

In This Issue

Mayor's Greetings

Calendar

-page 2-

A Blue Print for the Town's Future

-page 3-

Crimewatch

Town Topics

-page 4-

2010 Elections

-page 5-

Shades of Green

Leaf Vacuuming

-page 6-

CC&H

Town Wins Award

-page 7-

Town History

-page 8-

Town Events

Town Teens

-inserts-



Storm Drain Repair Work Resumes This Fall

Montgomery County will begin the second phase of storm sewer repairs in the Town this fall. The County has reported to the Town Council that the improvements will likely begin in mid-November and will occur primarily in the northwest quadrant of Town, including Leland Street and Willow Lane, and are expected to be completed within 4 to 6 months. More information will be distributed to residents on streets where improvements will be made prior to the commencement of work.

Once the second phase of repairs is completed, the Town will urge the County to move forward with the final phase of repairs, which are focused on the southeast quadrant of Town. Please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 if you have any questions.

Capacity Study for CCES Released

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) recently released the Capacity Study for Chevy Chase Elementary School (CCES), which was commissioned to identify options to expand the school. The report, which is available on the Town's website, concludes that any addition to CCES is not desirable for a number of reasons. This report has been provided to MCPS Superintendent Jerry Weast, who will develop recommendations to the School Board on how to address space deficit issues within schools in the B-CC Cluster. These recommendations are expected on October 15, so interested residents should contact the Superintendent's office prior to that date (with a copy to MCPS School Board members) to express their opinions on the study and its conclusions. Residents may address their comments to Office of the Superintendent of Schools, Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122, Rockville, MD 20850. On November 4, the School Board will hold a work session, followed by public hearings on November 10 and 11. On November 18, the Board will make a final decision on how to address existing and planned space deficit issues.

For more information, please call the MCPS Division of Long-Range Planning at 240-314-4700.

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Greetings from the Mayor David Lublin

Although the Town will not begin its annual budgeting process until next spring, it seemed wise to begin the conversation about Town finances now as the choices for next year are more difficult than usual. Like other municipalities, and the state and federal governments, the Town has seen its revenues decrease substantially—around 50 percent last year—due to the economic downturn.

This year, the Town adopted a comparatively lean budget that cut expenditures without reductions in services. The Town's substantial reserves allowed us to cover the projected remaining gap between revenues and expenditures. Indeed, compared to some other towns, the gap is small, and we could easily cover it for many years out of our reserves.

However, it seems prudent to consider different means of bringing expenses back into line with revenues as we want to protect portions of our reserves for capital projects and emergencies. There are three basic methods that the Town could use to balance the budget.

First, the Town cut the property tax rate by roughly 50 percent and eliminated the dumping fee of \$50 per year in the last budget adopted before the economic downturn. Restoring the property tax rate to its previous level—the equivalent of an increase of \$100 per \$1 million in assessed value—would eliminate most of the budget gap.

Second, the Town has identified a number of potential budget cuts that the Council will consider if revenues continue to fall short of projections. Any expenditure reductions will be fully vetted with the community before being enacted.

Third, the Town could continue to fund the budget gap out of reserves in the expectation that the revenues will recover over the next few years.

Of course, none of these approaches is mutually exclusive. The Council looks forward to holding public hearings and listening to residents before the adoption of next year's budget. Hopefully, you will find these options helpful as we begin consideration of how to approach these issues.

I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather and had a good transition back to school.



- Saturday, October 2 – A Moveable Feast
- Tuesday, October 5 – Purple Line Mitigation Committee, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 6 – Public Safety Information Session, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, October 7 – Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.
- Monday, October 11 – Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 12 – Public Services Committee, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 13 – Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, October 14 - Fight the Flu Program, 4 – 7 p.m.
- Friday, October 15 – Oktoberfest, 6 – 8 p.m.
- Monday, October 18 – Long Range Planning Committee, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 19 – Discussion and Desserts, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 19 – Environment Committee, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 20 – Candidates' Debate, 7 p.m.

