

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND ELECTION

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2008

LELAND CENTER SOCIAL HALL

Voting: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Town Hall
Reception: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Social Hall
Meeting: 8:00 p.m., Social Hall

The Town Council has five elected members. Town residents will elect three candidates in the May 2008 election to serve for two years. The polls will be located in the Town Hall at the Leland Center, 4301 Willow Lane. The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Residents may call the Town office at 301-654-7144 to inquire about absentee voting.

MEETING AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions	Linna Barnes, Mayor
Mayor's Report	Linna Barnes, Mayor
Long Range Planning Committee Presentation	Sam Schwartz, Consultant Transit Solutions
Treasurer's Report	Kathy Strom, Treasurer
Public Hearing on the Proposed FY09 Budget	Kathy Strom, Treasurer
Adjournment	Linna Barnes, Mayor

**Election results will be posted on the Town's website:
www.townofchevy Chase.org on May 7, 2008**

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT - MAY 1, 2008

Candidates and residents are invited to participate in a question-and-answer session on May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. Residents will hear the candidates express their views on issues important to the Town in a moderated Q&A session. We encourage you to submit short and clear questions for the candidates in advance. They can be sent to the attention of Election Board member Brenda Lizzio at the Town office, or emailed to bren@brendalizzio.com.

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION 2008

ELECTION DAY - MAY 6, 2008

Tuesday, May 6 is Election Day in the Town. The polls will be located in the Town Hall, 4301 Willow Lane. The polls will be open from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Election Day. The Election will be administered by the League of Women Voters and monitored by the Town Election Board.

Town elections are governed by the provisions in Chapter 8 of the Town of Chevy Chase Municipal Code, which state: An election shall be held on the first Tuesday in May of each year to elect members of the Town Council. Three (3) members shall be elected in even-numbered years and two (2) members in the odd-numbered years.

Town residents will select three candidates in the May election, each to serve on the Council for a two-year term. The terms of Lance Hoffman, Kathy Strom and Mier Wolf will expire in May.

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT - MAY 1, 2008

Candidates and residents are invited to participate in a question-and-answer session at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. *(This event is highlighted on the front page.)*

THE CANDIDATES

Short biographical sketches and statements of the council candidates included in this issue of the Forecast can also be found on the Town's website www.townofchevy Chase.org.

FLOOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations from the floor for councilmembers cannot be considered at the Annual Meeting since voting will begin in advance of the meeting.

ELECTION BOARD

Questions regarding the May 2008 election can be directed to the Election Board:

Costis Toregas, Chair - toregas1@gwu.edu, 301-814-5613;

Brenda Lizzio - bren@brendalizzio.com, 301-656-8595;

Hope Pinkerton - thepinkertons@yahoo.com, 301-657-4486.

VOTING ELIGIBILITY

A resident must be a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen years of age, have resided within the corporate limits of the Town for thirty days preceding any Town election and be a registered, qualified voter of the State of Maryland, Town of Chevy Chase to be eligible to vote. If you have recently moved to the Town of Chevy Chase or for other reasons are doubtful whether your name is on the list of registered, qualified voters of the State of Maryland, Town of Chevy Chase, you can call the Montgomery County Election Board at 240-777-VOTE. Please do this as soon as possible so your name will appear on the updated list of registered voters sent to our office one week prior to the Town election.

VOTING PROCEDURE

The polls will be located in the Town Hall, 4301 Willow Lane. The polls will open at 8 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on Election Day, May 6, 2008. Names of candidates will appear on the printed ballot in alphabetical order. Voters may vote for no more than three candidates. There will be appropriate blanks on the printed ballot for the purpose of adding write-in candidates.

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified voter may vote by absentee ballot. Residents desiring an absentee ballot must fill out the Absentee Ballot Request form and return it to the Town office. The form which is included in this newsletter, is also available in the Town office, or can be downloaded from the Town's website, www.townofchevy Chase.org. Once the Absentee Ballot Request form is received and processed, the Town will provide the resident with the absentee ballot along with an envelope that will ensure the necessary privacy for this voting process. To be counted, any absentee ballot must be received in the Town office by 5 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2008 or received by an election official during the election hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day, May 6. The ballot must be enclosed in the printed return envelope provided by the Town at the time the ballot was issued.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Linna Barnes, Mayor

The Town has had a busy year since the election a year ago. Much of the Council's time was spent in working on the new building ordinance. The six Town Committees – Climate Protection, Community Relations, Environment, Land Use, Long Range Planning and Public Services – continued to show the Town what incredible volunteers live here. Some of the chief accomplishments of the past year follow.

