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## CCCA March 2023 Newsletter

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### Time to Renew Your CCCA Membership

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their household or business membership! We need everyone's support to continue sponsoring our community events and activities. Household dues are only \$20 a year. **If you have not yet renewed or joined, please go to our website at <https://www.chevychasecitizens.org/>. Click on the join button.** If you are a member, you may need to click on the "forgot password" button to reset your password.

If you prefer to pay by check, send a check for \$20 to CCCA, P.O. Box 42210, Washington, DC 20015. Thank you and we appreciate your support!

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### Announcements – Mark Your Calendar

**1. Developing a (Non-Financial) Plan for a Successful Retirement** - CCCA and NNV are cooperating in this special program on March 21 at 7 pm. Speakers are Deb Rubenstein, Iona Senior Services, and Stephanie Chong, Northwest Neighbors Village.

Most retirement planning focuses on the financial - this event will focus on physical and mental health issues and opportunities for personal development. The topic should be of interest to a wide age group. To register: <https://chevychasecitizens.org/event-5187114>

NNV is about neighbors giving neighbors the practical help to thrive while staying healthy, engaged, and connected to the community. NNV offers events that are open to the community and organizes lunches, museum outings, special interest groups, bingo, support groups and yoga for members and volunteers. Information on all activities can be found at [nnvdc.org](http://nnvdc.org). NNV is also seeking people who wish to [Volunteer!](#)

NNV's upcoming virtual speakers:

- [The Carter Barron Amphitheater: History, Present, and Future](#), March 21st, 11 am with speaker Tony Richardson.
- [The Glory of Medieval Stained Glass](#), March 30th, 1 pm with speaker Mary B. Shepard, PhD.
- [Maryland Freedom Seekers on the Underground Railroad](#), April 13th, 2 pm with speaker Jenny Masur.
- [Gilded Age Mansions of Dupont Circle](#), April 27th, 1 pm with speaker Ralph Buglass.

## **2. ANC 3/4G Zoning Design and Development Committee**

Standing Meeting, Thursday, March 23. For more information go to the [ANC 3/4G website](#).

## **3. Women's Club of Chevy Chase**

The [47th Annual Community Art Show and Sale](#), sponsored by the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase, takes place on March 24-26. Friday 2:00-6:00, and Saturday and Sunday 11:00-5:00 at 7931 Connecticut Ave, Chevy Chase, MD, at the corner of Connecticut & Dunlop. Free Admission, Free Parking off Dunlop.

The show includes 400 works of art by 115 local artists. Showcasing the amazing art talent in our community, it is well-known for offering appealing original art in a wide range of styles, at affordable prices. For more information, see website at [wccmaryland.org/art-show](http://wccmaryland.org/art-show). The Woman's Club of Chevy Chase is a nonprofit organization founded in 1913. It seeks to benefit the community through volunteer service, educational and cultural programs, and philanthropy.

#### **4. Friends of Chevy Chase Circle Special Events – May 5 -7 ([info@friendsofccc.org](mailto:info@friendsofccc.org))**

Chevy Chase Spring Fling: Two Communities, One Circle is happening May 5, 6 and 7th with a whole weekend of events aimed at celebrating the newly renovated and landscaped Chevy Chase Circle and the two Chevy Chase's, the one in DC as well as the one in Maryland that claim the circle as their landmark. The kick-off event will be Friday, May 5th.

For the first time ever, the fountain will have lights, in its interior and around the base. Friends of Chevy Chase Circle is inviting everyone to the “countdown” at 8:30pm sharp to witness history and the inaugural lighting of the fountain. A brass band will be on hand to add to the festivities so bring out the whole family.

Chevy Chase Main Street will be hosting all of Saturday and the plan will include special retail events up and down Main Street, a scavenger hunt for kids, pop-up vendors and a special “plein air” painting event around the circle and a free yoga class too! All will conclude in the evening with The Avalon's Centennial Gala. Finally, on Sunday, between 12 and 4pm, join the Garden Club of Chevy Chase's Garden tour of residential gardens in the Village of Chevy Chase.

