE ALSO ASKED TO RESPECT THE TIMES DESIGNATED FOR DOG OWNERS TO USE THE GAZEBO PARK. WE TRY AND MAKE THE PARK A WELCOMING PLACE FOR BOTH DOG OWNERS AND THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE DOGS. FOR THAT REASON, WE HAVE DESIGNATED SPECIFIC TIMES FOR DOG OWNERS TO USE THE PARK. WE ASK THAT YOU RESPECT THESE TIMES.