- The Council updates the Town Charter.
- The Council passes a new building ordinance that uses FAR and other architectural limits to preserve the character of the Town.
- The County begins work on Stage One of Storm Water Drainage improvements with work on Thornapple Street, Stanford/East and Chatham Street.
- WSSC replaces water pipes in the Town.
- The Tree Board works to preserve the Town's tree canopy.
- The new water ordinance requires water protection plans. The Water Board reviews appeals from the Town's engineer's decisions.
- Executive regulations for controlling construction in the Town are adopted by the Council.
- The Climate Protection Committee works to make the Town a more environmentally sustainable place.
- The Community Relations Committee hosts a variety of events including Conversation and Wine, Discussion and Desserts, and an Oktoberfest.
- The Environment Committee is making recommendations for a noise control ordinance, as well as evaluating the issue of impervious surfaces, water drainage and the preservation of the tree canopy.
- The Land Use Committee works with the Town's consultant to develop a building ordinance that uses FAR and other methods to address concerns about construction in the Town.
- The Long Range Planning Committee follows development plans in Bethesda to protect Town interests and works with the Town's consultant on transit issues around the Purple Line and the Trail.
- The Public Services Committee works on traffic and sidewalk issues in the Town.

ELECTION 2008

CANDIDATES' BIOGRAPHIES and STATEMENTS

(In alphabetical order)

The Town Council has five elected members. Town residents will elect three candidates in the May 2008 election to serve for two years. A candidate shall have resided in the Town for at least one (1) year immediately preceding their election, shall be a qualified voter in Montgomery County, and shall continue to reside in the Town for their term of office.

Town election procedures can be found on the Town's website, www.townofchevy Chase.org. If you do not have internet access, please call the Town staff at 301-654-7144 for additional information about the Town election.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

LANCE HOFFMAN

7104 44th Street

Biography

Lance Hoffman, a resident since 1986, has served on the Council since 2006. Distinguished Research Professor of Computer Science at George Washington University, Lance received his bachelor's degree from Carnegie Mellon University and his doctorate from Stanford University.

His son Jason attended Rosemary Hills, Chevy Chase Elementary, Westland, and B-CC, graduated from the University of Maryland, and is a television and film reviewer in New York. Lance's wife Mary Anne led the project that created the Town architectural tour booklet given to all residents and was executive producer of the television documentary, "Chevy Chase, Maryland: A Streetcar to Home".

Candidate's Statement

I'm a do-er, not a divider. I believe in listening to everyone and then making decisions that are workable and fair. I also believe in transparent government and raised strong objections to the initial introduction of the proposed building moratorium as an emergency ordinance. Ultimately, I provided the critical vote against this divisive and unnecessary measure, instead pushing the Council to meet weekly to pass a resident-friendly land use ordinance, which we did on April 17. Now, it's time to move on to important issues like Bethesda development and proposed Purple Line trains on the Capital Crescent Trail.

To make ours a more open, transparent government, I've instituted Web posting of proposed legislation and support documents for building permits. I've also instituted additional Internet-based services for the Town to communicate with residents about Town events, ordinances, and emergencies.

As Council liaison to the Public Services Committee, I've worked with your neighbors to enact a town-wide speed limit of 25 mph, and am working now to refine plans for a new sidewalk that will make walking to the Leland Center much safer. I'm also facilitating resident meetings to make sure their desires about new playground equipment in Elm Street Park and the refurbishing of the Leland Center playground are heard. I met several times with County officials to ensure they replaced inadequate storm drains around the Town. And I increased the funding for the Town study to determine the impact of the Purple Line on the trail in order to get a first-class consultant and report.

If you like how I get things done and the way I listen, I'd appreciate your vote in the upcoming election. For more detail on my work on the Council and specific issues, see lance.hoffman.googlepages.com/reelectlance2008.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

STEVE KEEBLE

4414 Walsh Street

Biography

My wife, Karen and I purchased our home here in 2005. We came here by way of Philadelphia, San Francisco, Boston and Potomac.

My professional background is in publishing and information services. I spent most of my career as an executive with the Thomson Corporation, one of the world's largest publishers of professional information. I was the CEO of several operating companies over my 25 years there and have served on the Board of Directors of over a dozen other companies. I am currently enjoying my retirement, occasionally doing some consulting and investing in small start-up companies. I have both the time and energy to contribute to continue making our community a great place to live.

