

Forecast

November 2011

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

In This Issue

Mayor's Greetings

Calendar
-page 2-

Crimewatch
-page 3-

Committee Corner
-page 4 and 5-

Proposed
Amendments to
the Building
Ordinance

Around Town
-page 6-

Around
and About
Chevy Chase
-page 7-

Turkey Trot
Town Teens
-insert-



Public Hearing on Proposed Building Ordinance Amendments

At its **Wednesday, November 9** meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Town's Building Ordinance as recommended by the Town's Land Use Committee. The proposed changes to the ordinance are intended to relax some permitting requirements, to allow accommodations for accessibility by disabled persons, to codify existing practices and to clarify some existing provisions.

A summary of the proposed changes to the building ordinance appears on page 6. The full text of the proposed amended ordinance is posted on the Town's website.

Council Approves Policy and Funding for New Street Light Requests

The Town Council has approved a policy for considering requests for new street lights. The policy and a "Street Light Report/Request Form," which residents can use to report problems with existing street lights or to request new street lights, are posted on the Town's website and available in the Town Office.

The Town's Public Services Committee (PSC) proposed the policy, which outlines who may make requests for new street lights and how those requests are processed by Town staff and considered by the Town Council. At its September meeting, the Council agreed with the PSC's proposal to move forward with installing new lights primarily in locations identified as dark areas by the recent street light evaluation study. At its October meeting, the Council held a public hearing on the proposed policy and approved a budget of \$20,000 for new street lights for this fiscal year. This amount will allow the Town to purchase and install approximately 13 new street lights over the next 8 months.

Residents are encouraged to use the Street Light Report/Request Form to help the Town identify problems with existing street lights as well as dark areas in Town where new street lights are needed.

For more information, please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144.

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.

Greetings from the Mayor

David Lublin

As most of you are aware, the Town has experienced a number of burglaries in recent weeks. Like you, I am concerned about this trend and want to share some information and advice.

In response to these crimes, and in an effort to prevent further crime, the Town is coordinating closely with the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD). We understand that police department detectives have identified some probable suspects and have issued warrants for their arrest. Police are actively seeking these individuals.

In addition to deploying marked patrol cars in Town to supplement the off-duty officers employed by the Town, the MCPD has utilized K-9 patrols and helicopters to assist in searching for possible suspects. The MCPD also is employing certain "high alert" activities to thwart crime and has involved its forensics team to investigate residential burglaries where physical evidence has been left at the scene. According to police reports, the recent crimes are not limited to the Town. In fact, many communities that surround us have experienced higher incidents of crime in recent weeks.

The Town's Neighborhood Watch Program seeks to reduce crime in our community by educating and organizing residents to report and identify suspicious activity in our neighborhood. The program continues to seek volunteers. For more information, please visit the Town website at www.townofchevy Chase.org or contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144.

My hope is that we will see a quick end to this recent spate of crime in and around Town and an equally quick return to a sense of safety.



November

Tuesday, November 1 – Mitigation Advisory Group, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 3 – Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 8 – Public Services Committee, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 9 - Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, November 14 – Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.

Sunday, November 20 – Turkey Trot, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

Monday, November 21 – Long Range Planning Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 22 – Climate and Environment Committee, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday – Friday, November 24 and 25 – Town Office Closed

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

www.townofchevy Chase.org

Put the Holiday Gift Drive on Your December Calendar

The Town's Community Relations Committee is again sponsoring a gift drive for victims of domestic violence and their children. We will collect gift cards to stores such as Target, Marshall, Kohl's, Ross or Sears as well as unwrapped new toys, books and warm weather clothes. The items will be dropped off at the Town Office and distributed to needy families at the Montgomery County Family Justice Center in Rockville. For further information, please contact Cathy Wolf at cathryn.wolf@montgomerycountymd.gov.

CRIMEWATCH

10/14-15/11

- An unlocked vehicle in the 7500 block of Meadow Lane was entered. A book bag was stolen.
- The front passenger window was broken in a vehicle in the 7400 block of Oak Lane. No property was stolen.
- A window was broken in a vehicle in the 7400 block of Ridgewood Avenue. A G.P.S. stereo system was stolen.

