



# Chevy Chase Village

# CRIER

May 2008

5906 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

Vol. 96, No. 5

### Tentative Agenda

Board of Managers' Meeting  
Chevy Chase Village Hall

Monday, May 12, 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, May 9.

June Appeal Deadline: 5/19 at 5:00 p.m.

### Approval of Previous Minutes

Treasurer's Report  
Committee Reports  
Appeals

14 West Irving Street

Old Business

New Business

Chairman's Report

Manager's Report

Police Report

Building Permits/Code Enforcement

### Mark Your Calendar & See the Enclosed Flyers

**May 3:** Somerset School Spring Social

**May 10:** Board of Managers Election—  
Polls Open 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**June 6:** Movie Under the Stars

Article Deadline for June CRIER: 5/27.

### What's Inside:

Commission/Committee Reports Highlights from the Annual Meeting	2
Members Needed on Commissions & Committees	3
Board Actions—April 14, 2008	3
The Police Beat	5
Connect with the Capital Crescent Trail Saturday, May 31, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	6
Village Teens	7
Cardboard Box Collection	Back Cover

## Board Sharpens Focus of Building Regulations Proposed Limits to Apply Specifically to Teardowns, Large Additions and Vacant Lots

In another marathon meeting on Monday, April 28, the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers heard from a standing-room-only crowd that indeed some additional building regulation is needed. This in contrast to feedback received two weeks ago at the April 14 meeting when dozens of speakers from the more than 125 residents present voiced near uniform concern that the regulations as then drafted were unduly restrictive.

In measured discussion with the many speakers and consultant Nore Winter who participated via video link, the Board revisited both the concerns that sparked resident calls for increased regulations some 18 months ago and the guiding principles the Board adopted as it began work to develop a solution.

*Continued on page 4, first column...*

## Annual Meeting Notes

The 94th Chevy Chase Village Annual Meeting was held on Monday, April 21. The annual New Resident Social was again combined with the Annual Meeting. The New Resident Social was created so that long-time residents can welcome new residents to the community and for new residents to meet their new neighbors. It was also an opportunity to receive an update on activities within and around the Village.

This year's Social featured a catered light dinner from *Lucks Catering, Inc.* and entertainment from the *Great Zucchini* for our younger-new residents. The Village's newest and largest Commit-

*Continued on page 2, first column...*

## Board of Managers Election—CANCELLED

Two of the five candidates running for three open seats on the Board of Managers have withdrawn their candidacy; therefore, the number of candidates now equals the number of available seats.

**Accordingly, there will be NO election  
for the Board of Managers this year.**

The three incumbents are deemed re-elected.

# In The Village

...Continued from cover article, "Annual Meeting Notes"

tee, *The Village Green* (Environmental Committee) was also on-hand and provided residents with helpful information about going green, including a wonderful display of energy-efficient compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.

Attendance at the New Resident Social far-surpassed expectations. Thanks to all who made it out to welcome our new neighbors to the community.

As hoped, many residents remained for the Village's Annual Meeting. Board of Managers Chair Douglas Kamerow, called the meeting to order and presented his State of the Village report at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Kamerow ended his report with the surprise of the evening, a Board Resolution officially renaming the Village Conference Room "The Mary Anne Tuohey Conference Room". The announcement was followed by a standing ovation. The Board then presented Ms. Tuohey with the official Resolution, which will also be displayed in the new *Tuohey Conference Room*, together with an artist's rendering of the Laurel Parkway entrance to the Village Hall as a token of appreciation for her many years of dedicated service to the community and tireless energy in the development and use of the Village Hall.

The Board approved a resolution to adopt the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 as presented by the Budget Committee and a second resolution to levy a tax on certain real and personal property under provisions of Section 6-203 of the Tax Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Committee and Commission Chairs provided updates on their respective activities during the past year. Synopses of each are included in the following column.

Burt Schorr, Chair of the Nominating Committee, gave his report and noted that there were four candidates running for three seats on the Board of Managers. (An additional nomination was made from the floor. Two candidates have since withdrawn their candidacy.) In all, incumbents Susie Eig, Betsy Stephens and Robert Jones are deemed re-elected and will be sworn in by Chair Douglas Kamerow at the Board's regular meeting on Monday, May 12.

