

IN THIS ISSUE

- Policing and Public Safety Options**
Noise Control
FY10 Budget Process
- page 1 -
- Mayor's Greeting**
Dates to Remember
- page 2 -
- Crimewatch**
Clarify Enforcement
Neighborhood Watch
- page 3 -
- Budget Process**
Town Arborist
Be Ready to Vote
- page 4 -
- Crime Stats 2004-2008**
- page 5 -
- Events In and Around Town**
- page 6 -
- Step Up to the Challenge**
Two Trail Events
- page 7 -
- Shades of Green**
- page 8 -
- Long Range Planning**
Community Relations
- page 9 and 10 -
- Town Teens**
- page 11 -
- Step Up to the Challenge**
Manna Food Program
- inserts -

Policing and Public Safety Options To Be Discussed at Public Meeting

In an effort to address the public safety concerns expressed by residents in the recent Community Services Survey, the Town Council and the Town's Public Services Committee will hold a public meeting on **March 12** to discuss various policing and public safety options available to the Town. The meeting, which will be held at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall, will present options that include hiring our own police force, using additional off-duty Montgomery County officers for overnight patrols, hiring a Montgomery County officer dedicated to the Town, and using the Chevy Chase Village Police Department, if available. At this meeting, the Public Services Committee will describe each plan, including the resources needed to effectuate each, and residents may ask questions and offer their comments on the various plans. Following this meeting, the Council will determine which options to advance for further consideration and examination by the Public Services Committee. Before any major changes are made to the Town's policing services, the Council will hold a public hearing to receive resident feedback.

The Community Relations Committee also will present information regarding a proposed Neighborhood Watch Program at the **March 12** meeting.

Noise Control Initiative To Be Focus

At its **March 11** meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on a noise control initiative to help promote a Town environment compatible with residential living. The Environment Committee has asked the Council to establish noise control as a priority and authorize Town staff to work with residents and contractors to ensure that the County's residential noise standards are the norm in the Town. The full noise control proposal and a summary are available in the Town Office and posted for comment on the Town website at www.townofchevyCHASE.org.

FY10 Budget Process

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

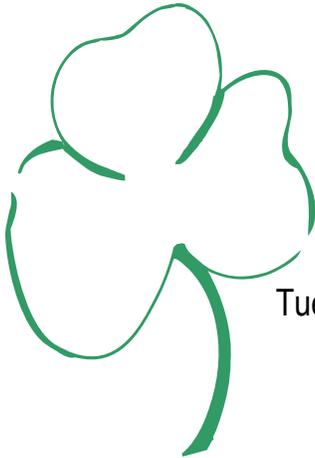
The Treasurer's article on page 4 explains this year's budget process and opportunities for public input and comment in detail.

Greetings from the Mayor

Kathy Strom

As you will see in this Forecast, our Town continues to be involved in many activities that reflect an engaged and caring community. Our residents are active in a variety of projects that help our neighbors in the Town, and in the larger community of which we are a part. Recently, the Community Relations Committee, with the support of the Town Council, has launched a voluntary food collection program by Town residents. Anyone who wishes to donate canned or dry food to the successful food distribution group Manna may do so simply by dropping off food at the Town Office or at Town events. The Committee will see that it reaches its destination at Manna. This month the Climate Protection Committee will launch its "Step up to the Challenge". On **March 15** we will gather at the Leland Center, receive our pedometers, and embark on a community walk. What better time to "step out" than in March as spring nears. Another community program that we are working on is a "Neighborhood Watch" program, where volunteer "block captains" around the Town will be able to help improve neighborhood communications. More detailed information on this new proposal will be available at this month's Public Safety meeting on **Thursday, March 12** in Town Hall as well as at our Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, May 5**.

Once again, we send a sincere thank you to our residents for your involvement in our Town. It is exciting to have so many willing volunteers of all ages and talents who are ready to contribute to the many needs of our community.



