

FORECAST

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
JULY 2009

Climate Corps Up and Running

Are you aware that you can substantially reduce your home energy use without even adding insulation or replacing windows? The Town, through the Climate Protection Committee, has organized and trained a team of high school and college students -- the Climate Corps -- to provide Town residents with energy conservation advice for their homes. By inviting the Climate Corps to give your home an energy checkup, you can help local student interns get some green employment experience while you learn how to save money and reduce your carbon footprint.

You just need to call the Town office to schedule a visit and a Climate Corps team will visit your home, review your utility bills, and identify ways that you can save money and energy. At the end of the visit, the Climate Corps team will provide you with a customized report summarizing the steps you have chosen to take and the savings you're likely to reap. With every step taken to save energy, homeowners can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money at the same time. Through the Chevy Chase Challenge, the Town committed itself to reduce our carbon footprint by about 3 tons of CO₂ per household. The Climate Corps has advice that can save you four times as much CO₂, while saving you thousands of dollars each year.

This program is a learning opportunity for both the Climate Corps members and Town residents in an effort to reduce our Town's greenhouse gas emissions. Please contact the Town office (301-654-7144) by July 15 to schedule your free appointment with the Climate Corps.

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Volunteer 2009-2010

During the past year, eighty-five Town residents volunteered to serve on our five standing committees, the Climate Protection Committee, the Parks and Playgrounds Commission and various advisory boards. The Town's goal is to involve as many residents as possible in Town affairs, so we hope you will consider applying to volunteer in the coming year.

If you would like to join a committee for the first time and would like more information, visit the Town website or contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144. We ask that all interested in being committee members submit an e-mail or letter of interest to the Town Office by July 30, 2009. Committee appointments will be made in August 2009.

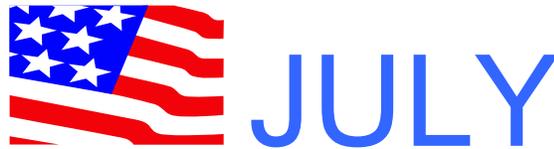
Greetings from the Mayor

Kathy Strom

As we enjoy the summer months, the longer days, and the chance to be outside more, we also enjoy the chance to spend more time with our neighbors and friends in the community. The opportunity to be part of an engaged community is one of the special features of the Town. As you will read in the brochure inside this Forecast, we are planning an exciting community event on **Saturday, September 12** to celebrate our first one hundred years by holding a progressive dinner at residences across the Town. This celebration should be a great opportunity to get to know more of your neighbors in the Town and enjoy some good food together.

Summer is also the time when many blocks hold block parties, an informal opportunity to get together with your neighbors nearby. If your block does not yet have a neighborhood watch block captain, consider whether someone on your block wants to volunteer for our Neighborhood Watch program which is going to be launched this fall. Please contact the Town office if you would like to be a block captain.

Finally, let me thank all of you who have given so much time and talent to the Town this past year. We are very grateful to our extraordinary volunteers who have accomplished so much for the residents of the Town. I hope many of you will volunteer to serve on our Town committees again or for the first time this coming year. We are so fortunate to have residents with such a multitude of backgrounds, interests and abilities in the Town of Chevy. Enjoy your summer!



Thursday, July 2 – Environment Committee, 7 p.m.

Friday, July 3 – Office Closed

Saturday, July 4 – July 4 Picnic and Parade, 12 p.m.

Wednesday, July 8 – Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, July 13 – Land Use, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 14 – Public Services Committee, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15 - Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.

Monday, July 20 – Long Rang Planning Committee, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22 – Public Hearing Purple Line, 7:30 p.m.

Please check for the Town website for any changes to the calendar.

www.townofchevy Chase.org

Celebrate Our History! Saturday, September 12, 2009
Centennial Supper: 1st Annual Town of Chevy Chase Progressive Dinner
See insert in this issue for details.

Crimewatch

The only crime reported to the Town Office since we went to press with the June issue of the **FORECAST** occurred on May 27 when a car window was smashed with a bottle in the 4000 block of Rosemary 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. 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.

Purple Line Public Hearing, July 22

Come and express your views about future Town action, if any, that the Council should take on the Purple Line. A public hearing will take place on Wednesday, July 22, at 7 p.m., in the Town Hall. The Town Council welcomes residents' comments.

The hearing follows an information session held in June to outline Purple Line steps taken to date by the Town. Those unable to attend the hearing can send written comments to the Council at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org no later than Friday, July 24, at 5 p.m.

Town Provides Native Canopy Trees to Residents

The Town Council in June approved a proposal from the Environment Committee to provide a limited number of native canopy trees to residents, on a first-come, first-served basis, for planting on their private property. The program aims to enhance the Town's tree canopy and to strive towards the goal of adding 130 trees per year to the Town, as called for in the Climate Action Plan. These native canopy trees will benefit the entire Town over time by providing shade, runoff control, carbon dioxide absorption, and energy savings. The next step will be for the Council to consider a resolution to implement a local urban and community forestry program within the Town at its July meeting.