Most events are free but for ticket information to the The Avalon Gala or the garden tour, go to: [FriendsofChevyChaseCircle.org](http://FriendsofChevyChaseCircle.org) for more information.

##### **May 5 - Inaugural Lighting of the Fountain**

- 8:00 pm – Block Party with the Crush Funk Brass Band
- 8:30 pm – Countdown to inaugural lighting. Bring noisemakers.

##### **May 6 – Chevy Chase Retail Event Specials**

- 8:30 am – plein air painting, scavenger hunt, pop-up retail, yoga
- 2:00 – 4:00 pm – Plein air art show
- 5:30 pm – Avalon Theatre's Centennial Gala

May 7 – 12:00 – 4:00 pm - Garden Club Chevy Chase: A tour of seven charming gardens in historic Chevy Chase Village.

## 5. Upcoming Events at the Office of Public Records

- [Black Resistance in Washington, DC From Emancipation to Today](#), Monday, April 3, 2023, 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Join as we discuss the meaning of freedom in people's lives and liberty in their community with a lecture by Dr. Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, Director of the Public History Program at Howard University.
- [Black Resistance in the Civil War Era](#), Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 6:00 pm - 7:00pm. Please join OPR to recognize Emancipation Day in DC with this riveting lecture by Dr. Roger Davidson, Assistant Professor of History at Bowie State University.

## Neighborhood Initiative

### *Iona Senior Services Initiates its Supportive Amenities Program*

On March 15, [Iona Senior Services](#) began its Supportive Amenities Program to provide critical services for residents of the Regency House, the only public housing for older adults in Ward 3. Iona's new initiative is made possible with support from the DC Housing Authority (DCHA) and the Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL). The Regency House is a senior public housing development with 160 apartments. For more information, visit [www.iona.org](http://www.iona.org).

The Supportive Amenities Program will provide crucial services to the community living in Regency House. Iona will provide a lengthy list of support and resources including:

- Nutrition and Meals - Providing hot, midday meals each weekday in a congregate dining setting.
- Social Work Support - An on-site social worker connects residents with services.
- Transportation - Weekly group transportation for residents to access shopping and leisure.
- Wellness Classes - Twice-weekly wellness programs through Around Town DC.

Health Clinics - Weekly group health clinics and one-on-one support with local primary care physicians and local universities featuring blood pressure checks, hearing and vision screenings, memory screening, and more.

## Opinion Piece: Bike Plan for Connecticut Avenue – Lee Mayer, President, [Save Connecticut Ave.org](http://SaveConnecticutAve.org)

The shops and restaurants on Connecticut Avenue have a unified and important message for Mayor Muriel Bowser: stop the bike plan that will jeopardize our survival. Mayer says that “we are not against bike lanes, but they do not belong on a major artery and citywide evacuation route like Connecticut Avenue.”

In a resounding show of unanimity, 120 businesses on a three mile stretch of Connecticut Avenue from Calvert Street to Chevy Chase Circle have hand-signed a petition opposing the addition of barrier-protected, curbside bike lanes on Connecticut Ave.

Members of the volunteer, grassroots organization went door-to-door to every business on and around Conn Avenue to inform businesses about the plan. The number of signatures is a stunning rebuke to DDOT’s plan to dedicate both curb lanes to bicycles and impede direct curb access to cars, delivery trucks and buses. A few quotes from store owners:

- Bob Kotchenreuther, owner of dry cleaner Cleveland Park Valet, noted that after 40 years of business — and coming after a pandemic that cut nearly half his business — he fears the removal of parking would be another major blow. *“Who is going to carry their dry cleaning on a bicycle on Connecticut Avenue at rush hour on a Friday night? It’s not going to happen,”* Kotchenreuther said.
- Ashok Bajaj, the owner of local Knightsbridge Restaurant Group which operates Bindaas and Sababa in Cleveland Park and several other restaurants in the District, commented, *“As the owner of several restaurants on Connecticut Avenue, I depend on the availability of parking for our patrons and suppliers, as well as for pick-ups/deliveries. I urge DDOT not to hurt us, my 400+ employees, mostly DC residents, and the other local merchants, by putting bike lanes there.”*

Here are some details of DDOT's bike lane plan:

- Barrier-protected bike lanes will be installed along both curbs on Conn Ave.