10/12/11

A resident in the 4400 block of Stanford Street reported that she heard someone trying to enter the side door of her house. The police inspected the property, but did not find anything.

10/8/11

- The police responded to a call for an alarm at a residence in the 4100 block Stanford Street. No entry was made.
- The police received a call for a "burglary just discovered" in the 7200 block of 45th Street. The resident came home and found the front door open. Electronics were stolen.
- The police received a call for an alarm in the 4400 block of Elm Street. No one entered the house.

10/7/11

A resident in the 7700 block of Chatham Road reported that her unlocked car was entered. Nothing was stolen.

10/4/11

A resident in the 4100 block of Leland Street reported that there was an attempted burglary at his house. A window was broken in the front of the house, but no one entered the house.

10/4/11

There was an attempted residential burglary in the 4100 block of Leland Street. The screen and window were opened, and foot prints were discovered outside.

10/3/11

Residents in the 7500 block of Tarrytown Road reported that their house had been burglarized while they were out of Town. The residents' car and other electronic items were stolen.

10/1/11

The police reported a burglary in the 4200 block of Oakridge Lane while the homeowners were out of town. Electronic items and possibly jewelry were taken.

9/27/11

A resident in the 6800 block of Meadow Lane reported that his unlocked car was entered. The registration, title, and insurance information were stolen.

9/23/11

The police reported an attempted burglary in the 7400 block of Connecticut Avenue.

9/22/11

A resident in the 7200 block of Maple Avenue reported that a bike was stolen from behind her garage.

Committee Corner

Committee Volunteers 2011 – 2012

Climate and Environment Committee

Judy McGuire, Chair
David Lublin, Council Liaison
Keith Blizzard
Julia Craighill
Coralee Hoffman
John Kolakowski
Eric Niiler
Suzanne Parmet

Community Relations Committee

Ann Wild, Chair
Kathy Strom, Council Liaison
Jean Carlson
Put Ebinger
Bridget Hartman
Erin Kopelman
Bob Lyford
Christine Riley
Julie Stanish
Cathy Wolf

Land Use Committee

Dedun Ingram, Chair
Linna Barnes, Council Liaison
Craig Brooks
Tom Collins
Kathy Flaxman
Lees Hartman

Long Range Planning Committee

Tina Coplan, Co-Chair
Steve Seidel, Co-Chair
Pat Burda, Council Liaison
Karen Depew
Charles Duffy
Leslie Hill
Mary Anne Hoffman
Mark Kopelman
John Midlen
John Murtagh
Jim Roy

Public Services Committee

Joel Rubin, Chair
Al Lang, Council Liaison
John Barnes
David Eason
Barry Hager
Sue Hill
Michael Lebowitz
Jimmy Light
Gloria Solomon

Mitigation Advisory Group

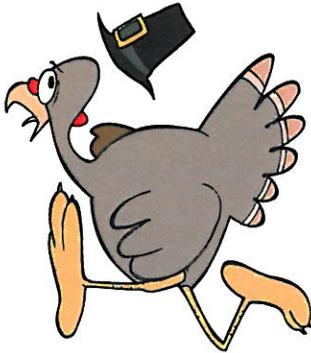
Mary Anne Hoffman, Chair
Pat Burda, Council Liaison
Jacob Bardin
Rich Brancato
John Burnes
Andy Hill
Leslie Hill
Joan Rood
David Salzman

Climate and Environment Committee

Energy Trailblazers of the Month - Don and Peggy MacGlashan

“Do the no-brainer stuff first – things that don’t cost a lot or take a lot of time but make a real difference in terms of your energy costs and comfort.” That’s what Don MacGlashan says about making energy efficiency improvements to their home. He and Peggy have one of the smallest carbon footprints in Town: 8.9 tons of CO₂ per year (versus 16.7 for the average energy-audited homes in Town). Find out how they have saved money and improved the environment on the Town website. Got a story to share about reducing energy waste at home? We want to hear it. Email climatetocc@gmail.com to tell your story and share your experience.

