

## **WORDS FROM MAYOR LINNA BARNES**

Is change good or bad? Of course, the answer to this question is all in the eye of the beholder. Change to the Town's houses is horrible, is great, or is good and bad. Changes to the Town's laws will be destructive, be the best thing possible, or have pluses and minuses. One thing is sure, however, that change is happening in the Town of Chevy Chase and everyone here in Town needs to become informed on what is happening. We all also need to work very hard to be respectful of our neighbor's opinions. The Town will change but how we manage that change will show what a great community the Town of Chevy Chase is.

Two changes to the Town's laws are being considered at this time by the Town Council – one to regulate the size of buildings and another to impose until April 30 a limited moratorium on construction. Last week every household was mailed a packet containing information about the newly introduced building regulations ordinance, a report from the Land Use Committee and a FAR Worksheet, with voluntary building standards on the reverse side. All this information may also be found on the Town web site [www.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org). There was also a public meeting at the end of January with the Town's land use consultants to explain the proposed changes. In addition, this issue of the Forecast and the website have a section on frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the building changes. Additions will be made frequently to the FAQ's as questions occur and answers are written.

In addition to this information, several meetings have been scheduled in the Town to allow for public comments and to provide public work sessions for the Council to consider the ordinances. Later in this Forecast, we provide a list of the meetings, but I want to highlight them now for residents. On Wednesday, February 6, there will be a public hearing on whether or not the Council should pass a limited building moratorium to last no longer than April 30. The Council may vote on this ordinance at the regularly scheduled February 13 meeting. Also on Wednesday, February 13, there will be a public hearing on the proposed changes to the building regulations. The next week on February 20<sup>th</sup> the Council will have a work session to discuss the building regulation and what if any changes should be made to the introduced ordinance. There are likely to be more meetings scheduled after the 20<sup>th</sup>. Residents should check the web site and look for postcards about what is happening on the proposed temporary moratorium and building ordinance revision matters.

One of the major provisions of the proposed building regulation is the use of floor area ratio or FAR to calculate the size of new construction. More information about FAR was in the mailed packet and can be found on the Town's website. The Town is also offering a free "FAR Calculation Program" pursuant to which the Town authorizes the Town's contractor, Mid-Atlantic Inspection Services, to consult with residents to calculate the floor area of buildings on their properties and the resulting FAR. This service is provided at no cost to residents. If you would like to sign up for this program, the application forms are available on the Town website [www.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org). Copies are also available in the Town Office. Please sign the form and fax it to 301-718-9631 or drop it by the Town office. You may call 301-654-7144 if you have any questions.

I encourage you to stay involved in this process,

*Linna Barnes*

## PROPOSED BUILDING ORDINANCE

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I get a copy of the Proposed Ordinance, the Land Use Committee Report, the Town's Land Use Consultant's Report and other information?

*A complete package including the draft ordinance, the Land Use Committee's Report to Council on Proposed Building Ordinance and related material was mailed to Town residents on January 25. The draft ordinance is also on the Town website, [www.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org), under "Town News and Information".*

2. I cannot find the draft ordinance or drafted recommendations on the Web site. How can I get a copy?

*Go to [www.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org), under "Town News and Information", click on "Proposed Building Regulations Ordinance and Report". Residents may also call the Town office at 301-654-7144 for more information or to have another packet mailed to them.*

3. What is FAR?

*FAR stands for Floor Area Ratio. It is a number that represents the square footage of a building divided by the square footage of the lot the building sits on. For example a house with 3000 square feet of area on a 6000 square foot lot has an FAR of .5. FAR is used by many communities to regulate the size of both commercial and residential buildings.*

4. Who do I contact to have my FAR calculated?

*The Town has instituted a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) Calculation program in which a free service is provided to homeowners by Mid-Atlantic Inspection Services. The calculations are intended to give homeowners a "ball park" figure of the house square footage. Residents, who are considering a construction project, are encouraged to consult a privately-retained architect or other consultant before they design a project or if they have any questions or doubts regarding information or advice provided by the Town's contractor or want more exact information. Information about this service is on the Town website [www.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org) or may be obtained by calling the Town at 301-654-7144.*

5. If my house burned down, could I rebuild the same house if it did not comply with the FAR requirements?

*As occurred when the new setback ordinance was enacted, a portion of the new law will contain a "grandfather" clause that allows reconstruction of the same building in the event of a fire, flood, etc. This portion of the ordinance is being drafted currently by the Town's attorney.*