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The Village wishes to extend special thanks to the Garden Club of Chevy Chase, and especially members Alice Kinter and Fran Schorr, both of Hesketh Street, for providing beautiful flower arrangements for the evening. All flower arrangements came from properties and parks within the Village and were a wonderful addition to the meeting.

## Commission/Committee Reports Highlights from the Annual Meeting

**Building Facilities:** Chair Elizabeth Bausch reflected on the events that had been sponsored by the Commission, including the annual Art Show, and the changes it had made to the class structure to increase class attendance. She noted changes that had been made to accommodate additional staff authorized by the Board and the initiatives the Commission hoped to undertake in the coming year to ease the traffic impact experienced by the immediate neighbors to the Village Hall.

**Children, Youth & Families:** Co-Chair Karen Spangler recapped the ever-popular events the Committee continues to sponsor, including Movie Nights, Parents' Nights Out, and a babysitting course and Mad Scientist Show. The Committee continues to look for additional events to bring children and families in the community together.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Co-Chair Oliver Davidson said the Committee's activity had slowed over the preceding year due to a decline in threats of man-made and natural disasters. He spoke of ways residents can prepare their families for an emergency.

**Environmental (*The Village Green*):** Chair of the Village's newest and largest Committee, Larry Heilman, explained that they had received overwhelming feedback from the community on ways to be environmentally conscience, all of which they have passed onto the community. Over the coming year, the Committee will continue to keep residents educated on ways all of us can "go green" and conserve energy and the earth's resources.

**Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Local Advisory Panel (LAP):** Chair Thomas Bourke explained that the LAP continues to review residents'

Continued on page 4, second column...

# In The Village

## Members Needed on Commissions & Committees

There are fourteen Village Commissions and Committees. Six of these having openings for new members and the call is being made for both new and long-time residents to join in. The Personnel Commission, the Budget, Audit, Tree, Public Works and Children, Youth and Families Committees have at least one vacancy each and four of them are looking for more.

In alphabetical order below, we list the Committee or Commission followed by a general description of its activities and a point of contact (POC). Please contact the POC or the Village office for more information. (Area codes are 301.)

**Audit Committee, Chair** – Works with the Village Manager, independent audit firm, Board Treasurer and Budget Committee Chair to review and report on the annual Village audit. The fiscal year ends on June 30, and the Village draft audit report is available on or about October 1 each year. The Audit Committee Chair also serves as a member of the Village's Investment Committee responsible for developing and recommending investment policies to the Board of Managers. CPA preferred. POC – Geoff Biddle, Village Manager @ 654-7300.

**Budget Committee, Up to 4 Members** – Works with the Village Manager during the budget development cycle which generally runs from late January through the first week in March. Coming years will be increasingly dynamic with the introduction of Capital Improvement Programs and associated multi-year budgets. Residents living east of Connecticut Avenue are especially encouraged. Numbers crunching aptitude is helpful, but analytical and strategic thinking is prized. POC – Sam Lawrence, Chair @ 652-2356 or Geoff Biddle @ 654-7300.

**Children, Youth & Families, Multiple Members, Chair/Co-Chair Potential** – All work focused on having fun! Three-year old Committee focuses on developing new and creative ways to get Village neighbors together. As the name implies, the focus is broad, family values are key and high energy is needed to put your ideas into motion. Strong base of

*Continued on page 6, first column...*

## 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.

## Board Actions - April 14, 2008 Board of Managers Meeting

**Minutes:** March 10, 2008 Meeting—Approved.

**Appeals:** **A-5375, 5514 Center St.**—Enclose an existing screened porch, a portion of which would encroach twelve-inches (12”) into the west side yard setback—Approved; **A-5374, 21 E. Melrose St.**—(a) construct a two-story wood frame addition, a portion of which would encroach 7.29-feet into the twenty-five foot front setback from Brookville Rd.; (b) install a step leading to a proposed one-story wood frame addition. The step would encroach 7.02-feet into the twenty-five foot front setback from Brookville Rd.—Approved; **A-5325, 6108 Western Ave.**—Replace an existing chain link fence with a two-foot (2') high iron or aluminum fence on top of a four-foot (4') high brick wall between the southeast corner of the house and the front (Nevada Ave.) property line and along the front (Nevada Ave.) property line; and with a wood fence along the north property line between the front (Nevada Ave.) property line and the front building restriction line. The proposed maximum height of both sections of fence would be six-feet (6')—Approved.