Candidate's Statement

This election is a chance for YOU to help define our "town character."

Having participated in the efforts to defeat the Emergency Moratorium and require the current Council to develop a better building ordinance, I have seen a need in our Town for a government that communicates in a more timely fashion and in plain English, makes data-driven decisions, creates opportunity for dialog between itself and all its residents, and crafts regulations that are fair to ALL. If elected, I will strive to deliver you the following:

- More helpful and timely communication
- Regulations based on careful needs assessment and with clear objectives
- Open dialog in public forums
- Fairness first

Many of you have shared with me some of your ideas and concerns, extending far beyond building regulations such as improving water drainage, adding street lights, holding back encroaching Bethesda development, the proposed Purple Line, and protecting pedestrians and cyclists on our crowded streets. You've voiced interest in wanting a dog park, learning more about building green, or more playgrounds for kids. These will get my timely, thorough and careful attention.

I hope to have your support. Please feel free to call me at 301.801.2869 or email me at skebleco@yahoo.com with your questions or comments.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

AL LANG
4008 UNDERWOOD STREET

Biography and Candidate's Statement

My name is Al Lang. My wife, Susan, and I moved to the Town in September, 1980, and have lived in the Town for the past 27 years. Our two sons, Albert and James, were born and raised here. My email address is al.lang@coteva.com.

I have not been involved in politics previously, at least, not beyond the level of a concerned citizen. While I do not have a resume that lists the committees I have served on, or the legislation I have initiated or helped to pass, I believe this gives me a decided advantage.

As first a mathematician, and then for the past 20 years as a businessman, who started, built, successfully ran and sold 2 technology companies, I understand how to make logical, efficient, effective decisions. I understand how to use all resources appropriately: staff and financial, as well as our Town's true strength, all of our neighbors.

I would not have spent many, actually, too many months studying a sidewalk, stop-sign safety issue. I would not have put forth emergency moratorium legislation when no emergency existed: turning a difficult issue into a divisive issue. I would have ascertained what the Purple Line Protest budget should be – defining the events to fund, not taking a requested \$3,000 and raising it to \$5,000. (Perhaps, it should have been more, we will never know). And I would have made sure that the proposed F.A.R. legislation was thoroughly analyzed, which it wasn't: "Never propose legislation without knowing its effects across the Town".

Over the past 12 months I have become very engaged in the Town's politics. I helped to form and lead The Concerned Residents of The Town of Chevy Chase – this group helped to defeat the emergency moratorium and to at least move the F.A.R. legislation toward fairness. We did this by creating an effective organization that listens to all: collecting data, analyzing data and publishing, sharing the results. All of these activities took place very quickly, and attest to my organizational skills.

To continue to move the Town forward I will assure the Council listens to all, and seeks feedback from all; I will assure an open dialogue, discussion of the issues; and I will use all our resources effectively.

I am asking you to vote for Al Lang for Town Council.

THANK YOU.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

DAVID LUBLIN 4214 THORNAPPLE STREET

Biography

Growing up in Montgomery County, I was very pleased to move back to the area in 1998, when I joined the faculty at American University where I am a professor of Government in the School of Public Affairs. In 2005, my partner, Eric, who also grew up in the area, and I moved into our home at 4214 Thornapple Street.

Since returning to the area, I have been active in community affairs. I worked hard on campaigns for Rich Madaleno and our friend Jane Lawton, and maintain a blog on Maryland politics, keeping people informed about affairs in the Town, County, and State. I am an active member of the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Coalition fighting to protect the Capital Crescent Trail.

I have volunteered many hours to the Town's Long-Range Planning Committee tracking Bethesda development projects, meeting with developers, preparing testimony, and building local coalitions. I was pleased to play a role in the successful effort to promote a park at the Woodmont East site across from Barnes and Noble. Now, we are working on a solution to the Purple Line dilemma that would protect the Trail and promote public transit simultaneously.

I'm a graduate of Georgetown Day School, Yale College, and Harvard University, where I received my Ph.D. in Government.

Candidate's Statement

I believe that the Town needs to serve as a strong advocate for its citizens. With numerous large scale projects planned for Bethesda, we need to be involved in planning decisions and make sure that the needs of our neighborhood are respected.

