



# Forecast

DECEMBER 2014

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

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## Bethesda Downtown Plan Public Meeting Tuesday, December 9, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Residents are encouraged to attend a public meeting on **Tuesday, December 9** at 7 p.m. to learn about plans to expand development in downtown Bethesda. Overall heights and densities of buildings, school capacities, traffic impacts, and recreational opportunities are all being considered and discussed. At this meeting, Town residents may express their concerns or ideas directly to Montgomery County planning staff members, and Town officials will review the Town's involvement to date.

For more information on the plan, visit the Planning Board website at [www.montgomeryplanning.org](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org) and search for "Bethesda Downtown Plan."

On **Thursday, December 18**, the Town Council will hold a work session with the land planning firm that the Town retained to assist with developing and evaluating options and conceptual plans for preferred development on the Town's western border. Once finalized, these plans will be available for resident review and comment on the Town's website and will assist us in communicating with the Planning Board and the County Council about the land use recommendations that the Town would like to see incorporated into the final Bethesda Downtown Plan.

## Council To Discuss Tree Recommendations

On **Wednesday, December 10**, during the regular Town Council meeting, the Town Council will discuss recommendations regarding the Town's Urban Forest Ordinance that are set forth in a report prepared by the Tree Subcommittee of the Climate and Environment Committee. The subcommittee was formed last spring with the express mandate of reviewing implementation of the Town's tree ordinance to determine if any changes are necessary. The subcommittee met seven times throughout the summer and fall and presented its final report to the Council at the November meeting.

At the December meeting, the Council will review the Tree Subcommittee report as well as an accompanying letter from the Climate and Environment Committee. Both of these documents are posted on the Town's website, as is the PowerPoint presentation with relevant data that was given at the November Council meeting.

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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).

## A Message from Mayor Kathy Strom

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. This month, the Town will host a number of public meetings and special events for Town residents. As we have done in the past several years, the Town is sponsoring a gift drive to help provide a good holiday for all families in our County. We are very grateful to those of you who continue to support this worthwhile program. Our winter coat drive continues – a very helpful and important effort as the cold of winter settles in. And, we are hosting a holiday luncheon for seniors on **December 17** and look forward to seeing many of you there.

As reported in this edition of the Forecast, the Town is actively participating in Montgomery County's planning process for a new Bethesda Downtown Plan, which will impact growth and could provide opportunities to enhance open space in the Bethesda area. At a Town meeting on **December 9** at 7 p.m., we will hear from the County Planning Department about its current proposals and also have a chance to have some of our questions answered and concerns addressed. And, at our work session on **December 18**, we will be working on developing a vision for the Town's western border under the new plan. We encourage you to attend these meetings and hope that you will participate in our many Town events.

With best wishes for a warm holiday season and a safe and healthy new year!



# December



Thursday, December 4 - Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.

Friday, December 5 - Grown-Ups at the Movies, 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 6 - Climate and Environment Event, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 7 - The Nutcracker at Round House Theatre, 3 p.m.

Monday, December 8 - Power Reliability Task Force, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 9 - Bethesda Downtown Plan Public Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 10 - Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 11 - Public Services Committee, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 11 - RainScapes Program, 7 p.m.

Friday, December 12 - Movie Night for Families, 6 p.m.

Monday, December 15 - Long Range Planning Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 16 - Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17 - Seniors' and Retirees' Holiday Lunch, 12 noon

Thursday, December 18 - Council Work Session, 7 p.m.

## RainScapes Rebate and Technical Assistance Program

As announced in the November Forecast, the Town Council recently approved the RainScapes Rebate and Technical Assistance Program. This program supplements Montgomery County's RainScapes Rewards Rebate Program and helps Town residents solve stormwater problems on private property.

The Montgomery County RainScapes program provides County property owners with technical assistance and financial incentives to implement landscape projects that reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality on private property. Projects completed in conformity with the County's RainScapes requirements are eligible for County rebates, up to a maximum of \$2,500. Even with the technical assistance provided by the County, however, many residents find the process to be complex and cost-prohibitive.

In order to help as many Town residents as possible realize their RainScapes projects, the Town Council has approved a two-part program. The first part will provide reimbursement (up to a maximum of \$1,000) for technical assistance to the homeowner in designing eligible landscaping projects, while the second part will provide a rebate equal to that provided by the County's RainScapes Rewards Rebate Program.