MARCH

- Thursday, March 5 – Environment Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Monday, March 9 – Land Use Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 10 – Public Services Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 11 – Town Coffee, 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 11 – Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, March 12 – Public Safety Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, March 15 – Step Up to the Challenge, 2 p.m.
- Monday, March 16 - Long Range Planning Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 18 – Community Relations Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, March 22 – Spring Classical Concert, 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 24 – Climate Protection Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 25 – Public Meeting on Budget, 7 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

www.townofchevy Chase.org

Crimewatch

Crimes reported to the Town Office since the last issue of the **FORECAST**:

2/12/09 Resident in the 7200 block of 44th Street reported that the signs posted on her property protesting teardowns and mansionization were taken from her property between early evening and midnight. This is the third time the signs have been removed.

1/28/09 Residents in the 4100 Leland Street reported that on 1/17 and 1/20 someone entered their unlocked garage. On 1/27, the residents observed footprints in the snow on the side of her house that they do not use. They reported these incidents to the police.

1/27/09 Resident in the block of 4000 Rosemary Street reported that her unlocked car was opened. An iPod converter as well as a CD case was taken.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of reporting all crimes to the police at 301-279-8000. These reports result in increased police coverage. In addition, please report incidents to the Town office so that we can notify our off-duty Montgomery County police officers and our overnight security service. 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.

A summary of 2004-2008 crime statistics for the Town appear on page 5.

Council To Hold Public Hearing On Ordinance To Clarify Enforcement Provisions In The Town Code

At its **March 11** meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on and may consider action on an ordinance to clarify the enforcement provisions in the Town Code. The ordinance would accomplish two primary goals.

First, it would clarify that violating the terms and conditions of a building permit, variance, or tree protection plan is a municipal infraction. The proposed Code amendment would allow the Town to rely on multiple documents to prove an infraction, including variance decisions, which may modify an applicant's submitted plan. Similarly, the proposed Code amendments also would clarify that violating an approved tree protection plan is an infraction.

Second, the ordinance would revise the penalty provisions in the Code to be more consistent with one another. Under the current Code language, the penalty provisions concerning signs, front-yard fences, etc., and the Urban Forest differ slightly and/or do not include all the standard enforcement language contained elsewhere in the Code. The proposed ordinance would revise the penalty provisions to include all standard enforcement language. If you are unable to attend the meeting, e-mail comments to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or submit written comments to the Town Office, 4301 Willow Lane.

Town To Consider Neighborhood Watch Program

The Community Relations Committee has proposed the implementation of a Town Neighborhood Watch program to the Town Council. This non-patrol program would be a communication system to inform residents of crimes through block captains, each of whom would be responsible for approximately 10 houses. Among the aims are to increase awareness of existing crimes in real time and thus decrease their incidence, to provide a timelier reporting to the Town and the police on problem areas, to increase education on these issues and to build a sense of community within the Town.

A central liaison would oversee communication among the block captains, and the program would be coordinated with those providing police protection to the Town. Montgomery County Police Officer and Liaison Dana Matthis is very willing to work with the Town to launch such a program in a way that meets Town needs and would provide training to block captains. The program may start small with perhaps 30 or fewer block captains and over time expand to cover more and more of the Town.

Please contact Community Relations Committee member Scott Egloff at scottegloff@sportautomotive.com and the Town Office at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org if you are interested in participating or have questions.

Participate in the 2010 Budget Process

Linna Barnes, Treasurer

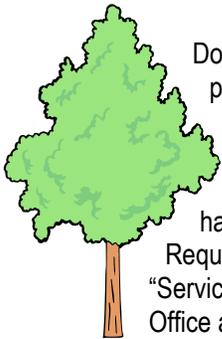
The Town Council is holding a public meeting on **Wednesday, March 25**, to hear from residents about what they would like to see funded in next year's budget. Council members added this meeting to allow residents to participate in the budget process from the very beginning. After this meeting, the Council will have a work session on April 1 to review the proposed budget that the staff and treasurer have prepared and discuss additions to and subtractions from it. Another discussion of the budget will occur at the April 22 Council meeting at which time residents will again be able to speak at the public comment portion of the meeting. Then in May, there will be a public hearing at the Annual Meeting (Tuesday, May 5) on the final proposed budget, before the Council adopts the budget for the next fiscal year at either the May or June Council meeting.

