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Council to Hold Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Town Elections Ordinance

On **November 11**, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on three proposed amendments to the Town's elections ordinance. The Town's Election Board proposed these amendments to improve and clarify Town election procedures. The full text of the amendments is available in the Town Office and posted on the Town's website (www.townofchevyCHASE.org).

One significant effect of the first proposed amendment would be to add two weeks to the election time period, so that there would be four weeks instead of two weeks between candidates for the Town Council filing and election day. Specifically, the amendment would: 1) increase the time prior to an election when notice of an upcoming election is mailed to all residents from 4 weeks to not less than 8 weeks; 2) increase the time prior to an election when nominations petitions must be filed from 2 weeks to 4 weeks; and 3) increase the time prior to an election when notice of nominated candidates and a short biographical sketch of each candidate is mailed to Town residents from 1 week to 2 weeks. These changes would provide greater notice of an upcoming election and more time for Town voters to evaluate and meet the candidates. This amendment also would provide that only qualified Town voters can sign nomination petitions.

The second proposed amendment would require that members of the Election Board be appointed to three-year staggered terms to promote continuity and "institutional memory." It also would fix the membership of the Election Board at three residents.

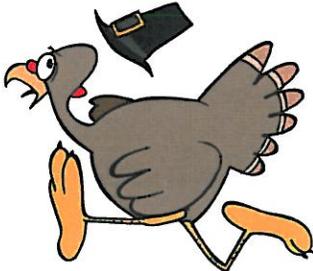
The third proposed amendment would delete references to the Town Manager so that a person who requests an absentee ballot can obtain an absentee ballot from any authorized Town staff member. It also would delete the requirement that an application for an absentee ballot must be made under penalty of perjury, as that requirement became unnecessary when the Council in 2008 repealed the requirement that an applicant for an absentee ballot must have a reason for requesting an absentee ballot.

If you are unable to attend the **November 11** meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall, you may e-mail comments to townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org or submit written comments to the Town Office, 4301 Willow Lane, by November 10. For more information, please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144.

Greetings from the Mayor

Kathy Strom

Please join your Town neighbors this month and next in the many opportunities for our residents to gather and to help the larger community of which we are a part. Our second annual Turkey Trot will be a great chance for families and children to participate in making festive Thanksgiving boxes for families in Montgomery County. We hope to see many of you at the Town Hall on **Sunday, November 22** at 2 p.m. as we decorate and gather food items to help make sure all County families are able to have a Thanksgiving feast! We also plan to embark on a November coat drive to provide warm clothing for needy families, and in December, as we did last year, to once again collect presents and needed items for families as we approach the winter holiday season. By reaching out to help make sure the needs of others in the County are met, our Town can serve our larger community as well as our own. It is an honor to work with so many committed and caring people in the Town, interested in participating in our Town activities as well as serving the needs of Montgomery County. We hope you enjoy your Thanksgiving, as we have much to give thanks for!



November

Monday, November 2 – Land Use Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 3 – Neighborhood Watch Meeting, 7 p.m.

Sunday, November 8 – Concert with Flute and Guitar, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, November 10 – Public Services Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11 – Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, November 16 – Long Range Planning Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 18 – Coffee with the Town Manager, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Wednesday, November 18 – Community Relations Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 19 – Environment Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 21 – Weather Stripping Workshop, 2 p.m.

Sunday, November 22 – Turkey Trot, 2 p.m.

Tuesday, November 24 – Climate Protection Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

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

www.townofchevy Chase.org

CRIMEWATCH

- 10/5/09 The overnight police reported a theft from a car parked on Oakridge Avenue. An I-Pod and GPS were stolen.
- 9/30/09 A resident in the 7000 block of Maple Avenue reported that someone entered her unlocked car. Change was stolen.
- 9/30/09 A resident in the 7300 block of Maple Avenue reported that a relative's car was broken into. A computer was stolen.

Please report all crimes to the Montgomery County police at the non-emergency number 301-279-8000. For emergencies, call 911. Any information you can give to the police about criminal or suspicious activity in Town will help to make us safer. In addition, please report incidents to the Town Office at 301-654-7144 so that we can notify our off-duty Montgomery County police officers. Also, when you report crimes to the Town Office, you help us provide accurate crime information in Town Crier notices and the FORECAST. 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.