Residents must first apply to and participate in the County program in order to be eligible for the Town program. An informational meeting with representatives from the County's RainScapes Program will be held on **Thursday, December 11**, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. (Attendance at this meeting is not required to participate in the program.) If you would like to attend this meeting, please RSVP to the Town Office at [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or 301-654-7144 by Friday, December 5. Information on how to participate in both the County and Town programs is available on the Town's website.

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## Climate and Environment Committee

### Does Solar Energy Make Sense For YOUR House?

Solar homes in our Town are saving their owners significant amounts of energy and money, while they quietly make the world a greener place. But the economics of solar are changing. You may want to consider a solar system now, before tax benefits expire. It is even possible to get a solar energy system for free these days! Come find out from a panel of your neighbors why they took the solar plunge, how it's working for them, and what the latest information is about solar energy technologies and finance.

We will meet at the Town Hall on **Saturday, December 6** from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. After the discussion, we will answer your questions over cookies and cider, and help you determine whether your house might be a good candidate for solar. Please RSVP to the Town Office at [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or 301-654-7144.

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## Public Hearing on Speed Hump Removal

At its **Wednesday, December 10** meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on a request to permanently remove the speed hump in front of 4323 Leland Street. This speed hump was removed as part of a recent repaving project, and three residents on that street have requested that it not be replaced. Following the recent removal of the speed hump, the Town commissioned a traffic study to determine whether the speed and volume of traffic on that block meet the Town's qualifying thresholds for a speed hump in that location. The study results do not support a speed hump there.

If you cannot attend the December 10 meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall, you may submit comments to the Town Office at 4301 Willow Lane or [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) prior to the meeting.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Annual Holiday Gift Drive for Domestic Violence Victims

Once again, the Town's Community Relations Committee is sponsoring its annual gift drive. Partnering with the Montgomery County Abused Persons Program and Chesapeake Counseling, we will be collecting gift cards for domestic violence victims and their children. The generosity of Town residents in the past has been incredibly heartwarming, and we hope residents will again help brighten the holidays for needy families.

How can you help? There are two options:

You can purchase gift cards to a store such as Target, Marshall's, Kohl's, Ross, Giant or Sears and take them to the Town Office. Gift cards in \$10 or \$25 denominations would be appreciated. Please put the cards in an envelope with your name and your e-mail address. The deadline for gift card and gift collection is **Monday, December 15**.

If you prefer, you can "adopt" a family and purchase specific items. Please contact Cathy Wolf at [wolfcs@starpower.net](mailto:wolfcs@starpower.net) to be matched with a family.

## Friday Flicks are Back!

*Exit Through the Gift Shop* is the featured film at **Grown-Ups at the Movies** on **Friday, December 5** at 7:30 p.m. Carrie Rickey, movie critic for the Philadelphia Inquirer describes *Exit Through the Gift Shop* as "a beguiling and subversively funny entertainment that considers art's worth from many angles, including that of guerrilla painters, gallerists, and seasoned collectors." Enjoy wine and cheese with the film. Town Hall doors open at 7:30 p.m. Space is limited, so please RSVP to the Town Office at [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or 301-654-7144.



*Frozen* is the featured family flick at **Movie Night for Families** on **Friday, December 12** at 6 p.m. This animated adventure film from Walt Disney Studios is inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale, *The Snow Queen*. *Frozen* won two Academy Awards – for Best Animated Feature and for Best Original Song. Enjoy pizza and popcorn with the movie. Showtime is 6 p.m. Space is limited, so please RSVP to the Town Office at [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or 301-654-7144. Parents must accompany their children throughout the movie.

## Nineteenth Annual Holiday Buffet for Seniors and Retirees

Join friends and neighbors at the nineteenth annual Holiday Buffet for Town Seniors and Retirees on **Wednesday, December 17** at noon 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 take you back home. Please call 301-654-7144 by **Friday, December 12** to RSVP and let us know if you need a ride. We look forward to seeing you!

## The Nutcracker at Round House Theatre

The Round House Theatre presents *The Nutcracker* on **Sunday, December 7** at 3 p.m., with a special private reception with members of the production team after the show. This updated musical version of a holiday classic tells of Clara's adventures to save her family after news that her brother has not returned from the war. The play, with its captivating dialogue, wonderful puppetry and delightful original score, is great for a family outing and fun for all ages.