Upcoming Events



4th Annual Turkey Trot

Trot over to the Town Office this month to support our Thanksgiving Holiday Food Basket Program and Winter Coat Drive. Please join the Town, B-CC High School and the Lawton Community Center to help Montgomery County children and families in need this holiday season.

Thanksgiving Holiday Food Basket Program

Last year, we provided 75 Montgomery County Public School families with a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. Our families are identified through the County's Linkages to Learning program. These are families with very limited resources, which face difficult challenges as to how to provide enough food for their table. With 1 in 6 children under 18 in Montgomery County at risk of hunger, we hope to double the number of children and families we can help this year.

Here's how you can help between **November 1 and November 20**:

- Drop off a check payable to the B-CC PTA or a gift card from Giant or Safeway to the Town Office.
 - \$25 purchases a turkey
 - \$50 purchases groceries
 - \$75 purchases an entire Thanksgiving meal
- Donate a meal. To arrange for pick-up, contact the Town Office (301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org).
 - 5 lbs of potatoes, 5 large sweet potatoes, 1 lb of carrots, 3 lbs of onions, 1 bag of celery, 3 lbs of oranges or apples, 2 16-oz cans of gravy, 2 16-oz cans of cranberry sauce, 3 16-oz cans of low-sodium green beans, peas or corn, 2 10-oz bag/box of stuffing, 1 loaf of bread or dinner rolls, 2 large bags of rice, 1 lb box of butter or margarine, 1 64-oz container of non-refrigerated juice, 1 large pumpkin or apple pie
- Drop by the Town Hall on **Sunday, November 20 from 2 to 3:30 pm** to decorate the holiday food boxes. The Town will provide the boxes and art supplies.

Winter Coat Drive

The Town's Community Relations Committee and Interfaith Works are asking residents for gently used adult and children winter coats, scarves, hats and gloves that you and your family have outgrown or no longer wear.

Drop off your winter items at the Town Office Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm, starting **November 1 through November 20**. To arrange for pick-up, contact the Town Office (301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org).

Interfaith Works is a non-sectarian, nonprofit organization that helps more than 30,000 Montgomery County neighbors in need with housing and emergency assistance.

Long Range Planning Committee

Purple Line Update and Report

In early October, Governor O'Malley announced that Maryland has received approval from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to begin preliminary engineering on the Purple Line light rail project. This approval is an important first step in the State's quest to receive 50 percent of the project's total funding from the federal New Starts program. At the completion of preliminary engineering, the FTA will review the project again and decide if it will be accepted into final engineering. The State's most optimistic project schedule has the State receiving federal permission to move into final design in the summer of 2013, to start construction in 2015 and begin operation of the Purple Line in 2020. Being accepted into preliminary engineering, however, does not guarantee full acceptance into the New Starts program.

Immediately after the Purple Line announcement by the Governor, the State received news that the Obama administration is asking the FTA to expedite the review and processing of the Red Line light rail project in Baltimore along with 14 other projects across the country (the Purple Line not being one). Governor O'Malley has always said he wanted both the Red Line and the Purple Line to move in tandem, but, with the Obama announcement, that can no longer be the case. It is still unclear what this means for the Purple Line, especially as the State has yet to show exactly how it will fund any federal transportation matches.

The State is holding a series of Open Houses on the current status of the Purple Line, the nearest one to Chevy Chase will be held at the National 4-H Center on **Wednesday, November 2** from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Town residents are encouraged to attend to learn more about the project.

Meanwhile, the Town's Purple Line Mitigation Advisory Group (MAG) will continue to work with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to minimize noise, visual and safety impacts of the project on our community if the Purple Line is built. At MAG's urging, the State recently completed measurements of ambient noise levels at residences near the Purple Line's planned route. MAG had successfully argued that the State's original noise studies at East West Highway did not represent noise levels in the Town's quiet neighborhoods and thus were not accurate when assessing mitigation needs.

