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**COUNTY RESPONDS QUICKLY TO FIRE**

The Town extends a special thanks to the Montgomery County Fire and Police Departments for responding so quickly to a fire on Oakridge Avenue early Thursday morning, January 15. No one was injured in the fire, which occurred in a home under construction. Also, many thanks to the neighbors for cooperating with the emergency crews and for reaching out to those affected by the fire.

**PLAYGROUND REOPENING, LELAND CENTER RENAMING**

Installation of the new playground at the Leland Community Center is progressing nicely. The equipment has been installed and the landscaping work, including installation of timber edging and a drainage system, has begun. Since the landscape work is weather-dependent, and can proceed only if the ground is not frozen, the County anticipates completing all work by mid-April, at the latest. Once the playground is finished, the Town will hold a ribbon cutting in conjunction with a dedication ceremony to rename the Leland Center after our former friend, neighbor and Delegate Jane Lawton. We will keep you updated as plans develop.

**Council to Consider Exception to Snow Emergency Parking**



At its February 11 meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing to consider a request to allow parking during snow emergencies on the odd-numbered side of the 7200 block of

Oakridge Avenue. Currently, the Town Code requires all residents to park on the even-numbered side of the street during snow emergencies, unless parking is specifically prohibited on that side. While parking is allowed on both sides of the 7200 block of Oakridge Avenue, it is the Town's understanding that residents, by long-standing custom, park along the east side (odd-numbered side) so as not to block vehicular sight lines at the sharp curve between Curtis Road and Leland Street. The request asks that residents along this block not be required to move their cars to the even-numbered side of the street during snow emergencies since there is already an open traffic lane clear of vehicles and passable by snow plows.

At the public hearing, Town residents will have an opportunity to express their views regarding this request. If you are unable to attend the February 11 meeting, you may submit comments by e-mail to [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or to 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

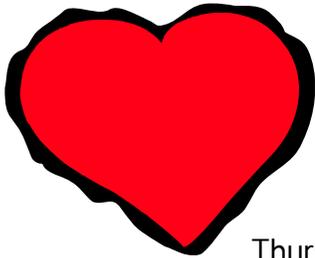
## GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR

Kathy Strom

The fire in January, which was successfully extinguished by our Montgomery County Firefighters, highlighted how fortunate we are as a community to be supported by the resources of Montgomery County. Firefighters from many locations immediately responded to the emergency, with trucks working from Maple Avenue as well as Oakridge in order to protect nearby houses and trees. We also appreciate the quick and helpful actions of neighbors on Oakridge in responding to the unexpected fire. Thank you to all who helped out during those difficult days. Seeing the devastation so quickly caused by this unfortunate fire makes us all especially mindful of how important it is to take all precautions against fires, especially in the winter, such as keeping our smoke detectors ready and turning off space heaters when not in use.

The Town will be hosting a number of community events this month, from a concert to the art project to our annual popular Chili Dinner which will have fun for all ages! We hope you can join us at these events!

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# FEBRUARY

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Thursday, February 5 – Environment Committee Meeting
- Monday, February 9 - Land Use Committee Meeting
- Tuesday, February 10 – Public Services Meeting
- Wednesday, February 11 – Council Meeting
- Thursday, February 12 – Gardening Group
- Sunday, February 15 – Town Recital
- Monday, February 16 – Long Range Planning Committee Meeting
- Wednesday, February 18 – Community Relations Committee Meeting
- Thursday, February 19 – Chevy Chase Dinner Club
- Sunday, February 22 – Art Workshop for Families
- Sunday, February 22 – Annual Chili Dinner
- Tuesday, February 24 – Noise Sub-Committee Information Session

Please check the Town website for up-to-date details about Town events and meetings.

[www.townofchevychase.org](http://www.townofchevychase.org)

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## TOWN CRIER KEEPS RESIDENTS INFORMED

We strongly encourage residents to join the "Town Crier," the Town's e-mail alert system. The Town uses the listserv to keep residents informed of timely Town news and information. To subscribe, please visit the Town's website, click on "About the Town" and follow the instructions.