**Old Business: Wohlfarth Property**—Brenda Sandberg of the Program Open Space Office for Montgomery County explained that a proposal had been received from EDAW, Inc. in the amount of \$12,150 (50% to be paid by the Village, and 50% to be paid by Montgomery County) to facilitate charettes to determine future uses for the property. The Board accepted the proposal from EDAW, Inc., pending County approval of the Board's earlier Resolution to demolish the existing structures on the property.

**New Business: Resolution No. 04-01-08:** Ordinance to extend a temporary moratorium on the processing of applications for permits for demolition and/or construction or erection of buildings or other structures—Approved.

*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](http://www.ccvillage.org) and click on "The Board of Managers".*

# In The Village

...Continued from cover page, "Board Sharpens Focus of Building Regulations Proposed Limits to Apply Specifically to Tear-downs, Large Additions and Vacant Lots"

Resident concerns remained clearly centered on the potential long-term adverse impact that oversized new homes would have on the Village's character, charm and desirability if they are allowed to proceed unchecked. Simplicity, objectivity and measurability remained steadfast principles guiding the Board's regulatory approach though significant consideration was given to various committee-based design review mechanisms as well as an "optional" method for project approvals modeled after commercial development approval processes which the County has employed for years. Throughout the evening, the Board discussed suggestions from the audience polling Mr. Winter frequently for his experience with each suggestions' effectiveness and potential unintended consequences.

With the residents' premising concerns and the Board's methodology reaffirmed, consensus built among the Board members that new Village regulations could be limited to only those building projects which are known to generate concern. At this time, the concern is specific to new house constructions on either empty lots or cleared lots following tear downs, and large additions when an existing home might be expanded by 40% or more.

Pegging the problem to new homes and "super-sized" additions, the Board directed Village Legal Counsel supported by advice from Mr. Winter to sharpen the focus of the new regulations tailoring the language to address just those types of building projects. All members agreed that, as drafted, the proposed ordinance is an integrated, well designed and administratively manageable regulatory package. Going forward, the package could serve as a foundation for subsequent measured modifications and refinements to the building Code.

Pursuant to the Board's instructions, Village Legal Counsel will develop a revised ordinance in the next few days. Substantive inclusions are: the floor area ratio (FAR) limit will be expanded to .50 from .44; plate height and wall length limits will remain as pre-

*Continued on page 6, second column...*

## Movie Under the Stars!

Remember those fun times years ago being at the drive in, under the stars and munching on popcorn. Come relive those great times by coming out for a Movie Night out under the stars on Friday, June 6 at 8:00 p.m. in the Oliver Street Park. We will be playing the hilarious and fun-loving movie *Shrek* (rated PG—for mild language and crude humor). See the enclosed flyer for details. We hope to see you there!

...Continued from page 2, "Committee/Commission Reports, Highlights from the Annual Meeting"

applications submitted to the County's HPC for Historic Area Work Permits to ensure proper administration of the historic review process.

**Investment/Audit Committee:** Investment Committee Chair Gail Feldman advised that the Committee, along with assistance from Legal Counsel and the Village Manager, continues to look for sound financial investments within the parameters of the adopted Investment Policy. On behalf of absent Audit Committee Chair Carol McGarry, Ms. Feldman also noted that the Village received a clean audit report from an independent firm for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2008.

**Parks:** Chair Alice Kinter thanked the Public Works staff for its efforts in maintaining the Village's seven parks and the grounds surrounding the Hall.

**Personnel:** Commissioner Pat Baptiste noted that the Commission joined together with an ad hoc Committee to review a staffing assessment performed by an independent firm during the previous summer, resulting in Board authorized additional staff positions to assist in carrying increased workload. Over the coming year, reassessments will be performed to gauge the results of the staff changes and to determine if additional positions recommended by the initial staffing assessment remain justified.