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for seniors 65 and over and for those 30 and younger. RSVP to the Town Office at [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or 301-654-7144.

## Winter Outerwear Clothing Drive, November 1 - January 31

The Winter Outerwear Clothing Drive is off to a terrific start. More than 150 coats and other clean, gently-used warm clothing have been sent to the Betty Ann Krahnke Center and Bethesda Cares. Don't forget that clothing boxes are in the Town Hall (Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and the Lawton Community Center (Monday thru Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.).

# Town Updates

## Crimewatch

Please report all suspicious activity and crimes to the Montgomery County police at the non-emergency number 301-279-8000. For emergencies or crimes in process, 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.

The following crimes were reported to the Town Office in November.

11/10/2014

The police reported that several unlocked cars were entered and items were stolen. The Town police officer along with K9 and assisting police units arrested two men on stolen bikes who likely stole from 20-30 cars in the Town and neighboring municipalities.

## 2015-2016 Resident Directory

To be included in the 2015-2016 Resident Directory, please complete the authorization form that was mailed to each household in late October and return it to the Town Office by December 5. Authorization forms are available at the Town Office. The 2015-2016 Resident Directory will be mailed to each household in early January.

## Leaf Vacuuming To End on December 15

 Vacuum trucks collect leaves continuously, street by street, until **Monday, December 15**. A map detailing the schedule of the pickup is provided on the Town's website. All leaves should be raked to the curb, not into the street. Please make sure that your leaves are not contaminated by cans, sticks, bottles or rocks. After collection has ended, please place leaves in reusable containers or paper yard waste bags and place them at the curb by 7 a.m. for Monday pickup. 

## Holiday Trash Collection and Tree Pickup

Trash will not be collected on Christmas Day, December 25, or New Year's Day, January 1, but will be collected on the next regularly scheduled day. The Town offers curbside pickup of Christmas trees. All wire, ornaments and tinsel must be removed. 

## Town Teens List

The Town maintains a list of Town Teens, who baby-sit, pet-sit and do other miscellaneous jobs. The current list is included in this edition of the newsletter. We do not print the list in every edition of the newsletter so we encourage you to keep the list (page 7) for future use.



## Doggie Dos and Don'ts

**Do** walk your dog on a leash. It's the neighborly thing to do!

**Don't** let your dogs defecate on the public property or private property other than your own. Please use the dogi-pots that are placed in various locations throughout the Town.

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## *Council To Discuss Tree Subcommittee Recommendations, continued from page 1*

If the Town Council decides at the December meeting or a subsequent meeting to move forward with any changes to the Town's tree ordinance, it will schedule a public hearing to allow residents to comment on the proposed changes. Details of any proposed changes and the public hearing will be included in a subsequent edition of the Forecast. While residents will not be able to comment during the discussion at the December meeting, they are welcome to attend and listen. For more information, please visit the Town website or call the Town office at 301-654-7144.

# Committee Corner

## Give Our Planet a Happy Holiday!

It's the time of year when we celebrate and renew. We also can do our bit for the planet as we observe the holiday season.

- Switch to LED holiday lights, now carried in local stores in lots of varieties. Brighter, but consume up to up to 80% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs. Last 25 times longer, so will save money over time. Can be strung together continuously to create long strands. LED candles are also available.
- Consider a timer for your outdoor lights.
- Do you and your family REALLY need all that stuff? "The Story of Stuff" <http://www.storyofstuff.com/>, a quick animated film, may make you think again.
- "Stuff-less" gift ideas: experiences (show tickets), a promise (babysitting coupon), edibles (food in a reusable container), donation (to a worthy cause), subscription (Netflix).
- And for the stuff you do buy: Shop for durable gifts that won't soon end up in the trash.
- Suggest to sales assistants that you don't need all that packaging; and please recycle whatever packaging is required.
- Choose wrapping products with recycled content or that can be re-used. Bags and bows can have nine lives.
- Enjoy shopping online. Reduce your driving and save your sanity. Lots of sites feature environmentally-friendly products.

For more information on how to help the planet during the holidays, google "greening the holidays." If you have relevant information to share, please post it on the Townneighbors listserv (to join, see "Quick Links" on the TOCC homepage).