As many residents know, the Town is in the fortunate position of having a healthy reserve. While it is expected that next year's tax revenues for the Town will decline, there should be money for capital projects and other initiatives, in addition to maintaining a rainy day fund. The Council wants to hear suggestions from residents about what projects they would like to see funded.

The Town's standing committees also will be making suggestions on projects for next year. For example, the Land Use Committee is proposing a town-wide professional survey to determine the right-of-way in front of all properties to assist residents and staff during building projects. Other committee requests will be forthcoming and be announced at a later date. Residents may want to comment on these requests, in addition to proposing funding needs.

Some areas that residents may wish to speak on include environmental initiatives such as new electric streetlights, support for conservation measures in the Town's houses and improved electrical meters in each house. Others may be interested in increased support for parks and playgrounds in the Town, including acquiring additional open space. Ways in which the Town can increase security spending would be another topic for comment on as part of the budget process, as would be adding sidewalks and crosswalks. We look forward to hearing from you at these meetings. If you are unable to attend in person, please e-mail comments to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or submit written comments to the Town Office, 4301 Willow Lane.

Town Arborist Will Evaluate Trees On Private Property



Do you have any large trees in your yard? Do they have large limbs overhanging your house, cars, or neighbors' property? Have you had them evaluated by an arborist in the last two years? If not, you should consider requesting a free "tree checkup" from the Town's arborist. Spring is an excellent time to do so, because spring's weather historically has brought down many tree limbs.

The Town arborist will evaluate the trees on your property and give you a full written report. You don't even have to be at home when he comes. To request a visit from the arborist, please submit a Consulting Arborist Request Form to the Town Office. The forms are available on the Town website, www.townofchevy Chase.org, click "Services", "Consulting Arborist Program". If you need more information, please contact Warren Rizzi in the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or wrizzi@townofchevy Chase.org.

Be Ready to Vote in the Town Election

To be eligible to vote, a resident must be a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen years of age, have resided within the corporate limits of the Town for thirty days preceding any Town election and be a registered, qualified voter of the State of Maryland, Town of Chevy Chase. If you have recently moved to the Town of Chevy Chase or are doubtful whether your name is on the list of registered, qualified voters of the State of Maryland, Town of Chevy Chase, check with the Montgomery County Election Board at 240-777-VOTE. Please do this as soon as possible so your name will appear on the updated list of registered voters sent to our office one week prior to the Town election, which will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009.

Town of Chevy Chase Crime Statistics 2004-2008

Source: Uniform Crime Report from the Montgomery County Police

The following table details the type and number of crimes that have been reported in the Town of Chevy Chase over the past five years. The data for 2008 does not include crimes that occurred in December of that year as that data has not been verified.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008*
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	1	1	0	1
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	1	1
Residential Burglary	4	7	2	8	9
Theft from Auto	3	23	17	41	49
Sex Offenses	1	0	1	1	1

*2008 Jan. 1-Nov. 30

2008 Items of Note:

Robberies:

- ▶ Incident on January 18th involved two students at Chevy Chase Elementary School; *involved a juvenile suspect.*
- ▶ Incident on June 14th involved three teenaged suspects and a single female victim on the Georgetown Branch Trail; *no suspects have been identified.*
- ▶ Incident on September 25th involved two teenage suspects and a single male victim on the Capital Crescent Trail; *no suspects have been identified.*

Aggravated Assault:

- ▶ Incident involved road rage over victim not providing directions to suspect (Oakridge & Leland)

Sexual Offenses:

- ▶ Incident on July 16th occurred between two unrelated individuals residing in the same residence; *suspect arrested.*
- ▶ Incident on November 11th involved a lone female victim walking in the area of Leland Street and Thornapple Street. The victim threw coffee on the suspect who then fled on foot; *no suspect has been identified.*

Residential Burglaries:

- ▶ Six of the incidents involved entry into residential garages – either via unsecured/open garage doors or by using openers left in unsecured vehicles – primarily targeting bikes

Thefts from Vehicles:

- ▶ Incidents began to occur in June and continued through November. *Note:* Overall, approximately two-thirds of the vehicles targeted had been left unsecured. Entry into the rest was primarily via broken window.
- ▶ In October, two suspects thought to be involved in several of these incidents were arrested; the investigation is ongoing. In November, two additional suspects were arrested for a series that occurred further north, but was tied to one victim in this area.