Visit www.townofchevyCHASE.org for a complete schedule of committee meetings and events.

A Blue Print for the Town's Future

Did you know that the Town has a strategic plan that was created by its residents? In 2005, neighbors met on Visioning Day to answer the question: What do we need to maintain our quality of life? A committee of residents then met over the year to develop what they heard into a Strategic Plan that the Town Council adopted in 2007.

This document identified Four Principles to guide the Town into the future:

Principle 1: The Town of Chevy Chase government is accountable to its residents, harnesses their talents and expertise, and serves their best interests and needs.

Principle 2: The Town of Chevy Chase protects the Town's distinctive neighborhood character.

Principle 3: The Town of Chevy Chase encourages a strong sense of community and neighborliness through a comprehensive range of activities, services and resources for its residents.

Principle 4: The Town of Chevy Chase seeks to be a model community in its stewardship of its natural resources.

One of the most successful strategies from the Plan was the creation of six committees composed of resident volunteers. These committees were formed to "assist the Town Council as it deliberates, establishes and monitors municipal ordinances, policies, procedures, and practices." In the four years that the committees have existed, over a hundred residents have contributed many hours and ideas to making the Town a better place to live. Last month the Forecast featured some of the work these committees accomplished during last year alone.

The Strategic Plan is meant to cover the years 2006 to 2016. Each year members of the Long Range Planning Committee along with the Town Manager review the Plan to make sure the Town is meeting its yearly goals and to outline some of the goals for the Committees each fall. The Council recently voted to update the Plan's strategies every five years.

We encourage you to take a moment and look over the Strategic Plan. To find it, go to www.townofchevyCHASE.org, pull down the "About Our Town" menu and click on the Strategic Plan or you can request a hard copy from the Town Office.

The new committee members for 2010-11 are listed on the right.

Climate Protection Committee

Judy McGuire - Chair
Betsy Johnson
Deborah Litt
Stephanie Lowet
Suzanne Parmet
Stuart Sessions

Community Relations Committee

Ann Wild - Chair
Put Ebinger
Bridget Hartman
Erin Kopelman
Bob Lyford
Julie Stanish
Cathy Wolf

Environment Committee

Sally Kelly – Chair
Keith Blizzard
Sabrina Coble
Coralee Hoffman
Patty Larson
Peggy MacGlashan
Sarah Smith
Vicky Taplin

Land Use Committee

Stephanie Brown – Co-Chair
Dedun Ingram – Co-Chair
Craig Brooks
Tom Collins
Kathy Flaxman
Lees Hartman

Long Range Planning Committee

Tina Coplan – Co-Chair
Steve Seidel – Co-Chair
Charles Duffy
Carla Graeff
Leslie Hill
Mary Anne Hoffman
John Midlen
John Murtagh
Jim Roy

Public Services Committee

Joel Rubin - Chair
John Barnes
David Eason
Roy Gordon

CRIMEWATCH

The crimes listed below were reported to the Town Office during September.

9/2/10

Resident in the 7100 block of 44th Street reported that someone entered the unlocked screen porch. A bicycle was stolen.

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.

TOWN TOPICS

Ordinance Regarding Front Setbacks for Certain Corner Lots Adopted

At its September 15 meeting, the Town Council voted unanimously in favor of the ordinance to amend the front setbacks for certain corner lots. The ordinance allows for a 15 foot setback from the street for a corner lot if there is no interior lot between the corner lot and the adjoining corner lot on that street.

2010 Community Survey Coming Soon

We encourage you to take a few minutes to complete the 2010 Community Survey, which you will receive in a special mailing. The Council has designed the survey so that you will have an opportunity to rate and offer comments on Town programs and services and provide your opinions on ideas for the future.

Block Captains Offer Public Safety Session

The Town's Neighborhood Watch Block Captains invite you to a **Public Safety Information Session** on **October 6 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall. The session will feature personal and home safety tips from nearby Neighborhood Watch coordinators, Montgomery County police officers, and Town Block Captains. Come join your neighbors October 6 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall to learn more!