**Public Safety:** Chair Saul Goodman and Police Chief Roy Gordon talked about the activities of the department and the success of the *Safe Speed* photo speed monitoring system implemented with both fixed poles and mobile cameras along Connecticut Avenue, Brookville Road and various other streets within the Village.

**Tree:** Chair Bob Elliott stated that the Committee's spring plantings and winter removals of trees in the public rights-of-way and parks continues in good stead.

# The Police Beat

To e-mail Police Chief Roy Gordon: [roy.gordon@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:roy.gordon@montgomerycountymd.gov)

## Solicitors and Vendors



Visits by solicitors and vendors has long been a matter of concern for our residents. This is due in part to the fact that many of these individuals claim to be with non-profit agencies even though, in many cases, this turns out to not be the case. In light of these concerns, the following information is provided to help residents understand how the Village Police Department handles solicitors, vendors and literature distributors.

To prevent scams and misrepresentations by solicitors, the Village instituted Chapter 19 of the Village Code which requires vendors, solicitors and literature distributors to obtain a license for such operations from the Village Police Department. This ordinance requires for-profit organizations to obtain a Montgomery County solicitor/vendor permit prior to obtaining the Village permit. Non-profit organizations are not required to obtain a County permit.

The Village does not have the resources available to verify the validity of organizations to which permits are issued; however, each individual who will be within the Village must submit identification.

When a for- or non-profit organization receives a Village permit, they are provided with the Village's "No Solicitors" list. This list contains the addresses (not names) of residents who have expressed a desire not to receive visits from vendors and solicitors. If an individual does solicit from an address on this list, they are subject to a citation and possible permit revocation. Approximately 50% of homes in the Village are on this list.

Another measure taken by the Village was to purchase "No Solicitors" decals for placement near the home's front entrance. These decals in addition to the "No Solicitors" list can be used to prevent visits from solicitors, even those that have obtained a permit from the Village.

There are limitations to the types of solicitation the Village can prevent. The police do not have the authority to restrict either solicitations or literature distribution by political and religious organizations.

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"No Solicitors" decals may be obtained from the Village Communications Center. If you would like your address added to the "No Solicitors" list, please complete the "No Solicitation Form" available under the Online Forms Center on the Village website ([www.ccvillage.org](http://www.ccvillage.org)).

As always if you have any questions regarding solicitor and vendor operations and enforcement within the Village, and/or if you witness or experience a suspicious individual or situation, contact the Village Communications Center immediately at (301) 654-7300.

## Home Security Surveys

The Village Police Department offers free, confidential home security surveys. Even with an alarm system, these surveys can be a useful tool in identifying weak spots in your home's security, offering simple remedies that will make homes safer and more secure.

Interested residents should contact the Village Communications Center at (301) 654-7300 to request a Home Security Survey. A police officer will call to arrange a convenient time for the survey.

## Chief's Crime Alerts

If you don't own a computer or don't have an e-mail address but wish to receive notification of local crimes, please contact the Communications Center to be placed on the distribution list so you may receive paper-copy alerts of events as they occur.

## Prevent Bike Thefts



Every year we experience a rash of bicycle thefts from garages that have been left open or unlocked. As a courtesy, when Village Police spot an opened or partially opened garage door, the Communications Center contacts the homeowner and advises them to secure the door to help prevent theft.

How can you help?

- ◆ Register your bikes free with the Village Police.
- ◆ Use bike locks to secure your bikes in the garage.
- ◆ Report any suspicious persons or activity immediately to the Village Police by calling (301) 654-7300.

# Community News

## **Connect with the Capital Crescent Trail Saturday, May 31, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Anyone who has ever jogged, walked, biked or pushed a baby stroller along the Capital Crescent Trail is invited to a special event at the height of spring on Saturday, May 31, to celebrate the Trail and learn how proposed light-rail trains on the Trail will change this treasured resource. Family-friendly activities begin at Elm Street Park (one block east of Wisconsin Avenue, between Elm and Willow Lane, Bethesda) and continue along the Trail east of the Wisconsin Avenue tunnel, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Residents from 15 local communities are organizing this opportunity to “Connect With the Capital Crescent Trail.”

