

In this issue: Redistricting; Office of Planning Walks Connecticut Avenue; Windows on Wisconsin (WOW!); Starting Dec 9, 2021; Maret School Plans to Lease Fields from ECC for Athletic Fields; Revisiting Spooktacular, October 31, 2021 – Organized and Conducted by CCCA; Call Boxes; CCCA Participates in Police Honors Dinner; Council votes on Woodrow Wilson High School Renaming



**November-December 2021**

## **Redistricting**

On December 1, 2021, the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 3/4G) held a special Zoom meeting to hear from residents about whether they want the Ward 4 portion of the Chevy Chase community to remain in Ward 4 as it has for the past 20 years or to rejoin Ward 3, as it was historically. Currently the Chevy Chase community is physically separated by Rock Creek Park between Wards 3 and 4 (see map below).

At the conclusion of the 3.5-hour meeting that included the statements of many Wards 3 and 4 residents and discussion among ANC Commissioners, the ANC voted 4-1-1 approving a resolution to redraw the Ward 3 boundaries to reunify Chevy Chase neighborhoods to include Hawthorne, Barnaby Woods and parts of Chevy Chase now in Ward 4. The resolution can be found here: <https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Resolution-on-Redistricting-of-Wards-3-and-4-FINAL-12-5-21.pdf>.

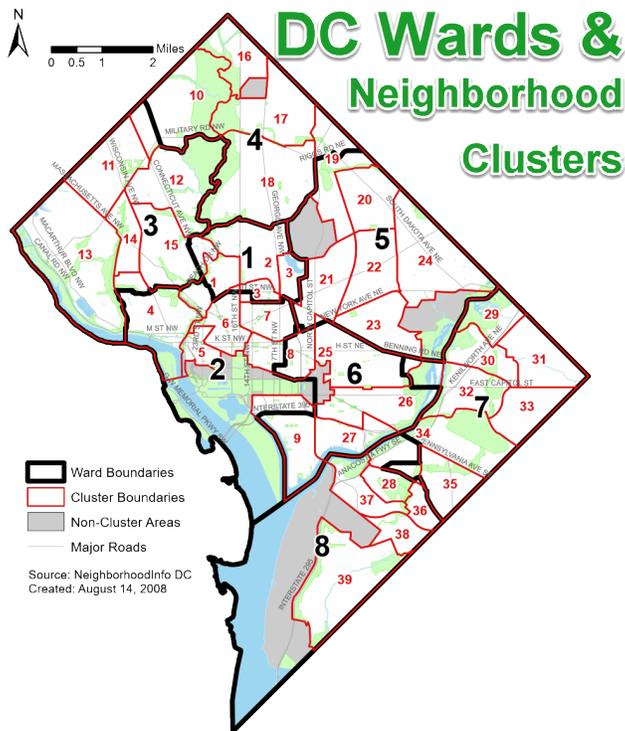
The video of the ANC's public meeting on redistricting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZ04QW1zpWs>.



CCCA officers from left to right: Robert Gordon, president; Sandra Cihlar, treasurer, Jory Barone, secretary



If you haven't already, please renew your membership by visiting [www.chevychasecitizens.org](http://www.chevychasecitizens.org) and clicking on "renew" at the top. Dues are \$20 per year for two members from one household.



A local resident of Ward 4 and a proponent of reunification stated that:

*If we send our children to public school, we can't vote for the Board of Education representative for the middle and high schools our children attend. We can't run for Council to represent the part of the city we know best; while a candidate running for Ward 4 Council from, say, Barnaby Woods, would be like the tail attempting to wag the dog.*

Those opposing the reunification said that they were pleased with the existing wards arrangement, saw no advantage in returning to Ward 3 and felt that having two council members to turn to for local action was an important advantage for them.

#### Redistricting Calendar of Key Events

- December 7, 2021: First vote by the full Council on the ward redistricting bill (Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021)
- December 21, 2021: Second vote on the ward redistricting bill
- December 2021: Ward Task Forces (which provide recommendations on ANC redistricting)
- February 2022: Ward Task Forces report out recommendations
- May 2022: Subcommittee mark-up of the ANC redistricting bill
- June 2022: Council votes on the ANC redistricting bill

CCCA would like your thoughts on redistricting. Please let us know by writing to [President@chevychasecitizens.org](mailto:President@chevychasecitizens.org) or review the petition at the link below.

<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/reunite-the-chevy-chase-community-in-ward-3-2.html>

## Office of Planning Walks Connecticut Avenue

Forty plus people gathered in chilly bright sunlight at the Chevy Chase Community Center Saturday, November 20, to consider how the community's Small Area Plan (SAP) might allow satisfactory changes in production of new housing and

commercial opportunities from Livingston Street to Chevy Chase Circle fronting along Connecticut Avenue.

Erkin Ozberk and Heba ElGawish, DC Office of Planning (OP) SAP project managers, introduced the first of three area tours to obtain residents' feedback on proposals from various planning and development entities in on-line presentations over the past six months or so. Consultants from Cunningham Quill Architects and LINK Strategic Partners took part.

Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh engaged in discussion about redevelopment of the community center, library, and potential affordable housing units at the site – segments of the work have already been approved for funding by the DC Council, but substantial additional appropriation negotiations would be required in budget years 2023 and 2024. Walks were also scheduled December 8 and 11. Details are available at <https://publicinput.com/chevychase>.



Divided into two groups, attendees toured the four-block SAP area for about 90 minutes contemplating existing buildings and parking lots for possible redevelopment with multi-family housing above modern retail storefronts. Attendees' remarks were expected to complement urban design

survey activity planned by OP in December and inform a Design Charrette, including model demonstrations, set for January.