Likewise, I would use my experience working with local officials to push for the renovation of playgrounds both at the Leland Community Center and Chevy Chase Elementary. Both need to be updated and made accessible for all children to enjoy. I would continue to advocate strongly for the Town's position on the Purple Line.

The last several months have been challenging as the Town has grappled with crafting a new building ordinance. I support the new simplified land-use ordinance and want us to work together to assure that its implementation is streamlined as much as possible. I am a strong supporter of the tree ordinance and feel that we should continue to promote efforts to protect our local environment.

I consider public service a serious responsibility and would be honored to have the opportunity to serve on the Council.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

KATHY STROM **7212 RIDGEWOOD AVENUE**

Biography

Kathy Strom has been a resident of the Town of Chevy Chase for seventeen years and a member of the Town Council for the past two years. She lives at 7212 Ridgewood Avenue with her husband David and their three children, Helen and Mark, both freshman at college, and Jacob, an eighth grader at Westland Middle School. Elected to the Town Council in 2006,

Kathy has served as Council liaison to the Town's Long Range Planning Committee. Kathy has made the voice of the Town heard in Montgomery County on a number of important issues, such as keeping the tunnel between the Capital Crescent Trail and the Bethesda open during the proposed Woodmont East project, and working to protect the Trail bordering our Town. As Council liaison to the Visioning Committee in the fall of 2006, Kathy helped develop the Town's long-term Strategic Plan for 2006-2016 which was unanimously adopted by the Council in March 2007. A graduate of the Harvard College and New York University School of Law, she is Senior Attorney in the Washington, D.C. office of the law firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP.

Candidate's Statement

It has been an honor to represent you on the Town Council. I am proud of the progress made on many issues which affect our Town and I am excited to be seeking re-election to continue this progress. Here are a few examples where I have made a difference. My court testimony led to the demolition of the unsafe, abandoned Li mansion. Through participation in the state's transportation planning process, we are working to protect the Capital Crescent Trail. Most recently, responding to appeals from neighbors about incompatible construction and seeking to find a way to responsibly protect the rights of all Town residents, I actively pursued passage of a new building ordinance.

I ask for your support for another term on the Council. We need to continue to support our local schools, to protect and maintain our tree canopy and our natural environment, including our open spaces in the Town, to enforce our building regulations, and to keep our neighborhood safe. My promise is that I will always listen to you and will work hard to accomplish our community's goals. I ask that you give me the opportunity to continue to work with you and for you.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

MIER WOLF 7622 Lynn Drive

Biography

Mier and his wife Cathy moved to the Town in 1972. Mier has served on the Town Council for twelve terms. He served on the Councils that built the Leland Community Center and later the addition of the Town Hall. Mier served on the PTAs at Rosemary Hills and Chevy Chase Elementary and more recently raised the funds for the Cybercafe at B-CC High School.

Mier has served on several County task forces studying such issues as the Bethesda CBD, recreation programs offered in our community and the opening of the Capital Crescent Trail. He served two terms on the Board of the Bethesda Urban Partnership. Mier has represented the Town on Capital Crescent Trail issues since it opened. He is the President of the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Coalition, trail advocates, and a member of the boards of the Roundhouse Theatre, the Writer's Center and the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill (NAMI) County Chapter.

Candidate's Statement

I am running for the Town Council to continue a twenty-four year history of Town volunteerism. My many years of experience as a Council Member including several terms as Town Mayor have contributed to the creation and improvement of the Leland Community Center and the Capital Crescent Trail. Most recently, I have supported the Town anti-mansionization efforts.

During my tenure on the Council, we have initiated and revised a tree ordinance, approved new building code ordinances with expanded code enforcement and permitting services, created an arborist advisory program, provided a comprehensive plan for street maintenance, formed a Town Climate Protection Task Force, implemented a snow removal program, published a high quality Forecast, produced a community guide and offered residents excellent programming in our Town Hall.

I feel energized to help undertake new projects for the Town including the redesign of the Leland Center and Elm Street Park playgrounds. I think my judgment is good on issues of change in the Town because I stay in touch with our long term and new residents. I would like to spearhead the revival of our efforts at neighborliness and civility in our town having had recent dissonance over new building code requirements. I would like to continue to serve you in respect and love for the Town where the Wolf family has thrived for over thirty-five years.