Town Crier Keeps Residents Informed

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

How To Join The Townneighbors Listserv

This is a listserv created by neighbors and is entirely separate from the Town Crier listserv. This listserv is a resource from residents to exchange information on a broad variety of topics. Go to www.townofchevychase.org and click on “Townneighbors” under “Quick Links” at the bottom right of the home page. Your best option is to join via the web because then you will be able to search the archive of all prior messages.

Events In And Around Town

MARCH

TOWN COFFEE

Please join us for the next Town coffee on **Wednesday, March 11**, at the home of Elizabeth Mottur, 3905 Virgilia Street, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Please reach out to new residents and invite them to come along with you and meet others in the neighborhood. All town residents are welcome, but please RSVP to Elizabeth at (301) 951-0039. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to host a coffee, please call Maria Olsen at (301) 652-4370. We hope to see you on the 11th!

CLASSICAL CONCERT BY FLUTIST AND GUITARIST

Joseph Cunliffe, flutist, composer, woodwind specialist, educator, and distinguished recording artist and **Giorgia Cavallaro**, one of Washington D.C.'s leading guitarists, will be the performers at the Town's spring classical concert on **Sunday, March 22** at 4 p.m. in the Town Hall. **Flutar** has performed as a duo for over two decades and have consistently received high critical acclaim both in the United States and abroad. As recording artists, they have made four CD's together. They both have traveled all around the world as "Artistic Ambassadors of the United States" and have been doing so as a duo for over twenty years.

APRIL

LELAND CENTER PLAYGROUND GRAND OPENING AND MAGICIANS WITHOUT BORDERS

On **Saturday, April 18**, we will celebrate the renovation of the Leland Center Playground with a performance by Magicians Without Borders and a reception in the Town Hall. We will have all the details in the April FORECAST.

TRASH AND TREASURES

Ready to do your spring cleaning? The date of the spring Trash and Treasures is the weekend of **April 25 and 26**. Details will be provided in the April newsletter and on the Town website.

MAY

TRIPLE HEADER GARDENING EVENT

On **Saturday, May 16**, the Town will offer three special events for nature lovers of all ages. Tolbert Feather, the Town's Arborist, will host the annual Tree Walk through Town, the Town will organize a plant swap for Town gardeners and will sponsor the annual Garden Tour. We will have more details in the April FORECAST.

Gardeners: We hope that this is the year that you will decide to include your garden on this year's Town garden tour – "Through the Garden Gate." If you are not quite sure and would like to find out more about the tour, please give the Town staff a call at 301-654-7144. If you would like for your garden to be included on the tour, please sign-up by e-mail townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or call 301-654-7144.



Wine, Chocolate and Cheese B-CC High School Educational Foundation

Please join the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School community --alumni, parents, neighbors, community members -- on **Thursday, March 12**, 2009, 7-9 pm, for the third annual "Wine, Chocolate, and Cheese" event at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase, 7931 Connecticut Avenue. Your contribution will be used to benefit the important programs sponsored by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Educational Foundation, including after-school tutoring, CollegeTracks, mentoring, staff development, grants and other academic support programs. For ticket information, and to learn more about the Foundation, go to www.bccedfoundation.org or call 301-657-2547.

"Underground Railroad in Montgomery County"

Historian and author Anthony Cohen, who has traveled thousands of miles by foot, boat and rail to trace the steps of runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad, will present the Chevy Chase Historical Society's spring lecture on **Thursday, March 19**, at 8 p.m. at Chevy Chase Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Avenue. The community is welcome to the free program. As a complement to the lecture, CCHS will offer a two-hour walking tour of Underground Railroad sites, "In Their Steps," in Rockville on Saturday, March 21, departing from the Red Brick Courthouse at 11 a.m. Cost is \$15 per person for CCHS members and \$20 for non-members. For registration information, visit www.chevy Chasehistory.org.