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## COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

**February 6, 7 p.m., Town Hall**

- **Public Hearing on Moratorium Ordinance**

**February 13, 7 p.m., Town Hall**

- **Council Action on Moratorium Ordinance**
- **Public Hearing on Building Regulations Ordinance**

**February 20, 7 p.m., Town Hall**

- **Work Session on Building Regulations Ordinance**
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## LARRY PLUMMER RETIRES

By the time you receive this newsletter, Larry Plummer, Code Enforcement Officer/Public Works Manager, will be officially retired. After seven very busy years at the Town, Larry has decided to retire to spend more time with his family and friends. Although the Council and Staff are very sad at the thought of our workdays without Larry, we are happy that he has this opportunity to pursue his other interests. Larry is an usher at the early mass at Mother Seaton Catholic Church, the tenor in a gospel group and a charter member of the Great and Respectable Black Organization (GARBO,) an organization that raises money for scholarships and youth groups. Larry is a son, husband, father, brother and grandfather in a very closely-knit family. Larry tells us that he is going to put his feet up for a few weeks, but we doubt that fact. We have a feeling that Larry's family and friends have other plans for him.

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## TOWN TOPICS

### INSTALLATION OF NEW STREET LIGHT

In response to the request of residents in the 7100 block of Oakridge Avenue, the Town contacted PEPCO to arrange for the installation of a street light on an existing pole between 7101 and 7103 Oakridge. PEPCO has agreed to install the light. We will keep you posted on the timetable of the installation.

### STORM DRAIN RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE

Montgomery County completed the storm drain project on Stanford Street between Oakridge and East Avenues. The County is now installing storm drains on East Avenue between Leland and Ridge Streets. This part of the project will take about three weeks. The Town thanks the residents directly impacted by the project for being incredibly cooperative and patient.

### WSSC WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

WSSC is replacing the water main on Leland Street between Oak Lane and Oakridge Avenue. Weather permitting, this part of the project should be completed in February. WSSC will notify affected residents before turning off the water. Residents impacted by the WSSC project have been very cooperative and tolerant of the inconvenience. Thank you!

### TIPS FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE...

Elections are governed by the provisions in Chapter 8 of the Town's 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.

### MARYLAND HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT

Did you know? Legislation enacted by the 2007 session of the General Assembly will require homeowners to submit a one-time application in order to continue their eligibility for the homestead tax credit. The homestead credit limits the amount of assessment increase on which a homeowner will pay property taxes in that tax year on the one property actually used as the owner's principal residence. The Department of Assessments and Taxation included the application in the Assessment Notices mailed to one-third of the property owners on December 28, 2007. Homeowners whose properties are not in that one-third of the county being reassessed this year can wait until their properties are assessed in the next two years to submit an application. Visit the website <http://www.dat.state.md.us> to download an application.

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# MONTHLY REMINDERS

Information included in each issue.

## RECYCLE COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS IN THE TOWN OFFICE

Have you wondered where to recycle CFL bulbs? We have a collection box for the bulbs in the Town office. Just drop them by and we will make sure the bulbs are recycled properly

## JOIN THE "TOWN CRIER" LISTSERV TODAY

We encourage you to join the "Town Crier," the Town's e-mail alert system. The listserv enables the Town to provide residents with time-sensitive alerts and notices, such as the schedule of snow removal on Town streets and sidewalks and the cancellation of events due to inclement weather. The "Town Crier" is designed to provide time sensitive information to you. We limit the use of these alerts so we do not inundate your mailbox. To subscribe, please visit the Town's web page. In the sign-up form, you will be asked to provide your e-mail address and check the types of information you would like to receive from the Town. You may modify, update or cancel your subscription via the "Manage Your Subscription" link in each e-mail you receive from the Town.

## "TOWN NEIGHBORS" LISTSERV COMPLEMENTS "TOWN CRIER" ALERTS

Town residents can join a new e-mail forum called "Town Neighbors" to post messages about local events, exchange information about service providers and discuss Town issues such as traffic, crime and development. "Town Neighbors" is not affiliated with the Town of Chevy Chase or any civic, governmental, religious or political organization. It is a moderated listserv, which means all messages are reviewed before being posted. If you wish to become a member of this new e-mail forum, contact Susan Goodman at [susangoodman@worldnet.att.net](mailto:susangoodman@worldnet.att.net).

