

Chevy Chase Village

CRIER

February 2008

5906 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

Vol. 96, No. 2



Happy Valentine's Day

Tentative Agenda

Board of Managers' Meeting

Chevy Chase Village Hall

Monday, February 11, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Note: The full agenda will be available on the Village website (by clicking on Board of Managers) by Friday, February 8. March Appeal Deadline: 2/19 at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

Appeals

6311 Broad Branch Road (Extension Request)

114 Grafton Street

Old Business

New Business

Chairman's Report

Manager's Report

Police Report

Building Permits/Code Enforcement

Mark Your Calendar &

See the Enclosed Flyers

February 25: Special Meeting of the Board of Managers—Building Regulations Review

March 19: Annual Spring Cleaning Event

Article Deadline for March CRIER: 2/25.

What's Inside:

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Wohlfarth Property—Board of Managers Scheduled to Make a Vote of Intent

At its February 11, 2008 regular meeting, the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers will be considering future uses of the Wohlfarth tract and specifically whether the structures on said tract will be maintained or demolished.

Residents are encouraged to attend to provide oral comments regarding the disposition of the structures on the property. Residents can also submit their comments in writing prior to the meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Preliminary Legal Drafting and Impact Testing Begins on Candidate Building Regulations

At the January 28, Special Meeting of the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers, work on *Winter and Company's* second draft of potential new building regulations moved forward on two fronts. In the time since the Board's regular meeting on January 14 and its special meeting on January 28, the draft ordinance was modified to include: 1) a revised definition and list of inclusions for what may be the basis for calculating a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) limitation, 2) wall plate height, 3) side wall length and 4) lot coverage.

Following review by the Board of Managers and feedback from the dozens of residents present, the Board directed Village staff to proceed with work on two important parallel paths. First, Village Legal Counsel received instruction to begin drafting formal resolution documents consistent with the *Winter & Company* parameters, and second, Village office staff received instruction to evaluate certain building structures across the Village in the context of the proposed regulations. The legal drafting is a meticulous time consuming process and beginning that work now will afford the Board and residents multiple opportunities to review and comment on increasingly refined iterations. Staff's evaluation of certain structures using the proposed regulations is a purposeful step to "check the math". This exercise will determine if the proposed tools will be effective in preventing the construction of oversized and incompatible homes within the Village and provide additional information on how the regulations should best be fine tuned.

Continued on page two, second column...

Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers' Meeting, 2nd Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall
Telephone: 301-654-7300, Fax: 301-907-9721, E-mail: ccv@montgomerycountymd.gov, Website: www.ccvillage.org

In The Village

Mandatory Application for Homestead Tax Credit Eligibility

By now you have received your current tax assessment. You may have been so captivated by page 1 that you neglected to read the fine print and the accompanying page which says that this year, you must submit an application to continue eligibility for the Homestead Tax Credit.

What does that mean to you? The Homestead Tax Credit law limits the amount of assessment increase on which an eligible resident homeowner actually pays the county, the Village and the State in property taxes each year. Most likely, if you've lived here for a while, you have been receiving this credit. But because there has been a lot of fraud, Maryland is requiring that you file an application within 60 days of receiving your assessment affirming that you are a resident homeowner and correctly eligible for the credit.

If you are a resident homeowner and do not file the application, you will likely have a much larger tax bill. Go to www.dat.state.md.us and click on the Homestead Eligibility Application link. Note that at one point in the on-line process, you must enter your social security number twice on the appropriate line, and that you must check "yes" indicating that all the information you are providing is the truth. You will be able to print a submission confirmation once your application has been accepted on-line, and you will get an automated e-mail confirmation within 24 hours of your submission as well. Should you choose NOT to apply on-line, your property assessment letter also includes a questionnaire with the same questions you can fill out and mail.

If you wish to contest your assessment, an appeal must be filed or postmarked by the date indicated on your assessment papers and you will have to show data on comparable properties that have sold generally within the last six months for less than your assessment. The back of your assessment document outlines the appeal procedure. Whether or not you choose to contest your assessment, you MUST file the Homestead Tax Credit application.

For further information or answers to questions on

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this credit, call (410) 767-2165 or 1 (866) 650-8783 and prepare to be patient, the lines have been so busy that you may have to call back several times before you get a person on the line.