Join the Climate Protection at the Step up to the Challenge Kickoff Rally

March 15, 2 p.m., Town Hall

The Climate Protection Committee wants Town residents to **Step Up to the Challenge** at a **March 15** rally at the Town Hall. Residents will get free pedometers to measure their steps and forms to record odometer readings for one month. Those who walk the most and drive the least will win prizes at an April 19 celebration in Elm Street Park.

[See insert in this issue for all the details.](#)

Two Trail Events - 10K and Walk on Trail towards Silver Spring

No Rail on the Trail 10K

No Rail on the Trail 10K is supporting efforts to preserve the Capital Crescent Trail as a continuous and serene, tree-lined Trail and is raising public awareness of plans for construction of the Purple Line along the section of the Trail between Bethesda and Silver Spring. Efforts to preserve the Trail are not anti-transit and are not opposed to the Purple Line. Studies have documented that there are more than 10,000 uses of the Trail between Bethesda and Silver Spring every week. **No Rail on the Trail 10K** urges our public officials to preserve this irreplaceable green space, and build the Purple Line between Bethesda and Silver Spring in another location or tunneled underground.



Date: March 7

Time: 9 a.m. START

Location: Start and finish at the Capital Crescent Trail Head in Bethesda (4800 Bethesda Ave.), by water fountain, next to Ourisman Honda. Run to MacArthur Blvd. and back.

Sponsored by: Georgetown Running Company, 4461 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase.

Registration on-line at: <http://www.therunningcompany.net/norailonthetrail10k.html>

This is a timed event. You will receive a **No Rail on the Trail 10K** T-shirt, prizes, etc.

If you Sponsor this Event: Your logo or name will be added to print materials and T-shirts announcing your sponsorship at the start, finish, and awards ceremony, etc. For a sponsorship form: Contact: Georgetown@therunningcompany.net, or pbrow@verizon.net. Individual and corporate sponsors are welcome.

For more information: **No Rail on the Trail 10K**, email Georgetown@therunningcompany.net:
<http://www.therunningcompany.net/norailonthetrail10k.html>

Guided Walk on Trail towards Silver Spring

This is a free guided **Walk along the Trail** towards Silver Spring for families and children of those in the race, for those who want to show support for the Trail, and for those who want to learn more about the impacts of the proposed Purple Line on the Trail and the trees. We'll watch the 10K participants take off at 9:00, and then take a guided walk toward the Trestle over Rock Creek Park -- how far we get will depend on the time. There will be hand-outs, and guides will discuss the impacts of the Purple Line on the Trail, trees, wildlife, water and air quality. We'll return to Bethesda in time for the Race Awards at 10:30.

Same Date: March 7

Time: 9:00 - 10:30 am Walkers will leave after the race begins and return for the race awards.

Meet at the Trail head between 8:30 and 8:45.

Location: Begins at the Capital Crescent Trail head across from Barnes and Noble in Bethesda.

No Rail on the Trail T-shirts are for sale for \$15 to those not registered in the 10K. This is a fundraiser. To reserve a T-shirt, please email pbrow@verizon.net.

For more information: **The Guided Walk and the Purple Line**, email pbrow@verizon.net:
<http://www.savethetrailpetition.org>.

Shades of Green #3: Going Native in Your Garden Environment Committee

Did those warm days get you thinking about gardening? Consider planting some “natives”-- species that originate or occur naturally in our region. They’re beautiful, practical, and good for the environment, making them a win-win choice!

- Natives are hardy. They’re tolerant of our heat, humidity, and droughts, are resistant to disease and pests, and need less water and fewer chemical fertilizers.
- Natives can be found that will thrive in your existing soil, light, and water conditions, from clay to loam, sun to shade, dry to boggy, and everything in between. There are plenty of choices for shaded settings!
- Natives are far less likely to become invasive than non-natives and crowd out or kill your other plantings, or your neighbors’. They rarely spread aggressively in forest, field, or waterways.
- Native species attract butterflies and birds, adding interest to your garden.
- No matter what your garden needs, a native plant can provide it. There are trees and shrubs large and small, deciduous and evergreen, with plenty of spring blossoms and fall color. There are perennials grasses, and ground covers with a wide range of habit, color, bloom time, and fragrance.
- Many native species, and the wildlife they support, are threatened by development, agribusiness, and invasive species. Introducing natives to your garden helps to preserve them and maintain healthy ecosystems.
- Because they are well suited to the environment, they grow and propagate well. A sparse garden fills out quickly, and soon you’ll have plants to share!