CCES To Install New Gate

Chevy Chase Elementary School is planning to install a gate at the school entrance along Hillcrest Place to prevent unauthorized dumping on school property. Residents will be able to continue to access the blacktop area by going around the gate.

Town Directory 2011-2012

In mid-October, you will receive an authorization form to appear in the Town Directory. We must have a signed form from you before including your information. Our current Directory includes the names of approximately 80% of Town households. We are hoping for 100% participation for the issue that will be published in December and delivered to every household in Town in January 2011. The Directory is only available to Town residents.

New Artwork and Publications in Town Talent Exhibition

Please stop by the Town offices to see new artwork from Eva-Maria Ruhl. Eva has been a Town resident for 20 years and her works have been included in the Corcoran Gallery of Art exhibition *Botanical Treasures of Lewis and Clark*, the US Botanical Gardens in DC and at local galleries and art exhibits. Also two new books are on display: Martin Galvin's poetry, *Sounding the Atlantic*, and Carole Metzger's *Strong as Iron: Stories from an Immigrant Jewish Family*.



Writers and visual artists including painters, printers, film makers, photographers, graphic designers, sculptors, potters, fiber artists and jewelry makers are encouraged to participate in

Celebrating Town Talent. Please contact Pat Burda, the Council's Community Liaison, at pburda@townofchevy Chase.org for more information.

2010 County and State Elections

Why Your Vote Counts on November 2



Did you vote in the primaries? That selection narrowed the choice of candidates you'll get to vote for in the general election...if you vote. Unfortunately, as Maryland Politics Watch blog recently pointed out, this year's primary turnout was "BY FAR the lowest in at least thirty years." Voter turnout was down from 30.1% of registered voters in 1978 to 18.6% this September (<http://maryland-politics.blogspot.com/2010/09/on-montgomery-countys-plummeting.html>). The blog noted, too, that Census data shows that only 14.7% of those eligible to vote in Montgomery County (18 or over) actually voted (not including absentee or provisional ballots). Therefore, as a result of the low turnout, one person in seven has already decided the winners in races that are uncontested in the general election.

Do you really want so few controlling what happens at your doorstep? These County and State elections put people in office who determine how many kids per class you'll see in the public schools, how many more cars will be added to Connecticut Avenue by proposed development in Chevy Chase Lake, how much money will or will not be available for transit or repairing the Bethesda Metro escalator, and whether gardens will or won't be watered and weeded in the newly remodeled Elm Street Park.

Come hear State candidates at the October 20 final neighborhood political forum.

Candidates for District 18 Maryland Senator Debate

Incumbent Richard Madaleno (Democrat)

Challenger Kurt Osuch (Republican)

Wednesday, October 20, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Joined by the three District 18 Delegates:

Al Carr, Ana Sol Gutierrez and Jeff Waldstreicher

Maryland General Assembly: Did You Know?

- Maryland Senate and House of Delegates meet in Annapolis each year for 90 days to act on more than 2,300 bills including the State's annual budget. The 428th Session begins January 12, 2011, and adjourns April 11, 2011.
- The General Assembly has 47 Senators and 141 Delegates elected from 47 districts.
- Maryland's 18th Legislative District rests in the heart of Montgomery County. The boundaries include all of Kensington and Wheaton, most of Chevy Chase and parts of Rockville, Silver Spring and Bethesda.
- The General Assembly oversees a statewide budget of about \$32.1 billion.

Who Are Those At-Large County Council Candidates, Anyway?

To find out more about candidates running to represent the entire County on the Montgomery County Council, watch the forum held before the primaries at the 4H Center. Hear what the Democratic primary winners (Marc Elrich, Nancy Floreen, George Leventhal, Hans Riemer); three Republicans (Robert Dyer, Brandon Rippeon, Mark Fennel); and one Green Party candidate (George Gluck) have to say on major issues. Four in all will be elected. Request a DVD copy of the forum from the Town Office: townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or 301-654-7144.

