



Forecast

OCTOBER 2011

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

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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. Kathy Strom, Editor. Copies are mailed to each address in the Town and posted on the Town's website.

Prevent Crime in Our Neighborhood

Sergeant John D'Albora, Guest Speaker

As part of the Neighborhood Watch Program, the Town will host a Public Safety Meeting on **Tuesday, October 18** at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. All interested residents are invited to attend to learn more about how to prevent crime in our neighborhood.

Sgt. John D'Albora, who manages the off-duty County officers who patrol the Town, will be the guest speaker. Sgt. D'Albora has been with the Montgomery County Police Department for 24 years, serving in Bethesda for 17 of those years. He will address ways to protect your property from theft and reduce the risk of being victimized. He also will explain how to recognize and report suspicious activities.

The Town's Neighborhood Watch Program continues to seek block captains. We encourage residents to volunteer to be a Block Captain. For more information, please visit the Town website at www.townofchevychase.org or contact the Town Office.

Public Hearing

Proposed Amendments to the Building Ordinance

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 handicap accessibility, to codify existing practices and to clarify some existing provisions.

A summary of the proposed changes to the building ordinance appears on page 4. The full text of the proposed amended ordinance is posted on the Town's website.

Native Canopy Tree Planting Program

To participate in the Town's Native Canopy Tree Planting Program in fiscal year 2011-2012, just fill out an application form and submit it to the Town. There are application forms on the Town website or in the Town Office.

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 the Town plants it.

Greetings from the Mayor

David Lublin

It is amazing that summer so quickly seems long past and fall is here. School has been in session for over one month. Fall Trash and Treasures has come and gone. Pumpkins are already beginning to appear on front stoops around the Town.

After the annual summer break, the Town's volunteer committees held their first meetings in September. The big change this year is that the Climate Protection and Environment Committees have been merged into a single new Climate and Environment Committee.

Though committees have already been constituted for the year, neighbors are still welcome to volunteer for committees. I hope you will contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org if you're interested in volunteering.

Diverse representation of neighbors only enhances the ability of committees to give the Council and the Town good advice, so all are welcome. Our hope is that community members approach each other with mutual respect despite differences and that volunteer involvement will help bring people together and increase community spirit.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Town's Oktoberfest and Volunteer Appreciation event on **Friday, October 14** at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall.



October

Tuesday, October 4 – Mitigation Advisory Board, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 5 – Committees' Organizational Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 6 – Flu Clinic, 4 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 6 – Community Relations Committee, Lawton Center, 7 p.m.

Monday, October 10 – Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11 – Public Services Committee, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 12 - Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Friday, October 14 – Oktoberfest/Volunteer Appreciation Event, 6 p.m.

Saturday, October 15 – “Play Date” at the Playground

Monday, October 17 – Long Range Planning Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 18 – Public Safety Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 25 – Climate and Environment Committee, 7 p.m.

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

www.townofchevy Chase.org

townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org

Town Events

5th Annual Oktoberfest/Volunteer Appreciation Event

Friday, October 14, Town Hall, 6 - 8 p.m.

Community Relations Committee



Get a Little! Give a Little! is the theme of the Town's 5th Annual Oktoberfest.

Enjoy a sampling of classic Oktoberfest beers and hearty German food to celebrate fall with friends and neighbors. David Birks, of the recently opened Beer, Wine & Co., will be on hand to talk about beers throughout history and the various Oktoberfest beers now brewed in Germany and the United States. Wagshal's will be serving up a delicious array of traditional Bavarian recipes.

Help a Montgomery County family in need by bringing 64 ounce containers of apple or cranapple juice, 16 ounce cans of green beans, peas or corn, or a gift card from Giant or Safeway. Checks payable to B-CC High School/Thanksgiving Food Drive also are welcome. The **Community Relations Committee** will be collecting donations at the Oktoberfest to kick off the Town's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. For the third year, the Town's Community Relations Committee and B-CC High School's Interact Club will be preparing food baskets to help Montgomery children and families in need this holiday season.