Council Approves Energy-Efficiency Assistance Program

The Town Council recently approved an Energy Audit and Improvements Assistance Program that will reimburse residents for some of the costs associated with obtaining an energy audit and implementing energy efficient home improvements. The program, proposed by the Town's Climate Protection Committee, will assist the Town in meeting its goal of reducing CO₂ emissions while helping residents save money on their energy bills. During this fiscal year, which runs until June 30, 2010, the program is available to residents on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents are encouraged to sign up early. A registration form is available online (www.townofchevy Chase.org) or in the Town Office.

Council Action Under the program, residents would contact the Town Office to sign up for the program, schedule an energy audit by a certified auditor and submit a paid bill for reimbursement by the Town, along with data from the audit and a list of planned follow-up actions. The Town will reimburse a resident up to \$200 for the cost of the energy audit. Residents may then implement energy-efficient improvements identified in the audit (any improvements requiring a permit would need to be performed by a licensed Maryland home improvement contractor) and submit a paid bill to the Town for reimbursement. The Town will reimburse a resident up to \$600 for the cost of the improvements, less any reimbursement for the energy audit, if applicable. As part of this program, a resident would agree to allow the Town to use data, such as energy bills, for calculations of energy savings as part of efforts to reduce Town CO₂ emissions. All personal information would be removed from the bills to protect residents' privacy.

The Town Council approved \$30,000 for this program in this fiscal year. This cost includes providing maximum reimbursements for up to 50 households or lesser reimbursements for a greater number of households. For additional details and to sign up for the program, please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144.

Neighborhood Watch Moving Forward

The Neighborhood Watch volunteers have officially completed the training requirements as outlined by the MCPD's 2nd District. The training sessions were filmed and are available for review in DVD format, and may be checked out through the Town office. Representatives from the MCPD explained how an organized Neighborhood Watch program can be an effective deterrent to crime related activities. Guest speakers throughout the training sessions provided important information on auto theft prevention, window and door security, fire safety, non emergency calls, and reporting of crimes. Did you know that if you call 911 from a land line and hang up, the police are coming out!

The Neighborhood Watch Program is still in need of more participation and block captains. There will be a meeting of the block captains and volunteers on **Tuesday, November 3** at 7pm in the Town Hall. This is open to all residents. At this meeting, we will put a plan in place to move the program forward. Please bring potential block captains with you. For more information or to volunteer to become a block captain, please contact Scott Egloff, the Town coordinator for the program, at (301) 907-3263 or the Town office at (301) 654-7144.

Teens Wanted for Snow Removal on Private Property

As an addendum to the Town Teens List published each month in the FORECAST, we would like to provide a list of teens who are interested in removing snow from walks and driveways on private property. Residents who need the service would contact a teen directly and negotiate the cost of the service. If you are a Town teen and would like to participate in this program, please send an e-mail to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org with your name, address and telephone number. Please make sure that your parents approve of adding your name to this list.

Town Sidewalk Snow Removal Program

The Town will continue its sidewalk snow removal program in the public right-of-ways this winter. We will assist with the clearing of public sidewalks when snow accumulates to 3 inches or more. This snow removal plan will assist residents with clearing sidewalks following significant snowstorms, when help is needed most. ***If the accumulated snowfall is under 3 inches, you will be responsible for clearing the sidewalk abutting your property.*** The snow removal will begin as soon as practically possible after the end of a snowstorm, and the Town's contractor will try to limit excessive noise. This program includes snow removal from public sidewalks only, so clearing your driveways and walkways is still your responsibility.

Traffic Safety on Bradley Lane

In response to a Town letter requesting assistance in improving traffic safety on Bradley Lane, the State Highway Administration (SHA) has installed edge line extensions on Town streets that intersect with Bradley Lane. Initially, we had asked the SHA to consider installation of mirrors, but SHA informed us that mirrors have been prohibited along state roadways because they have been found to compromise traffic safety. Edge line extensions are dotted markings applied in front of the stop bars. The markings function as a second "stop bar." After motorists stop at the actual stop bar/stop sign, they can advance forward to the edge line extension and, by so doing, may be better able to see around any obstructions at or near the intersections.

The Parks and Playground Commission Wants To Hear From You!

