

# Forecast

DECEMBER 2010

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

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## Preparations for Winter: Let It Snow!

David Lublin, Mayor

Last year's heavy snows reminded everyone in the Town of the importance of being ready for winter storms. The Town has taken a number of steps over the past year to prepare for the winter season.

**Street Snow Removal.** The Town replaced one of its two trucks outfitted with snow removal equipment. Additionally, the Town continues its relationship with an outside contractor for assistance with heavy snows. We also work with Montgomery County to assure access to supplies of salt and sand.

**Sidewalk Snow Removal.** As in past years, the Town will clear Town sidewalks when snowfall exceeds three inches. For smaller snowfalls, residents are responsible for removing the snow from sidewalks adjoining their property.

The Town Manager rebid our sidewalk snow removal contract this year with an eye towards improving the quality of the service. Mulheron Tree Experts, which has been rated highly for its similar service to neighboring municipalities, was awarded the Town contract.

**Fire Hydrants.** The Town has installed red and white checkered poles on fire hydrants so that they can be located even when buried beneath snow.

**Phone Coverage During Emergencies.** The Town Office closes during severe snow emergencies, following the federal government schedule, though it continues to conduct snow-clearance related work. The Town has now arranged for its phone service to notify staff members immediately when messages are left on the Town voice mail so that a designated staff member can check the message and respond appropriately and quickly.

This issue of the *Forecast* includes a sheet with various emergency phone numbers that can be pulled out and posted on the fridge or another convenient place. In case of emergency, we strongly urge neighbors to call 911 first to assure that there is no delay in emergency response by police, fire, and rescue, which are all provided by the County.

During last year's storms, many residents demonstrated their willingness to lend a hand to those in the Town that needed help during the storms. Residents showed a true community spirit, and we hope that this tradition continues in case of any future emergencies.





# December



Thursday, December 2 — Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 7 — Purple Line Mitigation Group, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8 - Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 9 — Public Services Committee, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, December 13 - Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 14 — Climate Protection, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 16 — Holiday Luncheon, 12 noon

Monday, December 20 - Long Range Planning Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 21 — Environment Committee, 7 p.m.

Friday, December 24 — Town Office Closed

Monday, December 20 - Last Date for Leaf Vacuuming

Holiday Trash Pickup — Regular Schedule

Storm Drain Repair Project — Start date for work will be posted on the Town website and be sent via the Town listserv

Visit [www.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org) for a complete schedule of committee meetings and events.

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## CRIMEWATCH

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

11/17/10

Several residents reported that there were swastikas painted on the sidewalk and on a STOP sign in the 7100 block of 44<sup>th</sup> Street. In addition, a resident reported random spray painting on a car on that same block.

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.

To make our neighborhood safer, volunteer for the Town's **Neighborhood Watch Program**. Please contact Warren Rizzi at the Town Office at 301-654-7144 to get more information and/or to become a block captain.

# Upcoming Events

## Holiday Gift Drive for Domestic Violence Victims

The Town's Community Relations Committee is again sponsoring a gift drive for victims of domestic violence and their families. The Montgomery County Abused Persons Program will partner with the Town in this effort. Caseworkers will contact residents who sign up in order to match individuals or families with donors.



To participate in the gift drive, call the Town office at 301-654-7144 or e-mail [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) with "Holiday Gift Drive" as the subject. The deadline for gift collection is Monday, December 20 but we need to gather names as soon as possible.

In the past two years, the holidays have been much brighter for many hurting families thanks to the generosity of Town residents. We thank you for helping out again this year.

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## Annual Holiday Buffet for Seniors and Retirees



Join friends and neighbors at the sixteenth annual Holiday Buffet for Town Seniors and Retirees on **Thursday, December 16** at 12 p.m. in the Town Hall. While you feast on a delicious meal, you will have a chance to visit with old friends and meet some new ones.

If transportation is a problem for you, we will be happy to pick you up and deliver you back home. Just let us know when you RSVP. Please give us a call at 301-654-7144 by Friday, December 10 to RSVP. We look forward to seeing you!

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## Dinner Out Group at Food Wine and Co.

There are no membership requirements, fees or dues (other than your portion of dinner) to join the Chevy Chase Dinner Out Group. This month, we are meeting at our newest neighborhood restaurant, Food Wine and Co. Meet us on **Thursday, December 9 at 7 p.m.** at the restaurant, 7272 Wisconsin Avenue (where Uno's used to be). We know you will enjoy getting to know some of our fascinating residents over a wonderful meal. Check out the menu at [www.foodwineandco.com](http://www.foodwineandco.com) or read the November issue of *Bethesda Magazine* for more. If you still have the \$25 off coupon (expires 12/31) which was mailed in October--all the better! RSVP by Tuesday, Dec. 6 to the Town Office at 301-654-7144. See you there!

