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Chevy Chase Citizens NEWS

May 2022

Earlier this Month – Military Road Lined with Azaleas – Short Lived but Beautiful



Please Renew or Join

If you haven't already, please renew your membership for 2022-23 by visiting www.chevychasecitizens.org.

Dues are \$20 per year for two members from one household

If you have any questions or feedback, please write to president@chevychasecitizens.org

Please check it out. The [CCCA website](http://www.chevychasecitizens.org) has a new look!

One of the many reasons people love to live, play,
work, and thrive in Chevy Chase.

2022 Election Key Dates and Deadlines

- DCBOE begins sending mail-in ballots to all registered voters: May 16, 2022
- Mail Ballot Drop Boxes open: May 27, 2022
- Deadline to update voter registration with party affiliation: May 31, 2022
- Deadline to request Absentee Ballot*: June 6, 2022
- Deadline for UOCAVA voters to request an Absentee Ballot: June 18, 2022
- Early Voting period: June 10 - 19, 2022
- Primary Election Day: June 21, 2022
- Deadline for DCBOE to receive voted Absentee Ballots: June 28, 2022

*Given that DCBOE is mailing all registered DC voters a mail-in ballot, you do NOT need to request an Absentee Ballot unless you will be away from your DC residence during the 2022 Primary Election.

**Put Chevy Chase DC Day on Your Calendar – Saturday.
September 17, 2022, 1-4 PM**



Chevy Chase DC Saturday 9/17/2022 **Day**

1 to 4 pm along Conn. Avenue
and at the Commons between the
Community Center and the Library



www.chevychasecitizens.org

Come out and enjoy...

- free ice cream • musicians •
- books • scavenger hunt •
- food • moon bounce •
- neighbors • information • and more! •

Spend the day on the Avenue!

Co-sponsored by the Chevy Chase Citizens Association and the Chevy Chase Community Center.

CCCA Annual Membership Meeting: Zoom Webinar. June 23, 2022, 07:00 – 8:30 PM

In this general membership meeting we discuss the main accomplishments of the past year and a look forward to initiatives for 2022-23. We will discuss September's Chevy Chase DC Day. Another major item will be election of corporate officers. If you wish to run as an officer, please write to me at president@chevychasecitizens.org.

We are also discussing and planning to vote on a new name for CCCA - one that better reflects our modern times. Register in advance for this webinar. Click on the link below or copy it and insert into your browsers the address bar, complete and submit.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OEVexer6TwCVLI05_X-jWg.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Among the major items to be discussed is a name change.

CCCA Contemplating a Name Change

Chevy Chase Citizens Association, founded in 1909, has evolved over time. For many years CCCA was the only non-governmental entity in the area. It provided support for the local schools, library, roads, and real estate development. Where it was once an exclusionary organization favoring the well-to-do, membership is open to all members of the Chevy Chase Community, citizen or not. We no longer feel that the existing name is applicable or proper.

We have formed a committee of our Board to discuss a change in the name of the organization to reflect our current values. In our upcoming virtual Membership Meeting on June 23, we intend to discuss the change and vote on it.

Rationale to change its name to CHEVY CHASE *COMMUNITY* ASSOCIATION

There are several compelling reasons to make this change.

- CCCA should aim to be as inclusive a neighborhood organization as possible. It should serve everyone in our community, not only citizens and not only residents. CCCA's concept of inclusivity should extend to all residents, whether or not they are citizens. Many of our residents are not citizens of the United States. On every block and in every apartment house in Chevy Chase DC some of our neighbors are journalists, diplomats, students, staff of international organizations or people otherwise employed or simply resident from countries other than the United States and their family members. Their presence is a welcome component of our community enriching our daily lives.
- The CCCA concept of community should also extend to the workforce employed in our neighborhood. They may not be residents, but the workforce serves the neighborhood and spends its most productive hours in our midst. It also augments our diversity, as Peggy Fleming and Joanne Zich so well documented in "Small Town in a Big City."
- A more expansive concept of the neighborhood connoted by "community" gives CCCA a valuable opportunity to broadcast a welcome that may help neighbors experience a higher level of connectedness to each other and may

encourage neighbors to participate in community affairs, including programs developed by CCCA.

It is time for CCCA to transcend the racially exclusive origins of the citizens associations of the District of Columbia. Until the early 1970s, the constitution of the Chevy Chase Citizens Association required members to be white. The CCCA today needs to acknowledge this history and present its name change as a further marker of its transformation into an organization based on welcoming everyone living and working in and visiting our neighborhood as valuable contributors to our community¹.