The Town's Parks and Playground Commission has been working over the past six months to create safe and engaging play spaces for children as well as versatile natural open spaces for both children and adults. It is our vision to foster an environment where individuals of all ages can come together to build a strong community in our town. During the week of November 1, we are hoping to get input and suggestions from as many residents as possible. How would you like to see any open town land utilized? Do you have any ideas on improving existing town land? We welcome everyone to email their thoughts to us at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Signing Up for the Townneighbors Listserv

If you have had difficulty signing up for the Townneighbors listserv recently, it is because when you applied, you did not indicate the e-mail address at which you wanted to receive Townneighbors messages. So mail sent to you automatically went to your yahoo.com address, which was created when you signed up on the web. The solution? Try signing up again following the directions on the Town's home page at www.townofchevy Chase.org under Quick Links at the bottom right of the page. Be sure to indicate your preferred e-mail address as well as your name and street name. Or go to your yahoo.com mailbox and read the message that is there. You will later have to change your preferred e-mail address.

Townneighbors, not affiliated with the Town, is the very useful resident-to-resident listserv of the Town of Chevy Chase. We are a forum for sharing information, discussing issues, announcing events, and more. Recent messages seeking recommendations have ranged from a handyman to someone to do alterations/sewing. Residents have been willing to share excess shrubs and flowers; others were looking for nannies or babysitters. Responses tend to come quickly. Topics have been highly varied. We hope to welcome you soon to the Townneighbors listserv!

TOWN EVENTS

Flutar – Back by Popular Demand!

Joseph Cunliffe, flutist, composer, woodwind specialist, educator, and distinguished recording artist and **Giorgia Cavallaro**, one of Washington D.C.'s leading guitarists, will perform at our fall concert on **Sunday, November 8** at 4 p.m. in the Town Hall. Flutar has performed as a duo for over two decades and has 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 around the world as "Artistic Ambassadors of the United States" and have been doing so as a duo for over twenty years.

Coffee with the Town Manager

You are invited to coffee with the Town Manager, Todd Hoffman, on **Wednesday, November 18** from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Town Hall. This forum will provide Town residents with the opportunity to chat with Todd about issues that are important to them. Todd will hold these meetings on a monthly basis, so if you can't attend the November coffee, there will be other opportunities. As always, Todd is available to speak to residents about Town issues at any time during the business day. Residents may schedule a meeting with him in the Town office, or elsewhere, or call him at 301-654-7144. Todd is looking forward to seeing you on November 18 and encourages new residents to come and introduce themselves.

Holiday Buffet for Seniors and Retirees

Mark your calendar for the fifteenth annual Holiday Buffet for Town Seniors and Retirees on **Thursday, December 17** at 12 p.m. in the Town Hall. This event gives residents a great opportunity to enjoy a delicious lunch with friends and neighbors. We will have the details in the December FORECAST.

Holiday Gifts for Needy Families

For the second year, the Town's Community Relations Committee will sponsor a gift drive for Montgomery County children who are victims and/or witnesses of domestic violence. The Montgomery County Abused Persons Program will partner with the Town in this effort. We will have all of the details in the December newsletter.

Leaf Vacuuming Continues until December 15

Please continue to rake your leaves to the right-of-way near the curb – not into the street. Please ask your landscape contractor not to place leaves in the street. Make sure that your leaves are not contaminated by cans, sticks, bottles, or rocks. Vacuum trucks pick up continuously Monday through Friday, street by street. We have a street map on the website that indicates the estimated day of the week the truck will be on your street. After **December 15**, leaves should be placed in paper lawn bags or placed in reusable containers for yard trash recycling.

Complaint or Compliment – We Want to Hear from You

This is a reminder that if you have a complaint or compliment about Town services or a Town-related issue, we want to hear from you. To make it convenient for you, we created an online form that you can submit from the Town's website. The purpose of the form is to provide a system for tracking issues of interest to residents so that the Town staff, Town Council and Town committees can be more responsive to broader resident issues and make informed and continuous improvements to the Town's programs and services.



Dog Owners – FYI

We now have a water bowl for our four legged residents. When you are walking by the Town Office, feel free to stop by for a drink and a dog treat.

From the Environment Committee

Be a Good Neighbor – Don't Blow it with Leaf Blowers

As fall foliage descends and the drone of leaf blowers fills the air, think about how your method of leaf removal affects the environment, your neighbors, and everyone's health.

What's the problem with leaf blowers?

They pollute our air.

- Gas powered leaf blowers emit unburned fuel, particulates, and toxins, including the carcinogen benzene. (Total annual emissions from one gas blower can equal that of 20 cars!)
- Airborne particulates contribute to asthma, allergies, bronchitis, and other lung disease.
- Dust blown up from streets and driveways can carry carbon, metals such as lead and mercury, and arsenic.