## COMPLAINT/COMPLIMENT FORM ONLINE

To make it convenient for you, we have created a form that you can submit from the Town's website. The purpose of the form is to provide a system for tracking issues of interest to residents so that the Town staff, Town Council and Town committees can be more responsive to broader resident issues and make informed and continual improvements to the Town's programs and services.

## SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM THREE INCHES OR MORE

The Town will continue its sidewalk snow removal program this winter. This year we will assist with the clearing of public sidewalks when snow accumulates to 3 inches or more. This snow removal plan will assist residents with clearing sidewalks following significant snowstorms, when help is needed most. ***If the accumulated snowfall is less than 3 inches, you will be responsible for clearing the sidewalk abutting your property.*** The snow removal will begin as soon as practically possible after the end of a snowstorm, and the Town's contractor will do all it can to limit excessive noise. This program includes snow removal from public sidewalks only, so clearing your driveways and walkways is still your responsibility. In icy conditions, the Town Manager will use his discretion in determining whether to salt and sand public sidewalks. The Town will continuously update information on the sidewalk snow removal program on its website and on the Town's telephone answering machine so it will be accessible to you throughout the winter season.

## WHEN IT SNOWS - CLEARING TOWN STREETS

When snow or ice is forecast for this area, cars must be parked either in driveways or on the ***even-numbered sides of the street, unless otherwise posted.*** Parking in a driveway will not only protect your cars from possible accidents or damage but assures that more of the roadway can be cleared. This practice also provides more parking spaces for residents without driveways. The odd-numbered sides of all streets, unless otherwise posted, should be left free of all vehicles so that we can plow the snow from them. To help avoid the frustration that occurs when a snow-plow covers your driveway with snow after you have shoveled, stand facing the street and shovel snow to the right into the yard instead of into the street. The Town begins plowing Town streets when two inches of snow has accumulated.

## THE MVA IS ON A ROLL!

**Reminder:** MVA On Wheels will be in Friendship Heights, Monday, February 25, 10am to 2pm

The MVA on Wheels will be set up at the intersection of North Park Avenue and Friendship Heights Boulevard near the Friendship Heights Village Center. The mobile unit is usually in front of the Village Office on the fourth Monday of each month. (This month it is the fifth Monday.) For details of the services offered at the MVA on Wheels, call the MVA at 1-800-950-1682.

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## TOWN EVENTS

### Climate Protection Committee Presents

Thursday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Gardening and Global Warming. Looking longingly at those seed and garden catalogues? Champing at the bit to get out of the house to dig in the dirt? Before you plan this year's gardening activities, give some thought to how global warming is going to affect you. If you thought last year's weather was a challenge, you're in for an ugly surprise from global warming in the future. Come hear Marney Bruce talk about how the rapid climate change we are experiencing is affecting our area, and the steps gardeners can take to lessen the impact.

Marney Bruce, who lives in Bethesda, has been a Montgomery County Master Gardener for more than seven years and a volunteer for the National Wildlife Federation. She started out learning about native plants and how to create habitat, and designed her small yard (1/8 acre) to be certified as a wildlife habitat. More recently she has become concerned about how Global Warming is impacting our natural world.

Please join us for the lecture and refreshments.

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### SUNDAY AFTERNOON FOR FAMILIES

Our first event, the Bob Brown Puppets, in our very popular winter series for families was a great kickoff. Join us at our February event. Just walk over to the Leland Center Art Room on February 24 for an afternoon of art.

#### FEBRUARY 24

#### TOWN ARTISTS HOST AN ART PROJECTS WORKSHOP – LET'S CREATE!

A few of our favorite Town artists will host our second annual art projects workshop for children of all ages on **Sunday, February 24 from 2 – 4 p.m.** in the Art Room at the Leland Center. The children will have an opportunity to work with the artists on a variety of projects. Join us for this incredible opportunity to meet and create with some of our most talented artists.

#### APRIL 13 – SPECIAL TREAT FOR KIDS

We are pleased to announce that the Great Zucchini will be our guest performer on Sunday, April 13, 3 p.m., in the Leland Center Social Hall. We hope that you will visit the website: <http://greatzucchini.com> for a preview of the show. He is renowned both in our town and surrounding areas as an extraordinary children's entertainer.

