



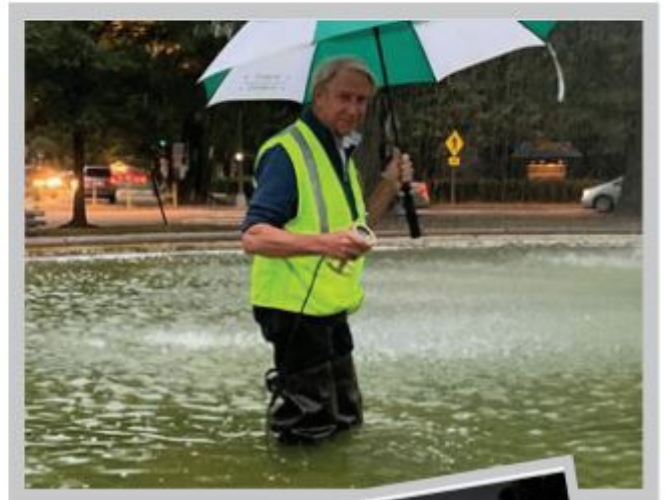
THE CHEVY CHASE CIRCLE TIMES

FALL 2021

friendsofchevychasecircle.org

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR CHEVY CHASE FOUNTAIN

What is this man doing in the fountain??? And why is he smiling so broadly? Hint: If you look closely, you can see he is carrying a light fixture. In the Fall of 2019, Friends of Chevy Chase Circle ran a demonstration of what lights in and around the fountain might look like – a mock-up of the real thing. Climbing into the fountain to place the lights in the water basin was the task of David Tozer of D-K-T Lighting and Design. And now it is a done deal! The addition of lights to the fountain has been approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. When the fountain is rehabilitated in 2022, the Chevy Chase fountain will have lights! It is beauty and safety all rolled into one. Thank you water-waders! And thanks to all those who donated to the Friends of Chevy Chase Circle to make this effort possible.



WHY THE NEWLANDS NAME MUST GO

He was a Senator from Nevada. He was an innovative policymaker for water irrigation policies in the West. He was the founder of Chevy Chase. But today we also recognize Francis G. Newlands for his die-hard racist policies and know that he was outspoken in his desire for a segregated society.

In 2020, through community demonstrations and resolutions passed by the Advisory Neighborhood Council and the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers, our community stated unequivocally that Newlands does not represent this community's values, and a namesake fountain in the middle of our community is antithetical to our core beliefs and outlook.

Today, we are actively working to remove the Newlands name from the fountain, but because the fountain was dedicated in 1933 by an Act of Congress, only an Act of Congress can undo the fountain's original name and subsequently rename it. The National Park Service owns and maintains the fountain, but it cannot act without direction from Congress, so the plaque dedicated to Newlands and his name chiseled into the fountain remain. We are grateful that a bill has been introduced into Congress by Representative Jamie Raskin and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton asking that the Newlands name be removed from the fountain. After the passage of the bill, we hope that the Newlands name will become only an historical footnote.

So if we are dropping the name of the fountain, what will we name it instead? One day this community may want to once again name the fountain in honor of someone. But in the meantime, the fountain will continue to be called by the name most people have always known it: the Chevy Chase Circle Fountain.

MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Chevy Chase Circle is a local volunteer organization working with the National Park Service to renew, beautify, maintain and protect the Chevy Chase Circle, 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?

In just six short years, 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.

- The Circle has new benches, new trees, and lovely new "mulch rings" for every tree in the circle.
- The traffic "triangles" 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 rehabilitation planning process by going to the Commission of Fine Arts with a lighting and engineering plan so that when the fountain is renovated in 2022, there will be new lights in and around the fountain.
- This past spring, 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 soon, a brand new installation of plants.
- And finally, we have been key in bringing together the various stakeholders in the circle and working hard and long on safety measures that have resulted in new lane markings and traffic configurations for all those who negotiate around the circle.

What is our objective?

Our objective is best stated in our mission statement: Friends of Chevy Chase Circle is a local volunteer organization working with the National Park Service to renew, beautify, maintain and protect the Chevy Chase Circle, historic landmark and a gateway to the Nation's Capital

The Circle sits in the midst of our community and if it is to be a reflection of our values and objectives, it must be maintained at a standard everyone can take pride in. That can only be done with everyone's support and ownership.

What can you do?

Tell your neighbors about the initiatives on the Circle. Tell them the Circle is a National Park Service property, but only through community support can our neighborhood landmark be maintained at a world-class standard to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Please give now to our capital campaign so we can launch an all-out effort to raise the needed funds to make sure that we have the money for maintaining the Circle and do the repairs that are needed.

Please go to our website at FriendsOfChevyChaseCircle.org for more information and see how you can donate securely through PayPal or send a check to FoCCC at PO Box 15523 Chevy Chase, MD 20825.



BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW!