Under this new program, the Town will buy the trees, pay for the service to plant them, and provide a water bag to assist the resident with the care needed in the critical first year after planting. The resident will be responsible for the long-term care of the tree once installed. Five to six varieties of native canopy trees will be available through the program. The Town arborist will visit each resident, in the order of request, to evaluate whether there is an appropriate location on the property for a new canopy tree, and to recommend a suitable species. The Town hopes to have this program up and running by this fall and will continue to broadcast news about the program.

Join Neighborhood Watch Community Relations Committee

Don't just watch crime in our area go up, do something about it. Be a neighborhood watch captain!

We know everyone is busy. But, petty crimes are up in our area. If potential criminals know that they are being observed and noted, then the chances of these sorts of things happening will lessen. We can work together to keep our Town safe.

How can you help? Sign up to be a neighborhood watch block captain.

There is initial police training of 6-8 hours (We hope this can also be in a self learning mode), but this is a small investment that can pay off for you and your neighbors. As block captain for your street, your responsibility is to notify/meet with your neighbors about suspicious activity, crimes and provide other useful information to make our Town safer. If you take the lead, your neighbors will help out.

Sign up today and help turn the tables on crime. Please contact the Town office at (301) 654-7144 or email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org to volunteer. Questions? Contact our volunteer coordinator Scott Egloff at scottegloff@sportautomotive.com.

What's Coming Down the Pike

Long Range Planning Committee Report

New County Development Plan Would Affect Our Area First

"You are ground zero under the County's new growth plan," said At-Large County Councilmember Marc Elrich, in his recent talk at the Town Hall. "The urban areas with the most development will wind up the most crowded and unlivable in the County. You'll be the first to feel the effects."

The County's proposed new growth plan allows for more building development without providing public facilities to support it, Elrich pointed out and added, "That's a big step back in the County."

The new master plan does not address problems of overcrowding, he said. It allows developers to increase building capacity in exchange for use of green technology rather than for infrastructure upgrades, the traditional mitigation approach. "The plan confuses design and environment with providing facilities and transit," he said. "We should require good design and environmentally responsible building, but not in lieu of adequate transportation and school capacity as required by our Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance."

According to a new report, Bethesda-Chevy Chase schools have already reached maximum capacity. Elrich said the Planning Board's solution to school overcrowding is "to redefine adequate to meet the size projected. It's make-believe mitigation."

Regarding traffic gridlock, he added, the policy seems to be "to make things so bad, you're not going to use your car." He lamented the lack of a visionary, holistic approach that includes planning for "mass transit, schools, police, libraries, fire stations—the whole package."

The Council must approve the new growth policy by mid-November 2009. He said it will be more difficult for the County Council to try to change the policy once it is approved by the County Planning Board. The Town gave testimony at the Planning Board public hearing on June 22.

More information on County growth policy:

http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/research/growth_policy/growth_policy09/agp_growing_smarter.shtml

Councilmember Roger Berliner (District 1) 240-777-7828 Councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov

Proposed County-Wide Bus Rapid Transit System

Marc Elrich also presented his plan for a 100-mile Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network throughout the County, a system completely independent of any Purple Line route. His proposed mass transit plan is designed to address future growth and reduce the environmental impact of cars on the road. If car traffic continues to increase at current rates, carbon dioxide levels are projected to rise 48% between 2002 and 2030.

His proposed system connects all residential centers to job centers in the County. It addresses riders' reservations about traditional buses. New sleek and comfortable models would provide premium service with smooth rides on a concrete roadbed at higher speeds. Main routes would be supplemented with more frequent and flexible feeder routes into neighborhoods.

Elrich said developers and many elected officials are enthusiastic about the proposed network. Under consideration is a public/private partnership to build and run the system. To keep the reduction in traffic congestion created with the BRT system, Elrich proposes simultaneously implementing parking caps on long term commuter spaces.

If nothing changes here, he observed, "The County is going to become a giant parking lot." He is optimistic that construction of a BRT system can start in three years.

Door-to-Door Solicitors Need Permits

In June, several residents reported to the Town Office that people were going door to door attempting to sell magazine subscriptions. A Town solicitor's permit is required for any person attempting to take orders for goods, wares, or any merchandise, including magazines and other printed matter, for future delivery. Before obtaining a Town permit, the person must show proof of a current solicitor's license issued by Montgomery County. If a solicitor comes to your door, you should ask to see a Town permit. If the solicitor does not have a current permit, you should report the incident to the Town at 301-654-7144 during office hours and to the non-emergency police number 301-279-8000 after office hours.