Preliminary analysis of the newest noise studies confirms that current ambient noise in the Town is quieter than MTA had thought. Using FTA guidelines for transit noise and vibration assessment, MTA has determined that sounds from the Purple Line project will result in a "moderate impact" (at the high end of FTA's definition of "moderate") on our Town. MAG is working with MTA to ensure the impact of this noise is mitigated for residents throughout the Town.

This winter, the Town will ask MTA to present a demonstration of expected noise impacts from the Purple Line project to Town residents and to specify ways these impacts can be mitigated. Questions about the Purple Line mitigation efforts can be directed to Mary Anne Hoffman, MAG Chair at maryannehoffman@starpower.net or Pat Burda, Council Liaison at patburda@aol.com.

Connecticut Avenue Corridor Committee

The County Council has delayed the **Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan** process for several months. The Council took this action at the request of Chevy Chase Land Company, which recently hired new staff and formally announced they were hitting the "reset" button on their proposal for development at the site. As previously reported in the Forecast, the Land Company had originally proposed a development of 4.3 million square feet at the site with several buildings between 15 and 19 stories tall. They now say that proposal is off the table. In contrast, the County's Planning Staff released an outline for the area that called for 1.2 million square feet of development capped at approximately 6.5 stories tall.

Members of the Connecticut Avenue Corridor Committee (CACC), of which the Town is one, have agreed to meet with the Land Company to see if there are ways the group can help shape the Land Company's new plans. While members of CACC are very much in favor of the Planning Staff's recommendations, keeping with area residents' concerns. The Town's Long Range Planning Committee will be vetting the there is hope that a dialogue with the Land Company can produce a Land Company vision that is more in suggestions made by these discussions and will keep the community apprised of any developments.

Proposed Amendments to the Building Ordinance

Public Hearing on November 9

- The proposed ordinance would allow for the construction of access ramps for disabled persons and wheelchair lifts within a property's building setbacks. The existing building code does not regulate ramps and lifts, so a resident currently must obtain a variance to build these structures within a setback. This process can be costly and time-consuming.
- The requirement to obtain a boundary survey and an established building line survey for certain front porch coverings is proposed to be waived if an applicant has another reliable survey that shows the house is at least 25' from the front lot line. This change would reduce the financial burden of obtaining costly surveys for these smaller projects.
- The proposed ordinance clarifies an existing regulation that allows certain additions to be constructed onto houses that do not conform to current setbacks. The amendment explains that for certain additions, the side setback is to be measured from the location of the addition rather than from the existing non-conforming house. This provision makes it easier for residents to add on to existing, older homes.
- New provisions would be added to codify the Town's existing practice of allowing guardrails and handrails for safety. Under the current code, it is unclear whether these structures should be subject to the zoning restrictions for fences. This proposed change follows the County approach.
- The proposed ordinance clarifies how wall planes are measured to satisfy the offset requirement for front-loading garages. The current building code requires front-loading garages to be offset from walls on either side by 3 feet. The proposed amendment clarifies that this offset must extend from the finished grade to the roofline.
- The portion of the building code regarding structures, fences, walls, hedges, berms, etc., on private property has been reorganized and revised to make it easier to follow and to clarify some provisions.
- A new restriction prohibiting the construction of a wall or berm more than one-foot high within two feet of a side or rear property line is proposed.
- Finally, new definitions have been added to support the new provisions and amendments.

Residents are encouraged to attend the **November 9** 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@townofchevy Chase.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.

Around Town

Storm Drain Repair Work

The Town is working with Montgomery County to plan the third and final phase of storm sewer repairs in the Town. If funded, the repairs would begin as early as fall 2012. During the recent infrastructure improvements, the Town did not mill and overlay some sections of streets in anticipation of the storm drain project. These streets will be repaired after the completion of the project.



Leaf Collection

Vacuum trucks will continue to pickup leaves until mid-December. 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.

Trash Collection

Trash will not be picked up on Thanksgiving Day, **Thursday, November 24**. Trash will be picked up on your next regularly scheduled trash day.