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## Sunday Afternoon for Families



Our popular winter series, Sunday Afternoon for Families, is designed to entertain kids of all ages. We would love to have your input in selecting programs for this winter. Please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or email [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) with suggestions.

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## Manna Food Collection



Thanks to all of you who continue to donate food to Manna Food Center. Town residents have donated over **1991 pounds** of food. We hope you will continue dropping your donations by the Town Office.

## Storm Drain Improvement Work Begins This Month

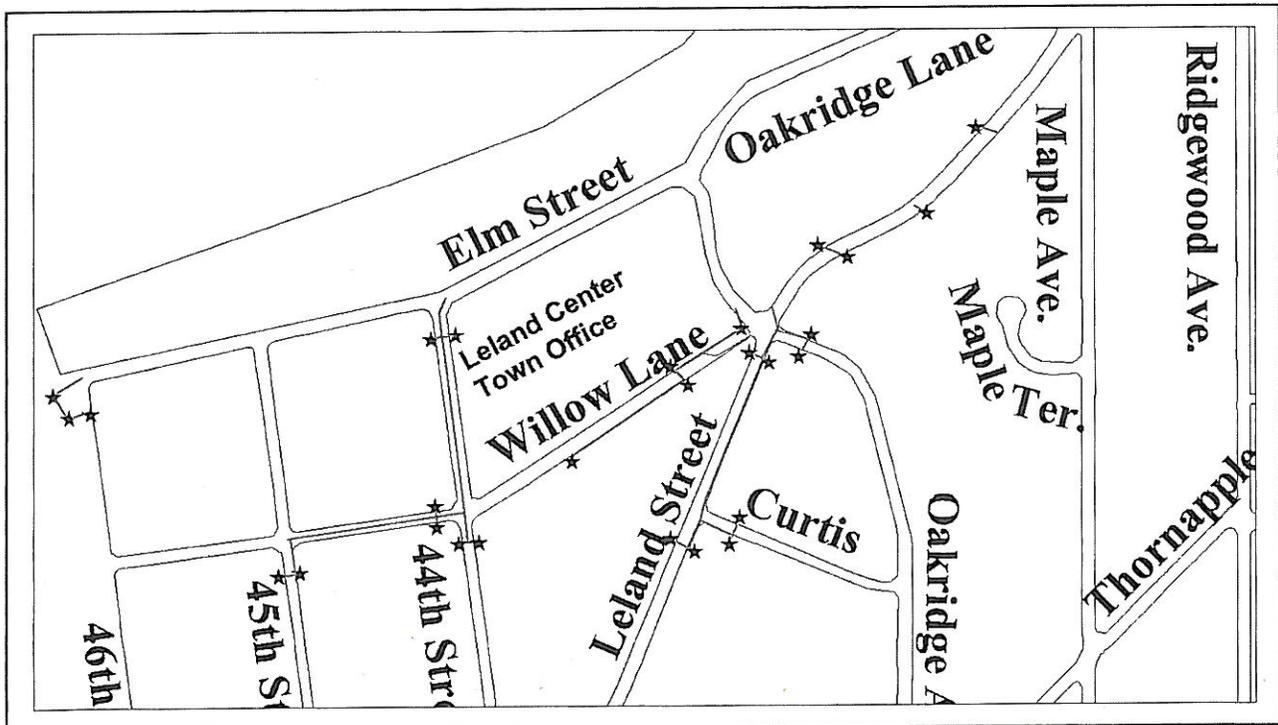
Later this month, Montgomery County will begin a major project to install new storm drain lines and inlets as part of a multi-phase improvement project. These repairs will be focused on the west side of Town as shown on the map below. The proposed improvements are expected to take approximately six months to complete, depending upon the weather.

The proposed improvements will increase the capacity of the Town's underground storm drain pipes and will add additional curb inlets to improve the collection and disposal of storm water. The improvements will help relieve ongoing flooding and drainage problems.

At the beginning of the project, the County's contractor will excavate pits in the locations of the proposed work to accurately identify locations of existing utility lines and make sure that the plans will work as designed. Following this "test-pitting," the contractor will begin installing new concrete curb-side inlets to connect to existing storm drain lines and will also excavate trenches in some streets to install new drainage pipes that will tie into the existing storm drain system.