...Continued from the cover page, "Candidate Building Regulations Enter Preliminary Legal Drafting and Impact Testing"

On this second effort, the Board and Village staff seek help from all residents. The objective is to run a series of calculations on up to twenty houses from across the Village and staff needs nominations for houses to include. Structures you are asked to nominate are those, that for one reason or another, you assess to be "out of step" with the neighborhood.

Time is of the essence and we ask for your nominations quickly. Please email the Village office or, if you prefer to remain anonymous, drop a note by the Communications Center or phone the office and ask to speak with Mike Younes. All you need to say is "I'd like to nominate a house"; and provide the address. Our objective is to see—if the proposed regulations were in place at the time of construction—how they might have mitigated any real or perceived poor "fit". Results of this analysis will be available prior to Board's next regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 11.

Contact the Village office prior to beginning any work to verify permit requirements. Permit verification requests can be submitted by email to ccv@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Fifth Annual Spring Cleaning Event

The last four years' Spring Cleaning events have been a huge success. The annual drive continues this year. The Public Works Department will again collect items throughout the Village on Wednesday, March 19, 2008. This year's drive will again benefit the organization AMVETS, which has supported active and veteran military personnel since 1947.

Keep an eye out for the event flyer that will be mailed toward the end of February. We look forward to another successful donation drive and hope this year's collection will be even better than the last!

In The Village

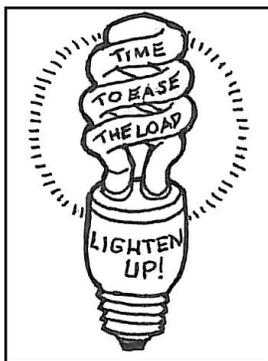
From the Village Green

The interest to get involved in the Village effort to think GREEN continues to grow. The Green Gang has received a number of communications from Villagers offering suggestions that have been extremely helpful as we move forward in our efforts to recommend actions that support a Green agenda. Particularly gratifying was a letter we received from Evan Sanders of Cedar Parkway, which I quote:

My 6th Grade class and I are trying to make the Landon lower school more energy efficient. Maybe we could use some of our ideas to help our neighborhood become more energy efficient and more environmentally healthy....

The first thing I did was find out basic information about the lower school.... the building is ... two stories tall and 70% of the outside walls are windows. The electricity comes from PEPCO. The level of electrical service is 220 VAC. The average monthly Kilowatt hours used is 17,745 in the winter, 18,690 in the spring and fall, and 11,266 in the summer. All of the interior lights are fluorescent. Outside, they use halogen lights. Lights are used an average of 7.14 hours per day in the winter, spring, and fall, and 4 in the summer. Boilers and chillers are on five hours in the winter and summer and three hours in the spring and fall. Pumps are on 24 hours per day....The building is heated with natural gas through hydro heat and air. It uses electricity to cool, also through hydro air.

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Findings 1. Users said that the cooling not adequate, but it is dependable and comfortable. 2. The windows are single pane. 3. It is not weather sealed. 4. The UV rating on the windows is 0, which means that all the dangerous ultraviolet rays get in. 5. There is no insulation under the floor or between floors.

Recommendations: In the short term, they should try to fill in the cracks in the windows and the walls so not as much hot and cold air can escape. They should think about using fewer windows but should definitely use double pane windows. According to the Department of Energy, plugging air leaks can save 5% to 30% in energy costs. Using double pane UV resistant windows will save \$125 to \$230 per year in a house and even more in a school. They are also healthier because UV rays cause cancer. In the long term, they should look at alternatives like wind power and solar.

Thanks Evan for thinking GREEN! Please encourage all of your friends and neighbors to attend the Chevy Chase Village Earthday Fair in the Village Hall on April 22nd.

From the Village Green Gang
(Larry Heilman, lcheilman@verizon.net)

Snow Removal on Sidewalks

Sidewalks must be cleared of excess snow. Residents are responsible for clearing all snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of or abutting their property within the first forty-eight (48) hours after the cessation of falling snow. Residents who occupy corner lots are responsible for the sidewalk in front of and on the side of their property.