VOTING MATTERS—BE INFORMED

Shades of Green

Tree Tips

From the Environment Committee

As we deal with the natural loss of trees in the town due to aging and storms, here are some tips about how to care for trees on your property from our Town arborist, Dr. Tolbert Feather. (Please note: The Town manages the care of all trees on public property.)

Trees, just like people, need different health care at different stages.

Newly Planted Trees need babying for the first two years!

NUTRIENTS: Apply Nitrogen, the primary nutrient required for growth of new trees, at a rate of 1 lb of nitrogen per 100 sq. ft. of canopy area per application. Apply 12 oz of 10-10-10 granular fertilizer around the root ball after the leaves emerge and mature in May /June. Re-apply again in late July.

WATER: Apply 10-20 gallons of water to trees at least once per week during the growing season. Less if it rains. Water twice weekly during extreme heat and drought.

Young and Middle-aged trees, like teenagers and baby boomers, still need attention.

NUTRIENTS: Use organic granular fertilizer around the base of the tree in late fall or early spring. Apply about 1 lb per 1000 square feet of canopy area. Fertilizing the lawn also fertilizes the tree, so factor that in too! (Go to online Shades of Green for more information about organic fertilizers.)

WATER: Apply a slow, steady stream for a deep soaking at least once a week, unless it rains at least an inch. Water the entire root system, roughly the same size as the canopy.

AVOID INJURY: Mowers and “weed whackers” can damage the trunk base, subjecting it to disease. Consult Mr. Feather if you are hanging a swing or building a treehouse to do it properly.

SHAPE / TRIM: Prune in the late fall or winter. Consult a reliable professional to do “developmental pruning” to establish correct structure and desired shape.

Mature Trees need help to stay healthy.

NUTRIENTS: Established trees don’t need fertilizer unless there is an element deficiency diagnosed by a professional.

WATER: Not needed except during severe droughts. Soak the entire area near the trunk and apply one inch of water (an hour of sprinkling) over the entire root system.

PRUNE FOR HEALTH: Large trees shed branches naturally, so this is not necessarily a symptom of illness. Remove dead wood periodically to avoid disease and rot.

AVOID DISTURBING ROOTS: Digging, paving, and soil compression from cars/construction vehicles will injure the root zone and distress the tree. The Town requires a tree protection plan as part of the permitting process for construction.

CLIMBING VINES: Most vines won’t hurt UNTIL they reach and cover the tree canopy. Either keep them from starting, or control them. To remove, cut the stem at the base and let them die before pulling them off.

Questions or concerns about your trees? Remember Dr. Feather is available free of charge through the **Town’s Consulting Arborist Program**. For more tree care information, click on **SHADES OF GREEN** under “Quick Links” on the Town website.

Leaf Vacuuming Begins on October 18





Leaves are vacuumed from mid-October to mid-December. Vacuum trucks pickup continuously, street by street. A map detailing the schedule of the pickup is provided on the Town's website. All leaves should be raked to the curb. Do not rake your leaves into the street. Please make sure that your leaves are not contaminated by cans, sticks, bottles or rocks.

CC@H To Host Big Celebration

Sunday, November 14, 4 to 6 p.m., Chevy Chase Village Hall

Please come and join our celebration as we prepare to launch this special service, by and for our neighbors. Mark Shields, a noted and entertaining political commentator and a resident of Chevy Chase Village, will be on hand to deliver the opening remarks. This grand neighborhood party will feature a video of our members/neighbors describing the various facets of the new program and the ways it will be meaningful to them. The video was produced for us by Jeff Kenton of the BCC Video Studio. There will be door prizes, (a beautiful bottle of champagne, and a dinner for two, for example.) And best of all will be a free one-year membership to CC@H, which awaits the lucky person who wins the drawing. There will be music, refreshments, and the opportunity to chat with individual Board and Committee members to learn more about CC@H and its planned services, as well as its volunteer opportunities.