During the project, residents in the affected areas can expect localized parking restrictions; however, roadways will generally be kept open, and access to homes should be largely unaffected. The contractor will post "No Parking" signs in advance of any work that will affect access or parking. As with any project, there will be some noise. Work will require the use of diesel engine equipment such as backhoes and grading machines, as well as pavement saws and paving equipment. No work will begin before 7:00 a.m. The crews typically finish working by 4:30 p.m.

Please contact the Town at 301-654-7144 if you have any questions about the proposed project. A set of plans is available for review in the Town Office. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding during these needed improvements. We all benefit from more reliable and higher quality infrastructure. We will inform residents of the start date on the Town website and by the Town listserv once we receive the information from Montgomery County.



★ New Inlet

— New Storm Drain Pipe

## Tree Ordinance Procedures To Be Reviewed

The Town Council has asked the Environment Committee to review the procedures of the Town's Urban Forest Ordinance and to assess whether it is being implemented effectively. The ordinance was enacted in 2006 in order to protect the Town's mature tree canopy. The two main features of the ordinance are the requirement for a permit to remove trees larger than a certain size and to require a tree protection plan whenever existing trees may be affected by construction activities. Information about the Ordinance, its intended purpose and all requirements may be found on the Town's website, [www.townofchevy Chase.org/c/217](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org/c/217), or by calling the Town Office.

The Environment Committee has produced a survey that is now available for residents who wish to express their views on the procedural aspects of the ordinance. Please contact the Town Office at [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or at 301-654-7144 if you would like a survey. The Committee also intends to reach out to others who have had direct experience with the ordinance.

This process is NOT seeking opinions about the Town tree planting programs, which are not a part of the Urban Forest Ordinance. The Environment Committee encourages and appreciates the participation of residents in the survey. A meaningful response rate, and your comments and suggestions, will increase the Town's understanding of how the procedures of the ordinance are working.

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## New Artwork Featured in Town Talent Exhibit



Please stop by the Town Office to see new artwork from resident Danny Conant. Danny is a fine art photographer whose work has appeared in many national publications. She uses a number of processes to produce her beautiful imagery resulting in mixed media works that are both visually and physically dimensional. Ms. Conant has also traveled extensively in the far and near east. Her new book, *Vanishing Tibet*, is also on display and consists of images of her works that are printed on wax, wood, metal, fabric, plaster and handmade paper.

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**. For more information, please contact Pat Burda, the Council's Community Liaison, at [pburda@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:pburda@townofchevy Chase.org).

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## CC@H: A New Light Dispels the Winter Darkness

Joan Hoover

Chevy Chase at Home kicked off its membership drive with a gala affair on November 14 at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Political pundit Mark Shields was the guest speaker, and there was a new film featuring our Chevy Chase neighbors. CC@H will begin providing helpful services to our community in January and is still seeking volunteers. If you would like to help enable our older friends and neighbors to stay in their own homes, do volunteer for CC@H by calling (301) 657-3115.

Meanwhile, the very popular M & M (Meet and Mingle) program continues. On **Tuesday, December 7**, from 2 to 4 p.m., a group will gather at the Village Hall to discuss the very serious new rise in crime against the elderly. It has been identified as "Scamming," which means to swindle someone by means of a trick. Come and hear more about this subject and learn of ways to protect yourself from becoming a victim. This is a serious discussion, but it will conclude with lighthearted "sugarplums" and other refreshments. The children from the Village will be there to entertain with songs of the season.

# Committee Corner

## Enjoy Dinner and a Show: Come to the Food Fest

Whether you are a foodie, care about food contamination (remember the egg recall last summer?), want to support local farmers, or prevent climate change, it makes sense to change the way we eat. But many of us don't know where to start, or we simply lack a few good recipes. We can make the change by coming together as a community and sharing our knowledge.

The Town Climate Protection Committee is sponsoring a Food Fest on **January 30** to provide food for thought as well as for the stomach. We'll start with a screening of FRESH (new thinking about what we're eating), a film released in 2009, and then enjoy a tasting menu of family-friendly dishes made by Town cooks that incorporate Fresh's suggestions. Audubon Magazine's review said, "The ... film is a several-course meal of hope designed to give those hungry for change a few ideas to chew on."

As we mingle, you'll have a number of resource people to answer questions about the film and share information. Learn about neighbor-endorsed local farmers' markets, buying clubs, and community supported agriculture (buy a share in the farm, get produce in return). We encourage students to come for the screening as well as the tasting. More details will be printed in the January FORECAST.