FORM 502 MARYLAND RESIDENT INCOME TAX RETURN

OR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 2007, ENDING

SOCIAL SECURITY #		SPOUSE'S SOCIAL SECURITY #	
Your First Name	Initial	Last Name	
Spouse's First Name	Initial	Last Name	
PRESENT ADDRESS (No. and street)			
City or Town	State	Zip Code	
Name of county and incorporated city, town or special taxing area in which you were a resident on the last day of the taxable period. (See Instruction 6)	Maryland county	City, town or taxing area	

Tax Return Reminder

When preparing your State of Maryland tax return for 2007, please remember to enter **Chevy Chase Village** in the proper block of **Form 502/503** as shown here.



The Village Hall

Board Actions - January 14, 2008 Board of Managers' Meeting

Minutes: December 10, 2008 Meeting: Approved.

Appeals: A-4880 (Extension Request)—6311 Broad Branch Road: Demolish a detached garage located in the rear yard of the property—Approved;

W-3—122 Hesketh Street: Applicants seek a waiver from the application of the moratorium on the issuances of demolition permits to permit the demolition of the existing detached garage located in the rear yard of the property—Approved; **A-5346—122 Hesketh Street:**

Demolish a detached garage located in the rear yard of the property—Approved; **A-5347—37 West Lenox Street:** Demolish 71% of the exterior features of the existing main residence—Approved.

Old Business: Building Regulations Review—(see article on cover page).

This is a synopsis of the Board's actions.

To view an archive of the complete approved minutes from the Board's meetings, please visit the Village website at www.ccvillage.org and click on "The Board of Managers".

Appeal Deadline Change

Effective January 2008, the appeal submission deadline will be moved from two weeks prior to the Board meeting to three weeks prior to the meeting.

The upcoming appeal deadline is always listed in the far-left column of the monthly edition of the *Crier*. If you have questions regarding the permitting or appeal processes, please contact Shana R. Davis-Cook in the Village office.

Administrative Office Closings

The Administrative Office will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2008 to observe Presidents' Day.

The Communications Center and Police Department remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Toddler Group

The weekly Toddlers Group meets on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. All Village parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

Please contact Kristen Best at (202) 460-1256 with questions or for additional information.

Class Registration—New Senior Discount

Chevy Chase Village is pleased to offer a 10% discount to all senior citizens (62 and older) who enroll in exercise classes beginning with the winter session that starts the second week of January 2008.

This discount is being offered for the 2008 classes in an attempt to increase attendance. The Building Facilities Commission will reevaluate the discount at the end of the year to determine if it will be continued.

If you are interested in improving strength, endurance, flexibility and balance, now's your chance. See the enclosed enrollment flyer or call or email Doris Lyerly (doris.lyerly@montgomerycountymd.gov) in the Village office for details.

2008 Resident Directory

The 2008 Village Resident Directory will be distributed at the Annual Meeting on Monday, April 21, 2008 and will be available for pick-up in the Village office after that date.

Enclosed in this issue of the *Crier* is an update form to be completed and returned to the Village office no later than **March 19, 2008** so changes and corrections may be made to your listing prior to the printing of the new Resident Directory.

Artists Sought

The Building Facilities Commission will host its sixth Annual Art Show in the Village Hall during the entire month of April, beginning with a gala reception in late March.

In order to select a date in April, the curators are looking for interested artists who have either lived in Chevy Chase in the past or who currently live in Chevy Chase and would like to exhibit their art work. Items will be exhibited for about a month.

If you would like to exhibit fine art photography, paintings or sculptures please email either Sally Troyer at troyerart@aol.com, Marilyn Montgomery at marilyn-monte@aol.com or Jay Treadwell at optsvcs@aol.com.

More information regarding the show will be included in the March 2008 issue of the *Crier*.

The Police Beat

To e-mail Police Chief Roy Gordon: roy.gordon@montgomerycountymd.gov

Avoid Identity Theft

Identity theft is a serious problem. It occurs when your personal information is stolen and used without your knowledge to commit fraud or other crimes. Identity theft can cost you time and money. It can destroy your credit and ruin your good name. The Federal Trade Commission recommends three steps to avoid identity theft: **Deter, Detect, and Defend.**

Deter identity thieves by safeguarding your information.

