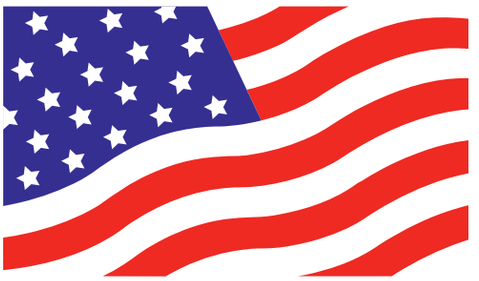

Forecast

JULY 2012 NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

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New Trash and Recycling Contractor To Begin Service on July 2

The Town recently re-bid its household trash and recycling contract as it is required to do every 5 years for all Town service contracts. Unity Disposal and Recycling, which currently provides yard trash collection in Town, was the lowest responsible bidder, so the Town awarded the contract to this company. Unity will begin collecting household trash and recycling on July 2. There will be no changes in the collection schedule for either service.

During the transition to this new contractor, there may be some missed collections while the contractor gets to know the Town and the locations where residents place their household trash. We ask that you contact the Town to report any misses and other service issues so that we can pass them on to the contractor for remediation and training. Thank you for your understanding and patience during this transition period.

Funding Approved for Storm Sewer Repairs

The Town is pleased to report that Montgomery County's FY13 capital budget includes funding for the final phase of storm sewer upgrades in Town. All of the design work has already been completed, so the County expects the work to begin this fall. We will provide more details when the dates for the project are scheduled.

Town Seeks Volunteers for Committees

The Town Council encourages you to consider volunteering to serve on a Town committee. In July, Mayor Pat Burda, with the advice of the Town Council, will appoint residents to serve on each of the Town's committees for a period of one year beginning in September.

Following is a list of the committees, including a short description of each:

- Climate and Environment: Inspires and facilitates energy conservation and environmental stewardship by the Town and its residents.
- Community Relations: Encourages a strong sense of neighborliness through community activities and communications.
- Land Use: Guides building and redevelopment within the Town through the use of available planning tools.
- Long-Range Planning: Identifies emerging issues that require longer-term planning and analysis.
- Public Services: Advocates high-quality Town programs and services for our residents.

If you are interested in volunteering, please submit a brief note expressing interest to the Town Office by Monday, **July 16**. Your correspondence may be submitted by mail or e-mail to townoffice@townofchevychase.org and should include your name, address, telephone number, email address and a few sentences about why you would like to serve on a specific committee.

Greetings from the Mayor

Pat Burda

I want to personally thank each and every one of you who took the time to provide your opinion on the potential purchase of 7624 Lynn Drive. The Council listened carefully to all the testimony and read every submission sent to the Town office by residents.

At its June 13 meeting, the Council voted unanimously (David Lublin being absent) not to proceed with the purchase because it was clear that the community did not favor this action.

What was equally clear from all the testimony, however, is that a good number of residents feel that expanding open space or parkland within the Town's borders could be good for the Town, and maybe even a good use of some of the Town's reserves.

Therefore, I have tasked the Town's Parks and Playground Commission to spearhead a project to develop criteria that can be used to consider the types of additional parks that could be long term assets to the community. The study will prioritize needs, identify qualities that are needed to make a particular type of park successful and outline other issues that need to be taken into account.

This study will guide our current Town Council and any future Councils in considering the development of new parks – whether by donation, purchase or re-purposing of current Town property. I will personally work as the liaison to this project with a hope to bring criteria to the full Council and the community for consideration in the fall. In the meantime, the Council will be kept informed of this process, and, of course, these park considerations would be subject to community input through public meetings and hearings.

I would like to reiterate that this Council values debate on the merits of any particular proposal. We take our fiduciary responsibilities very seriously; we work hard to be as transparent as possible; and we welcome emails, calls, and comments from all residents. We encourage you to attend Council meetings and to volunteer to serve on a Town committee, but we understand that everyone has busy lives. That being said, we are always listening when you have something you want us to know, and we will try to be as responsive to those issues as we possibly can be. We do, however, represent the entire Town, and we do our best to balance all your needs. While we can't always please everyone, we do try to be honest, open and thoughtful in all our deliberations.

