



# FORECAST

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE  
JULY 2010

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

## Council Votes To Oppose Resubdivision of 7206 Meadow Lane

On May 20, the Town Council held a public hearing on, and voted unanimously to oppose, the proposed resubdivision of the property at 7206 Meadow Lane into 3 single-family lots. The Town has submitted its comments and recommendations on the proposed resubdivision to the Planning Board, which will hold a public hearing on the plan application this fall.

In its report to the Planning Board, the Town opposed the proposed resubdivision for a variety of reasons, chief among them being the plan's incompatibility with the character of the surrounding neighborhood. The report also cites concerns with the protection of existing trees and wetlands on the property. It states, in part, "There is a reason why this parcel has not been resubdivided since it was platted in 1959 and why the prior owner commenced construction of a single house on this lot. The desired access via an alley plus the existence of the steep slope, pond and wetland area on the lot render it unsuitable for intense development such as that proposed."

Written notification of the Planning Board's public hearing on the proposed subdivision will be sent to the Town Office no later than ten days before the hearing, and the Town will post this information on the listserv and website. If unable to attend the public hearing, residents may send written comments on the proposed resubdivision to the Development Review Division, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Residents also may submit comments to the Planning Board via e-mail ([MCP-Chairman@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:MCP-Chairman@mncppc-mc.org)) or fax (301-495-1320) at least 24 hours before the hearing.

If you have any questions on the County process, please contact the County Planning Department's Development Review Division at 301-495-4595 or visit:

[http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/info/resident\\_guides/subdivison\\_processes/intro.shtm](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/info/resident_guides/subdivison_processes/intro.shtm).

## **HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!**

The FORECAST is not published in August. Please visit the Town's website, [www.townofchevychase.org](http://www.townofchevychase.org), for current Town news.

Join the Town Crier listserv for news and information alerts. (see p.4)

The Town Council will not meet in August. The next monthly meeting will be on

Wednesday, September 15 (due to a religious holiday).

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## Greetings from the Mayor David Lublin

One of the wonderful things in our Town is how much people enjoy the public parks in and around Town, from small pocket parks like the Thornapple Path to larger open spaces with playgrounds like Elm Street Park. Prior to the economic crisis, the Town Council set aside funds from repeated budget surpluses for the potential acquisition of property to expand or to create new open spaces in the Town. Despite the drop in land prices, property remains expensive in the Town, so no decision to acquire property can be taken lightly. On the other hand, the fall in prices creates new opportunities, so here are my general ideas about how the Town should approach property acquisitions.

Unlike most other decisions, the Town Council cannot negotiate for land purchases in public sessions. Doing so would make it impossible for the Council to follow its obligation to obtain the best possible outcome for the Town. Additionally, we have to respect the privacy of the potential seller who may be one of our neighbors. Nonetheless, the Council values the opinion of the Town's Parks and Playgrounds Commission and may consult with it on the desirability of a potential acquisition of property and possible uses for it. Additionally, it seems appropriate to let nearby neighbors know of a possible acquisition, as they naturally have a strong interest in changes near their homes.

While there is a real need for privacy during negotiations, before completing any purchase, the Town Council would consult with Town residents through a well-noticed public hearing to learn about your views. In addition to speaking at the public hearing, residents can share their views via email or in writing. This is your Town, and the funds are public funds. The purpose of any potential land acquisition would be to enhance the quality of life in the Town, and the Council would want feedback on whether residents feel that a specific proposal is worthwhile.



# JULY

Thursday, July 1 – Purple Line Mitigation Advisory Group, 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 4 – Annual Picnic and Parade, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Monday, July 12 – Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 13 – Public Services Committee, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 14 – Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 15 – Environment Committee, 7 p.m.

Monday, July 19 – Long Range Planning Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 20 – Climate Protection Committee, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 21 – Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.

[Please check the Town website for up-to-date details about the calendar.](#)

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

6/7/10

A resident in the 3900 block of Woodbine Street reported that items were stolen from his truck. The following items were stolen: credit cards, cash, a Bluetooth, an iPod and bank statements. The incident was reported to the police.

5/18/10

The police reported that a robbery call was dispatched to Florida Street. The victim stated that the robbery occurred at Stanford and Rosemary Streets in the Town and that a gun was displayed. The report is being investigated, although the victim gave vague details.

Please report all crimes to the police at the non-emergency number **(301-279-8000)**. For emergencies, call **911**. Please report incidents to the Town Office at **301-654-7144** so that we can notify our off-duty Montgomery County police officers. Crimes reported to the police are included in Montgomery County, Bethesda Station, Second District crime reports. We provide a link to those reports on our website.