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# TOWN RESIDENTS PLAN CHEVY CHASE AREA "SENIOR VILLAGE"

Joan Urban and Naomi Kaminsky

Are you over 50? Forging ahead to 60, 70 or beyond? If the Town of Chevy Chase is where you'd like to "Age in Place," you may be interested in a new project that some Town residents are starting: Chevy Chase at Home (CC@H).

CC@H is designed to let us maintain independence, choice and control over our own lives as we grow older--a Senior Village right where we live. This concept is inspired by a growing movement on the Eastern seaboard. Residents of Beacon Hill in Boston created the first Senior Village. In the Washington area, Capitol Hill Village has been operating since 2007, and Burning Tree Village began in 2008. Chevy Chase at Home will organize a close-knit volunteer network of people who live in the Town and the other self-governing areas of Chevy Chase around us. As we build our network, our ability to help one another will become stronger.

We participate by sharing our skills, interests and needs with our neighbors. We anticipate small exchanges at the start-- a phone call to check on a neighbor, offer a ride to get groceries or if a car won't start, help pick up newspapers and walk the dog when a neighbor is laid

up. As the network of neighbors expands, our experience will help us develop a list of vetted services such as house cleaners, auto mechanics, handymen, contractors and home caregivers. Our goal is to create a database of volunteer and "for fee" resources that we can tap with a single phone call to a full-time paid coordinator of services.

Achieving this goal will require some hard work. By early February, we anticipate having in place an organizing committee representing all our localities. By mid-March we plan to survey all those who have expressed interest in joining CC@H to learn their preferences and suggestions. Meanwhile, we are receiving the support of the Community Relations Committee. Come spring, with a bit of luck, we may find the project's planning stage has attained self-sustaining momentum!

Interested? Start with a single phone call or e-mail one or both of us to tell us you want to know more.

Naomi Kaminsky, 301-657-8070, ikeok@verizon.net; and Joan Urban, 301-652-4743, jbumoscow@aol.com.

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## CRIMEWATCH

Crimes reported to the Town Office:

1/21/09

Resident in the 7000 block of Beechwood Drive, reported her unlocked car was broken into on January 20. \$15.00 was stolen.

Resident in the 7000 block of Maple Avenue reported unlocked car was entered on January 19. Nothing was stolen.

Resident in the 6900 block of Woodside Place called to report that a window was broken in the front of his house and a purse was stolen. He reported the incident to the police.

1/3/09

Resident in the 6900 block of Maple Avenue reported a hit and run of her mother's Honda Accord -- front door smashed so badly car could not be opened. She reported the incident to the police.

12/29/08

Residents reported unlocked cars ransacked in the 7700 Chatham Road and the 3900 block of Leland Street.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of reporting all crimes to the police at 301-279-8000. These reports result in increased police coverage. In addition, please report incidents to the Town office so that we can notify our off-duty Montgomery County police officers and our overnight security service. As a result of the number of thefts from cars, the Town has increased the overnight security. Any information you can give to the police about criminal or suspicious activity in Town will help to make us safer. Also, when you contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144 to report crimes, you help us provide accurate crime information in Town Crier notices, the FORECAST and on the Town website.

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## MARYLAND TAX RETURN 2008 -- 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.

# TOWN EVENTS

## Gardeners



If you are yearning to get back in the garden, but feel it is still too cold, then you will be pleased to hear the Town is sponsoring a program for gardeners, [Native Plants that Make a Difference IN YOUR BACKYARD](#) on [February 12, 7 p.m., in the Town Hall](#). Our guests will be Terese Bernstein and Shannon Russell, local garden designers, [www.anewleafdesign.com](http://www.anewleafdesign.com), known for practical garden renovations with native plants and organic materials as their stock in trade. They will discuss the native plant market and present a choice palette of native perennials, shrubs and trees that add life and longevity in residential gardens. The Town selected this topic at the encouragement of the Environment Committee as one of their "Shades of Green" initiatives. E-mail us at the Town office, [townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org), or call 301-654-7144 to RSVP.

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## Musical Performers

The [Annual Town of Chevy Chase Recital, FOR and BY Town residents](#) will be [Sunday, February 15, at 2 p.m. in the Town Concert Hall, i.e., Town Hall!](#) All are invited to participate by performing or being in the cheering section. All levels of performance are welcome--from beginners to very accomplished performers. For more information or to sign up, please contact Jean Lauderdale, [jeandl@starpower.net](mailto:jeandl@starpower.net) or 301-656-9029.