- ✦ Shred financial documents and paperwork with personal information before you discard them.
- ✦ Protect your social security number. Don't carry your SSN card in your wallet or write it on a check. Give it out only if absolutely necessary or ask to use another identifier.
- ✦ Don't provide personal information on the phone, through the mail, or over the internet unless you know with whom you are dealing.
- ✦ Never click on links sent in unsolicited emails: instead, type in a web address you know. Use firewalls, anti-spyware, and anti-virus software to protect your home computer; keep them up-to-date. Visit OnGuardOnline.gov for more information.
- ✦ Don't use an obvious password like your birth date, your mother's maiden name, or the last four digits of your social security number.
- ✦ Keep your personal information in a secure place at home, especially if you have roommates, employ outside help, or are having work done in your home.

Detect suspicious activity by routinely monitoring your financial accounts and billing statements.

- ✦ Be alert to signs that require immediate attention: bills that do not arrive when expected; unexpected credit cards or account statements; denials of credit for no apparent reason; and calls or letters about purchases you did not make.
- ✦ Inspect your credit report. The law requires the major nationwide consumer reporting companies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion to give you a free copy of your credit report each year if you ask for it.
- ✦ Visit www.AnnualCreditReport.com or call 1 (877) 322-8228, a service created by these three companies, to order your free credit reports each year.
- ✦ Review your financial statements regularly looking for charges you did not make.

Defend against ID theft as soon as you suspect it.

Place a "Fraud Alert" on your credit reports and review them carefully. The alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures before they open new accounts in your name or make changes to your existing accounts. The three nationwide consumer reporting companies have toll-free numbers for placing an initial 90-day fraud alert; a call to one company is sufficient:

Equifax: 1 (800) 525-6285
Experian: 1 (888) 397-3742
TransUnion: 1 (800) 680-7289

Placing a fraud alert entitles you to free copies of your credit ,

reports. Look for inquires from companies you haven't contacted, accounts you didn't open, and debts on your accounts that you can't explain.

- ✦ Close accounts that have been tampered with or established fraudulently. Call the security or fraud departments of each company where accounts were opened without your approval. Ask for verification that the disputed account has been closed and any fraudulent debits discharged. Keep copies of documents and records of your conversations about the theft.
- ✦ File a police report with law enforcement officials to support your claim and as proof of the crime. Report the theft to the Federal Trade Commission which helps law enforcement across the country in their investigations.
Online: ftc.gov/idtheft Phone: 1 (877) 438-4338
Mail: Identity Theft Clearinghouse,
Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580

Fox Sightings

Around this time of year, residents continuously report seeing foxes in the Village. One is striking red and the other is more gray/brown in color. When first reports came into the Communications Center last year, officers responded to observe the animals firsthand and take appropriate action if the animals appeared ill or were acting strangely. Such behavior would suggest the animal(s) might be infected with rabies and the Village office would proceed to trap the animals to eliminate the health hazard. All observations to date, by officers and residents, indicate both animals are apparently healthy and that they travel through the Village from the Chevy Chase Club golf course.

The Village office has contacted Montgomery County, Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to learn what these agencies' policies and procedures are regarding foxes in urban environments. The response received from each is that foxes provide a benefit in that a staple in their diets is rodents; foxes are significantly less likely than raccoons to be rabies carriers; that trapping foxes is regulated and all captured foxes must be euthanized.

Foxes, however, can not decipher between rodents and small house pets such as cats and small dogs. If you have small pets that are left outside overnight, please remember to allow access back into your home for these pets or bring them in at night.

Residents are encouraged to contact the Village or Robert Colona with DNR at (410) 221-8838 with any questions they might have.

Community News

Historic Preservation Tax Credit Applications Due by April 1

Applying for the County historic preservation tax credit is easy. A complete application requires:

- A brief description of the work.
- Photocopies of receipts and/or cancelled checks or other proof of payment.
- Photographs of the structure before (requested) and after the work (required).
- A signed two-page application.

A tax credit application form for work done and paid for in 2007 is available on the Village website (ccvillage.org) by clicking on the Printable Forms Center banner. Completed forms must be postmarked by April 1, 2008. Additional forms can be obtained, or questions about any aspect of the program answered, by calling the Montgomery Historic Preservation Commission at (301) 563-3400, or by visiting our website at: http://www.mc-mnceppc.org/historic/instructions/info_tax.shtm.

State Tax Credit Information

The Maryland Historical Trust has a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" about rehabilitation tax credits offered by the state on its website at: www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net/taxcr.html. The tax credit application and informational materials can also be found at this site.