WATER YOUR PLANTS, NOT THE PLANET

From the Environment Committee

SHADES OF GREEN

Water costs more than just the dollar amount shown on your bill. Providing high-quality drinking water and processing wastewater both require a lot of energy. Therefore, we must do what we can to conserve water. If this spring's deluge is followed by a summer drought, here's how to keep your yard and garden healthy, all the while saving water:

- ❑ Water well once a week. One good watering is easier to accomplish, and encourages deep roots, which better withstand drought.
- ❑ Deliver water slowly to decrease run-off and evaporation. A soaker hose, winding through your plant beds, is best. For lawns, use an adjustable sprinkler to water small areas at a time, keeping the spray close to the ground.
- ❑ Water only when and where it's needed! You don't have to water your whole yard every time. An inexpensive water meter can tell you when that high sunny spot needs water, but the low shady one doesn't.
- ❑ Water in the early morning if you can. Evening watering can encourage insects and slugs. Avoid mid-day watering. Droplets acting as a solar magnifying glass on your plants can burn them, and also quickly evaporate from air and ground.
- ❑ Don't overwater. Put sprinklers and soaker hoses on timers. Set the timer on your kitchen oven or cell phone to remind you to turn them off.
- ❑ Mulch your beds. Mulch hinders evaporation in addition to stifling weeds and breaking down to improve soil.
- ❑ Water plants not pavement! Besides the waste, if you are sending water onto roads or sidewalks, it's evaporating or headed for the Bay, carrying pollutants with it.
- ❑ How many times have you seen automatic irrigation systems spraying away after a good rain, or watering sidewalks instead of plants? Pay attention to when and how your system operates, and make adjustments so that it works efficiently.
- ❑ Lawns generally require more water than areas planted with groundcovers, perennials, and shrubs. Reducing lawn area not only saves water, but also the energy and pollution associated with mowing.
- ❑ After watering, look for places where water has collected and empty it out. Every toy or plant saucer holding still water is prime mosquito-breeding territory!

Visit the TOCC Green Pages for more information and useful links (go to www.townofchevychase.org and click on "Community Links"). If you have useful information to share, please post it on the Townneighbors listserv (to join, see "Quick Links" on the TOCC homepage).

Town of Chevy Chase Leads the Way in Climate Protection

ICLEI – the Organization for Local Governments for Sustainability – has been highlighting the work of the Chevy Chase Climate Protection Committee under the banner of the Chevy Chase Challenge. The ICLEI website is touting the initiatives that the Town has undertaken recently, including the idea of the Climate Corps (described on page 1), the Step Up to the Challenge, our recent Zero Home Energy presentation, the Financial Analysis of Home Energy Auditing and Energy Efficiency presentation, and our panel of Montgomery County representatives discussing new tax rebates and incentives for energy home improvements.

As ICLEI is the primary organization coordinating the efforts of over 1,000 cities and towns working to advance climate protection and sustainable development, we feel honored to be in the spotlight and recognized for successful community engagement. For those who wish to read more about what ICLEI is saying about us, please see <http://www.iclei.org/action-center/learn-from-others/small-communities-toolkit/community-engagement>.

[Montgomery County Department of Recreation Seeks Applicants for the Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee](#)

The Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee advises the Department Director, the Region Manager and the Center Director on community recreation needs, makes recommendations for programs and services, considers upkeep issues, encourages new initiatives, and supports the center's programs and services. Members serve up to three-year terms without compensation and must reside in the surrounding geographic area. Evening meetings will be held 4 to 8 times per year at the center. Members are appointed by the Recreation Department's Director.

To apply, send a letter of interest with a completed application form to:
Ingrid St. Villier, Center Director, Jane. E. Lawton Community Recreation Center, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. If you have questions or would like to request an application form, call Ingrid St. Villier at 301-652-2249 or e-mail her at Ingrid.St.Villier@montgomerycountymd.gov.

[State and County Offer Tree-Purchase Coupons](#)

In an effort to encourage residents to plant more trees in their yards and to increase the tree canopy, both the State of Maryland and Montgomery County are offering coupons for residents who would like to buy a tree from participating nurseries. The state offers \$25 off of trees valued at \$50 or more, and this offer is valid until November 2009. For further information and a list of participating nurseries around the state, please visit www.trees.maryland.gov. A printable version of the coupon is available on this site. Leaves for Neighborhoods, the County's program, offers a coupon for \$25 off of trees with a retail value of at least \$75 and is valid through May 2010. For tips on tree planting, a list of participating nurseries, and the coupon itself, please visit www.montgomeryplanning.org/Leaves or contact Lori Shirley at lori.shirley@mncppc-mc.org.