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## Gourmands

Chevy Chase is chock full of interesting people and we are SO lucky to live close to some of the best restaurants in the metro area. Combine the two and you have a great evening organized by Julie Stanish, Community Relations Committee.

Join us for the first [Chevy Chase Dinner Club](#), sponsored by the Town's Community Relations Committee, event on [Thursday, February 19, 7 p.m. at Shangri-la Restaurant](#) in Bethesda. We plan to get the evening going with some great conversation starters sure to get beyond ordinary cocktail chatter. There is an added bonus of 20% off for all attendees--everyone pays their own way. Shangri-la is a moderately priced organic Indian/Nepalese restaurant.

RSVP to the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or e-mail [townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org) so we'll know how many people to expect. Meet us at Shangri-la, 7 p.m., 7345-A Wisconsin Avenue near the Residence Inn. See you there!

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## Artists

As part of our [Sunday Afternoons for Families Series](#), a few of our Town artists will host an art workshop for all ages on [Sunday, February 22 from 1:30 – 3 p.m. in the Art Room at the Leland Center](#). We will create a mural to decorate the walls of the Chevy Chase Elementary School all-purpose room for our annual chili dinner that evening. The theme of the mural will be a pedestrian-friendly town. This event is not limited to kids. If you love to paint, cut and paste, please join us.

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## Chili Fans



The Town will host the [15<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Dinner](#) at Chevy Chase Elementary School on [Sunday, February 22 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.](#) We encourage residents of all ages to attend this popular event. Once again 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 entertainment for 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, coleslaw 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 or call the staff at 301-654-7144 by Tuesday, February 17 to RSVP.](#)

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## COMMITTEE CORNER – ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### NOISE CONTROL: SHALL WE TURN DOWN THE VOLUME?

At the January Council meeting, the Environment Committee proposed a noise control initiative to help promote a Town environment compatible with residential living, based on existing Montgomery County residential noise standards. The Committee is asking the Council to establish noise control as a priority and authorize Town staff to work with residents and contractors to ensure that the County's residential standards are the norm in the Town.

Key features of the proposed approach include:

- **Focused action.** Town efforts would focus on priority noise problems, namely noise from *construction projects, commercial lawn services, and the Town's own contractors.*
- **Problem-solving approach.** The Town would emphasize *constructive problem-solving through outreach and intervention* with vendors and contractors, using enforcement tools, such as citations and fines, but only as a last resort.
- **No new ordinance or regulation.** The Town would enforce *existing County-wide noise limits* to improve the Town's residential environment. Staff and the Committee would evaluate the program after 12 months.

Noise control activities would include:

- **Developing standard operating procedures** for Town staff to ensure prompt handling of all noise complaints. Response may start with a courtesy notice to residents providing help and information on remediation, and using enforcement tools as necessary.
- **Scrupulous tracking** of noise complaints, Town responses and outcomes to create a reliable record of noise problems in the Town.
- **Regular monitoring and action on "hot spots"**, such as construction projects and lawn services with noise measurements taken as appropriate.
- **Outreach to contractors and vendors** working in the Town, informing them about the noise standards that will be enforced.
- **Education programs** to increase residents' awareness of County noise standards and provide information on quieter machinery and noise suppression methods.

Residents are invited to attend an information session on the proposal on Tuesday, February 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. Environment Committee chair Vicky Taplin and Noise Subcommittee chair Coralee Hoffman will provide more details and answer questions. The full proposal is posted for comment on the Town's website at [www.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org). The Council will schedule a public hearing in March.

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## COMMENTS REQUESTED FOR WATER DRAINAGE ORDINANCE REVIEW

Jean Shorett, Environment Committee

The Environment Committee would like to hear from residents on how well the Town's Water Drainage Ordinance (in effect since December 2006) is working – what's good and what could be improved. At last June's meeting, the Town Council referred concerns with the Ordinance to the Environment Committee for a review. Since then, Environment Committee members have interviewed Town staff, members of the Water Board, property owners who've submitted water drainage plans required by the Ordinance, and people who've appealed some of those plans.