Pick up a copy of “Natives to Note” from A New Leaf Garden Design and Restoration at the Town Office. Learn more about native plants, how to choose them, and where to find them, on the TOCC website’s “Green Pages” under “Community Links” in the top menu bar, and look for discussions on the Towneighbors list-serv.

Concerned About The Health Of Your Bones?

Free Bone Builders classes to prevent and slow the development of osteoporosis are now available on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m. at the Leland Center. Bone Builders is an osteoporosis prevention exercise program sponsored by Montgomery County’s RSVP and Aging and Disability Services. Each one-hour session includes balance training and weight training. Because volunteers staff the federally-funded program, there is no charge for instruction or equipment. For more information, contact the instructor, Petra van den Boomgaard, 301-664-9231, petravdboomgaard@hotmail.com.

Town Disclaimer

The Town’s newsletter and listserv sometimes refer to companies and organizations that may be of interest to Town residents. In providing this information, the Town does not formally endorse these groups or their products or services. The Town encourages all residents to perform the screening they feel necessary to determine if these groups are suitable.

www.townofchevy Chase.org

Town Adds to Purple Line Discussion Long Range Planning Committee

Recently, the County Planning Board and County Council voted to endorse light rail along the Capital Crescent Trail between Silver Spring and Bethesda. During their deliberations, members of both the Planning Board and County Council recognized that light rail will have negative effects on the Trail's surrounding environment. Both the Planning Board and County Council asked the State to look at ways to minimize destruction to that environment and Woodmont Plaza.

Next, the Governor will consider the County's recommendation and make his decision about whether to include the Purple Line project, and if so, which of the alternatives to recommend, in the State's submissions for funding to the Federal Transit Administration.

During this process, the Town's analysis and findings—contradicting long-held assumptions about the best way to provide east-west mass transit—have been widely circulated and become part of the public debate. These include:

- Stating the advantages of Bus Rapid Transit compared to light rail in hundreds of millions of cost-savings, flexibility, less environmental impact and noise, and cleaner emissions.
- Calling into question low ridership numbers in the State's analysis for the Jones Bridge Road Bus Rapid Transit alternative route in light of the planned relocation of Walter Reed Army Medical Center to the National Naval Medical Center campus and planned new development at Woodmont Triangle. The Medical Center's comments question State assumptions on ridership along that alignment.
- Alerting the larger community to the true environmental destruction along the narrow 66-foot right-of-way adjacent to the Town, East Bethesda and Edgevale, as opposed to leafy images shown in state presentations.
- Pointing out the damage to downtown Bethesda of trains stored for maintenance at Woodmont East plaza.
- Raising concerns about costs, usability and safety of the State's plan to elevate the Trail above trains inside the tunnel. The State has altered its original plan due to facts raised by the Town.

The Town's nationally respected consultants Sam Schwartz Engineering's thorough and professional analysis uncovered many important issues that directly affect the Town and others. A coalition developed with neighboring communities, local organizations and individuals, who testified at public hearings and in writing to the state.

Three of our state representatives—Senator Rich Madaleno and Delegates Al Carr and Jeff Waldstreicher—have spoken out against light rail on the Trail. The Environmental Defense Fund and the World Resources Institute, an environmental think tank, spoke against destruction of the Trail and in support of BRT for the Purple Line. The Audubon Society also chose not to endorse light rail on the Trail. And more than 1,000 letters were submitted in just one week by trail users opposing transit along the Trail.

The Town submitted detailed formal comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared by the state regarding the Purple Line alternatives. The Town's comments identified significant failures of the DEIS to follow requirements under federal law to identify fully all environmental impacts of state proposed transit projects.

The State is expected to hold a meeting with community residents to discuss ways to mitigate the impact of trains on the Trail. The Town Council will keep Town residents informed of when this meeting will occur.