[How To Stop Delivery of the Washington Examiner or Gazette](#)

The Town has received complaints from residents who wish to discontinue the delivery one or both of these local papers. The Town contacted the papers to get information about how to cancel the delivery. To cancel delivery of the Washington Examiner, call the Supervisor of Distribution, Kim Park at 703-738-0765. For the Gazette, call Distributor Ken Hartley at 301-670-7350.

[Three Cheers for Our Gardeners!](#)



We are still receiving compliments about our 2009 Town Garden Tour. We send our thanks to [Linna Barnes and Chris Mixter](#), [Sue Clifford](#), [Pam and Tim Gardner](#), [Marcy and Arthur Forrest](#) and [Kathleen Williams](#) for opening their gardens for this event. Many residents have told us that they left the gardens with new ideas for their own gardens and were inspired to get to work. The number of attendees to our gardening events is growing by leaps and bounds so we plan to offer more events in 2009-2010. If you have any suggestions for programs, just give us a call at 301-654-7144 or e-mail townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

[Join the List-Serv for Timely Alerts and Messages](#)

If you are not on the Town listserv, now is a great time to join. As you know, we do not publish a newsletter in August, so the listserv provides a way for us to relay information to residents in a timely manner. We closely monitor the use of the listserv so you will not be inundated with e-mails. To subscribe, please visit the Town's website www.townofchevy Chase.org. If you have questions, please call the Town office at 301-654-7144.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

- Reminder: The FORECAST is not published in August. Until September, please visit the Town's website for current Town news www.townofchevychase.org.
 - Join the Town Crier listserv (details on the Town website) for news and information alerts.
 - The Town Council will not meet in August. The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, September 9.
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Help Us Decorate the Town for Independence Day!

Stop by the Town Office between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. to pick up a flag to decorate the right-of-way in front of your property. In fact, you can pick up flags for your neighbors, too. After July 4, please remove the flag from the right-of-way. Thanks for helping us deck the Town out in red, white and blue!

Manna Monthly Weigh-In – Three Hundred-Twenty Six Pounds To Date!

Community Relations Committee

We will continue to collect foods in the Town Office during the summer months for the non-profit Manna Food Center. To date, residents have donated 326 pounds of food to Manna. Each time you shop, you may wish to simply buy one extra item for the food drive. When a grocery bag is full, drop it at the Town office (301-654-7144) or call (301) 785-0933 for a pick-up. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact the Town Office.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

Kathy Strom, Mayor
Linna Barnes, Vice Mayor
Pat Burda, Secretary
David Lublin, Treasurer
Al Lang, Community Liaison

Centennial Supper!

1st Annual Town of Chevy Chase Progressive Dinner

Here's how it will work!

On Saturday, September 12 at 6 p.m., Town residents will meet at the Town Hall for hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. Out of a fishbowl, you will randomly pick your host houses—one for dinner and one for dessert. The two houses will be within short walking distance of each other. Dinners will start at 7:30 p.m. Desserts will start at 9 p.m.

The Centennial Supper is for Town adults only, but the Town Teens list is a great way to find a babysitter for the evening. Town staff would be happy to send you this list upon request.

There is no charge for the Centennial Supper, but we ask each resident to donate canned or packaged food to the Town's Manna Food Center's food drive when they come to the Town Hall on September 12. Town Teens will be on hand to collect the food donations.

Here's what we need from you!

The Centennial Supper needs host houses and cooks!

Host House: You will need to be able to accommodate a minimum of 12 people. No cooking is necessary, but you will need to provide the salad greens, bread, plates, napkins, silverware and glasses. The Town will provide beverages. Why not team up with a neighbor to host a dinner and a dessert?

Cook: You will need to prepare a main course OR a dessert for up to 12 people. The food should be in a casserole or on a platter ready to serve. Bowls, platters, etc., should be labeled on the bottom with your name and telephone number.

Volunteer: If you are interested in working with Bridget Hartman and Cathy Wolf to coordinate the event, please e-mail Bridget at (bridget@speakeasy.net) or Cathy at (wolfcs@starpower.net).

To RSVP and/or sign up to host or to cook, please return the form below to the Town Office by Friday, August 28.

Centennial Supper! 1st Annual Town of Chevy Chase Progressive Dinner

Please return this form by Friday, August 28 to the Town Office (4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, 301-654-7144 or e-mail townoffice@townofchevychase.org).

Name: _____
Address: _____
E-mail: _____
Telephone: _____

I would like to RSVP

Number of Town residents (adults only) attending _____

I would like to be a

- Host House (for a minimum of 12 adults)**
- Cook (main course for a maximum of 12 adults)**
- Cook (dessert for a maximum of 12 adults)**

Questions? Please contact Bridget Hartman (bridget@speakeasy.net) or Cathy Wolf (wolfcs@starpower.net).