The next step is to expand the discussion to all Town residents and landowners. A copy of the Ordinance can be found via the Town website at <http://municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=12209&sid=20>. If you would like to comment on parts of the Ordinance that are especially useful or parts that could be improved, **please send your comments to the Town Office by February 28<sup>th</sup>.** Comments sent by email should be addressed to [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) with "Water Ordinance Comment" on the subject line. Comments sent by letter should be addressed to the Town Office and marked "ATTN: Water Ordinance Comments." The Committee will review all comments and plans to send a summary of recommendations on the Water Drainage Ordinance to the Town Council in the Spring.

# Shades of Green

## Shades of Green #2: Healthy Indoor Improvements

As homes have become better sealed with fewer exchanges of fresh air, home-improvement products can create indoor pollution through "off-gassing" from VOC's.

- ❑ Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) are in paints, finishes for wood, caulk and sealants, adhesives and glues, and wood preservatives.
- ❑ One particularly toxic VOC, Formaldehyde, is common in pressed wood products such as particle board, fiberboard (MDF) and plywood, and also in carpets and carpet pads.
- ❑ VOC's can trigger a host of physical symptoms and contribute to respiratory/cardio-vascular illness and cancer.
- ❑ VOC's cause outdoor pollution (ozone, smog) but can be 5 times more potent when emitted indoors.
- ❑ "Off gassing," most noticeable when products are first installed, can continue for years.

To keep your interior improvements healthier:

- ❑ Use certified no- or low- VOC, and/or water-based paints, caulks, and wood finishes.\*
- ❑ Consider natural wall and floor coatings such as earth plaster, milk paint, and natural wood finishes.\*
- ❑ Instead of pressed wood, choose sustainably harvested solid wood products or wood alternatives created from agricultural or recycled products using non-formaldehyde resins. (example: wheatboard)\*
- ❑ Use pressed wood products only in this order (best to worst): Formaldehyde-free MDF (medium density fiberboard), exterior plywood, interior plywood, particle board, regular MDF. Be sure ALL sides are sealed.
- ❑ Insist on carpet and carpet pad with little or no formaldehyde content, and avoid glued installation.

\*For further information and useful links, consult the TOCC website "Green Pages" under "Community Links" in the top menu bar, and look for discussions on the Townneighbors list serve.

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## STATUS OF 7206 MEADOW LANE

Many residents have inquired about the status of 7206 Meadow Lane (the "Li" property). As you may know, as a result of the Town's efforts, the previous incomplete structure was demolished, and the property is currently open undeveloped land. To date, the Town has been unable to determine plans for the property despite contacting the current owners, who have indicated that they are considering several options. We will continue to inquire about plans for the property and provide any updates in future Forecasts.

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## TOWNNEIGHBORS: THE RESIDENT-SHARING LISTSERV

Townneighbors, the listserv for Town residents to share information with one another, continues to expand, serving as a great resource for neighbors to share information by posting messages on a wide variety of topics. From asking for and giving recommendations to announcing events to seeking help or examining topics of interest — the range is broad, and questions get quick responses. We are a two-way personal listserv, separate from the Town's Towncrier one-way alert listserv with official Town announcements.

For information on how to join the Townneighbors listserv, go to [www.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org) and click on "Townneighbors" under "Quick Links" at the bottom right of the home page. Your best option is to join via the web because then you will be able to search the archive of all prior messages.

# LIGHT SENSORSHIP

## Climate Protection Committee

### Judith McGuire, Chair

**“TURN OFF THE LIGHTS!”** Do you get tired of saying that? The average US household spends 11% of its energy budget on lighting, much of it for lights left on inadvertently. When should you turn off the lights? For maximum life expectancy turn off an incandescent light if you're going to be away five minutes or more. Turn off a compact fluorescent (CFL) if you're going to be away for 15 minutes or more. There are lots of great ways to turn off the lights to save money and lower your impact on global warming. Here are some options.

#### TIMERS.

- The simplest timer is a plug-in gizmo (into which you plug lamps) that you can easily program to go on and off at specific hours. Use these to turn lights on and off when you're on vacation, for front porch lights, or to light a lamp to welcome you home after dark. They also work for aquariums and plant lights. These timers can be quite cheap and simple (electromechanical ones cost \$7) or much more elaborate and digital for programming multiple days and schedules.
- Preset switch timers are easy to install in place of existing wall switches. Set the switch timer to turn off the lights after they have been on for the designated period. Switch timers are available for dimmable as well as on-off switches. Use timers to turn off lights in rooms where you only spend a short amount of time.
- Photosensitive timers sense changes in sunlight and turn on lights when it is dark (and off when it's bright). This is a great option for nightlights and outdoor lights. The best nightlights are those with photosensors and LED lights that draw little power and last forever.