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### JOIN IN AS PERFORMER, PARTICIPANT, AUDIENCE

#### Eighth Annual Recital - Sunday, February 24, 2008 at 4 p.m.

Performers may be all ages, levels, and instruments. We have enjoyed beginners and professionals -- a rock band, clarinetist, ensembles, pianists, vocalists, etc. If you would like to perform please call Jean Lauderdale, 301-656-9029, [jeandL@starpower.net](mailto:jeandL@starpower.net) for more information or to be placed on the program.

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### GARDENING EVENTS PLANNED FOR APRIL AND MAY

#### April

Tolbert Feather, the Town's Arborist, will host a Tree Walk through Town in April. Once again, you will have a chance to hear about many of the favorite species planted in the Town rights-of-way. Also, you can ask questions about choices of trees to plant on private property. We will serve coffee and bagels in the Town office before we begin the walk. These tree walks are a Town tradition which we are pleased to host each year. Stay tuned for the date of this event.

#### May

Would you like to have a peek at your neighbor's garden? On a Saturday in May several of our premier gardeners will open their gardens to you. Stay tuned – we will announce the addresses of the *Gardens* in the April and May newsletters. In addition to the tour, you will have an opportunity to attend a gardening work shop in the Town Hall. If you would like for your garden to be included on the tour, please contact the Town staff at 301-654-7144.

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## **MARYLAND TAX RETURN 2007** **FORM 502 RESIDENT**

One of the major sources of revenue that the Town receives each year is the Town's share of income taxes, which each resident pays to the State of Maryland. Remember to write "Town of Chevy Chase" in the box marked city, town or taxing area. This will insure that a portion of your tax dollars will return to the Town. Do not assume that people at the state level understand the different municipalities which share the 20815 zip code.

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### **HISTORY OF METRO WASHINGTON JEWISH COMMUNITY** **Chevy Chase Historical Society Program Topic, February 10, 4 p.m.**

Town residents are invited to an illustrated lecture, "Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community," on Sunday, February 10, at 4 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall.

Hosted by the Chevy Chase Historical Society (CCHS) and the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington (JHSGW), the free program will feature Chevy Chase resident and JHSGW director Laura Cohen Apelbaum. Apelbaum and JHSGW archivist Wendy Turman edited the book, Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community, recounting the Jewish community's contributions to Washington area business and civic life. The 100-page book, which includes many historic documents, artifacts and photographs from the JHSGW's collections, will be available for purchase.

The narrative began in 1795 with Washington's first Jewish resident and continues today. The region's Jewish community has grown to more than 215,000 people. Apelbaum's talk will include details about the preservation and restoration of Washington's oldest synagogue built in 1879, a signature accomplishment of the JHSGW.

The Chevy Chase Village Hall is located at 5906 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. Street parking is available, and refreshments will be served.

The program is a presentation of the Chevy Chase Historical Society's "History-Go-Round," a series of programs on history inside and outside the neighborhood. No reservations are required, but questions may be directed to [hgr@chevychasehistory.org](mailto:hgr@chevychasehistory.org) or Susan Elwell at 301/657-1874.

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### **C. DUDLEY BROWN TO SPEAK ON EARLY CHEVY CHASE INTERIORS** **Chevy Chase Historical Society Lecture, February 27, 8 p.m.**

C. Dudley Brown, a noted interior designer specializing in historic properties and traditional home design, will deliver the Chevy Chase Historic Society's 2008 winter lecture on Wednesday, February 27, 8 p.m., at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Avenue. His slide-illustrated talk, "Taste of the Times – Early Chevy Chase," will focus on the styles of house decoration during the early days of this streetcar suburb. The program is free and open to the community.

Dudley Brown's four decades in restoration and interior design work has included work for clients such as The Cosmos Club, the Australian ambassador's residence, Glenview Mansion in Rockville, Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, Kent Valentine House in Richmond, VA and a number of Chevy Chase residences. He was awarded the 2006 Mayor's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation, served as the first president of Washington Chapter of the Victorian Society in America and remains an active member of its board.

Brown's lecture will follow a brief CCHS annual meeting. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Marilyn Montgomery at 301/656-2295.