¹Memory culture provides another important reason to undertake the name change. The Citizens Association of Chevy Chase was an early member of the Federation of Citizens Associations in DC (founded 1910). Until the early 1970s, the constitution of the Chevy Chase Citizens Association required members to be white. For many years an aggressive membership campaign based on racial exclusivity resulted in the largest and arguably most influential association in DC (with a membership of around 3,000 in some years). CCCA was a key mechanism of segregation. And it was tenacious in the defense of segregation. It fought every attempt at democratizing DC government; it fought reestablishment of even partial home rule. The fact that the federation of citizens associations (to be distinguished from civic associations that formed when excluded from the white federation) is now also taking the step of changing its name provides a very compelling reason for CCCA to do the same AND to be clear about the genealogy of this change. – Carl Lankowski, HCCDC

ANC 3/4G Approves Modifications to Draft Small Area Plan

On May 9, the ANC shared with the community its [draft resolution regarding the Office of Planning's \(OP\) draft Chevy Chase Small Area Plan](#) (SAP) with the community. The Commission voted 5-2 to approve a [streamlined draft resolution](#) that was discussed at the meeting. The resolution, all recorded meeting materials, including the post-meeting video recording and chat log can be found at the ANC website, [here](#).

The Commission's resolution began by reiterating the [key elements it embraced](#) at the top of its 2020 resolution calling for a small area plan:

- "Our community needs more affordable housing that will promote income diversity and enrich our civic life;"
- "Our neighborhood can and should accommodate population growth while also preserving its hallmark livability and assuring that new development has a compatible scale, function, and character with the surrounding structures;"

- "Our residents require increased infrastructure planning - especially for public schools and transportation - that specifies how the District will meet demands for the current and future population."

To pursue these and related goals, the CCSAP requires the addition of two major elements:

- a call for establishment of a new zoning district that the ANC and the community will have a role in drafting, and
- a new development review and project approval structure to be integrated into the new district or zone – as well as a variety of other changes detailed in the body of the resolution.

The Commission's approval or positive assessment of the draft depends on OP and the Council including the changes detailed in the body of the ANC's resolution. Please go to the ANC website to see the entire resolution and all other related materials, [here](#).

Several other local organizations have filed their views on the draft CC SAP including Historic Chevy Chase DC. Click here to see the complete [HCCDC statement](#). HCCDC embraced the planning/visioning exercise actively, organized six public events with experts and participated on the CAC. HCCDC's guiding principles were that...

- Chevy Chase should welcome all people, not just the affluent.
- our community should be part of the solution to the lack of affordable housing and to environmental sustainability, not part of the problem;
- meaningful community input is key to facilitating development; and
- the SAP should reflect the needs of the current residents as well as the future residents.

Pickleball in Chevy Chase, DC

If you have walked near the Chevy Chase Library almost any early morning of the week, you will hear the thwack of plastic wiffleball-looking balls and about 10-12 passionate Pickleball players. For the uninitiated, Pickleball is a cross between tennis, ping pong, and badminton. Two Pickleball courts can fit on one tennis court. But any flat level surface greater than 25' x 50' will do. Today, DC's DPR manages about 50

indoor and outdoor PB courts. Players say that “Pickleball is tennis evolved.” The official list of players in DC is about 500+ and growing.

The second annual DC Classic Pickleball Tournament was held Sunday, May 15 on 12 outdoor courts at Turkey Thicket Recreation Center. The DC Classic has become the spring tournament for Washington DC Pickleballers. It offers a chance for DC players to compete among themselves. In the fall, the second annual DC Challenge will be sponsored by DPR and will be held on September 24 and 25 at Turkey Thicket. It will be open to all players.

In the DC Classic, the tournament was divided into three divisions: above (high), intermediate to advanced (intermediate), and below 55 (senior). Mixed doubles were added; below 55 medalists in each of the divisions share of gold, silver



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Chevy Chase

The DC Classic was conducted by Washington DC Pickleball, a not-for-profit group, in conjunction with DC’s Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Both groups contributed volunteer time to help make the tournament a success. From comments received from the players, it was a well-run and fun recreational tournament. Thanks to Scott Parker, DC PB Ambassador and Jan Pauly, event organizer, for all their hard work. Spectators enjoyed watching quality pickleball played live and among many DC players they knew.

Additionally, Robert Gordon of CCCA, participated in the National Senior Games in Pickleball (formerly known as the Senior Olympics) in Fort Lauderdale, in early May. Gordon played Men’s Doubles, Mixed Doubles, and Singles. Sorry to report no hardware won but it was a blast to participate.

Recap of Ward 3 City Council Candidate Forum

On May 3, the Chevy Chase Citizens Association and the Palisades Community Association teamed up to present a Ward Three City Council Candidate Forum. All

nine Democratic candidates participated. We debated several format options, holding the forum: 1) at the CC Community Center or 2) virtually over Zoom, or 3) a hybrid of the two. In the end we went with option 2. We found that the hybrid version – combining both in-person and virtual, required special sound and video equipment that we did not have available. Over 140 people attended the Zoom Webinar. To see the video of the event, go to the CCCA, www.chevychasecitizens.org, website or to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvrDzFykzZ8>

The rehabilitation of the Chevy Chase Circle's fountain has begun!