#### OCCUPANCY SENSORS/MOTION DETECTORS.

Occupancy sensors can save you an additional 35-45% on your lighting bills by turning off lights when an area is not in use. Using infrared, ultrasonic, and/or audio signals, these sensors respond to the presence of people by turning on the lights for a preset period (you determine how long you want the lights to stay on).

- **Bathrooms, storage areas and hallways** are particularly good candidates for light timers or motion sensors because people pass through quickly and often forget to turn off the lights. The Department of Energy estimates you can save 90% of your electricity in these areas with occupancy sensors and timers.
- **Floodlights.** Motion detectors are very useful for outdoor floodlights that suck up lots of electricity. Because the motion sensors turn on lights only when a person is in range, you can maintain your security while simultaneously conserving energy, saving money and significantly reducing light pollution. Photocell timers in combination with motion sensors insure that the lights are not illuminated during the day. The latest breakthrough is photovoltaic floodlights. If you have enough sun exposure to recharge the battery, these lights use zero PEPCO electricity and generate zero greenhouse gas. Even if you already have floodlights you can add on freestanding motion sensors and photocell to turn the lights on and off.
- **Landscape and decorative lighting.** If you use outdoor lighting for pathways or decorative purposes, including seasonal displays, use LEDs or CFLs and control them with timers and photocells.
- **Laundry room and garage.** Install a motion sensor or light timer in spaces you use infrequently so you won't have to pay for light you don't use. All-in-one motion-sensing lights screw into a regular light socket.

#### WHOLE HOUSE COMPUTERS

Whole house energy automation systems that control heating, air conditioning, lighting, appliances, security systems, and even the garage door are available but pricey. If you are undertaking major renovations and striving for greater energy efficiency, they may be worth the investment especially if coupled with a Smart Meter that conveniently tells you how much electricity you're using and how much it costs.

**Use more efficient light bulbs.** Energy Star compact fluorescents (CFLs) or light emitting diode (LED) lights cost 50-75% less and use a fraction of the electricity and last many times longer than incandescents or halogen bulbs. You can recycle old CFLs in the bin at the Town office.

(Sources: DOE, greenyourhome.com)



## DOGS ON LEASHES, PLEASE

The Town office has received several requests from residents that we include a reminder to dog owners to leash their pets. There have been several encounters that have prompted their requests. One of the incidents involved an off-the-leash large yellow lab that became aggressive and charged a resident and her two small dogs. We asked your cooperation as we strive to create a pedestrian-friendly Town. Also, we have received calls from residents asking us to remind dog owners to be sure that they do not allow their pet to defecate on a neighbor's property or on public rights-of-way.

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## FY10 BUDGET PROCESS UNDERWAY

The Town is in the process of preparing its FY10 budget and has scheduled a series of planning meetings, outlined below, to determine priorities and allocate resources for the coming year. Residents are invited to all of these meetings, but are particularly encouraged to attend those that allow public participation and comment, including the March 18 public meeting and the May 5 Annual Meeting. All meetings will be held in the Town Hall, except for the Annual Meeting, which will be held in the Leland Center Social Hall. Please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 for more information.

March 25	Public Meeting on Budget
April 1	Budget Work Session
April 22	Approval of Proposed Budget and Tax Rates
May 5	Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and Tax Rates
May 13	Adoption of Budget and Tax Rates

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The FORECAST is published monthly by the Town of Chevy Chase, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, 301-654-7144, [www.townofchevychase.org](http://www.townofchevychase.org). Kathy Strom, 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.

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[www.townofchevychase.org](http://www.townofchevychase.org)

### **Town of Chevy Chase**

4301 Willow Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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### **TOWN COUNCIL**

*Kathy Strom, Mayor*  
*Robert Enelow, Vice Mayor*  
*David Lublin, Secretary*  
*Linna Barnes, Treasurer*  
*Al Lang, Community Liaison*