Calling all cooks! We are looking for people willing to cook one of their family's favorite vegetarian dishes or one using seasonal, organic, or homegrown produce, sustainably raised meats or fish. We would reimburse you for the costs. If you are interested in making a dish, please contact Judy McGuire ([judithsmcguire@gmail.com](mailto:judithsmcguire@gmail.com)) or 301-656-3254.

## Shades of Green

### Resolve to be Greener in 2011 From the Environment Committee

Make your New Year's resolution to make at least one aspect of your life more environmentally sustainable. Here's a list of helpful websites to help you decide what to do and stay motivated to KEEP your resolution:

- Energy Efficient Household Electronics and Appliances – This independent nonprofit makes it easy by identifying the most energy-efficient products on the market ([www.TopTenUSA.org](http://www.TopTenUSA.org))
- Reduce Your Carbon Footprint – TOCC's own Keith Blizzard's practical and insightful guide to reducing your carbon footprint and personal environmental impact. ([www.GreenBlizzard.com](http://www.GreenBlizzard.com))
- Big Green Purse – Highlights environmentally-friendly, socially responsible products and services and encourages women, who make the most of the purchase decisions, to consider environmental options. ([www.biggreenpurse.com](http://www.biggreenpurse.com))
- Grist - Dishing out environmental news and commentary with a wry twist since 1999, Grist uses its clarity-o-meter to draw out the real meaning behind green stories. ([www.grist.org](http://www.grist.org))
- Guardian Climate Change - A leading, in-depth worldwide news source on green and climate issues. ([www.guardian.co.uk/environment/climate-change](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/climate-change))
- Reducing Your Standby Power from Berkeley National Labs, on consumption of "vampire" power ([www.standby.lbl.gov](http://www.standby.lbl.gov))
- Global Change - A Bowdoin College professor writes insightfully about the intersection of science, nature and culture exploring big questions about society and environmental change ([www.globalchangeblog.com](http://www.globalchangeblog.com))
- Green Products – A source for earth-friendly everyday household products ([www.buygreen.com](http://www.buygreen.com))
- Zip Cars – A source of wheels (car sharing) only when you need them. Cars located all around Chevy Chase and Bethesda. ([www.zipcar.com](http://www.zipcar.com))

These links, like all our articles and information, are always there for you by clicking on Shades of Green, under quick links, on the TOCC home page.

## Revised Building Code Adopted with Amendments

At its November meeting, the Town Council held a public hearing on an ordinance to amend and clarify certain provisions of the Town's building code. Following the public hearing, the Council amended the ordinance to remove a proposed definition of "plant growth" and to remove proposed amendments that would clarify existing regulations on plantings on both private and public property. These provisions will be referred to the Land Use Committee for further study. The ordinance was adopted as amended and becomes effective on December 11, 2010.

Please note that many of the changes in the ordinance are technical corrections to the existing code and are intended only to clarify existing administrative practices, correct errors in definitions or incorrect code references, reorganize and consolidate existing regulations, or add and clarify definitions to support existing regulations. A summary of the ordinance changes follows:

**Permits:** The list of projects that require a building permit now includes all projects regulated by the Town's building code (including driveways, front yard hedges, and improvements in the public right-of-way, etc.)

**Portable Storage Units:** The ordinance clarifies that portable storage units are to be regulated as dumpsters.

**Bonds:** The ordinance codifies the existing practice of requiring a performance bond to cover the cost of restoring the right-of-way to its pre-construction condition.

**Construction Meetings:** The requirement for holding a Pre-PAC pre-construction meeting and Site Management meeting for projects involving demolition is changed to apply only to houses (main buildings) where more than 50% of the exterior walls are demolished. The current code requires these meetings for the demolition of any structure, including a detached garage.

**Non-Vegetative Surface Coverage:** The area of the front yard included in the maximum non-vegetative surface coverage calculations has been clarified, and for corner lots this regulation now applies cumulatively to both front yards. The ordinance also includes a provision that allows for the replacement, but not expansion, of existing non-conforming, non-vegetative surfaces.

**Rear Setbacks:** The rear setback provision is amended to further scale the required rear setback and eliminate the jump of 5 feet in the required base rear setback between lots that are 120 and 121 feet in depth.

**Front-Loading Garages:** The regulation requiring a front-loading garage to be offset from the front building line has been modified to require a front-loading garage to be offset by 3 feet from the nearest front wall planes measuring at least 3 feet in width.

**Replacements:** The ordinance allows replacement of nonconforming porches, decks, stoops, steps, stairways, chimneys, bay and bow windows, and similar projections. These projections cannot be expanded, however, unless the expanded portions conform to the current Town building code.

