The Town of Chevy Chase

Forecast

DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

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Council Approves New Street Lights

At its November meeting, the Town Council took a positive step towards improving the quality and quantity of Town street lighting. In response to resident requests, the Council approved the installation of 6 new street lights in locations identified as dark areas by the recent street light evaluation study. The specific locations are listed on the Town website.

In October, the Council approved a policy for considering requests for new street lights and approved a budget of $20,000 for new street lights in this fiscal year. This amount will allow the Town to purchase and install approximately 13 new street lights over the next 7 months.

Residents are encouraged to continue to request new street lights by using the form available on the Town's website, but are reminded that the Town may not be able to fund the installation of all requested lights in this fiscal year. The Council will consider all requests and prioritize those located within dark areas and along major commuter routes in Town.

Residents also may report problems with existing street lights by calling the Town office or using the form available on the Town's website. Please contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevychase.org for more information.

Building Ordinance Changes Approved

At its **November 9** meeting, the Town Council held a public hearing on and approved several amendments to the Town's Building Ordinance. The changes to the ordinance, which were recommended by the Town's Land Use Committee, relax some permitting requirements, allow accommodations for accessibility by disabled persons, codify existing practices and clarify some provisions.

The Council approved all proposed changes, except for those related to guard rails and hand rails, and clarified language related to the placement of air conditioners and heat pumps within side yard setbacks. The Council asked the Land Use Committee to consider further the proposed guardrail regulations and report back to the Council with recommendations.

The full text of the approved ordinance is posted on the Town's website.

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's website.

December

Thursday, December 1 – Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 1 – Public Services Committee, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 6 – Mitigation Advisory Group, 7 p.m.

Monday, December 12 – Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14 - Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 15 – Seniors and Retirees Lunch – 12 noon

Friday, December 16 – Deadline for Gift Collection, 5 p.m.

Monday, December 19 – Long Range Planning Committee, 7 p.m.

Monday, December 26 – Town Office Closed

Please check the Town website for up-to-date information about the Town.

www.townofchevychase.org

Annual Holiday Gift Drive for Domestic Violence Victims

The Town's Community Relations Committee is sponsoring its annual gift drive for victims and child witnesses of domestic violence. The Town will partner with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center, the Montgomery County Abused Persons Program and Chesapeake Counseling in this effort. The generosity of Town residents in the past has been remarkable and heartwarming, and we hope residents will again help brighten the holidays for needy families.

How can you help? There are several options:

1. You can "adopt" a family with specific ages, sizes and needs. The gifts can be tagged for the recipients, wrapped, and brought to the Town Office. If this option interests you (it's a wonderful family project), please e-mail Cathy Wolf at cathryn.wolf@montgomerycountymd.gov or leave a message at 240-773-0406.
2. You can purchase gift cards to a store such as Target, Marshall's, Kohl's, Ross or Sears and take them to the Town Office.
3. Unwrapped, new items can be brought to the Town Office. They will be delivered to the Family Justice Center to be given to domestic violence victims.

The deadline for gift collection is **Friday, December 16,** but we hope the gifts and cards are brought to the Town Office earlier in December. Please contact Cathy Wolf with any questions (contact information above). Thanks in advance for caring and sharing.

Annual Holiday Buffet for Seniors and Retirees

Join friends and neighbors at the sixteenth annual Holiday Buffet for Town Seniors and Retirees on **Thursday, December 15** at 12 p.m. in the Town Hall. While you feast on a delicious meal, you will have a chance to visit with old friends and meet some new ones. If transportation is a problem for you, we will be happy to pick you up and deliver you back home. Just let us know when you RSVP. Please give us a call at 301-654-7144 by **Friday, December 9 to RSVP**. We look forward to seeing you!

CRIMEWATCH

11/13/11

A resident in the 7300 block of Meadow Lane reported that her son's car was broken into. The window was smashed damaging the door and the seat.

A resident in the 4400 block of Leland Street reported that her car was broken into. The window was smashed, and a GPS device was stolen.

10/24/11

On 10/21/11 at approximately 9:57 p.m., the police responded to a call from two male juveniles walking in Elm Street Park. The juveniles reported that a group of about six males (15-19 years of age) began to kick and punch one of them. When the victim called 911, the males fled the scene. Police responded, but no suspects were located.

10/22/11

At approximately 9 a.m., the police responded to a call from a resident in the 4200 block of Leland Street. The resident reported that an unknown suspect had possibly cut the window screen, which was found on the ground below the kitchen window. The window was locked. No entry was made.

10/21/11

At approximately 10 p.m., a resident discovered that an unknown suspect cut and removed the window screen in the rear of a house in the 7100 block of 45th Street. It appeared that the suspect tried to open the window. The window was locked, so the suspect did not gain entry into the house.

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. Please report crimes to the Town Office so that we can provide accurate crime information on the Town website. 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.

