



THE CHEVY CHASE CIRCLE TIMES

FALL 2025

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FriendsOfChevyChaseCircle.org

FINALLY, THERE IS LIGHT!

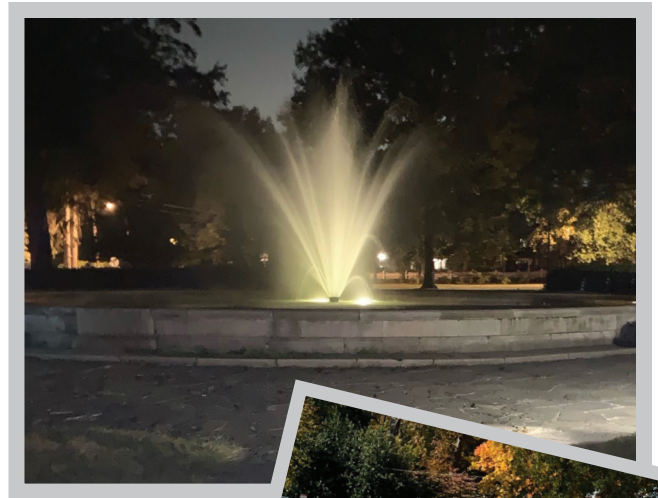
It's been 100 years, but who's counting?

It may seem as if the fountain has always had lights to illuminate it at night, but in truth, it has only been slightly more than two years since the fountain was re-constructed and the lights added. Now at night, the fountain's 30-foot water plume can be seen dancing and glowing like a cool flame. No more does the Circle fade into darkness each evening.

The original National Park Service (NPS) budget for reconstructing the fountain did not include lights. But Friends of Chevy Chase Circle (FoCCC) and this community stepped forward in the nick of time to raise more than \$120,000. FoCCC hired a renown lighting designer, created a professional light design plan, and went to

the Commission of Fine Arts to procure approvals. With a bit of luck and a fair share of persistence – as well as the full cooperation of the NPS – plans were made to incorporate lights into the fountain as well as to install six light bollards to surround the exterior of the fountain and illuminate its basin.

Thanks to the addition of the lights, the fountain can now be enjoyed almost around the clock, Spring through Fall, providing beauty and additional nighttime visibility to the Circle. A bright future for the fountain indeed!



WHO ARE THE FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE CIRCLE?

We are your neighbors! And we are the very folks who hand-delivered this newsletter to your doorstep.

The Friends of Chevy Chase Circle (FoCCC) is an independent nonprofit entity that came into being in 2014 to respond to the need for the continued stewardship of the Circle by local residents. The Circle is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service and FoCCC is its philanthropic "friends" group.

FoCCC has no paid staff, so every penny raised goes directly to the care and upkeep of the Circle and the adjoining "traffic splitters." Keeping the Circle looking beautiful, pressing for safety improvements with local authorities, and raising funds to improve and maintain the landscaping are all part of FoCCC's mission.

The Maryland-DC line goes directly through the Circle. Both Chevy Chase, Maryland, and Chevy Chase, DC, claim the Circle as their landmark. As a gateway both to Maryland and DC, each community derives meaning and value from the site and wants to see it maintained at a level commensurate with its status. Joining forces in assuring the Circle's future through the Friends of Chevy Chase Circle is the best way to channel community funds directly into the maintenance and upkeep of the Circle. It's a win-win for both DC and Maryland.

MISSION STATEMENT

Cultivating a Treasured Landmark: Friends of Chevy Chase Circle is a local volunteer organization working with the National Park Service to renew, beautify, maintain and protect Chevy Chase Circle, an historic landmark and a gateway to the Nation's Capital.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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WHY SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE CIRCLE?

Since its inception in 2014, FoCCC – a fully volunteer and community-based nonprofit – has a long list of accomplishments, none of which would have happened without your donations and support.

- In addition to the Circle, the traffic "splitters" north and south of the Circle have been landscaped and are maintained by contractors whom FoCCC hires, supervises, and pays each season, all through community funding.
- We initiated, then financed, the multi-step process of adding lights to the fountain's reconstruction by going to the Commission of Fine Arts with a lighting and engineering plan to install new lights in and around the fountain.
- We began a new landscaping initiative for the flower beds that surround the fountain that included lots of TLC for our roses, trimming of the azaleas, and a new installation of plants.
- We have been key in bringing together the various stakeholders in the Circle and working hard and long on safety measures that resulted in new lane markings and traffic configurations.
- The Circle has restored benches, new trees, and lovely new "mulch rings" for every tree in the circle.

What are the ongoing needs of Chevy Chase Circle?

- Provide for the continued landscaping needs of the Circle and the traffic splitters
- Maintain relationship and contractual obligations to the National Park Service by fulfilling all agreements and reciprocal obligations.
- Assure continuing stewardship with strong leadership and wide-spread community representation on the Friends of Chevy Chase Circle's Board of Directors.

Please go to our website at

www.FriendsofChevyChaseCircle.org

for more information on how you might help. Or see the QR code included in this newsletter. Or clip the newsletter segment attached on page four and send a check. Thank you so much for your support!

WILLOW OAKS, AZALEAS AND MORE: WHAT'S PLANTED ON THE CIRCLE?

Besides the 32 Willow Oaks that line the outer edges of the circle, in the four flower beds that surround the fountain you will find: more than 400 Delaware Valley white azaleas, hundreds of red flower carpet "noatrum" roses, nine sugar tyme crabapple trees, and through the various seasons, pink astilbe, "geranium" daffodils, "autumn brilliane" ferns, "bobo" hydrangea, anemone, and in the grass, complements of the labors of Scout Troop 255, we have hundreds of different colored crocuses.