July

Monday, July 2 – Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 4 – Picnic and Parade, 12 – 2 p.m.

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

Thursday, July 12– Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 12 – Public Services Committee, 7:30 p.m.

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

Tuesday, July 24 – Climate and Environment Committee, 7 p.m.

Please check the Town website, **www.townofchevychase.org,** for up-to-date information.

Public Hearing on Guardrail/Handrail Ordinance Set for July 11

At its July 11 meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance to amend the Town's building regulations regarding guardrails and handrails. The Council introduced the ordinance, which was recommended by the Town's Land Use Committee, at its May 9 meeting. Currently, the Town code has no provisions for either guardrails or handrails that distinguish them from fences. The Council asked the Land Use Committee to address this issue because fences are prohibited in the front yard by the Town Code, and it was unclear how to treat guardrails or handrails. This proposed regulation would allow residents to install certain guardrails and handrails if they meet the requirements described below.

The proposed ordinance defines guardrails and handrails as follows:

- A guardrail is a protective railing, measuring no more than 36 inches in height, having vertical balusters spaced no closer than three and seven-eighths inches, having a fenestration (total percentage of open space between the balusters) of at least seventy-five percent, and having no gate.
- A handrail is a railing grasped by the hand for support, measuring no more than 36 inches in height, and having vertical balusters spaced no closer than 36 inches.

	Guardrails	**Handrails**
Permitting Requirements	Town permit required	No Town permit required when installed along steps, walkways and outside stairways, as is typical. (Town permit required for other locations.)
Allowable Front Yard Locations	Along steps and outside stairways measuring 30 inches or more in height; stoops; decks; porches; access ramps; and wheelchair lifts. Allowed along retaining walls measuring 30 inches or more in height by administrative variance as approved by the Town Manager and Mayor.	Along steps, walkways, outside stairways, stoops, decks, porches, access ramps and wheelchair lifts.
Allowable Rear and Side Yard Locations	All	All
Installation in the Public Right-of-Way	Not Allowed	Not Allowed

A railing not meeting the above criteria for a handrail or guardrail would be treated as a fence and subject to the regulations for fences.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing, you may submit your comments to the Town Office by e-mail to townoffice@townofchevychase.org or by mail at 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 prior to the public hearing.

CRIMEWATCH

6/10/12

Four residents, two in the 3900 block of Woodbine Street and two in the 4100 block, reported that their cars were ransacked. In three of the incidents, items were stolen. All of the crimes were reported to the Montgomery County Police

Please report all crimes to the Montgomery County police at the non-emergency number 301-279-8000. For emergencies, call 911. In addition, please report incidents to the Town Office at 301-654-7144. To make our neighborhood safer, volunteer for the Town's **Neighborhood Watch Program**. Please contact the Town staff at the Town Office at 301-654-7144 to get more information and/or to become a block captain.

Town Updates

Town To Offer Voice Message Broadcast Service

At its June meeting, the Town Council approved a new service to add to its resident communication program. The Town will soon offer a voice message broadcast service to alert subscribers with a phone call in the event of Town service interruptions or Town responses to emergency situations, including water main breaks, snow removal issues, etc. This optional service would be offered in addition to the existing Town Crier e-mail alert system and Town website. The Town is currently establishing this system and soon will notify residents of its availability, and how to sign up.

Residents should note that there may be some limitations to this service. Typically, messages would be sent during Town office hours. The Town may not know the cause, extent or duration of service interruptions, especially those related to power outages and water main breaks. In addition, the Town may not be aware of service interruptions, downed trees or other notable situations outside of the Town's boundaries.

Residents also may wish to sign up for *Alert Montgomery*, which is an emergency notification system maintained by the County. Registration information is posted on the Town website.

Water Drainage Ordinance Executive Regulation

On June 13, 2012, the Town promulgated a final executive regulation to establish policies and procedures for the proper administration of the Town's Water Drainage Ordinance. The regulation became effective on June 22, 2012.

The regulation addresses the following: the applicability of the water drainage regulations; required standards for structural water drainage management measures; approval of alternative water drainage management measures; classification of pervious and semi-pervious surfaces; maintenance standards for water drainage systems; the calculation of on-site retention requirements; and notification and posting requirements.