Public Hearing on Permit Parking on Hillcrest Place

At its **December 14** meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on amending the permit parking area along the 6800 block of Hillcrest Place. In November, the Council proposed to reduce the area reserved for permit parking on this block in order to create more spaces for public parking immediately adjacent to Chevy Chase Elementary School. The current parking restriction encompasses the entire frontage of 6808 Hillcrest, providing for parking of 5 to 6 vehicles. The Town Council proposes to reduce this area to provide permit parking for approximately 3 to 4 vehicles.

Residents are encouraged to attend the **December 14** public hearing. The Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. If you are unable to testify in person, you may submit comments by e-mail to townoffice@townofchevychase.org or by mail to Town Office, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, prior to the hearing date. Please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 for more information.

CC Club Decides Against Use of Methyl Bromide

The Town is pleased to report that the Chevy Chase Club has decided against using methyl bromide to treat its golf course greens in response to concerns expressed by the Town, other neighboring municipalities, and state lawmakers. Town representatives attended a meeting with Club administrators to request an alternative solution to treat the Club's golf greens. The Town and others cited major health concerns with the use of methyl bromide, as well as negative effects on the ozone layer. In late October, the Club informed the Town and the community of its decision to refrain from using this highly toxic substance, and the Town has asked the Club to keep us informed about alternative plans.

Preparations for Winter Weather

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

Street Snow Removal:

The Town's maintenance crew, supplemented by Mulheron Tree Experts, will remove snow from Town streets. In storms producing less than 3 inches of snow, the Town's maintenance crew will plow streets without assistance from Mulheron. In significant storms, Mulheron will provide heavy equipment, such as skid loaders and back hoes. 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.

Sidewalk Snow Removal:

The Town's contractor, Mulheron Tree Experts, will continue to remove snow from Town sidewalks and crosswalks if accumulations total 3 inches or more. Several areas of Town have been prioritized for clearing, including sidewalks leading to and from Elm Street Park, those around CCES, as well as the Thornapple Path. Mulheron has equipment and supplies in the Town garage to expedite their response time.

Trees and Power Lines:

The Town arborist will continue to survey the Town following significant winter storms. The arborist will assemble a list of any damages to Town trees and provide it to 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 to ensure that PEPCO knows you are without service and can schedule repairs.

Fire Hydrants:

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

Communications:

The Town will use voicemail, the Town website and the Town Crier 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 alerts to residents.

Carol Rubin's Paintings Featured in Town Talent Exhibit

Please stop by the Town office to see new artwork from Carol Rubin, a Town resident for 25 years. Carol began oil painting as a landscape painter, but, drawn to abstraction, color and emotional brushwork, she now begins with elements of landscape and takes off in other directions. If you look carefully, you may see something of your own garden included in her work. Locally, Carol exhibits at the Adah Rose Gallery, Studio Gallery and others. You can preview her work online at www.CarolRubin.com.

Committee Corner

Climate and Environment Committee

Energy Trailblazers of the Month: John and Jill Kolakowski.

If a 60,000 pound rig rumbled in and prepared to drill two 450 ft deep holes into your backyard, you'd be forgiven for having a couple second thoughts. After deciding to revamp his HVAC system as a geothermal system for part of a home renovation, John Kolakowski found himself wondering "are my wife and neighbors going to kill me?" and then hoping "this will be as smooth as advertised." Thankfully it was, and John is still happily married, on good terms with his neighbors, and the backyard is no worse for wear. Read more about the Kolakowskis' adventures with geothermal heating and cooling on the Town website. See who else in Town is saving energy on our Ripple Map (http://www.ripplemap.com/communities/chevy-chase-md/).

Energy Tip of the Month

When you're snuggling in front of the fireplace do you see all those dollar bills going up in flames? It's true. Not only is your fireplace not heating the room more than a couple of feet from the fire, it's actually sucking the heated air from the rest of the house and sending it up the chimney. An open damper can add 30% to your heating bill, and 80% of us forget to close the damper. If you have a gas-fired fireplace, you're losing even more if the pilot is lit all the time. What can you do? Close your damper whenever there is no fire burning and extinguish the pilot. Then go to the Town website to find several things you might do to prevent your money from going up in smoke.

Less Parking and More Congestion Coming Soon to Bethesda

On or about January 15, parking and traffic conditions in Bethesda will worsen as construction begins on new development at the intersection of Woodmont and Bethesda Avenues. During construction, the area will lose approximately 300 metered spaces on the two existing surface lots—one across from Barnes & Noble next to Ourisman Honda, and the other across the street beside Print 1. Construction is expected to last three years.

To assist with interim parking, a third Bethesda shuttle bus will begin operating on December 1. Buses will run every six minutes during peak hours to help people reach garages around downtown Bethesda more quickly.

By March 15, the block of Woodmont Avenue between Bethesda Avenue and Leland Street will be closed to traffic for approximately 20 months. During that period, Miller Street (between Woodmont and Wisconsin Avenues) will remain open, but the stretch of Leland east of Woodmont will be closed to traffic entering from Woodmont. It will remain open from Bradley Lane onto Woodmont and continuing to Wisconsin Avenue. Once construction is completed, traffic on Bethesda Avenue will shift as lanes become straighter and shrink from four to three lanes: two for traffic and one turn lane.