The triangles or "traffic splitters" that sit north and south of the circle are also cared for by FoCCC and there you can find a variety of plantings too: Coreopsis, Russian sage, a type of fountain grass called "Pennisetum" and in the spring, purple allum.



PARK? OR A DRIVE-BY GREEN SPACE?

The circle in the middle of Connecticut Avenue was created when Chevy Chase itself came into being at the end of the 1800's. A cow or two was known to graze peacefully in its interior and it was a prime spot for ball games. But then came the trollies and the electrical poles. In 1933, a fountain was erected in its center and a heavy stone "promenade" was installed around the exterior perimeter of the Circle. Then in the late 1950's, a flagstone terrace was placed around the fountain and ringed by multiple benches.

Little did anyone anticipate the volume of traffic that now rushes by and around the Circle on a daily basis, making pedestrian access a daredevil endeavor. So much has changed. But people still want to visit the Circle, to get up close to the fountain and yes, even sit on the Circle's benches.

How as a community do we respond to this dichotomy? We want a lovely green space but is it only for vehicles negotiating the Circle? Certainly, the initial intent of its planners was to use the space as a park. If that is still the case, safe passage onto the Circle for pedestrians must be assured and safety issues for both vehicles and pedestrians must be addressed.

The question remains: Can we reclaim this community space as a park for future generations? Or must it forever remain a green spot in a sea of traffic? FoCCC believes we can have beauty and safety and remain your advocate to achieve both.



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Chevy Chase Circle may straddle two jurisdictions, but it remains the center of one community. Our homes, schools, churches, and businesses literally and figuratively revolve around it. We are all fortunate to have a one-acre National Park and civic landmark in our neighborhood. The Circle fountain provides us with graceful beauty while the array of willow oaks, azaleas, tulips, roses, and other plants offer shade and seasonal color.

These benefits require our careful stewardship. FoCCC is grateful for the longstanding support from our partners at the National Park Service and for their work maintaining the Circle. But as the Park Service's resources are stretched further and disruptions to government funding persist, our community must step in to fill the gaps. The Circle needs continued maintenance – starting with the basics like mowing and weeding as well improvements like a seasonal planting plan and a restored outer promenade to enhance its beauty and complement its historic character. Additional safety measures are also necessary. For better and for worse, this work will only get done if we choose to do it. The Circle faces challenges, but we at FoCCC are confident that our



community will step forward just as it did in planting the initial round of tulips, repairing the park benches, and, most recently, installing the fountain light fixtures. **We could not have completed any of these projects without your help!** We have done it before and we can do it again.

Now is the time for all of us to take it upon ourselves to protect and enhance this important community asset. Please join all of us at FoCCC in donating toward the Circle's future. Please consider scanning the enclosed QR code or visiting our website –

www.FriendsofChevyChaseCircle.org

– to donate today. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ching".

Christopher Kenny

TWO COMMUNITIES, ONE CIRCLE

This is a photo of the dedicated Board of Directors of the Friends of Chevy Chase Circle. The board is special among local community organizations as it is made up of residents from both DC and Maryland. We are two different communities with a common interest and intent: maintain the Circle and its environs for the benefit of all.

Friends of Chevy Chase Circle is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that has banded together as neighbors in a contractual relationship with the National Park Service. We are the Circle's stewards, and your support literally makes the Circle bloom. If you have an interest in helping FoCCC continue its mission, please consider a donation to help keep our neighborhood's landmark well-kept and cared for.



Seated: Maryanne Kane, Chris Kenny, Tracey D'Angelo, Ted Pochter
Standing: Carolyn Wilson, Valerie Grace, Carolyn Race, Peter Gosselin, Clarke Camper, Ruth Robbins, Nancy Slade
Missing: Lisa Sanders, Kathleen LeDain, Thomas Sneeringer, Gerri Carr, H. Norman Knickle

SAFETY AND THE CIRCLE

The June 2020 re-striping of the Circle's roadways and its crosswalks plus the new configuration of the north and south lanes have made a difference. The number of accidents is down, and that's good news.

Friends of Chevy Chase Circle worked long and hard to bring together the stakeholders from both sides of the DC/Maryland boundary line to organize the first-ever Chevy Chase Circle Safety Summit. The result: FoCCC initiated a better, safer way for vehicles to round the Circle.

But it is not nearly enough. We need better placed, safer, and accessible crosswalks and curbs. We need vehicles coming into the circle to obey all "yield" signs and for those signs to be well-placed and visible. FoCCC will continue this advocacy work on behalf of our community!

Traffic circles have been shown to be a very efficient way to move traffic through intersections. But unless everybody knows and obeys the rules, and signage and road markings are explicit, negotiating around Chevy Chase Circle for cars and pedestrians will continue to be messy and confusing. If we put our heads together, safety in and around the Circle may be one issue we can address.



To make your donation, please clip and send this newsletter segment to:

Friends of Chevy Chase Circle (or FoCCC) | PO Box 15523 | Chevy Chase, MD 20825

To help carry out the mission of the Friends of Chevy Chase Circle to renew, beautify, maintain and protect a historic neighborhood landmark and a gateway to the Nation's Capital, I/we like to contribute the following sum:

___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ \$1,000 ___ Other

Make checks out to: Friends of Chevy Chase Circle, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

For online contributions., please
use this QR code or go to
FriendsOfChevyChaseCircle.org.

