



Chevy Chase Citizens NEWS

February 2019

P.O. Box 6321 • Washington, D.C. 20015-0321 • 202-669-5033 • www.chevychasecitizens.org

Calendar

February

13—CCCA executive committee, 6:30 pm, Community Center

17—Friends of the Chevy Chase, D.C., Library annual meeting, 3 pm, Library

21—CCCA happy hour, 5:30-7:30 pm, The Avenue, 5540 Connecticut Ave., N.W.

25—ANC 3/4G meeting, 7 pm, Community Center

March

11—ANC 3/4G meeting, 7 pm, Community Center

13—CCCA executive committee, 6:30 pm, Community Center

19—CCCA public meeting, 7:30 pm, Community Center

25—ANC 3/4G meeting, 7 pm, Community Center

March Meeting on Older Adult Activities

CCCA will hold a public meeting in March with Northwest Neighbors Village to discuss opportunities in our area for older adults, particularly recent retirees and those approaching retirement. The session will focus on volunteering and lifelong learning. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, at the Chevy Chase Community Center. Watch for our March newsletter for more details.

Next event 5:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21

Come to The First CCCA Happy Hour

CCCA periodically holds public events to talk about topics of interest to people in our area. We welcome you to a happy hour for an informal discussion of current issues. There is no formal agenda. Among subjects you might want to mention are beautifying the Connecticut Avenue business district, potholes, bus service, lighting and local crime.

We will be joined by Ward 3 D.C. Council members Mary Cheh (Ward 3) and Brandon Todd (Ward 4).

The happy hour will be in the lower level of The Avenue restaurant at 5540 Connecticut Ave., N.W., just south of McKinley St. There will be complimentary appetizers and happy hour prices for drinks.

We're sorry, but the downstairs area is not ADA accessible. In case of bad weather that day, check chevychasecitizens.org for an update.

We hope to see you on Feb. 21st.



In mid-December, children and adults of all ages enjoyed decorating and eating cookies donated by Red Velvet Cupcakery, along with gluten free and nut free cookies made by former association President Samantha Nolan. Participants also made gingerbread houses and gingerbread people along with tree ornaments. The annual event sponsored by CCCA was held at the Chevy Chase Community Center.

Community Service

DC Government Contact Information

- All area code 202
- www.dc.gov
- Police/Fire: 911
- Govt. Service Calls: 311 or 737-4404

Mayor

Mayor Muriel Bowser
eom@dc.gov

Second Police District

Main Desk-715-7300

Commander

Duncan Bedlion-730-1901
duncan.bedlion@dc.gov

Sector One

Capt. Edward Bernat
edward.bernat@dc.gov

Police Service Area 201

Lt. Edward Aragona
edward.aragona@dc.gov
Sgt. James Koenig
james.koenig@dc.gov

Community Relations and Service Liaisons

Ward 3

Rich Harrington-535-1915
rich.harrington@dc.gov
Jessica Wertheim-724-5535
jessica.wertheim@dc.gov

Ward 4

KeShawn Harris-724-7672
keshawn.harris@dc.gov
Gabrielle Priest-603-7182
gabrielle.priest2@dc.gov

DC Council

www.dccouncil.us

Ward 3 Council Member

Mary Cheh-724-8062
mch@dccouncil.us

Ward 4 Council Member

Brandon Todd-724-8052
btodd@dccouncil.us

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3/4G

www.anc3g.org • 363-5803
chevychaseanc3@verizon.net

Public Library

www.dclibrary.org
282-0021 (Chevy Chase)
727-1101 (main library)

Construction Plan Advances

Community Center Designer Choice Likely in March

Plans are moving ahead for the long-awaited overhaul of the Chevy Chase Community Center at Connecticut Ave. and McKinley St., N.W.

Proposals from design firms are due this month, and the D.C. government is scheduled to select a designer by mid-March, Chairman Randy Speck of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3/4G said at a late January ANC meeting.

The request for proposals included most elements of the building's redesign that the ANC advocated in a lengthy report last year, Speck said. He and ANC member Christopher Fromboluti, who is an architect, said they were impressed that representatives of more than two dozen firms attended a recent meeting to discuss plans for the renovation.

D.C. agencies have \$19 million allocated in the budget for the project over the next three years. Although the schedule may slip, the current plan is for construction to start early next year, with completion set for September 2021. The building was last renovated from 1998-2000.

Speck anticipates several public meetings to be scheduled this year to discuss details of the project after a designer is chosen. The ANC is expected to form a committee to take part in the process.

ANC commissioners Abe Clayman and Jerry Malitz plan a meeting with the D.C. Department

of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to discuss how to relocate current activities at the center during the approximate 18-month construction period.

Another construction project will start fairly soon in Lafayette Park, where a renovation is being planned for the recreation center near Thirty-Third and Oliver Sts., N.W. DPR and the Department of General Services held a public meeting in late November to present a slightly modified design for the facility.