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## **County Funds Storm Sewer Repairs in Town**

The Town is pleased to report that funding for the second phase of storm sewer repairs in Town was recently approved by the Montgomery County Council as part of the County's FY11 capital budget, with the final phase slated for funding in FY13. Phase 2 repairs will occur primarily in the northwest quadrant of Town and could begin as early as this fall. A map of the planned repairs is available for review in the Town Office.

After hearing from residents several years ago about the substantial losses they had incurred as a result of flooding, the County performed an inventory and analysis of Town storm drains, which are owned and maintained by the County. This study found the storm drain system inadequate and in urgent need of repair. The County's Department of Transportation subsequently presented a phased storm drain remediation plan for the Town. The first phase of improvements began in the fall of 2007 and was completed almost one year later.

This past fall and winter, the Town petitioned the County to move forward with the remaining, necessary repairs to the storm drain system in Town. In November, Town officials met with County DOT and OMB officials to discuss the prospects for funding these repairs in the County's FY11 capital budget. In recognition of the difficult budgetary environment, County officials proposed, and the Town supported, a multi-year approach to funding the remainder of the improvements.

At the Town's urging, the County Executive recommended funding in the County's FY11 capital budget for the second phase of repairs to the Town's storm drains, with the third and final phase being slated for funding in the FY13 capital budget. During its budget deliberations, the County Council recommended moving up the final phase of storm sewer repairs to FY12; however, the Council ultimately approved the phasing recommended by the County Executive.

Once the second phase of repairs is completed, the Town will urge the County to move forward with the final phase of repairs so that Town residents do not continue to suffer flooding and property damage during heavy rain storms. On behalf of Town residents, the Town thanks the County Executive for his funding recommendation and the County Council for approving funding for Phase 2 repairs. Please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 if you have any questions.

## Dining Out with Friends and Neighbors

Chevy Chase Dinner Out Group is meeting on **Thursday, July 8 at 7 p.m.** at Tia Queta-- which is a fun Mexican restaurant in Bethesda. Since the weather is nice, we can enjoy some highly rated margaritas and get to know our neighbors. Tia Queta is located at 4839 Del Ray Avenue. For a review and some information about Tia Queta, check this link: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/gog/restaurants/tia-queta,793752/critic-review.html> Please RSVP to the Town Office at 301-654-7144. Everyone is welcome whether you've attended our events or not! A person will greet you to show you to our table(s).

## Raising Funds for Haiti



Thanks to the 95 artists, volunteers from the Community Relations Committee, Town resident and artist Kathryn Freeman Vita and all the Town residents who attended the Small Works for Haiti event, the Town's first annual art sale for charity was a success! The event raised \$6,420 for Partners In Health's projects in Haiti. (If you would like to find out more about PIH work in Haiti, visit [www.pih.org](http://www.pih.org).) So many people contributed to this event that it is impossible to name each of you, but we do want to acknowledge the group effort that it took to make the event such a success on every level. Not only did we raise money for a good cause, but we all had a wonderful time doing it!

## Celebrating the Artistic Accomplishments of Our Neighbors

In order to celebrate the Town's many talented artists, we have designated a space in the Town Office to exhibit works created by our neighbors and friends. We hope you will stop by to see the triptych by Kathryn Freeman Vita, sculpture by Sue Clifford, and books by Ruth Kassinger, Ann McLaughlin and Kathleen Williams currently on display. We envision a changing exhibition program that will highlight Town authors and artists over the course of the year. Writers and visual artists including painters, printers, film makers, photographers, graphic designers, sculptors, potters, fiber artists and jewelry makers are encouraged to participate. Please email Pat Burda, [pburda@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:pburda@townofchevy Chase.org), the Council's Community Liaison.

Town Talent

## Join the List-Serv for Timely Alerts and Messages

If you are not on the Town listserv, now is a great time to join. 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 emails. To subscribe, please visit the Town's website at [www.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org). If you have questions, please call the Town office at 301-654-7144.

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## Election Day Student Aides Needed

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is seeking 2000 school-age students, grades 6-12, to serve as Election Day student aides during the 2010 Gubernatorial Elections. Students and their guardians must attend mandatory training for students to serve on Election Day and, if applicable, to receive Student Service Learning (SSL) credits. Students are placed in neighboring precincts according to their home addresses. This program is available to all students within a public, private, independent, religious or home-school setting located in Montgomery County. U.S. citizenship is not a pre-requisite to participate. Students with bilingual and American Sign Language skills are encouraged to apply. Interested parents/guardians can register their student(s) online before the **August 6 deadline** by visiting the Montgomery County Board of Elections website at [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org).