# Around Chevy Chase

## Chevy Chase At Home Wants You!

As 2014 draws to a close, now is the perfect time to consider becoming part of [Chevy Chase At Home](#) in the new year. Join as a full or an associate member or become a volunteer, and you will be eligible to join our Friday morning Walking Club or the Knitting Circle that gets together several times a month. You'll get a discounted rate for classes, such as the Gentle Pilates and Balance Classes that we offer twice a week, and you'll have the opportunity to take part in our proposed periodic Lunch Bunch at La Ferme gatherings and the Current Events Round Table, which are just two of the exciting new programs and activities planned for 2015.

And if you're looking for a worthwhile volunteer opportunity, this is it! There's the satisfaction of working directly to help your older neighbors as a service volunteer, and there are also a number of committees that need new members, and the office can always use more volunteer help. So please visit our website at [www.chevychaseathome.org](http://www.chevychaseathome.org) or call the CC@ H office at 301-657-3115 to learn more about us and about what you can do to get involved in this wonderful neighborhood organization.

On [Thursday, December 11](#), the Brunch Bunch will get together from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Olympia Cafe on Brookville Road. This friendly gathering is open to everyone -- just drop in and buy a cup of coffee or even a whole breakfast, and pull up a chair at the CC@ H table. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors, and there's always lots of lively conversation. And lots of free parking, as well.

Our annual Holiday Party will take place on [Tuesday, December 16](#) from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Everyone is invited to come savor the festive refreshments and enjoy some special holiday entertainment.

## Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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### TOWN COUNCIL

*Kathy Strom, Mayor*

*Patricia Burda, Vice Mayor*

*Al Lang, Secretary*

*Vicky Taplin, Treasurer*

*John Bickerman, Community Liaison*



## Preparations for Winter Weather

The Town has taken a number of steps to prepare for the upcoming winter season. An overview of the winter preparedness plans is included as an insert in this newsletter.

Please post the flyer in your home for future reference.

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Sign up on the Town's website [www.townofchevychase.org](http://www.townofchevychase.org) to receive Town Crier emails, Alert TOCC voicemail messages and an electronic copy of the FORECAST.

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# Preparations for Winter Weather

The Town has taken a number of steps to prepare for the upcoming winter season. Following is an overview of our winter preparedness plans.

## **Street Snow/Ice Removal:**



The Town's maintenance crew and contractor will remove snow from Town streets and will treat icy road conditions. The Town begins plowing when 2 inches of snow has accumulated on the streets. Plow crews operate continuously until the streets are clear. The Town has a snow removal operations plan in place that specifies the number of trucks to be used and the routes of those trucks during storm events of varying magnitudes.

## **Parking in Snow or Icy Conditions**

In the event or threat of a snowstorm or icy road conditions, either day or night, residents must park cars either in driveways or on the even-numbered side of the street to ensure safe passage for the crews. Please do not park cars on the odd-numbered side of the street, unless otherwise posted.

## **Sidewalk Snow Removal:**

The Town's contractor will remove snow from Town sidewalks and crosswalks if snow accumulations total 3 inches or more. This program includes snow removal from public sidewalks only, so clearing your driveways and walkways is still your responsibility. In icy conditions, the Town will determine whether to salt and sand public sidewalks.

## **Trees and Power Lines:**

The Town arborist will continue to survey the Town following significant winter storms. The arborist will identify any damage to Town trees and notify the Town's tree maintenance contractor for immediate remediation. The Town will report all downed power lines to PEPCO.

## **Power Outages:**

Please report power outages directly to PEPCO at 1-877-PEPCO-62 (1-877-737-2662) to ensure that PEPCO knows you are without service and can schedule repairs.

## **Fire Hydrants:**

The Town will install fire hydrant flags, which help identify hydrant locations in emergency situations during significant winter storms.

## **Communications:**

The Town will use voicemail, the Town website, Town Crier, Alert TOCC, Twitter and Facebook to communicate with residents during winter storms. Town staff will communicate early following the onset of the storm as well as often during the storm. We will attempt to relay Town service interruptions (e.g. cancelled trash collection, etc.) in a timely way, preferably on the day prior to any anticipated interruptions.

## **Office Coverage:**

During significant winter storms, Town staff may not be able to maintain a presence in the Town Office. However, staff has the capability to monitor voicemail and e-mail remotely as well as to update the Town's voicemail and website and to send Town Crier and Alert TOCC messages to residents.

## **Neighbor-to-Neighbor**

We encourage all residents to reach out to their neighbors, especially elderly neighbors, during weather emergencies.