Space is limited to 75. RSVP to the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or e-mail townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Coffee and Juice Boxes in the Park

The **Parks and Playgrounds Commission** will host a "Play Date" for preschoolers and toddlers at the playground at the Lawton Center on **Saturday, October 15 at 9 a.m.** While the kids play, parents will have a chance to visit with each other. Don't eat breakfast before you come; we will provide coffee, juice boxes and mini-bagels. See you at the Playground!

Committee Corner

Climate and Environment Committee

Energy Tip of the Month

Here's a great science project for kids: use a Kill-a-Watt meter to measure how much energy appliances are drawing even when they're not "on". You can borrow a Kill-a-Watt from the Town office or the Library, plug it in, and check the display after a day. You'd be surprised how much energy these appliances draw. The average Marylander loses \$185 per year from electronic devices that are plugged in even when they're off. Anything that has a light, a clock, or is at all warm is wasting energy. Why not unplug those energy vampires? Plug them into power strips (a few dollars at hardware stores) to make it easy to turn the power off. There's even a "smart strip" that detects when your computer is off and turns off the peripherals.



Energy Trailblazers of the Month

Joe Gitchell and Elizabeth Mumford. How do two working parents with two young children manage to do so much to save energy? They take it on as a family challenge and rely on neighbors for suggestions and inspiration. They have reduced their natural gas consumption by almost 10% between 2008 and 2011 so that it is now 60% of the household gas consumption of the average home in Town. Joe says this is due to the attic insulation they installed with support from the Town's Energy Audit and Improvements Program. They have cut the electricity they draw from PEPCO by 58%; some of that savings is due to solar energy, some due to energy efficiency, and some due to lifestyle changes they have made. Read more about their story on the Town website.

Crimewatch

- 9/16/11 A resident in the 4500 block of Elm Street reported that someone entered her house through an unlocked door. She reported to the police that jewelry was stolen.
- 9/05/11 A resident in the 7200 block of Ridgewood Avenue reported that her unlocked car was entered. A cell phone charger was taken.
- 8/29/11 A resident in the 3900 Leland reported that her car window was broken.
- 8/27/11 The police responded to a call from a person who observed two suspicious subjects on 45th Street. One subject entered an unlocked older model pickup truck. The police arrived on the scene in minutes, but the subjects had left the area.
- 8/25/11 The police reported that a resident in the 7300 block of Maple Avenue posted an Apple i-phone for sale on Craigslist and planned to meet an interested buyer at his home. A man came to his door and said that his friend in the car wanted to buy the phone. As the seller approached the car, the man grabbed the phone, jumped in the car and fled the scene.

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.

Proposed Amendments to the Building Ordinance

Public Hearing on November 9

- The proposed ordinance would allow for the construction of handicap access ramps 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.

Council To Consider Permit Parking Request

The Town Council will hold a public hearing at its **Wednesday, October 12** meeting to consider a request to designate permit parking in front of 4001, 4002, 4003, 4004 and 4006 Rosemary Street. The parking restriction would be in effect from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and is intended to provide relief to residents from parking problems close to Chevy Chase Elementary School.

Public Hearing At its September 14 meeting, the Town Council decided to survey all residents in the 3900 and 4000 blocks of Rosemary Street to determine support for this request. The results of this survey and of the required vehicle counts, which determine the number of non-resident vehicles parked in the proposed permit area, will be considered by Council in determining whether to grant this request.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing 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.

Proposed Policy for Considering Requests for New Street Lights

The Town Council will hold a public hearing at its **Wednesday, October 12** meeting on a proposed policy for considering requests for new street lights. The full text of the proposed policy is posted on the Town's website, www.townofchevy Chase.org, and available in the Town Office.

Public Hearing At the September 14 Council meeting, the Public Services Committee presented the proposed policy, which outlines who may make requests for new streetlights and how those requests are processed by Town staff and considered by the Town Council. The Council discussed the policy and 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. Because the Town must pay Pepco for any new lights and also pay to maintain them on an ongoing basis, the Council established a budget of \$20,000 for new street lights for this fiscal year. This amount will allow the Town to purchase and install approximately 10 new street lights over the next 8 months.

In the longer term, the Town may consider alternatives such as purchasing the street light network from Pepco. The Council also has asked the Public Services Committee to evaluate 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 the Town's 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.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing 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.