Around and About Chevy Chase

Participate in the CCES Mentoring Program

Chevy Chase Elementary School is seeking help with a mentoring program. The goal of the program is to pair young students (grades 3 – 6) with an adult once a week after school to receive extra help with their studies. The school will provide support and information for the mentor about what should be covered during the sessions. The sessions will take place at the school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays from 3:10 to 4:10 p.m. as part of the Homework Club. This will be a great way to reach out to the community. Please contact Jean Carlson jeancarlson55@gmail.com or 301-718-1093 if you are interested in volunteering.

A Newsworthy November for Chevy Chase at Home

Joan Hoover

"Alzheimer's Disease; Is There News We Can Use?" is the compelling title of a presentation by Dr. Trey Sunderland, an international leader in geriatric psychology. Following his long and distinguished career at NIMH, Dr. Sunderland has led the Society of Biological Psychiatry and the Advisory Board for the Greater Washington Alzheimer's Association. He consults at the Washington Home, and maintains an active private practice locally.

Dr. Sunderland plans to describe ongoing biological and treatment research, as well as the fascinating, but controversial, developments in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease. This special program will be held at 7 p.m., **Thursday, November 17** at the Chevy Chase Village Hall.

On **Tuesday, November 1**, our regular M&M program at 2 p.m. will cover "Counseling and Support Groups Offered by Iona House." Our speaker will be Bill Amt, MSW, LCSW, whose specialty is in aging and care giving. Mr. Amt runs support groups for those who are caregivers of people with dementia, as well as for those who have been diagnosed as being in the early stages of dementia. This will be valuable information for all concerned.

On **Thursday, November 10**, the lively Brunch Bunch will again meet at the Olympia Coffee Shoppe, 7021 Brookville Road, at 10 a.m. for good conversation over coffee, or even a belated breakfast. Several CC@H Board members will be there to greet you and to answer your questions.

On **Tuesday, November 15**, Lois Fern and her friends are going to bring us some fun. Their presentation, called "The Show and Tell of New-Fangled Devices" will give you the opportunity to look at, play with, and perhaps even learn to use some of those fascinating new gadgets, with mysterious names like Blackberry, iPod, iPad, Kindle, and Smartphone. Be sure to bring your curiosity. Your questions will be handled with care. As usual, there will be fine refreshments. The program begins at 2 p.m., at the Chevy Chase Village Hall.

We invite you to visit our website at www.chevychaseathome.org.

Veteran's Day Event at the Chevy Chase Library

Chevy Chase Library will host a Veteran's Day Event on **November 5** from 1:30 to 3:45 p.m. featuring a panel discussion among multigenerational veterans. The moderator, Sydney Freedberg, worked for the National Journal and is the founder of Learning from Veterans, a project to inform policymaking and public debate by injecting the experiences and insights of US military veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq. The event will also kick off a book drive to support Blue Star Families and their Books for Kids Program at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Other events at the Library can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/libraries under News and Events, then Calendar.

Advice in Protecting Your Home

The following are useful tips from the police on identifying and preventing crime.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- Someone looking into windows or parked cars.
- Abandoned cars.
- Property being taken out of houses where no one is at home.
- Someone shouting for help.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:

- Have a trusted neighbor check on your house periodically when on vacation.
- Put indoor lights on timers when not home.
- Use outdoor lights to eliminate hiding spots near entry points.
- Always lock car doors and close windows.
- Do not leave electronic devices visible in cars.

The police department will conduct a personal home security survey of your home. Please contact Officer Denise Gill at denise.gill@montgomerycountymd.gov or Officer Dana Stroman at dana.stroman@montgomerycountymd.gov to arrange the survey.

The police encourage you to be alert and to report any suspicious activity by calling 911 (emergency) or 301-279-8000 (non-emergency).

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

PRSR STD US POSTAGE PAID Bethesda, MD Permit No. 418
--

TOWN COUNCIL

David Lublin, Mayor

Kathy Strom, Vice Mayor

Al Lang, Secretary

Linna Barnes, Treasurer

Pat Burda, Community Liaison