



Forecast

JULY 2011

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

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Yard Trash Collection Schedule to Change July 11

Effective **July 11**, the Town will collect yard trash from all households once per week on **Monday**. During the FY12 budget process, the Town Council approved this change in response to community feedback that supported scaling back this service. An added benefit will be to reduce the Town's carbon footprint by limiting use of trash collection vehicles. If yard trash cannot be collected on Monday, due to a federal holiday, etc., it will be collected on Tuesday of the same week. Please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 if you have any questions.

Yard Trash Recycling Regulations

- Trimmings should be placed at the curb **by 7 a.m. on Monday** mornings.
- Leaves, grass, and other trimmings should be placed in **reusable containers or paper bags**.
- Brush can be **tied into bundles with string**. Bundles should not exceed 30 inches in diameter, 4 feet in length, and 4 inches in diameter per piece.

Volunteer To Serve on a Town Committee

The Town Council encourages you to consider volunteering to serve on a Town committee. In July, Mayor David Lublin, 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 Protection: Works to reduce the Town's CO2 emissions.

Community Relations: Encourages a sense of neighborliness through community activities and communications.

Environment: Promotes the Town as steward of its natural resources through environmental initiatives.

Land Use: Guides building and redevelopment 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 Friday, **July 15, 2011**. 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

David Lublin

The Town Council is considering how to proceed with improving the network of streetlights in the Town. Although the lights are owned and operated by Pepco, the Town has been working to find ways to improve lighting in the Town.

Following completion of the street light study commissioned by the Town, the Town cooperated with Pepco to replace broken bulbs and adjust misaligned fixtures. The Town wants your help in preventing the recurrence of these problems. [A form to allow you to report new problems to the Town Office is included in this issue of the Forecast.](#)

The Public Services Committee is finalizing its recommendations for a process for Town residents to request new street lights in dark spots around Town. The Council appreciates the work of the Public Services Committee, as it is difficult to develop procedures that balance the desire of residents for new lighting in certain areas against that of residents who may not want a new light near their home.

The Town will have to pay Pepco for any changes or improvements that involve new lights and then pay to maintain them on an ongoing basis. As a result, the Town would likely have the ability to add only a limited number of lights in any single year due to the constraints of the Town budget, particularly until revenues recover.

In the future, the Town may consider alternatives such as purchasing the street light network from Pepco. We also plan to monitor closely opportunities to implement alternative lighting technologies, such as LED, that save energy and money over the long term. At the current time, Pepco does not use LED lights and it would take much of Town reserves to purchase the Town's street lights from Pepco with the Town receiving a possible return on this investment only over the long term.

After finalizing and approving the recommendation from the Public Services Committee about the process for requesting new street lights, the Town Council will hold a public hearing to learn more about your thoughts on both the proposed procedure for requesting new lights and on how the Town should proceed more broadly on street lights in the future. I know that all members of the Council encourage participation in this hearing so we can learn better the views of our neighbors on this topic.

I hope everyone has a pleasant and cool summer.



July



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

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

Thursday, July 7 – Public Services Committee, 7 p.m.

Monday, July 11- Recycle Yard Trash (new schedule begins)

Monday, July 11 – Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 13 - Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, July 18 – Long Range Planning Committee, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 19 – Environment Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 26 – Climate Protection, 7 p.m.

Please check the Town website, www.townofchevy Chase.org, for up-to-date information.

CRIMEWATCH

June 22 - A resident in the 7300 block of Maple Avenue reported that someone pried open her back door and stole jewelry from her second floor.

June 14 - A resident in the 4300 block of Leland Street reported that a bike was stolen from her front porch.

June 7 - A resident in the 4200 block of Oakridge Lane reported that her car was egged.

June 6 - Flowers were stolen from Thornapple Path.

June 6 - A contractor reported that someone broke into the garage of a house under construction in the 4300 block of Stanford Street. Nothing was taken.

June 3 - A resident in the 3900 block of Woodbine reported that her car was egged.

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 Holds Public Hearing on 7206 Meadow Lane

On June 8, the Town Council held an advisory public hearing on the possible resubdivision of 7206 Meadow Lane into two single family lots. At the same meeting, the Council considered and approved, with a number of conditions, modified variance requests for the proposed homes to be built on the two lots.

Once the developer of 7206 Meadow Lane submits a final resubdivision application to the Montgomery County Planning Department, the Town will hold a formal public hearing on the resubdivision and submit its comments and recommendations to the Planning Board. The Board will then hold a public hearing on the resubdivision application and render a final decision.

The variances that the Council voted on at the June 8 hearing will be contingent on the Planning Board's approval of a resubdivision in substantially the same form as presented to the Town, as well as numerous conditions imposed by the Council. If the formal two-lot resubdivision plan differs from what has been proposed, new variances would have to be sought from the Council.