For additional information about tax credits, please call the Office of Preservation Services directly at (410) 514-7628.

Electric Dog Fences

Electric dog fences are permitted in the Village, however, you must obtain a Building Permit from the Village office prior to installation due to the minor excavation required. If you intend to install an electric dog fence forward of your front property line in the Village's public right-of-way, you will also need to obtain a License to Use the Public Right-of-Way.

Residents are encouraged to contact the Village office and visit the Village's website for more information regarding electric dog fenced and the Village's permitting process.

New Staff Welcomed in the Village Office



Demetri (Dimo) Protos joined the Village's administrative staff as its new Director of Finance and Accounting at the start of the new year.

A graduate of Landon School, Dimo did his undergraduate work at the University of Richmond and then went on to receive his MBA degree from George Washington University.

Dimo's previous experience includes one year with *Jones Hall Advisers* as a public accountant and six years as a financial adviser with *John Hancock*. He also hosted a weekly financial planning radio show which aired on Saturday mornings in the mid to late 90s entitled "Planning for your Future".

In his spare time, Dimo enjoys sports, fantasy football, traveling and spending time with his wife and two dogs in their home in Baltimore.

We welcome Dimo to the Village!

Village Listserve Sign-Up Instructions

1. Type *groups.yahoo.com* in your web browser.
2. Click on *Sign Up* in the green box.
3. Complete the form accordingly.
4. After successfully signing in, type *Chevy Chase Village* in the "Find a Yahoo! Group" field, and click SEARCH.
5. Click on *ccvillage*.
6. Click on *Join this Group*.

Congratulations! You are now signed up to use the Village Listserve to post contractor recommendations, offer tickets or items for sale, spread the word on upcoming yard or bake sales and any other topic residents wish to discuss.

To post a new message, type *groups.yahoo.com* in your web browser, sign-in using your Yahoo! ID and password, click on *ccvillage* on the left-hand of the screen and click on *Post* again on the left-hand side of the screen and type your message.

Listserve have become quite popular as convenient tools for sharing information. All residents are encouraged to enroll in this service.

Public Works Department/Trash Schedule

Resident input regarding the contracted services for trash and recycling collection is an important factor during the evaluation of these services. Please report missed services to the Communications Center. Please leave your gates unlocked to allow access to your refuse.

Special pickups of bulk items are collected on Wednesdays. Requests must be submitted either by phone or via the Village website by 2:00 p.m. on the preceding Tuesday to ensure collection.

There will be no trash collection on Presidents Day, Monday, February 18, 2008. Trash collection will slide one day; therefore, Monday's collection will be made on Tuesday, Tuesday's collection will be made on Wednesday, Wednesday's collection will be made on Thursday, Thursday's collection will be made on Friday and Friday's collection will be made on Saturday.

For this week only, recycling collection for residents WEST of Connecticut Avenue will be collected on Thursday, February 21. **Recycling** collection for residents EAST of Connecticut Avenue will be collected on Friday, February 22. Special pickups will not be affected and will be collected on their regularly scheduled day, Wednesday, February 20.

Chevy Chase Village
5906 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Douglas B. Kamerow, Chair
David L. Winstead, Vice-Chair
Susie Eig, Secretary
Gail S. Feldman, Treasurer
Betsy Stephens, Assistant Treasurer
Peter M. Yeo, Member
Robert L. Jones, Member

VILLAGE MANAGER

Geoffrey B. Biddle

Building Permits Issued by the Village Manager January 2008

112 Summerfield Rd.....Sump pump installation discharge line
122 Hesketh St.....2nd, 3rd floor interior remodeling, new dormer
108 Hesketh St.....1- and 2-story additions, remodel interior
6100 Western Ave.....New fence and gates
142 Hesketh St.....Replace roof truss
14 W. Irving St.....2-story renovation and addition

Rent the Village Hall
for your next event!

Cardboard Box Collection

Flattened boxes that are approximately less than the size of a 13" television set, should be placed with your paper recycling. Five or more flattened boxes should be bundled when left for recycling. Please notify the Communications Center if they are not collected.

If you have a large amount or large-sized boxes, please request a Special Pick Up (SPU, see article in the opposite column) to ensure collection. Cardboard boxes collected by SPU, are placed in the paper compactor located in the Public Works Yard and are recycled.

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 7078
SUBURBAN MD