Committees' Organizational Meeting Slated for October 5

Meeting The Town Council and Committee Chairs will meet on **Wednesday, October 5** at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall to discuss the committees' procedures and roles and responsibilities. The meeting is open to all residents who would like to attend. The discussion will focus on the procedures that each of the committees will observe. The agendas and minutes of each committee's monthly meeting will be posted on the Town website, www.townofchevy Chase.org.

Around and About Chevy Chase

State Highway Administration To Host Public Meeting

The State Highway Administration has scheduled a public meeting regarding the Wisconsin Avenue Sidewalk Retrofit Project for **Wednesday, October 5** from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, located at 5906 Connecticut Avenue. The purpose of this meeting is to inform citizens about the upcoming project to construct a 5' concrete sidewalk along the east side of MD 355 (Wisconsin Avenue) between Grafton Street and MD 191(Bradley Lane). If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kate Mazzaara at 301-513-7346 or by email at kmazzaara@sha.state.md.us.

CHEVY CHASE AT HOME OFFERS NEW SUPPORT PROGRAM

In response to requests from several local residents, Dr. Nathan Billig, Geriatric Psychiatrist and CC@H Board member, is organizing a small support group for adult children of aging parents. This is a unique opportunity to share your concerns with others facing similar situations and to benefit from the experience of an expert in the field. The 10 monthly sessions, to be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on one Tuesday each month until summer, are FREE to CC@H members and the children of members. Enrollment is limited to 7-10 participants, who should plan to attend all sessions. If the group is not filled by members, non-members may enroll for a fee. To enroll, or for more information, call the CC@H office at 301-657-3115.

On **Tuesday, October 4**, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, CC@H's Meet & Mingle will present an informative program entitled "Navigating the System: Dealing with Medicare, Care Giving, etc.". The main speaker will be Bonnie Klem, LCSW-C, Adult Protective Service Investigations Supervisor. She will be joined by Nina Chaiklin, LCSW-C, Social Services to Adults Case Manager and the Senior Care Program Coordinator.

On **Thursday, October 13**, our monthly Brunch Bunch will gather once again from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Olympia Cafe, 7021 Brookville Road. Come meet Nathan Billig and Janet Regan and have a chance to chat about any topic you want to bring up. There is free parking. Best of all, it's FUN -- what more could you ask for?!

To release your Inner Artist, be sure to join us at CC@H's Meet & Mingle on **Tuesday, October 18**, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, where local artist and teacher Millie Shott will show us how to "Be Creative With Inks". As always there will be delicious refreshments.

CC@H's Meet & Mingle also will meet on **Tuesday, November 1**, but as of this writing, the program has not yet been firmed up. Be sure to check the Upcoming Events section on our website at www.chevychaseathome.org to find out what's in store.

**October Events at the Chevy Chase Library
are posted on the County website,
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/libraries, under News and Events.**

Neighbors Greeting Neighbors

Please join us for a Town coffee at the home of Chris Reed (3909 Thornapple Street) on **Tuesday, October 25**, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. All are welcome, but please RSVP to Chris at 301-907-8933 or chriskreed@verizon.net. If you have any questions or would like to host a future town gathering, please call Maria Olsen at 301-652-4370. Hope you can join the gathering on the 25th!



Leaf Vacuuming Begins in October

The Town will begin vacuuming leaves in mid-October and continue until mid-December. Vacuum trucks pick up continuously, street by street. A map detailing the schedule of the pickup is provided on the Town's website. All leaves should be raked to the curb. Do not rake your leaves into the street. Please make sure that your leaves are not contaminated by cans, sticks, bottles or rocks. The Town has set October 17 as the start date. If there are not a significant number of leaves down by that date, the Town will notify residents of a new start date. The schedule will be posted on the Town website and distributed to residents via the "Town Crier" listserv.

5th Annual Oktoberfest/Volunteer Appreciation Event Friday, October 14, Town Hall, 6 - 8 p.m.

Get a Little! Give a Little! is the theme of the Town's 5th Annual Oktoberfest.
Details on page 3.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

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Kathy Strom, Vice Mayor
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Linna Barnes, Treasurer
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