This proposed regulation is posted in its entirety on the Town website and is available for review in the Town Office.

7206 Meadow Lane Update: Resubdivision Approved

On June 14, 2012, the Montgomery County Planning Board formally approved the resubdivision of 7206 Meadow Lane into two single-family lots. The original resubdivison plan was for three single-family lots, which the Town opposed.

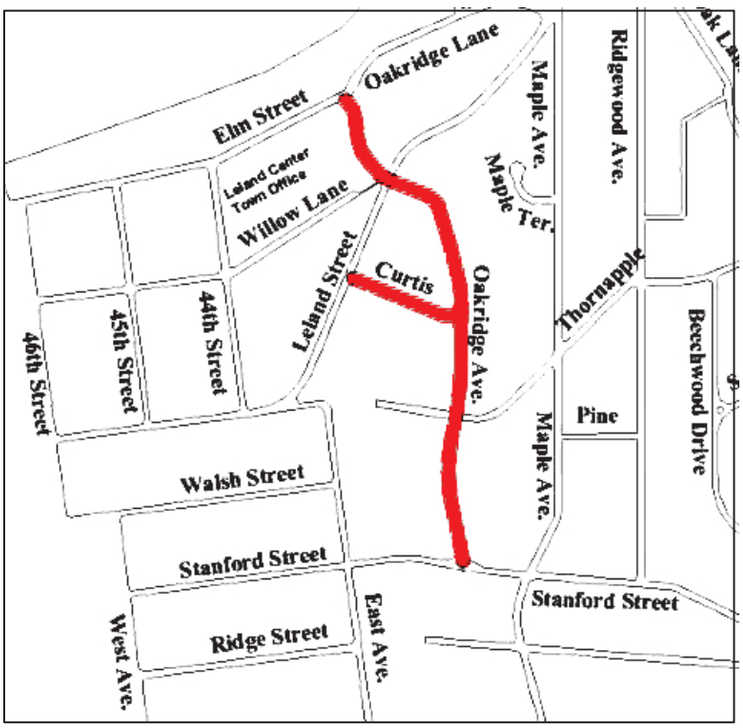
The approved preliminary plan for resubdivision includes numerous conditions, such as establishment of a forest conservation easement area and a plan to save canopy trees. The Town expects to work to make the right-of-way area on Meadow Lane available for public use. We will keep residents informed as plans progress.

Manna Smart Sacks Program

A warm thank you to each of the artists who generously donated photography, oil paintings, watercolors, charcoal drawings, jewelry, a quilt and much more to the Town's bi-annual art charity show, *Small Works for Smart Sacks*. To those who purchased the wonderful creations, thank you for your support. Special kudos go to Town resident Katie Vita who once again organized this event. We are pleased to report that Manna Food Center received a total of $2,843 for its Smart Sacks program this summer.

Town Updates

Asphalt Repair Work Scheduled in July



The Town is planning to begin asphalt repair work on Oakridge Avenue and Curtis Road beginning the week of July 9, weather permitting. This project will take approximately one week.

The project entails milling two inches of existing asphalt from the road surface. Once this is completed, deteriorated portions of the underlying road base will be removed and replaced, which will help the road maintain its structural integrity and prevent the new road surface from cracking. Once this deep patching is completed, new asphalt will be laid, creating a new, crack-free road surface. This work is part of the Town's regular road maintenance program and should provide the Town with road surfaces that will last for at least 10 years.

As part of the project, parking will be restricted along certain streets as the work progresses. The goal is to keep the Town's streets passable; however, as the streets are being milled and resurfaced, they may be closed to traffic for short periods of time. Please honor all parking restriction signs as posted and follow all traffic control as the work is being performed.

If you have questions about the project, please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144.

PEPCO Outages

In recent weeks, the Town has had several meetings with PEPCO representatives to discuss issues associated with Town street lighting and power outages. With respect to the latter, PEPCO has provided the Town with a report that lists all of the outages that have occurred in Town since January 2009, including information on the type of outage, approximate duration, cause and location. Based on this report, it appears that approximately 80% of the outages have resulted from causes outside of the Town. The report is posted on the Town website (www.townofchevychase.org) so that residents may review it.