**Public Right-of-Way:** The ordinance adds a requirement that the installation of overhead or underground wires, cables, hoses, pipes, etc. within the public right-of-way shall require a building permit. Examples of these would include irrigation systems and electronic pet fences. In addition, a written revocable license will be required by the Town.

**Driveways:** The ordinance clarifies that a driveway apron must conform to County standards (as currently written, the code requires an entire driveway to conform to County standards).

**Retaining Walls:** The ordinance allows the exact replacement, but not the expansion, of a retaining wall located in a front yard or within the public right-of-way. A variance would no longer be required for such a replacement retaining wall.

**Appeals:** The ordinance creates a process by which any person aggrieved by a decision or action of the Town Manager may appeal the decision to the Town Council, which will hold a public hearing on the appeal.

A complete version of the ordinance is available on the Town web site and in the Town Office. Please contact the Town Office by email at [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or call 301-654-7144 if you have any questions about the ordinance.



## Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive a Huge Success

The tremendous outpouring of food and donations from Town residents and the B-CC High School community at large allowed B-CC High School and the Town's Community Relations Committee to provide 62 bountiful Thanksgiving meals for families in Montgomery County. B-CC High School's Interact Club, a high school division of the Rotary Club, organized the box decorating on Sunday, November 21 at the Town Hall. Members of the Town's Community Relations Committee and Town families were on hand to help with the assemble-line production. A special thanks to Stephanie, Judd, Miles and Henry, who provided the "heavy lifting" of the groceries into vans thus allowing staff from Linkages to Learning to deliver the baskets later in the day. A thank you is also in order to Chevy Chase Supermarket which donated all the recyclable bags.



## Recycle Your Christmas Tree!

The Town offers curbside pickup of Christmas trees. All wire, ornaments and tinsel must be removed. The deadline for pickup is January 15.



The FORECAST is published monthly by the Town of Chevy Chase, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815; 301-654-7144; [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org). Kathy Strom, Editor. Copies are mailed to each address in the Town and posted on the Town website, [www.townofchevychase.org](http://www.townofchevychase.org).

### Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Bethesda, MD  
Permit No. 418

### TOWN COUNCIL

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

## Winter Storm Preparedness 2010-2011

In preparation for this winter and any emergency situations, the Town has prepared this reference guide that lists emergency contact numbers and details the Town's operations during snow events.

Please remember that in case of any emergency, **call 911**.

Police non-emergency: **301-279-8000**.

Montgomery County Information Line: **311**.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue non-emergency: **301-654-0654**.

Bethesda Fire Department non-emergency: **240-773-4706**.

Chevy Chase Fire Department non-emergency: **301-652-0707**.



### Power Outages

To report a power outage at your home or to report street lights that are out: **1-877-PEPCO-62 (1-877-737-2662)**.

To report downed wires or life-threatening emergencies to PEPCO: **202-872-3432**.



### Downed Trees

Report downed trees in the Town to the Police Department by calling **911** if it is a life-threatening emergency. Use the non-emergency number for non-life threatening situations: **301-279-8000**.

### Water Service

To report a water or sewer line break, sewer back-up or stoppage, or fire hydrant leaks, contact the WSSC Emergency Service line: **301-206-4002**.

## Snow Removal Procedures and Communications

Street Snow Removal	Sidewalk Snow Removal
<p>When snow is forecast, residents are asked to park their vehicles in driveways whenever possible. If cars must be parked in the street, they are required to be parked on the <u>even numbered side</u> of the street. This is to ensure safe passage by the plowing crews and allows your street to be cleared as quickly and as completely as possible.</p> <p>For snow removal on state roads (Connecticut Ave, East-West Highway and Bradley Lane) call 1-800-543-2515.</p> <p>For snow removal on County roads call 311.</p>	<p>The Town assists with the clearing of public sidewalks only when snow accumulates to 3 inches or more. Clearing will begin as soon as practically possible after the end of a snowstorm. Clearing driveways and walkways are the responsibility of the homeowner. In icy conditions, the Town Manager will use his discretion in determining whether to salt and sand public sidewalks.</p> 

### Town Communications:

- *Voicemail:* Town staff monitors the Town's voicemail system remotely and on a continuous basis. However, emergencies should be reported to emergency services rather than the Town office.
- *E-mail:* The Town staff monitors the email on a continuous basis. The staff will make every effort to respond to each email.
- *Website:* The Town staff will update the website at least once each day during a weather emergency with information on weather updates, service interruptions and office closures.
- *Listserv:* At least one Town Crier listserv message will be sent out daily to provide updates on the weather emergency, service interruptions and office closures.