# Shades of Green

## NICE WHEELS!

From the Environment Committee

The BP spill has many of us reassessing our petroleum consumption and the cars we drive. A quick survey of cars parked on Town streets yields a collective neighborhood average of about 22 miles per gallon. Plenty of room for improvement.

To reduce gas consumption, in order of greatest impact: drive a more fuel efficient car, change your driving habits, or improve the condition of your car. Best of all, do ALL THREE!

Say you drive 12,000 miles a year. The difference between a car getting 30mpg instead of 20mpg is 200 gallons less gas consumed and at least \$700 in your pocket (not oil companies') annually. You'll also NOT produce enough CO<sub>2</sub> to fill 12,000 3-foot balloons every year. Double those savings if you improve your mileage from 20 to 40mpg!

### **FUEL EFFICIENT CARS: Squeeze efficiency through WHAT you drive**

HYBRIDS are proven, and there are many popular models that get between 30mpg to 50mpg. Newer hybrids will arrive in dealer showrooms in the next 12 months.

The benefits of ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EV'S and PHEV's) are greatest when powered by clean sources. But these cars are also cleaner and more efficient than ICE (internal combustion engine) cars when using electricity from coal. EVs recharging from coal-fired plants will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 17 to 22 percent compared to an ICE vehicle. Less pollution too: 100 pounds of pollutants for EVs compared to 3000 pounds for ICE vehicles. When charged at night, EVs use surplus plant capacity.

HOT wheels: Some electric cars, designed to go 40 miles on one electric charge, may not use any gasoline at all most days for most drivers, and it has a gas engine that kicks in to recharge it. Some electric cars are selling out before they hit the showrooms.

### **DRIVING HABITS: Squeeze efficiency by HOW you drive**

- Don't drive when you have other options
- Use a nice, steady acceleration
- Coast whenever possible
- Stay at speed limit; excessive speed proportionately consumes 7-25% more gas.
- If you're stuck at a long light or a traffic jam, turn off your engine. Ten seconds of idling uses as much gasoline as it would to restart your car.

### **CAR CONDITION: Squeeze efficiency through maintenance**

- Proper tire inflation
- Change oil and air filters on schedule
- Remove excess weight from car
- Close windows and sunroof when driving faster than 35 mph to reduce drag.

For more on saving fuel, see Shades of Green under "Quick Links" on the Town website.

# Neighborhood News

## New Moms' Group in Town

Are you a new Mom who would like to join a group of other new Moms to support and learn from one another? Contact Renee L. Rubin at [reneelaughlin@msn.com](mailto:reneelaughlin@msn.com) for more information.

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## Chevy Chase at Home - Great News!

Chevy Chase At Home (CC@H) has received its tax exempt status from the IRS. This allows our homegrown Aging in Place organization to finish building its wonderful "Village" of services and social activities for our older residents. Those of us who want to stay in our homes as we grow older will be able to have the special help that will make it possible for us to do so, thanks to volunteer support from their neighbors.

To succeed, this effort requires a large initial investment. A Town resident has offered temporary office space, but we need a telephone, computer, copier, and furnishings, and eventually a real office. We must hire a half-time person to oversee our volunteer and social programs, and to help our members find the perfect tradespeople they ask for.

The virtue of our new 501(c)(3) is that we are defined as a public charity, and thus donations to CC@H are tax deductible. All gifts since May 11, 2009 are also tax exempt, retroactively; if you have given, you'll receive a letter from us stating this. Now is the time to "Friend" CC@H. Send your check to Chevy Chase at Home, P.O. Box 15102, Chevy Chase, MD. 20825. Do you have further questions? Call our CC@H President, Naomi Kaminsky, 301-657-8070. Or send your e-mail query to [info@chevychaseathome.org](mailto:info@chevychaseathome.org).

Thank you!

## Chevy Chase at Home - July and August

Joan Hoover

As you well know, July and August are horses of a different color. Life is full of vacations, visitors and variety. Therefore, we haven't scheduled any special programs during the summer, but Meet and Mingle will still flourish at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. We'll have Members' Choice events, where you can do exactly what YOU enjoy the most. Is it a bridge game or Scrabble, or getting lost in a puzzle? Maybe you finally have the leisure to master your computer. And summer is just made for talking about books over a cool drink with other eager readers. Do drop by on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, at 2 p.m. We'll be glad to see you.

# Walkability

## Bethesda Outdoor Movies

Enjoy five nights of blockbuster hits at downtown Bethesda's 4th annual outdoor movie series on July 27-31! Show times begin at 9 p.m. at the corner of Norfolk and Auburn Avenues. A limited number of chairs will be provided and attendees are invited to bring their own lawn chairs. Admission is FREE!