The new Bethesda development, located on 3.1 acres of Montgomery County-owned parking lots, will include two condominiums, both with ground-level retail. A new underground parking garage will contain an estimated 800 to 900 spaces for public use, a net gain of 500 to 600 parking spaces. The garage will be part of a five-story, 162-unit condo on the larger lot across from Barnes & Noble. Across the street, a nine-story condo with 88 units will be built.

The County has budgeted $49 million of the anticipated $89 million cost of constructing the underground parking lot. To finance construction, the County will issue bonds through the Bethesda Parking Lot District to be paid back by parking-meter revenue. The Capital Crescent Trail will remain open during construction. After everything is finished, bike lanes will be added on the block of Bethesda Avenue west of Wisconsin Avenue, as called for in the Bethesda Master Plan.

Around and About Chevy Chase

CHEVY CHASE AT HOME CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

Caroline Michaelis

As 2011 comes to a close, CC@H can look back on a successful first year of service to the Town's older residents. We have 84 member households and a wonderful group of trained volunteers, who are truly the heartbeat of the organization. Volunteering is its own reward; we urge our neighbors of all ages to consider becoming a CC@ H volunteer in 2012. Why not spend a few hours each month assisting with one or more of the services offered to members? While transportation has been the number one request, there are many other services that might suit your schedule, skills, and preferences (including stay-at-home tasks such as answering forwarded phone calls to our central number or making phone calls to those who might not get out much). Or perhaps you'd prefer to join one of our committees: Communications, Community Service Providers, Development, Membership, Social Networking and Program, and Volunteer Services. It's not only worthwhile, it's also fun! To volunteer, email: volunteers@chevychaseathome.org or call 301-657-3115. To learn more about CC@H, visit our website at www.chevychaseathome.org.

On **Tuesday, December 6**, we'll offer our final Meet & Mingle program for 2011 -- a holiday movie surprise from Jerry Bernstein's extensive collection of films from the Golden Age of Cinema. While Jerry is mum about the title, the stars are a surprise to no one, and include Cary Grant, David Niven, Loretta Young, and Monty Woolley. No doubt Jerry also will offer some entertaining commentary. Come join the fun and enjoy the film and refreshments from 2 to 4 pm on December 6th at the Chevy Chase Village Hall.

And don't forget the regular monthly gathering of the Brunch Bunch on **Thursday, December 8**, from 10 to 11:30 am at the Olympia Coffee Shoppe, 7021 Brookville Road, Chevy Chase. Pull up a chair and join several members of the CC@H Board for some good coffee and lively conversation. It's always fun and a great way to meet your neighbors and get in the holiday spirit.

CC@H is seeking a part-time Executive Director. The new paid position emphasizes member service, managing the office and volunteer services, program planning and implementation, close cooperation with the organization's active Board and Committees, fund-raising and public outreach. For a detailed job description and application procedure, find the posting at http://www.idealist.org/view/job/pFbgGjjxZwmD.

Foreign Film and Used Gift Book Sale

Chevy Chase Library, 8005 Connecticut Avenue
Sponsored by the Friends of the Chevy Chase Library

On **Saturday, December 3, the Friends of the Chevy Chase Library** invite you to view a special showing of the film Babette's Feast from 1 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. This 1987 film from Denmark won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film and remains a beloved classic. A French chef works in a small Danish religious community and spends prize winnings on an incredible meal for the entire village.

Also, there will be a Used Gift Book Sale from 12 to 4 p.m. Most of the books are priced around $20 and include a variety of subjects such as cooking, nature, the arts, history, and more. Books for sale include the New York Times Cookbook by Craig Claiborne, Complete National Geographic (on disc), The Golden Age of Couture: Paris and London 1947-1957, Pre-Columbian Art by Michael Grey, Shorebirds of North America, Profiles in Courage by John F. Kennedy, The Definitive Kobbe's Opera Book, and German Master Drawings: Wolfgang Ratjen Collection.

DRIVE WITH CARE!
WALK WITH CAUTION!

Residents are reminded to drive safely and to obey the Town's 25 mph speed limit, except as otherwise posted. Pedestrians are urged to use all available sidewalks and to refrain from walking in the middle of the street. Runners and bicyclists should stay to the side of the road to allow traffic to pass.

CCES Parking/Drop Off/Pick Up

When picking up during the school day (or when dropping off), please use the Hillcrest Place designated drop off area or what has come to be the "Kiss and Ride." When parking to come into the school to visit, please follow parking signs and adhere to restrictions posted. Please try to park only on the north side of Rosemary (school side), and at other spots on Stanford and Hillcrest that are not restricted.

Turkey Trot Provides Meals for 117 Families!

We thank Town residents and the B-CC High School Community for generously donating to the Holiday Food Basket Program!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Town of Chevy Chase
4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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