If you’d like more information on this community event, or if you would like to volunteer to help on May 31, please contact Pat Baptiste at patbaptiste@verizon.net.

All volunteers will get a special t-shirt and the satisfaction of raising public awareness about the threat to one of our most popular green spaces. Volunteers are needed to serve refreshments, hand out information and assist with activities in Elm Street Park and on the Trail.

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*...Continued from page 3, “Members Needed on Commissions & Committees”*

existing activities and network already established. Chair/Co-Chair also serves on the Building Facilities Commission. POC – Karen Spangler @ 215-9064.

**Personnel Commission, 1 Member** – Commission charted by Village Code, works with Village Manager and Board of Managers to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the Village civil service. The Commission consults with the Village Manager and makes recommendations to the Board of Managers on decisions affecting staffing levels, compensation and policies. Employment Law/Personnel Management experience a plus. POC – Geoff Biddle @ 654-7300.

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**Public Works Committee, 2 to 4+ Members** – Works with the Village Manager and the Director of Public Works on annual budget, on-going in-house department priorities, contracted programs and a growing focus on capital programs. Potential capital programs are large scale (for the Village) multi-year projects where technical, construction and project management familiarity is a plus. POC – Geoff Biddle @ 654-7300.

**Tree Committee, 2 to 4+ Members** – Broad activity base, lots of time outdoors. Works with the Village office, residents, Board of Managers and nurseries and involved in decisions on tree selection & placements for annual spring plantings and evaluations for winter removals. Makes recommendations to the Board of Managers on tree removal appeals submitted by individual property owners. Trees are one of the Village’s most treasured resources. POC – Bob Elliott, Chair @ 654-6910.

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*...Continued from page 4, “Board Sharpens Focus of Building Regulations Proposed Limits to Apply Specifically to Teardowns, Large Additions and Vacant Lots”*

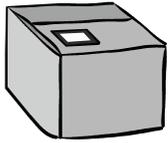
viously drafted, but the FAR, plate height and wall length limits will apply to only new houses and additions which add 40% or more to the existing floor area. Accessory building regulations will remain as drafted as will the 20-foot rear yard setback. The updated draft will also clarify that a house with a flat roof cannot exceed 30 feet in height.

Please sign up for the Village listserve or check the Village website to see the updated draft when it becomes available. The Board will discuss the updated draft at its May 12 regular meeting. As currently planned, shortly after the May 12 meeting the Village office will distribute to every Village household one copy of the final draft ordinance and a referendum ballot for each household to vote in favor or opposed. The Montgomery County Council will also receive a copy of the final proposed ordinance for its review and comment. The Board will have an opportunity to adopt the final proposed ordinance at its June 16 regular meeting.

## 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.



### 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 above article) to ensure collection. Cardboard boxes collected by SPU, are placed in the paper compactor located in the Public Works Yard and are recycled.

## Building Permits Issued by the Village Manager April 2008

112 Grafton St.....Install cedar wood pergola, relocate trees  
15 Oxford St.....Replace cement driveway  
30 West Irving St.....Replace stoop  
6216 Western Ave.....Replace driveway  
5511 Center St.....Repair front walkway & steps  
Cedar Pkwy/Kirkside Dr.....Copper phone line replacement  
4 East Irving St.....2<sup>nd</sup> story addition, bathroom renovation  
2 East Melrose St...Repair bricks, fence, steps, install railing  
6108 Western Ave..Kitchen, master bed/bathrooms addition  
27 Hesketh St.....Replace existing 2<sup>nd</sup> story porch  
18 West Irving St.....Kitchen renovation  
115 Grafton St.....Replacing concrete driveway  
16 West Irving St.....Replace existing fence w/cedar fence  
3810 Bradley Ln.....Drainage, fencing, driveway, walls



### 2008 Resident Directory

Residents may now pick-up their 2008 Resident Directory available in the Village office or Communications Center.

**Chevy Chase Village**  
**5906 Connecticut Avenue**  
**Chevy Chase, MD 20815**

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 7078  
SUBURBAN MD

**See the cover article for important information  
on the Board of Managers' review of  
Proposed Building Regulations.**

### 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