They're excessively noisy.

- Powerful leaf blowers used by many lawn care companies exceed the decibel limits set by the County and drown out conversations around the block.
- Noise pollution degrades the quality of life in our neighborhood, making it difficult to work or relax, indoors or out.

They can harm our gardens.

- High "wind speeds" can stress plants, slowing growth and diminishing overall health.
- Disease spores, weed seeds, and insect eggs lying dormant in or on the soil are blown out and distributed throughout the landscape.

Are there better choices? YES!

- Use electric leaf blowers rather than gas ones. They're quieter and pollute less.
- If you use a yard service, insist that they use equipment that meets county "ANSI" standards for noise.
- Ask them to operate **only one leaf blower at a time** and to run it at half throttle. This significantly reduces noise and gives the operator just as much, if not better, control.
- Blow your lawn less frequently. There's no need to do it every week or whenever a few leaves fall. And be considerate about **when** you blow, to minimize impact on your neighbors.
- Return to the family-friendly tradition of raking! Move your kids away from the computer and back into the natural world to get exercise and earn their allowance. Everybody gets a leaf pile to play in when you're done!
- Better yet, recycle your leaves. Stay tuned for information on composting in next month's *Shades of Green!*

Visit the TOCC *Green Pages* for more information (go to www.townofchevy Chase.org and click on "Community Links").

Hands-On Workshop on Weather Stripping.

Have you been meaning to weather strip your windows but don't know how to start? Has your mind been boggled by the array of weather stripping products? Help is on the way! Weather stripping your windows and doors can make your home much more comfortable and less drafty and saves you a significant amount on heating bills. Come to a hands-on workshop on **November 21, 2 p.m.**, at the home on Andy and Ken Knaus to see how it's done. Michael Whelan, of Live Green LLC, will discuss the various options, show you how to do it, AND you'll get to try it out yourself. Because of space, we have a limit of 25 people, each of whom will get some free weather stripping materials. To attend, please sign up with Warren Rizzi at the Town Office by calling 301654-7144 or by e-mailing wrizzi@townofchevy Chase.org. Last year's workshop was standing room only.

Rave Reviews for Cupcakes and Conversation

The first grand event hosted by Chevy Chase At Home (CC@H) was attended by over 100 people. The number of attendees shows the interest in CC@H and focuses on the need for such a program. Town resident Naomi Kaminsky was introduced as the new President of the organization. Don't miss the Meet & Mingle event **November 3, 2-4 p.m.** in the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Check the FORECAST each month for articles about CC@H.

Town History: 64 Years Ago in Our Town

Residents trotting over to the Town Office this month to buy a turkey for B-CC High School's Thanksgiving Meal Food Drive or to donate winter coats to Interfaith Works and Jubilee Youth Services are part of a long tradition of Town neighbors helping our greater community. By 1945, the final year of World War II, Town residents had contributed to war efforts in a number of ways. Town residents had organized temporary day care and preschool programs for children of area families working for the government. Town mothers had gone door-to-door encouraging families to purchase war bonds. Chevy Chase Elementary School Principal Anna Rose, who stated that the "children can no longer be ministered to but must perform a definite service to society," had launched highly successful scrap metal drives in our community.

Third in a series of Town of Chevy Chase historical vignettes to be published during 2009-2010.

State Highway Administration Begins Bridge Projects

The State Highway Administration (SHA) has notified the Town that in the coming weeks they will begin work on a \$1.6 million bridge cleaning and painting project on six bridges throughout Montgomery County.

The bridges to be painted are:

- MD 185 (Connecticut Avenue) over Rock Creek in Kensington
- MD 410 (East-West Highway) over Rock Creek in Chevy Chase
- I-495 (Capital Beltway) over seven Locks Road in Potomac
- I-495 (Capital Beltway) over Kensington Parkway in Kensington Parkway in Kensington
- Southbound I-270 (Spur) over I-495 (Capital beltway) Outer Look in Bethesda
- I-270 ramp over I-495 (Capital Beltway) Outer Loop in Bethesda

During construction, motorists can expect daytime single lane closures Monday – Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Additional lane closures will be necessary at some locations. SHA will provide variable message signs, drums and arrow boards to guide motorists through the work zone.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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| PRSRST STD US POSTAGE PAID Bethesda, MD Permit No. 418 |
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TOWN COUNCIL

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