FY09 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

The Town Council recently accepted the proposed budget and tax rates for fiscal year 2009. At the May 6 annual meeting, the Town will hold a public hearing during which residents may comment on the proposed \$2.9 million budget, the personal property tax rate of \$0.10 per one hundred dollars of assessed value, and the real estate tax rate of \$0.021 per one hundred dollars of assessed value, which represents the constant yield rate. Following the public hearing, the Council will adopt the budget and tax rates, with any modifications to which it agrees, at the May or June regular meeting.

2008 FINANCIAL REVIEW & 2009 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Over the years, the Town has maintained its fiscal soundness through careful planning, including maintaining an adequate reserve balance to fund capital improvements and provide for contingencies. The Town continues to enjoy sound financial health. As a result, the Council has recommended a reduction in the FY09 property tax rate to the constant yield rate.

2008 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Revenues

- Total **operating revenues** are estimated to be **\$3,397,510**, a net decrease of **\$84,747** over FY07 actual revenues, resulting primarily from a decrease in income tax revenues distributed by the State of Maryland.
- Town revenue sources: **79% from income taxes** (\$2.7 million), **6% from property taxes** (\$192,000), **5% from highway user taxes** (\$156,000), and **10% from other sources** (\$379,510), including permit fees and interest income.

Expenditures

- Total **operating expenditures** are expected to be **\$2,775,598**, under budget by \$261,902. The Town realized lower than anticipated expenditures for administrative salaries, records management, sidewalk snow removal, professional services, tree maintenance, and landscaping services, among others.
- Total **capital project expenditures** are expected to be approximately **\$285,000**. The Town did not expend budgeted capital funds for open space acquisition, Town garage improvements and new furniture for the Town Hall.

2009 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Revenues

- Total **operating revenues** are budgeted at **\$2,970,000**, of which \$2.3 million is projected income tax revenue.
- The **property tax rate** is proposed at **\$0.021 per \$100 of assessed value**, representing a **reduction of \$0.002 from the FY08 rate**. This rate will provide the Town with approximately the same amount of property tax revenue as in FY08, due to rising property values, while reducing the tax burden on residents.

Expenditures

- Total **budgeted operating expenditures of \$2,970,000** equal total budgeted revenues, providing a balanced budget for FY09. Any unexpended funds will remain in the Town's general fund.
- Total **capital expenditures** are budgeted at **\$1,825,000**. FY09 capital expenditures include anticipated open space acquisition, infrastructure repairs, and implementation of the Public Services Committee recommendations.

Comprehensive budget documents are available for review in the Town Office and on the Town website: www.townofchevy Chase.org.

FY2009 PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

FY2009				
Proposed Budget Summary	FY07 Actual	FY08 Budget	FY08 Estimated Actual	FY09 Proposed Budget
OPERATING REVENUES				
Taxes				
Property Taxes	203,262	192,000	192,000	192,000
Income Taxes	2,747,199	2,200,000	2,670,000	2,300,000
Highway User Taxes	136,751	150,000	156,000	156,000
Subtotal - Taxes	3,087,212	2,542,000	3,018,000	2,648,000
Permit Fees and Cable TV Revenue	48,299	54,000	47,000	48,000
Reimbursements and Dump Fees	192,687	189,500	189,500	189,500
Other Revenue	154,059	93,000	143,010	84,500
From General Fund Balance	0	159,000	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	3,482,257	3,037,500	3,397,510	2,970,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES				
General Government				
Administration	1,123,685	1,649,600	1,613,352	1,540,500
Civic Affairs and Constituent Services	171,149	331,000	238,450	319,500
Subtotal - General Government	1,294,834	1,980,600	1,851,802	1,860,000
Public Safety and Code Enforcement	185,355	174,500	171,710	201,500
Public Works				
Sanitation and Waste Removal	395,465	357,200	363,186	373,500
Streets and Roads	115,589	247,500	152,000	248,500
Parks and Grounds	230,035	277,700	236,900	286,500
Subtotal - Public Works	741,089	882,400	752,086	908,500
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2,221,278	3,037,500	2,775,598	2,970,000
NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	1,260,979	0	621,912	0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES				
Facilities and Equipment	22,027	21,000	5,000	25,000
Streets and Roads	283,403	500,000	250,000	750,000
Parks, Grounds and Trees	50,059	1,100,000	30,000	1,050,000
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	355,489	1,621,000	285,000	1,825,000
ENDING GENERAL FUND BALANCE	3,886,916	2,106,916	4,223,828	2,398,828
		FY09 Contingent Reserve		297,000
		Capital Improvement Plan Reserve		2,101,828