The CC@H initiative is based on neighbors helping neighbors. The renewed spirit that this engenders may enhance our communities in a whole new way -- helping us to depend on each other and become increasingly sensitive to a new definition of our community. Come join the fun with friends and be part of Chevy Chase history as we embark on this exciting endeavor. Find out how YOU can participate and make a difference. We hope to see all of our neighbors, both young and old--not only those who may need our services, but also those who would like to volunteer to help deliver them. Please join us on November 14! There's no place like Chevy Chase at home!

Meet and Mingle Is One Year Old



On Tuesday, October 5, we'll celebrate with a special double program, featuring the dynamic duo of Geller and Heller! Sandy Geller will lead the group a spirited discussion, entitled "Looking Back and Moving Ahead." We'll share ideas about the challenges and rewards of growing older in our community. In the second half of the program well-known poetry therapist, Peggy Heller, PhD, will speak about "Poetry: The Universal Language." And, of course, we can't have a birthday without a cake! Do come and enjoy it all at the Chevy Chase Village Hall on October 5 from 2 to 4 p.m.

"Challenges of Hearing Loss; When, Where and How to Get Help," will be the subject of our program at the Mix & Mingle on October 19. A certified audiologist will give us those answers and be available for your questions, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Town Wins Award at Local Sustainability Summit

The Town has been named Runner Up for the 2010 Sustainability Leadership Award for Innovative Outreach. The recognition, which reflects the commitment the Town has made to finding new ways to protect and better our local and surrounding environment, was announced at a recent three-day conference in Washington, hosted and organized by International Conference for Local Environmental Initiatives, a worldwide association of local governments committed to advancing climate protection. Judy McGuire, chair of the Climate Protection Committee, and Warren Rizzi, management assistant, attended the conference, which focused on local sustainability and green initiatives. They attended multiple workshops and group sessions on energy conservation, allowing the Town to work with communities across the nation to find and offer solutions to greenhouse gas emissions and increase environmentally conscious practices.

Rodent and Mouse Control

The Town Office has received several calls from residents who are concerned about the possibility of rodent infestation on their properties. We provide a link on our website, www.townofchevyCHASE.org, to the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services information on rodent and mouse control. For residents who have seen rodents or signs of rodents on their property, we recommend that you call Richard Lefebure, a County inspector, at 240-777-3986, who will visit your property and make recommendations on how to eliminate the problem.

The first steps in eliminating the problem are eliminating the food sources:

- DO NOT store garbage outside in plastic bags. Plastic garbage bags are not rodent-proof.
- DO NOT allow birdseed to accumulate on the ground. Do not leave pet food outside.
- DO NOT place food scraps, especially meats or dairy products, in compost piles.
- DO remove any piles of debris or building material such as old brick or boards that may provide shelter.
- DO clear brush, weeds and heavy ground covers, especially around foundations.

Town History

Remembering Everyday Life in the Town of Chevy Chase...

...A neighborhood pool on Oak Lane, an annual production of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, and frogs leaping from stream beds on Meadow are but a few of the recorded stories of long-time residents in the Town's Oral History Project. In 2004, volunteers from the Town's History Committee conducted taped interviews with 12 Town residents on life in the Town over the past several decades. These transcribed conversations provide a rich and wonderful snapshot of growing up and raising families in our neighborhood. To read these oral histories, stop by the Town Office, the Chevy Chase Historical Society office in the basement of the Chevy Chase Library or click on www.townofchevyCHASE.org.

- *Almost all the houses here had screen porches. In the summertime, windows were open and you could hear family activities going on, the radios playing and everything, because you had to have every breath of cool air you could. --Don Chapman*
- *And I always remember the very first plant I planted. They were little seeds of pale blue-green, and they were cuttings of the pink plant. And we planted them all in a row, and they all grew. And it was such a miracle really. --Kathleen Williams*
- *Beechwood Drive is where we lived during most of—well I guess virtually all of World War II. My house was one of the farthest away from Leland Junior High that you could go to for an air raid drill. When we'd have air raid drills, there were five people assigned to my house, and off we'd go as fast as we could. --Jean Linehan*

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

www.townofchevyCHASE.org

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