## Bethesda Art Market

Enjoy the original fine art and craft of 25 local and regional artists at the Bethesda Artist Market on July 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Shop for painting, jewelry, photography, wood, pottery, blown glass and more! Live entertainment is also featured throughout the day. Location: Norfolk Avenue & Veterans Park.

# 2010 County and State Elections: Why Care?

## Follow the Money



“Politics has become so expensive that it takes a lot of money even to be defeated.” Will Rogers

As we celebrate July 4 and the birth of American democracy, take a moment to consider the influence of campaign financing in the State of Maryland.

### Whose Money Is It?

While Maryland ranks 19th in population among all states, it is the nation’s 10th highest in total itemized contributions to candidates from Political Action Committees (PACs), individuals, and soft money contributions to political parties. Center for Responsive Politics: [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org).

Special interest groups contributed about \$21 million to candidates for State office in the 2006 elections. Maryland-based PACs alone spent nearly \$13.5 million. The largest amount came from combined finance, insurance and real estate industries (\$2.4 million), followed by labor unions (\$2.3 million), groups listing their category as “other” or “community association” (\$2 million), health care (\$1.9 million), and education (\$1.6 million). University of Maryland’s Center for American Politics and Citizenship: [www.mdelections.org/campaign-finance-reports](http://www.mdelections.org/campaign-finance-reports).

The two major-party candidates for Governor raised \$32 million in the 2006 race, more than 10 times the amount in 1990. Maryland’s governor is one of the most powerful in the country. “With broad appointment and removal powers and a line-item veto for all appropriations bills the Governor has a big impact on the lawmaking process in Maryland,” another report by the Center points out. “Every four years the race becomes a high-profile, big-money affair.”

### State Campaign Finance Reform?

Under Maryland law, each individual or business can contribute up to \$4,000 per candidate or \$10,000 total to all candidates. But since the law was created before the LLC (limited liability company) concept came about, the “LLC loophole” allows significant amounts of money to be funneled into campaigns. “Real estate developers, for example, often own a number of LLCs. If you have 50 developments, you might have 50 LLCs,” says State Senator Brian Frosh of District 16, who for nearly a decade has introduced bills to close the LLC loophole.

In the latest Maryland legislative session, bills were introduced in both houses to create a public campaign financing system, among other campaign finance reform proposals. None passed. Maryland General Assembly’s website documents the legislative process [www.MLIS.state.md.us](http://www.MLIS.state.md.us). And check out the Board of Elections’ campaign finance database, listing contributions to county and state candidates [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us).

Become informed. Vote in the primaries (September 14) and on Election Day (November 2). Remember, elections affect your money, your family and your quality of life.

### July 14 Debate

Roger Berliner and Ilaya Hopkins, the two Democratic candidates for the District 1 County Council seat, will face off in another debate on July 14, 7 p.m. at the Regional Services Center at 4805 Edgemoor Lane. Miranda Spivack of the Washington Post has agreed to moderate the debate. This debate is hosted by the Bethesda Civic Coalition, the Edgemoor Citizens Association, and the Downtown Bethesda Condominium Association.

## TOWN HISTORY

Tenth in a series of historical vignettes published during 2009-2010.

The Town's first Independence Day parade and picnic was held in 1993 as part of a year-long celebration of the Town's 75th Anniversary. On July 3, 1993, more than 300 town residents gathered in the late afternoon at Chevy Chase Elementary School to decorate bikes, strollers, dance to the music of Street Life and dine on an early supper of grilled hamburgers and barbeque. Families then headed over to Hillcrest Place, the "unofficial" Town viewing stands, to enjoy Chevy Chase Country Club's annual fireworks display. After dodging late afternoon July thunderstorms at the event for several years in a row, the Town moved its Independence Day celebration to a lunchtime hour on July 4. This year, as the Town marks its 92nd year of incorporation as a municipality, more than 600 Town residents are expected to be part of the festivities. And, 17 years later, Street Life is still providing us with a Sousa March and Rock n' Roll oldies!

Town residents owe a huge debt of thanks to Lees and Bridget Hartman and their sons for organizing every July 4th extravaganza since 1993. In 2009 the sparkler was passed to Susan Milner, who chaired the event. Susan has agreed to chair the event again this year.

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**Mark your calendar!**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Town of Chevy Chase Progressive Dinner**  
**Saturday, October 2, 2010**

The first progressive dinner was a huge success and we predict the same for this year! Please consider volunteering to host, cook a main course or bake a dessert. Details to follow in early September.

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

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**TOWN COUNCIL**

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