If a project which includes transit on the Trail is selected by the Federal Transit Administration, the Town will hold a public meeting to hear from residents about what action to take.

More information about the Purple Line is available at the Town's website: <http://www.townofchevy Chase.org/n/69>.

Town Launches Food-for-Needy Collection Drive

Community Relations Committee

At the February Council meeting, the Town Council endorsed the Community Relations Committee proposal to have an on-going food drive for the non-profit Manna Food Center. Manna Food Center distributes two million pounds of food each year to needy individuals and families in Montgomery County and a half a million pounds of food to 25 partner organizations, including emergency shelters, group homes, and soup pantries and kitchens. Recently, Manna reported that requests for food had risen 45 percent as the economic squeeze tightens. Manna points out that to support a family of four in the county requires an income of \$60,000.

Food will be collected in the Town Office on an ongoing basis and at major Town events. Each time you shop, you may wish to simply buy one extra item for the food drive. When a grocery bag is full, take it to the Town office or call (301) 785-0933 for a pick-up. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact the Town Office.

[See insert in this issue for more details of this program.](#)

Development Projects in Bethesda

Steve Seidel, Brenda Lizzio and Karen Depew, Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee continues to monitor major development projects in the vicinity of the Town. The following are some updates:

- **Metro 4**: The proposed office tower on top of the Bethesda Metro where the food court now sits was turned down by the Planning Board. The developer is considering whether to seek an amendment to the Master Plan in order to move forward.
- **Woodmont East**: The site plan for the first phase of this development is being prepared for review by the Planning Board sometime in April. This phase will include the office tower where Thyme Square was located and the pedestrian strip between that and the existing building. The second phase, which includes a residential tower over the movie theaters, is delayed indefinitely.
- **McDonald's (Pearl Street)**: A planned office building has been approved by the Planning Board for development.
- **Pier 1**: The Pier 1 store is closing but will likely be replaced by retail in the existing building; no further plans for development at this time.
- **Lots 31/31A (parking lots near Ourisman Honda)**: Development approved for high rise commercial and residential units and County parking facility, but construction has been delayed. In early 2009 Verizon might begin relocating an underground trunk line causing some potential lane closures.
- **Arlington Road Post Office**: Redevelopment on hold due to economy. Original plan was to tear down current structure and replace with 105 condos and an expanded postal facility on the ground floor.
- **Safeway (Arlington Road)**: Recently announced plans entail tearing down the existing building and replacing it with a new store built over ground level parking.
- **Police Station (Montgomery Lane and Wisconsin)**: County requested proposals from developers to redevelop site with police station staying in new building or to exchange land and build a new police station elsewhere. Awaiting announcement of selection by the County.

It seems residential projects are on hold due to the current economic climate, while commercial development is inching forward. We encourage Town residents to get directly involved in development projects of interest to them and to contact committee members to let us know your views on these or other projects.

Support Local Boy Scout Troop 225 Project

Chevy Chase's Troop 225 is holding its **5th Annual Mulch Sale**. Proceeds go directly to the Scouts' summer program – this year Philmont. Orders due March 15. \$5.50 per 3cf bag of shredded hard wood mulch, delivered to your house Sunday, March 22. Order form at www.t255.com, or call Keith Pierce at 301-951-5290.

MARYLAND TAX RETURN 2008 -- FORM 502 RESIDENT

One of the major sources of revenue that the Town receives each year is the Town's share of income taxes, which each resident pays to the State of Maryland. Remember to write "Town of Chevy Chase" in the box marked city, town or taxing area. This will insure that a portion of your tax dollars will return to the Town. Do not assume that people at the state level understand the different municipalities that share the 20815 zip code.

The FORECAST is published monthly by the Town of Chevy Chase, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, 301-654-7144, www.townofchevychase.org. Kathy Strom, Editor. Copies are mailed to all Town residents. The Town Council meets in open session the second Wednesday of each month in the Town Hall unless otherwise announced. In April, the Council will meet on Wednesday, April 22.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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

TOWN COUNCIL

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



Help Combat Hunger in Our County

Please consider contributing to the residents of Montgomery County who rely on Manna Food Center throughout the year. The Town of Chevy Chase Community Relations Committee and Town Council are undertaking a continuing food drive to help keep Manna shelves stocked.