- There will be no direct curbside access except at intersections. Curbside pickup at restaurants and retailers, will be eliminated.
- All parking and "pick up/drop off" spaces will be on one side of the street only.
- 469 parking spots will be removed from Connecticut Ave.
- Loading zones will be reduced by over 42%. Delivery & service vehicles will have fewer parking options, forcing them to park illegally in one of the two lanes of traffic.
- DDOT projects over 7,000 cars per day will divert onto neighborhood streets.
- To accommodate bike lanes, there will be only two lanes of traffic in each direction, even during rush hour.
- Buses, without access to the curbs, must stop in one of the two remaining traffic lanes. Bus passengers will be forced to cross bike lanes when being picked up and dropped off.
- DDOT plans to extend the bike lanes up to Chevy Chase Circle. More parking and loading zones will be eliminated.

To learn more and to stay abreast of the latest developments, sign up for the mailing list at [Save Connecticut Ave.org](https://www.saveconnecticutave.org). The petition is at [Change.org](https://www.change.org).

## **Acting on a Hunch – President’s Corner by Robert Gordon**

I woke up in the middle of the night last week with the Chevy Chase Library/Community Center “Property” on my mind. That’s not healthy. What nagged me was the thought that the Chevy Chase Land Company must have stipulated something when it deeded the Property to the District of Columbia. I believed that it surely would not want the District to turn around and sell or give the land for purposes other than public uses. The next morning, I did an extensive online search in the records of the Office of Tax and Revenue, Recorder of Deeds office and found literally nothing. What I learned was that their electronic records only went back as far as 1921. Earlier records could be found in the District of Columbia’s Archives. I went to the Archives on the following Thursday and found the original records with the help of an incredible staff member, William Branch, who was not only knowledgeable about how to locate records but shared fascinating aspects of D.C. land-use history.

Long story short, here’s what I found. In December 1909 the Chevy Chase Land Company sold the back portion of the Property (125 feet from the alley on the east) to the District of Columbia for \$11,137 (\$368,182 in 2023 dollars). The property did not include the school portion shown on the left of Figure 2 below but did include the Lots numbered 28 to 35 and parts of 27 and 36 plus the closed alley shown in green. (The

new alley is shown in red.) Figure 3 shows the current outline of the Property with the subject area east of the dotted line in a greenish hue.

The Land Company's Deed transfer included two covenants, summarized here: 1) "That no structure shall be erected within fifteen (15) feet of the front or street lines of said premises ..." and 2) "That no Apartment house or Apartment houses shall be erected thereon."

It's possible that in subsequent years the covenants have been changed or eliminated but I could not find anything in the records to show that. Oddly, I could not find any reference to a transfer of property from the Chevy Chase Land Company to the District of Columbia for the portion of the property facing Connecticut Avenue that is labeled "school." I searched the Archives' records and old issues of the *Evening Star* and the *Washington Post* back to 1890 for references to any such transfer.