## **Windows on Wisconsin (WOW!): Starting Dec 9, 2021**

Ch/Art, a Chevy Chase nonprofit community arts organization presents WOW! a dynamic display of the creativity of neighborhood artists running for a full year through 2022. The curated shows will present the work of local artists, seven at a time, each for a three-month period, in the shop windows at 5510 Wisconsin Avenue in Chevy Chase, MD. New shows will be presented in the spring, summer and fall of 2022.

This novel approach to viewing an exhibit in windows at any time day or night provides a new way to enjoy art without restrictions.

WOW! brings the work of local artists, initially featuring art by Nancy Arbuthnot, Sara Bardin, Ruth Becker, Judith Goodman, Ronni Jolles, Trinka Roeckelein, and Xiaowei Song, members of Ch/Art to the attention of the community.

For additional information, please contact Kathleen Zeifang at [khzeifang@gmail.com](mailto:khzeifang@gmail.com) or 703-447-8758.

WOW!, 5510 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815





## **Maret School Plans to Lease Fields from ECC for Athletic Fields**

At the corner of Nebraska and Utah in Upper Chevy Chase, in buildings recently recommended for the National Register of Historic Places, the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) has (since 1930) managed an orphanage; a children's residential treatment center; and most recently a day school for emotionally troubled children. In June 2019, ECC paused its operations, facing financial uncertainty made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the three stately main buildings, ECC owns an open field on sloping ground, with mature trees and remnants of children's play equipment. In 1976, ECC's then-director Alan Korz said the grounds were valuable therapeutically; because "our kids need the space." ECC now looks to that open field to secure its

own future, in partnership with 110-year-old Maret School (Maret), from Cleveland Park.

ECC has leased nearly five acres to Maret (for up to 50 years) to develop modern athletic fields. Maret's proposal, headed to a zoning hearing March 9, would flatten the site to install a regulation-size field for football, soccer, and lacrosse, complete with bleachers and scoreboard, as well as a full-size baseball diamond with batting cages, dugouts, and bullpens. Maret explains the proposal's three legs: it would allow consolidation and expansion of Maret athletics; lease payments would stabilize ECC's finances; and the new fields would create a "wonderful benefit" for the larger DC community, because Maret would sub-lease to others, such as youth soccer and baseball leagues.

The planning drawing is from the Maret website.



The plan has generated intense interest among neighbors. Some support the proposed development, saying it's a private arrangement between two private institutions. Moreover, it might preserve a sense of openness, or provide an amenity for neighborhood families.

Many neighbors are more skeptical. They say it is unprecedented to squeeze such a sports complex into an established residential neighborhood in NW DC. Plans

call for retaining walls, tall fences and netting extending right to the property lines. In addition to the visual impact, the proposed level of activity would be intense, with boys' and girls' sports during all seasons and most daylight hours. The noise, traffic, and parking pressure would transform neighborhood life. In addition to the loss of natural soil and wildlife habitat, the concentration of stormwater runoff from nearly four acres of synthetic turf would create an engineering challenge and downstream surges.



## Revisiting Spooktacular, October 31, 2021 – Organized and Conducted by CCCA









## Call Boxes

Chevy Chase can transform what many consider to be an eyesore into something we could be proud of and point to during history walks, art walks, visiting businesses, or just strolling in the neighborhood. We have nine call boxes in the immediate vicinity of the Connecticut Avenue business district. All of these are in Ward 3. Some of the boxes include:

- NW corner - Nevada/Quesada
- NW corner – Nevada/Oliver
- NW corner – McKinley/Broad Branch
- SE corner Conn/Oliver
- SE corner Chevy Chase/McKinley
- NW corner Conn/Morrison
- NW corner Conn/Kanawha
- SW corner Broad Branch/Patterson
- NW corner – Mckinley/Broad Branch (already has been refurbished with art)

One example of a rusting call box that can be refurbished and ratified.



CCCA is looking for your thoughts and for volunteers to help organize the effort.  
[President@chevychasecitizens.org](mailto:President@chevychasecitizens.org)

## **CCCA Participates in Police Honors Dinner**

On November 17, 2021, Robert Gordon (President), Sandy Cihlar (Treasurer), and Jory Barone (Secretary) were joined by Jonathan Lawlor and Samantha Nolan (Previous Presidents) and Randy Speck (Chair, ANC 3/4 G) at the Second District MPD Citizens Advisory Committee's Annual Awards Banquet at Maggiano's Little Italy. A good time was had by all.

Lt. Marlon Ollivierre, our PSA 201 Lt. was selected as Manager of the Year and Officer Ryan Elbert was PSA 201 Officer of the Year. If you see them on the street, please congratulate them on a job well done.



## Council votes on Woodrow Wilson High School Renaming

The D.C. Council has voted on whether the District's biggest high school will be renamed--and the verdict is yes. The name proposal which passed was Jackson-Reed High School, two significant figures in the high school's history. Edna Jackson was the first African American teacher at the school, joining in 1955. Vincent Reed was the school's first African American principal in 1968. The council voted eleven in favor and one "present."

Initially, the proposal was to name the school August Wilson, but the idea was discarded due to claims Wilson did not have a strong connection to DC history.

The change will not be immediate--the Department of Public Works has to make a schedule for changing the name, not to mention finishing countless amounts of paperwork. The name will have to be voted on a couple more times, so there is a chance that the final proposal will still be different.

this message was sent to you by the Chevy Chase Citizens Association

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, you can [unsubscribe](#) at any time