Modeled on a program by Martins Addition, we will be making a drop box available at important Town social events as well as at all times an ongoing basis in the lobby of the Town Office.

When you go to the grocery, buy an extra box or can and set it aside. When you have filled a bag, drop off in the Town Office lobby, or call Rose Miller at 301-785-0933 for pick-up, then leave the bag on your doorstep for free transport to Manna. Manna distributes 2 million lbs yearly to 60,000 needy families and individuals—half children—at 10 distribution centers in our county, plus homeless shelters, soup kitchens, group homes, and low-income housing. On Fridays, it provides backpacks full of kid-food at elementary schools so many kids can eat on the weekend.



----- Most-Needed Goods on Reverse-----



Manna most needs:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|------------------------|
| Tuna Fish | Rice | Canned and Dried Beans |
| Canned Fruit and Vegetables | | Tomato Sauce |
| Baby Formula/Baby Food | | Pasta |
| Shelf-Stable Milk | | Macaroni and Cheese |
| Cereal and Oatmeal | | Canned Soup |

Smart Sacks, Manna's backpack program for children uses:

- Peanut Butter in 18oz jars or smaller
- Small Fruit Cans/Cups
- Individual Applesauce Cups
- Easy Mac
- Juice Boxes that are 100% juice or at least contain Vitamin C
- Mac and Cheese
- Microwavable Bowls of Pasta
- Canned Pasta
- Individual Cereal Boxes
- Oatmeal Packets
- Tuna Fish
- Crackers packaged in a sleeve, like Ritz or Saltines
- Pudding Cups
- Nutritious Cereal Bars
- Individual Raisin Boxes or Other Dried Fruit
- Small packages of peanuts
- Microwavable Soups
- Kid-Friendly Cans of Soup – Chicken Noodle, Tomato, Alphabet, Etc.
- Pouches of Mashed Potatoes or Rice requiring only adding water
- Other nutritious kid-friendly food



On behalf of the Town—thanks for your support!



Step Up to the Challenge:

Drop the keys and walk the extra mile!

**Free pedometer* to measure your progress
over this one-month challenge**

**Sunday, March 15: 2:00 pm Town Hall
Kickoff Rally and “Tour de Bethesda”
(1.5 mile walk starting at Town Hall)
Prize drawing after the walk**

**Sunday, April 19: 2:00 pm Elm Street Park
Earth Day celebration and finale
Prizes and awards**

Bring your friends and family!

**Guarantee your free pedometer and pre-register
at the Town Office: 301-654-7144**

*Minimum age to receive pedometer 12 years old; only available to TOCC residents.

STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE!
Walk more and drive less.
How much you can achieve in a month?

What: Walk instead of drive

Where: Bethesda, Chevy Chase Lake, Friendship Heights, Chevy Chase, DC, and any points beyond

When: Starting on Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 pm at the Town Hall
Ending at our Earth Day Celebration on Sunday, April 19 at 2:00 pm at Elm Street Park

Why:

- Reduce your carbon footprint
- Improve your health and fitness
- Get to know your neighbors better
- Free yourself from the aggravation of driving and parking
- Save money on gas, meters, and parking tickets
- Support local businesses

How: We're giving you a free pedometer and a daily walking diary to help you track your progress.

Throughout this month long period, we'll give you encouragement and feedback and enable you to share your secrets of success with each other.

The rules are simple:

- Complete the registration form.
- Get your free pedometer and instructions
- Walk as much as you can to as many places as you can; walk to Metro to get to work.
- Record your daily destinations and distances on the form provided either in steps from the pedometer or in miles from the online pedometer <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/>)
- Record your weekly odometer readings on all household cars.
- Share your results

Prizes

Galore:

At our Earth Day Celebration on Sunday, April 19th, we'll recognize your achievements and award prizes to those who have made the most progress kicking the car habit and in the most creative ways. More prizes will be given, including prizes for:

- The most steps (or miles) walked
- The household with the lowest vehicle miles traveled during the challenge
- The most creative ways to replace driving with walking