It means that the fountain will not be working this summer but it also means that by next spring, thanks to both Federal dollars and community donations, we will have a refurbished fountain replete with a new pumping and filtration system, a re-lined basin, new landscaping and LIGHTS!

Working with the National Park Service that owns the circle and the dollars generated through community donations, Friends of Chevy Chase Circle engineered the first-ever lighting plan for the fountain and brought that plan to the Commission of Fine Arts. Permission to install lights both in the fountain itself and around the basin was granted soon after. Happily, lights for both their aesthetic and safety effects are now part and parcel of the National Park Service's plan for the rehabilitation of the fountain and next spring, lights will be part of the fountain and the circle's new face.

Fencing has gone up to enclose the area and there will be dumpsters and heavy equipment added to the mix. It is estimated that the project will continue through November. It will also mean some noise. Crews will need to drill through the concrete basin and then excavate to reach the plumbing system and the pipes that lay directly under the fountain. Please be extra cautious when navigating the circle!

Finally, our neighborhood landmark will continue to look better and better due to community stewardship and our partnership with the National Park Service but only if individuals within this community step forward to make a difference. Friends of Chevy Chase Circle is seeking leadership on into the future and if serving in a leadership position or on the community board made up of both DC and Maryland residents is of interest, Please let us know!

Ruth Robbins, President

FriendsofChevyChaseCircle.org

Spring Pictures by Local Photographers

This is a new feature that will appear in subsequent issues of the CCCA newsletter. Please send seasonal and topical pictures to president@chevychasecitizens.org



CCCC in May – anonymous



White dogwood, lavender, and peonies
frame sign – Jennie Hawthorne



Girl searching for flowers - May Kesler



Her pond - Peggy Fleming

President's Corner: The Next Land-Use Battle in Chevy Chase and Beyond

Last Sunday's Washington Post contained an article that showed where Democratic candidates in contested races stood on several contentious issues, [link here](#).

On the question "Would you support increasing the density of some parts of the city, such as converting single-family housing zoning to zoning that allows construction of multifamily buildings?" Mayor Bowser answered No. That came as a surprise to me. Her Office of Planning doesn't agree with her and has written extensive documents with contrary sentiments. Perhaps she should have a discussion with OP about her priorities?

In its April 2020 document "Single-Family Zoning in the District of Columbia" ([Read here](#)) OP's top recommendation is to increase the variety of housing types in single-family zones: "Promote gentle density in single-family zones that are high-cost high-opportunity, or near transit." Does that sound something like Chevy Chase, DC? Gentle density and its cousin "Missing Middle" are city planner/real-estate developer terms for replacing single-family homes with multi-family housing "such as

townhomes, two-four family homes, and small-scale apartment or condominium buildings.” According to the website missingmiddle.com, it includes a “range of house-scale buildings with multiple units – compatible in scale and form with detached single-family homes – located in a walkable neighborhood.”³

That doesn’t sound so bad -- unless you live in the area that may be up-zoned to make way for the higher-density buildings. Examine Illustration 1 below. Imagine that you live somewhere between Connecticut Avenue and Broad Branch Road on the east or between Connecticut Avenue and 42nd Street on the west. One day you may encounter something like what we see in the illustration.

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The irony is that despite the mayor’s expressed opposition to increasing density this way, the Office of Planning raised the prospect of exactly this kind of development in its draft Chevy Chase Small Area Plan. The Chevy Chase ANC 3/4G submitted its response to the CCSAP, wisely urging the Plan to remove Recommendation 4.7 because it is outside the scope of the SAP study. The recommendation reads “Study future land use changes to reduce the land cost associated with homeownership, in high-value low-density residential areas like Chevy Chase, in the next Comprehensive Plan update.” Other local non-profit organizations rejected this item too.

The draft Small Area Plan for Chevy Chase has been submitted to the public for comment and the comment period is now closed. Many people have submitted comments and testified in public forums. Let’s see what changes are made for the final plan, if any, and what text is presented to the City Council for a vote.

My prediction is that gentle density in Chevy Chase will raise its ugly head again during the next Comp Plan amendment cycle. *Cui bono?* - who benefits. Greater density means more tax revenue for the DC government. What other powerful forces in Washington, DC would benefit from the building windfall resulting from greater density in single-family areas like Chevy Chase? Aren’t there other ways to add

housing stock here that is more affordable, or ways to help people who have traditionally lacked access to generational wealth, purchase homes?

I think that it's time to consider the next political phase. Join us in the discussion around affordable housing in the residential streets of Chevy Chase. Write to me at president@chevychasecitizens.org and let me know your thoughts. We plan to publish supporting and contrary views in upcoming newsletters and on our website.

Robert Gordon

³David Parolek, Missing Middle Housing, Thinking Big and Building Small to Respond to Today's Housing Crisis, Opticos, 2020

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