PURPLE LINE UPDATE

Pat Burda, Chair, Long-Range Planning Committee

At the Town Council's March meeting, the Council heard from its consultant, Sam Schwartz PLLC, regarding their analysis of the State's proposed alignments for the Purple Line between Silver Spring and Bethesda. Based on their findings, in April the Town Council voted to send a letter to Maryland's Secretary of Transportation requesting that the State give a more fair and complete review of the Jones Bridge Road Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) alignment to reflect a "true" BRT system in light of its potential benefits in ridership and serving the transportation needs of BRAC. Modifying the State's plans to include improved routing and traffic signal priority treatments will make it into a true BRT, with reduced running times likely to maximize ridership.

The Town is concerned that the Jones Bridge Road alternative – the only one to provide direct service to BRAC (NNMC), NIH, the approved high-density residential development in the North Woodmont area and Bethesda Metro – is not currently being studied in a manner that will allow for its full and fair comparison with the other alignment alternatives. The Purple Line Alternatives Analysis currently being performed by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) will form the basis of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) now scheduled for release in August 2008. Selection of a Preferred Alternative for the Purple Line by the State of Maryland will follow.

The consultants estimate that the total cost of providing a true Bus Rapid Transit system which uses Jones Bridge Road and serves both BRAC and the north Woodmont community still falls substantially below the total cost for providing BRT or Light Rail Transit (LRT) along the Capital Crescent Trail. Cost is a key ingredient in the federal funding formula. A lower-cost alternative has a greater chance of receiving federal funding. They also believe that the JBR BRT can be done in a safe and environmentally-friendly manner using the latest BRT technology with peak-hour buses running every six minutes or 10 per hour. In fact, the consultants feel that introducing a BRT on Jones Bridge Road may reduce overall traffic levels in the area as some drivers, existing and future, switch to transit.

You can see the Town's letter, the consultant's Executive Summary, and a press release by going to www.townofchevy Chase.org and clicking on Purple Line. Sam Schwartz et al will also be making a presentation at the Town's Annual Meeting at 8:00 in the Leland Center. We hope you will all come out to hear them.

CONNECT TO PROTECT THE CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL

Anyone who has ever jogged, walked, biked or pushed a baby stroller along the Capital Crescent Trail is invited to a special event on Saturday, May 31, to celebrate the Trail and learn how light rail trains being planned on the Trail between Bethesda and Silver Spring will change this treasured resource. Family-friendly activities at Elm Street Park and along the Trail east of the Wisconsin Avenue tunnel will run from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Town and other local communities that use the Trail are organizing this opportunity for area residents to "Connect With the Capital Crescent Trail." If you can spare a few hours to help on May 31, you'll get a fun t-shirt designed by Town resident Irina Stepanova and the satisfaction of raising public awareness about the threat to one of our most popular green spaces. To volunteer, please contact maryannehoffman@starpower.net by Friday, May 9.

WHAT ARE RESIDENTS DOING ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING?

Judith McGuire, Chair, Climate Protection Committee

Have you taken the Climate Pledge? The Town has offered citizens the opportunity to take the Climate Pledge in order to spur us on to greater efforts to reduce our negative impact on the environment. The Pledge can be taken on-line (<http://app.icontact.com/icp/sub/survey/take>), on the Town's website (on the Climate Protection Committee's page) or you can get a paper copy from the Town office. For committing yourself to take three new actions, you will receive a wonderful reusable grocery bag from the Town.

So far fifty-two people have taken the pledge and it is interesting to see what residents are most committed to. Virtually everyone who responded is currently keeping their tires inflated properly or pledges to do so (52) -- that saves 390 pounds of carbon dioxide per year -- and most are also willing to save more than two tons of CO₂ by keeping their car tuned. Using bikes, carpools or mass transit (40) and having at least one car-free day a week (39) are also popular. Most people are willing to cut down on their driving by consolidating errands (50).

Around the home our townspeople are also willing to make some changes. Forty-one have turned down their hot water heaters or are willing to (saving 52 pounds of CO₂ per year) and an equal number pledge to keep their thermostat set to 68 degrees in winter and 78 degrees in summer (saving 340 pounds of CO₂). As for taking five minute showers, 42 residents are have already or are willing to cut out 1000 pounds of CO₂ each by doing this. Most people (47) have also converted or pledge to convert at least ten fixtures to compact fluorescent bulbs (saving another 1000 pounds of CO₂).