Chevy Chase Circle is our neighborhood landmark, but it is also a federally-owned property, maintained by the National Park Service. Friends of Chevy Chase Circle is working through a public-private partnership to bring community and government stakeholders together to keep the Circle green and vibrant, and to keep the fountain going for all to enjoy!

THE LEGACY OF TREES

It was a sad day for Chevy Chase Circle when the big trees came down. There is no argument that a huge part of the beauty of Chevy Chase Circle is its stately old Willow Oaks, but seven of those trees had to be taken down within the past months. What gives?!

For many years, the Friends of Chevy Chase Circle has routinely monitored the health of the trees in the circle. We knew that the trees that were taken down were in dire trouble and were dangerous. As sad as it is to see those big majestic trees go, there was no option other than removing them. Many observers had commented upon their dying upper canopies, decaying limbs, and for one tree in particular, its see-through, hollowed-out base. The circle is safer now with their removal.



Over the nearly 100 years that these beautiful Willow Oaks have graced the circle, their trunks have been damaged numerable times. Those physical injuries have led to secondary decay that has affected the upper canopy and the structural integrity of the trees. They have been stressed time and time again.

If there is any comfort here, it is that this decision to remove the trees was thoroughly reviewed, and that whenever a large and beautiful tree is removed, it is never an arbitrary decision nor one made without sadness and regret.

Friends of Chevy Chase Circle, with the continued help of the community, will ensure that new trees rise up from where those old trees stood. Our goal is to replace the trees for the generations to come, so they will have an opportunity like ours to see beautiful, healthy trees into the future.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

More often than not when I travel around the circle, I have my mind on just getting home. But the other day, I happened to drive around the circle with my car windows down and the radio off, and I was greeted by the tinkling sounds of cascading water. It was delightful. Our fountain is up and running! And to have the pleasure of both seeing the fountain and hearing the fountain was a double treat that too often I pass by or simply take for granted. I suppose the life lesson is to slow down more often and roll down the windows!

But the real lesson is a much greater one than that. Here in our own backyard is a very special resource that functions as a landmark and a beautiful accent to our neighborhood. It is a gateway site to both Maryland and the Nation's Capital, and it has meaning and value to residents in both communities. Many people know that the circle is owned by the National Park Service, but the ability of the Park Service to care for it is limited. Only through our community's combined efforts can the circle be maintained at a world-class level.

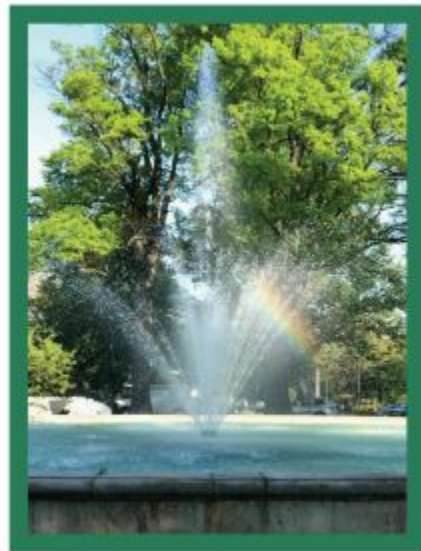
The circle is a neighborhood resource. Every dollar that is donated by you towards its maintenance is money well spent. The Friends of Chevy Chase Circle is the circle's steward, and your support is what makes the circle literally bloom. This past year has been like no others, and we have all learned to better appreciate our environment and the value of green space. FoCCC has plowed on in our efforts to improve the circle. With your help, we will continue to do this into the future, with new landscaping, new trees, and new lighting.

On behalf of the FoCCC Board, I extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your support. We wish you at the very least a moment of calm and delight that can come with the beautiful "center" of our neighborhood.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth".

Ruth Robbins, President



This photo is the dedicated Board of Directors of the Friends of Chevy Chase Circle – a unique community group that draws volunteers from both Maryland and DC. The members from both communities are invested in the circle's welfare, and they share a common interest in the circle and its environs. FoCCC has no paid staff...

and that is good news, because all the money we raise goes directly to the care and upkeep of the circle. Keeping the circle looking good, pressing for safety concerns with local authorities, and raising funds to improve and maintain the landscaping and safety of the circle are all part of what we do. Join us! Your donations ensure that the circle will be maintained at a standard we can be proud of.



Back Row: H. Norman Nickle, Nancy Slade, Ted Pochter, Jerry Malitz, Peter Gosselin, Jim McCarthy

Front Row: Nancy Wilson, Maryanne Kane, Lisa Sanders, Valerie Grace, Ruth Robbins

Missing: Gerri Carr, Helene Sacks, Scott Allan



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SAFETY AND THE CIRCLE

Some say it's better, others are not convinced, but the new striping on the circle 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 is good news. Friends of Chevy Chase Circle worked long and hard to gain the cooperation of all of the stakeholders from both sides of the DC/Maryland boundary line. FoCCC organized various "safety summits", and for the first time ever, we implemented a better, safer way for vehicles to round the circle. Next up on the agenda: Better placed, safer, and accessible crosswalks!!