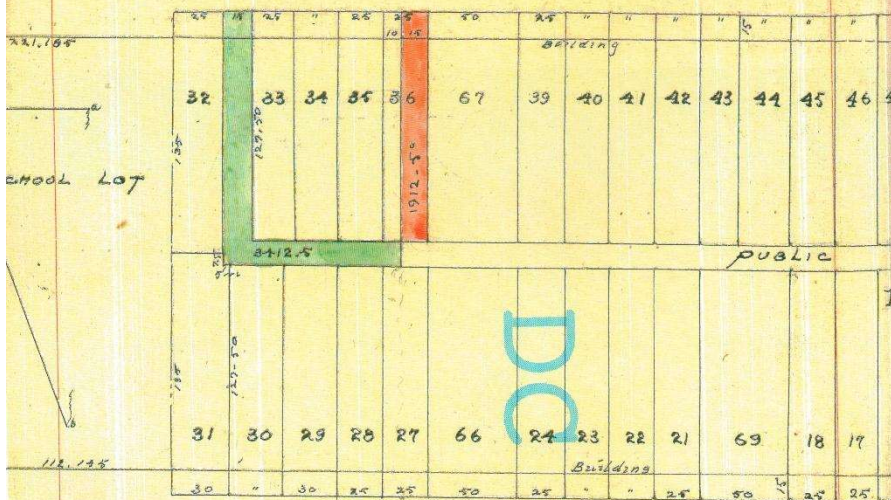
In our history section, the CCCA website does contain references to the original Chevy Chase School and says that the property was deeded to the District of Columbia in 1898 but I can find no original record as evidence of that transfer. That perplexes and intrigues me. So, I am asking for community help to figure out what this means with respect to DMPED's plans to allow developers to build a 90+ foot apartment building on the property. I also need help mapping out a strategy on how to proceed from here. I ask for our readers' thoughts and help. Feel free to write: [president@chevychasecitizens.org](mailto:president@chevychasecitizens.org).

Figure 2. Plat for the Library/Community Center (School then) Property

Sold to the District of Columbia in 1909 by

The Chevy Chase Land Company

# SQUARE 1866.



MS KINLEY

We the undersigned owners of all the land abutting the alley shown hereon





## One Neighbors Reaction to the Latest Changes to the Library/Community Center Zoning Effort

In February, on the Chevy Chase Listserv, I asked for reactions to the surplus/disposal plan put forth by the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Development. Here is one email that I received from a community member.

“Thank you for your Listserv post of Feb. 24. In addition to the proposed amount of housing for this site (which appears to be morphing from day to day), I, and others, are outraged about the latest: the City’s proposal to create a “special zone” to allow 9 story buildings (10-story if PUD??) on the Civic Core site ([proposed 24-page Text Amendment](#)). Is this a devious way of getting us all to “settle” for 5, 6, or 7 stories? No housing belongs on this site.

“Many people don’t realize what an enormous building or buildings will result from adding housing to the community center/library site. Even if it’s four stories instead of nine stories tall it will be “massive”! The construction of such a building will result in the immediate destruction of the historic low-rise village-style design, and the casual vibe, that many of us moved from other, more dense, parts of the city to enjoy. Such an enormous building would also serve as the impetus for additional over-sized and inappropriate buildings along the Avenue. With the unique character of CC gone, and with every new building looking like every other new building elsewhere in the city (or the country, for that matter), what would be the reason for any of us to stay?

“We have a responsibility to preserve the kind of community that all the residents currently living here bought into.

“Housing can be built anywhere. Why must it occur on this publicly owned site? Why can't it be built in 3-4 story townhouse-style buildings elsewhere along upper CT Ave. which would be more in keeping with the surrounding neighborhood of single-family homes?”

“What is wrong with having public amenities for the 14,000-plus residents of CCDC and thinking about their needs first — before we start building for future possible additional residents? What about the opinion just issued by Eric Goulet that we cannot add additional density to Ward 3 without having first built an additional school?”

## Supporting our Local Shops

### Park Story

PARK STORY is a womenswear, home, and gift shop featuring responsibly made goods from local and independent brands. Stop by to find a little bit of everything including clothing, jewelry, accessories, baby, craft tea and chocolate. On May 6th, 13th, and 20th, PARK STORY is hosting local makers for trunk shows. Meet the makers, designers, and people behind the brands we carry and shop styles not available in store. Follow PARK STORY on Instagram and Facebook @shopparkstory for the latest updates. Find us online at [shopparkstory.com](http://shopparkstory.com).





If you have any comments or suggestions about the articles in this newsletter, please send them to [president@chevychasecitizens.org](mailto:president@chevychasecitizens.org). We welcome your feedback.

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