For more information on the resubdivision process or on the specific variances approved by the Council, you may contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144.

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.

We thank you for your cooperation.

PEPCO Tree Trimming Information

Part of PEPCO's responsibility in providing electrical service to the Town is to ensure that their transmission lines and other infrastructure are free from obstructions that could cause power outages. These obstructions can include trees on Town property. As part of a \$256 million reliability enhancement plan announced after last year's extended power outages, PEPCO is planning to spend an additional \$15 million on tree trimming over the next five years. Some of this pruning has already been done in the Town, on feeders that serve the Town, and in adjacent neighborhoods.

When PEPCO determines that pruning is needed on a Town tree in order to remove possible obstructions or hazards, PEPCO notifies the Town of the proposed work. The Town provides the information to the Town Arborist who evaluates the scope of the work to verify that the trees proposed for pruning are growing into the electrical transmission lines (always the highest wire on the utility pole) or have other hazardous conditions that need to be removed. If the Town Arborist has any questions, or thinks that some of the work may be unnecessary, he will always arrange for an on-site meeting to review the proposed work with PEPCO. In some cases, the Town has been successful in saving trees by working with PEPCO to reroute the service lines.

PEPCO's subcontractor, Asplundh, provides line clearance pruning work. All of Asplundh's crews are trained to work safely near power lines following nationally-approved pruning standards. This means that although large amounts of vegetation may be removed if necessary, proper pruning cuts are made, and no unnecessary branches are taken off. The Town Arborist closely supervises all work being done by Asplundh to ensure that the pruning work does not exceed what is necessary. PEPCO's goal is to remove any vegetation that overhangs, touches, or will grow into the transmission lines within the next 4 years. In some cases, if a tree's primary leader is growing into the line, the Town Arborist will recommend the removal of a tree and replacement with a more appropriate species in consultation with the adjacent homeowner.

For more than 20 years, the Town's tree planting program has emphasized planting low growing trees under utility lines. Taller canopy trees are reserved for those areas where there is no potential interference with utility lines. Because of this, the work that PEPCO does in the Town becomes less disruptive each year; however, there are still some older canopy trees that remain in areas where they interfere with PEPCO's service lines. In addition to planting appropriate trees under electric lines, the Town instructs its tree contractor to prune existing trees in a way that they develop branch structures that do not grow directly into power lines whenever possible. This pruning is done in conjunction with routine deadwood pruning and tree elevation.

Everything you want to know about trees can be accessed through the Chevy Chase Canopy Conservation page on the Town's website. Whether you want to know what the Town does to maintain trees, how Town ordinances work to protect trees, how our two tree planting programs work, or tips for taking care of your own trees, you can find it on the Town's home page by choosing TREE CANOPY CONSERVATION in the quick links at the bottom of the page.

Native Canopy Tree Planting Program Continues



The Town will continue to offer the Native Canopy Tree Planting Program in fiscal year 2011-2012, which begins on July 1, 2011. Under this program, the Town will purchase canopy trees, pay for the service to plant the trees on the homeowner's property, and provide a water bag to assist with the care needed in the critical first year after planting. The resident will be responsible for the long-term care of the tree once installed.

Since the inception of the program, the Town has planted sixty trees. In FY12, the Town will offer an additional thirty residents the opportunity to participate in the program. The program fills up quickly, so please sign up soon. There are application forms on the Town website or in the Town Office.

Committee Corner

Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan Update Long Range Planning Committee

The Montgomery County Planning Department recently released a report that outlines the Planning staff's draft vision for Chevy Chase Lake (the area at the intersection of Manor Road and Connecticut Avenue). The Planning Department's recommendations are in stark contrast to the vision detailed by the Chevy Chase Land Company, the major property holder in the area, which we described in last month's Forecast.

The Planning Staff's Draft Vision: A neighborhood center at Chevy Chase Lake that balances redevelopment with the character of the established residential community. Development would be limited to an overall new density of approximately **1.2 million sq. feet** and building heights of **65 feet maximum** (approximately 6 stories). Rezoning would occur in two stages, with the greatest influx of density limited until the Purple Line is actually under construction. (For more information: go to <http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/chevychaselake/>.)

The Chevy Chase Land Company's Vision: A transit-oriented development that calls for the "urbanization" of the area. The Land Company would create **4.3 million sq ft** of new development with **12 buildings that are 10 to 19 stories tall**. (For more information: go to <http://www.cclandco.com/> and click on the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan.)