Smart Meter Opt-Out

The Maryland Public Service Commission has ruled that customers can defer installation of smart meters by notifying Pepco in writing. If you have already had a smart meter installed, you can notify Pepco in writing, and they will be prevented from activating the radio transmitter on the meter. This is an interim ruling while the Public Services Commission (PSC) considers whether to permanently allow customers to opt-out. Customers may mail their opt-out request to Pepco, 701 9th St. NW, Mail Stop EP7642, Washington, DC 20068.

Around and About Chevy Chase

Chevy Chase At Home In The Good Old Summertime

Caroline Michaelis

Beginning July 1, CC@ H will once again offer its popular **Independence Day Promotion**. The fee for Full Membership will be $175 for the remainder of the year, so if you're thinking about joining, now is the time to take advantage of this special price. Associate Membership will continue at the current level: $250, of which $200 is tax-deductible as a donation.

As we head into the lazy days of summer**, Meet & Mingle** is planning an afternoon of "**Fun, Games and Summer Reads**" (just as if we were at the beach), featuring board games, cards, and even computer games. And if your computer is giving you fits, there will be someone to help you figure out the problem. All this and refreshments, `too! **Tuesday, July 17** from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall.

The Brunch Bunch will get together on both **Thursday, July 12** and **Thursday, August 9**, at the Olympia Coffee Shoppe, 7021 Brookville Road from 10 to 11:30 am. Everyone is invited to drop in on this lively, informal group for good coffee and conversation.

And beat the heat on **Tuesday, August 21** with Jerry Bernstein, who will show us a popular film noir. He's not giving away the title, but the leading lady was born in 1899. Can you guess what this "mystery movie" is? Come to the Chevy Chase Village Hall at 2 pm to find out!

The **Support Group for Adult Children of Aging Parents** will meet again this year, once a month, September to June. For more details, see our website, www.chevychaseathome.org or call 301-657-3115.

Events at the Chevy Chase Library

8005 Connecticut Avenue

*Sponsored by the Friends of the Library Chevy Chase

For Children - preschool, kindergarten, 3-6

Tuesday, July 10, 10:30 a.m. - Montgomery County Agricultural Fair - See a Farm Animal @ Your Library!

Saturday, July 14, 11 a.m. (with musician Tracey Eldridge) *Fly! Celebrating Flight of Imagination and Magic in Dreams

Tuesday, July 17, 10:30 a.m. - Kaydee Puppets - A double feature of "The Three Pigs" and "Rapunzel."

*Saturday, July 28 at 11 a.m. *Reptile World Live, colorful reptiles!

For Adults

*Wednesday, July 11, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Non-fiction Book Group How Doctors Think by Jerome Groopman.

* Friday, July 20, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m - Jefferson Café - "The Particularities of Place - Place and Placelessness in America" by Wilfred M. McCLay from "The New Atlantis," Spring 2011. Copies at information desk.

* Wednesday, July 25, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Fiction, Memoir and Biography Book Group - To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee.

Town Quiet Hours

Several residents have asked that we include a reminder about the Town Quiet Hours.
You can find all of the information about the Town's Noise Control Ordinance
on the Town website, www.townofchevychase.org.

Residents Asked to Trim Overgrown Plants and Shrubs from Sidewalks & Streets

At this time of year, the Town receives numerous complaints about shrubs and other plants growing into sidewalks and streets. In an effort to address this problem, which impacts pedestrian and motorist safety, the Town asks that residents ensure that vegetation on their property does not obstruct public rights-of-way. Thanks for your cooperation!

We encourage residents to take advantage of the Town's sidewalk network!

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

The FORECAST is not published in August. Please visit the Town's website, www.townofchevychase.org, for current Town news. Join the Town Crier for news and information email alerts. (link on Town website)

The Town Council will not meet in August. The next monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, September 12.

The FORECAST is published monthly by the Town of Chevy Chase, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815; 301-654-7144; Kathy Strom, Editor. Copies are mailed to each address in the Town and posted on the Town website.

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

Town of Chevy Chase
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Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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