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## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS** **2008 Election Judge Recruitment Program**

The Board of Elections needs Election Judges for the General Election, November 4, 2008. Interested voters willing to serve can download the application from the website: [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org) or call 240-777-8533 to request an application be mailed to them.

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### **DONATE YOUR USED BOOKS!**

Please help Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (B-CC) raise funds for school programs by donating your used books for our annual sale to be held April 5th and 6th. Donations can be dropped off at B-CC's Chelton Street entrance on the following Sundays from 10AM - 2PM: January 27, February 10, February 24 and March 2. IT'S EASY! Volunteers will meet you to unload at the curb and give you a tax receipt. Directions: Traveling west on East West Highway, turn right at light at Chelton Street just BEFORE the school, then left at 2nd driveway.

We need fiction and nonfiction, paperbacks and hardcovers of all kinds and especially children's books, art books, test prep, cookbooks, foreign language, DVDs, and books on tape, but PLEASE NO encyclopedias, textbooks more than 3 years old, or magazines. When you have made room on your shelves, please come back to our fabulous sale in April!

Thanks for helping B-CC continue its work for educational excellence. Book Sale Committee Chairs are Peggy Hsieh McIntosh, Amanda Manheim, Linda Wolpert, and Stephanie Rigaux.

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### **LOST & FOUNDLING NOW PLAYING AT IMAGINATION STAGE**

Looking for a fun family outing? Go see Lost and Foundling at Imagination Stage at 4908 Auburn Avenue in Bethesda. This Washington premiere of a savvy, silly contemporary fairytale should appeal to audiences ages 6 and up! There are shows Saturdays and Sundays through March 2. For information and tickets, visit [www.Imaginationstage.org](http://www.Imaginationstage.org) or call the box office at 301-280-1660.

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### **B-CC'S SECOND ANNUAL BENEFIT TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

Please join the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School community on Thursday, March 6, 2008, 7-9 pm, for its 2nd annual festive evening of wine, chocolate, and cheese, to benefit Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School's after-school tutoring, mentoring, and other academic support programs. Given by the B-CC HS Educational Foundation, the event will be held at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase, 7931 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland. The B-CC HS Jazz Combo will perform. For ticket information, go to [www.bccedfoundation.org](http://www.bccedfoundation.org) or contact Carole Brand at [csbrand@verizon.net](mailto:csbrand@verizon.net) or 301-657-2547.

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### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS**

The Montgomery County Abused Persons Program is recruiting volunteers to assist domestic violence victims during evenings and weekends. Extensive training will be provided. There is a special need for fluency in Spanish. For more information, please call Cathy Wolf at 240.777.4215.

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The **FORECAST** is published monthly by the Town of Chevy Chase, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815; e-mail: [townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org); phone: 301-654-7144; fax: 301/718-9631. Mier Wolf, Editor. Copies are mailed to all Town residents. The Town Council meets in open session the second Wednesday of each month in the Town Hall unless otherwise announced. All residents are invited to attend.

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# **THE TOWN'S ANNUAL CHILI DINNER AT CCES**

**FEBRUARY 24, 2007, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.**

You must RSVP to attend this event. Seating is limited to 250. To make sure that the residents who RSVP are not turned away from this event; we will be checking the RSVP list at the door.

The Town will host the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Dinner at Chevy Chase Elementary School on Sunday, February 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We encourage residents of all ages to attend this popular event. This year we will have a special table for our senior residents, a special activity planned for teens in the gym beginning at 6:15 p.m., and Jake, aka Broccoli – the magician - will entertain our youngest Town residents beginning at 5:45 p.m. Chili will be provided by Hard Times. You will have your choice of meat or vegetarian chili, chili dogs, potato salad, cole slaw and cornbread. **You must RSVP to attend this event so that we can make sure that the caterer is prepared to serve all of you. Please e-mail [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org) or call the staff at 301-654-7144 by Tuesday, February 19 to RSVP.**

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## **In the issue:**

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Town Topics  
Town Events  
CCHS Events  
Annual Chili Dinner and more!

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## **Town of Chevy Chase**

4301 Willow Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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### **TOWN COUNCIL**

*Linna Barnes, Mayor*  
*Robert Enelow, Vice Mayor*  
*Lance Hoffman, Secretary*  
*Kathy Strom, Treasurer*  
*Mier Wolf, Community Liaison*

### **TOWN MANAGER**

*Todd C. Hoffman*