The **Long Range Planning Committee** would like to encourage residents to let us know how you feel about these different visions as the Town will be taking a formal position on the proposals in the near future. Also, residents are encouraged to share their thoughts on either vision with the Planning Department by email: <http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/chevychaselake/>. The staff will be finalizing the sector plan report for presentation to the County's Planning Board in the next month or so.

Climate Protection Committee



Energy Tip of the Month: Are you shocked by your recent electric bills? Here's some good news then. Pepco and the federal government will pay you to reduce the cost of air conditioning while simultaneously lowering your carbon footprint and helping clean up our air. First, Pepco will give you a \$100 rebate towards the cost of an air-conditioner tune-up with one of their approved providers. Second, Pepco will pay you cash (up to \$160 this year) if you let them cycle your air-conditioner during peak times (turn it off and on briefly). This offer can include their installing a programmable thermostat in your house. And if your air-conditioner is really out of date, Pepco will give you up to \$300 back when you buy an energy efficient new central air-conditioner (or \$25 each for up to five high efficiency window units), and you can get up to a \$300 credit on your federal taxes.

Energy Trailblazer of the Month: Flora Tsui was one of the first residents in Town to get an energy audit. Her 70+ year old house was drafty with cold rooms in winter and hot rooms in summer. She was also concerned about the cost of her utilities and her impact on natural resources and the environment. With the help of Jim McKenna (now of Green Step) and neighbor Michael Whelan (Live Green, LLC), Flora was able to increase her insulation and seal the air leaks in her attic and basement and weatherize her windows and doors. In addition, she installed indoor and outdoor clotheslines to dry her clothes and solar-powered backyard lights. She also has some really innovative ways of saving water. Her gas bill has gone down significantly even though she works more at home now. Read more of her story on the Town website.

Play Date for Toddlers in the Park

Parks and Playgrounds Commission

Are you are interested in meeting other parents in the Town? The Parks and Playgrounds Commission is starting a regular "Play Date" for preschoolers and toddlers at the Town parks. Please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 to sign up today. If you would like to become a member of the Parks and Playgrounds Commission, please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or email the Town at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Evening Gathering

Neighbors Entertaining Neighbors

Please join your neighbors for a Town "coffee"/gals' evening at the home of Heather Clessuras, 4300 Rosemary Street, on Thursday, July 21, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Please reach out to invite new neighbors or come by to connect with long-time residents. Those who would like may bring a bottle of wine to share. All Town residents are welcome, but please RSVP to Heather at heatherclessuras@mac.com. If you have any questions or would like to host a future morning coffee or evening town gathering, please call Maria Olsen at 301-652-4370. Hope to see you there!

Summer Programs for Chevy Chase at Home

Joan Hoover, CC@H

Even those of us who are anxious to "remain in our own homes" are willing to make an exception and go off on vacation during July and August. That is why we have planned only one Mix & Mingle event during each of those months.

The special event on **July 19** will be a discussion by local authors, Joan Marsh and Frances Stickle, of their delightful new book, "Place Names of Chevy Chase." Not only do they have fascinating tales to tell, but the book is filled with over 8,000 photographs and thousands of writings. Should you care to purchase one, they will sign it for you right after the meeting.

On **August 16**, Jerry Bernstein will join us again. Dr Bernstein has a wonderful, big collection of old time movies and radio shows, which he embellishes with amazing stories and bits of history. This time he is going to entertain us with one of his favorite Charlie Chan movies. You won't want to miss it.

Both events will take place at 2 p.m., at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, and will be enhanced by some lovely, cool refreshments.

Meanwhile, Chevy Chase at Home is having a Red Hot, Half-Price SALE. Join your friends and neighbors, who would like to stay in their own homes, and DECLARE YOUR INDEPENDENCE! You can join Chevy Chase at Home for just 6 months and try it on for size. From now until 2012, for only \$125, you can see how comforting it is to have someone help with all the little tasks that you are finding difficult to do. But hurry, so you can tell friends you are relaxed and care free now, because you belong to Chevy Chase at Home.

Bethesda Movie Night

July 26 - 30, 2011 - Bethesda's Woodmont Triangle (corner of Norfolk & Auburn Avenues)

Enjoy five nights of blockbuster hits at downtown Bethesda's 7th annual outdoor movie series! **Show times begin at 9pm at the corner of Norfolk and Auburn Avenues.** A limited number of chairs will be provided and attendees are invited to bring their own lawn chairs. **Admission is FREE!** Spend an enjoyable evening in Woodmont Triangle and have dinner at one of the neighborhood's delicious and diverse restaurants before the show!

Street Light Report Form

Included in this issue.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!



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

The Town Council will not meet in August. The next monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, September 14.

Visit the Town Website

www.townofchevy Chase.org

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 of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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