People are saving resources in the lawn and garden also. Thirty-nine are using or pledge to use water conserving practices in their lawn and garden, 32 willing to use a rake rather than a leaf blower (saving 20 pounds of CO₂), and 15 are willing to use rain barrels. Thirty-six residents have planted or pledged to plant trees (each of which absorbs approximately 220 pounds of CO₂) and 21 are already composting or pledge to do so. By the way, the state is offering \$50 rebates on rainbarrels and giving you back up to \$1200 for Bay-friendly landscaping changes. (see <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/dep/rainscapes/pdf/rainscapesrewardsapplication.pdf>). Many families (38) are willing to go meatless one day a week to save energy and forty are willing to reduce their waste by reducing, reusing and recycling.

Twenty have pledged to tell five other people about taking the Climate Pledge so we're hoping most of you have heard about the Pledge either from the insert in January's Forecast or from a neighbor who has taken the Pledge. Please take the Pledge today to make yourself an active participant in preventing global warming.

The Climate Protection Committee invites you to a presentation of the results of the Greenhouse Gas Assessment on April 29, 7:30, in the Town Hall. Stuart Sessions and two intrepid local research assistants will tell us how much energy were using. Please come and tell us where *you* think residents can save energy. Come for dessert, coffee, and stimulating conversation!

TOWN EVENTS

DISCUSSION AND DESSERT

A special thanks to Dr. Steven Boyce, cardiac surgeon and Town resident, for taking time out of his busy schedule to spend an evening with Town residents talking about the human heart – a subject of interest to us all. Residents who attended this event raved about the evening. They found Dr. Boyce was not only an expert in cardiac surgery, but, also, a personable, interesting speaker. A special thanks to Veda and Robert Charrow for hosting the event.

TOWN COFFEE

Please join us for the next bi-monthly town coffee on May 13 at the home of Marcy Forrest, 4136 Leland Street, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Welcome spring by reconnecting with your neighbors, or extend a warm welcome to a new neighbor by inviting him or her to come along with you. All are welcome, but please RSVP to Marcy at 301-718-8081. If you have questions or are interested in hosting a future coffee, please call Maria Olsen at 301-652-4370. We look forward to seeing you!

TREE WALK WITH TOWN ARBORIST TOLBERT FEATHER

Join us on May 17 at 9 a.m. in the Town Hall for our annual Tree Walk or as we like to refer to it...an unforgettable walk through the Town. Not only will you add the following words to your vocabulary: Zelcova, Ginko, Magnolia Virginiana and Metasequoia, you will have a great time. We serve bagels, juice and coffee before the walk.

GARDENS – HAVE A PEEK

The date of the Spring Town Garden Tour 2008 – Through the Garden Gate will be Sunday, June 8 from 2 – 5 p.m., looks like it will be another wonderful day for gardeners. To date, our list of gardens includes the following streets: Meadow Lane, Aspen Street, Elm Street, Rosemary Street and Connecticut Avenue. It is not too late to include your garden in our Tour. Call the staff at 301-654-7144 today to add your garden to the Tour. We will have all of the details in the June FORECAST.

EAST AVENUE ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM

The East Avenue Ensemble, a chamber choir rehearses at the home of Robert Johnson its Music Director on East Avenue in Chevy Chase. They will present a choral concert at the Town Hall on Saturday, May 3 at 8:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. The Ensemble, primarily members of the former New Century Singers, will continue The Singers' tradition of performing music by American composers. Selections will include the music of Daniel E. Gawthrop, Randall Thompson, and Aaron Copland as well as a wonderfully upbeat setting of the folksong, *Clementine*, by John David Earnest.

SUMMER EVENTS

We are making fun plans for the summer months which will include our second Conversation and Wine, the Town's annual garden tour, a volunteer appreciation event, jazz in the park and the annual July 4 picnic and parade. Stay tuned for the details. If you have a great idea for a Town event, please give us a call at 301-654-7144 or send us an e-mail.

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THE FORECAST

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ELECTION ISSUE

**Town of Chevy Chase
4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815**

TOWN COUNCIL

Linna Barnes, Mayor

Robert Enelow, Vice Mayor

Lance Hoffman, Secretary

Kathy Strom, Treasurer

Mier Wolf, Community Liaison

TOWN MANAGER

Todd C. Hoffman