It is planned to be about 2,500 square feet, a bit more than twice the size of the current building. Officials said they are planning to deal with storm water problems and erosion on the park property. Construction would not start until late 2019 or early 2020.



Entrance to the Chevy Chase Community Center on McKinley St. N.W., off Connecticut Ave. Planning should be completed this year for the first major overhaul of the building in two decades.

Youth Camping, Photo Programs

Summer camp registration for D.C. Parks and Recreation facilities will begin Feb. 25. Call the Camping Office at 671-0372 for more information.

The Chevy Chase Community Center will offer a free "Kidz Vision" digital photo workshop for ages 6-10 from 1 to 4 p.m. on Fri., Mar. 8, a day D.C. public schools are closed. A digital camera or cell phone is required. Make sure they are charged. Registration is required, and the session is limited to 15 participants. Call the center at 282-2204 to register.

Thefts From Vehicles Jump in Chevy Chase

Crime hasn't taken a holiday in Chevy Chase, D.C. Our association wants to share some guidance for improved public safety in our neighborhood. The Chevy Chase area, which is part of Police Service Area 201, experiences mostly crimes of opportunity and the potential for these crimes can be mitigated with a little caution and community awareness.

Locking your home and your car are fundamental requirements. Even though we live in one of D.C.'s safer neighborhoods, there are still individuals looking to commit these crimes of opportunity. In most cases, thieves can be thwarted just by a locked door. We encourage you to be mindful and double-check your locks when leaving your car or home.

Please do not store your valet key in your car, or keep house keys or other valuables in plain sight in your vehicle, even when it is locked. Even a backpack is enough for a thief potentially to break into your car. If your valet key is in the vehicle they will be able to start the car and take it. Refrain from keeping keys with computer chips too close to your car and consider storing them in a metal box to prevent thieves from stealing the key's signal to unlock and start your car.



Don't leave valuables visible in your car!

— photo by Samantha Nolan

Over the last year, PSA 201 has seen only mostly modest decreases in crime in most categories, including auto thefts. The major exception is thefts from autos, which were up more than 150%, from 116 in 2017 to 174 last year. Of more than 400 autos stolen in the last year in the Metropolitan Police Department's Second District, where our association's area is located, in 131 cases, the keys were in the vehicle at the time of the theft.

It is vital to report to the police department any time your car is either damaged or broken into. Such data drives the decisions of police officials when it comes to the deployment of resources. In just the last month, the Second District has seen the arrests of frequent car thieves in areas outside Chevy Chase. The police will likely deploy more resources to areas where thefts from vehicles have risen if the crimes are reported.

The Second District has a new leader. After more than 30 years of police department service, Commander Melvin Gresham retired and was replaced by Commander Duncan Bedlion, a former resident of the Second District. The current Sector 1 (PSAs 201, 202, 203) Captain is Edward Bernat, and our PSA 201 Lieutenant is Edward Aragona. The CCCA will be scheduling meetings with these officials to review trends in our neighborhood. Be safe!

—Chris Dietz

This Month at the Chevy Chase D.C. Library

Get a winter break at the Chevy Chase branch library, where this month's evening discussion series, "Stranger in a Strange Land: Immigration, Alienation and fear of 'the Other'" will continue with "Wide Sargasso Sea," a 1966 prize-winning novel by Jean Rhys that imagines the back story of one of classic literature's most mysterious characters--the mad woman in the attic from Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre." Roberta Rubenstein, an English literature professor at American University, will give a brief lecture, followed by group discussion. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Tues., February 19. The series is led by librarian Emily Menchal and sponsored by the Friends of the Library. All are welcome!

FOLio, the used book store on the library's second floor, is the centerpiece of Friends' activity and its major source of fundraising. Every Saturday, from 10 to 5, FOLio features an ever-changing collection of some 10,000 books, classified, shelved, and sold by volunteers and priced between 50 cents and a few dollars, with all funds supporting literacy programs in D.C. libraries, schools, prisons, and non-profits.

The Friends' annual meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m., Sun., February 17. Please consider attending and bringing your ideas for enhancing this neighborhood volunteer service organization.

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Kate Barnes-Domotor

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

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Jory Barone

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Ted Gest, Liza Willsey

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**Jonathan Lawlor
Samantha Nolan, Nancy
Taylor**

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EDUCATION

Jenny Backus

FINE ARTS

Steven Zipp

HOUSING/REAL ESTATE

Nancy Wilson

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Samantha Nolan

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chris Dietz



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Visit chevychasecitizens.org and click on Business Corner for more information.

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SILVER MEMBERS: Aerobic Dancing by Jacki Sorensen | Blue 44 Restaurant & Bar | Chevy Chase Wine & Spirits | Fishery Seafood Market | Full of Beans | Goodman/Van Riper Photography | Jetties | Monarch Paint & Design Center | Nails & Spa | Periwinkle Gifts | President Valet | Ramer's StrideRite | Salon Familia

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