



Forecast

ELECTION ISSUE 2011

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

Annual Town Meeting and Election

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Voting:	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Town Hall
Reception:	7 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Social Hall
Meeting:	8 p.m.	Social Hall

The Town Council has five elected members. Town residents will elect two candidates in the 2011 election to serve for two years. The polls will be located in the Town Hall, 4301 Willow Lane. The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. Any qualified voter may vote by absentee ballot. Residents desiring an absentee ballot must apply individually in writing (by mail, fax, email or in person) to the Town Office or fill out an absentee ballot request form provided by the Town.

The Council will host a reception from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. featuring the Town's volunteer committees. During the reception, you will have an opportunity to talk with many of the residents who volunteer their time and talents to work on the many issues facing the Town. The business meeting will begin at 8 p.m. with an introduction of invited guests.

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FY11 Financial Review &
FY12 Budget Highlights

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Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introductions	David Lublin, Mayor
Mayor's Report	David Lublin, Mayor
Treasurer's Report	Linna Barnes, Treasurer
Public Hearing on the Proposed FY12 Budget	
Adjournment	David Lublin, Mayor

Election results will be posted on the Town's website,
www.townofchevyCHASE.org on May 4, 2011.

Candidates' Forum Set for April 28

A candidates' forum will be held on Thursday, April 28 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. Charles Duffy, host of the Montgomery Municipal Cable TV show "Political Pulse," has agreed to serve as moderator for the fourth consecutive year.

If you have a question you would like posed to the candidates, please submit it by April 25 to Brenda Lizzio, Election Board Chair, bren@brendalizzio.com. The Election Board might need to consolidate questions that are similar.

The Forum will begin promptly, so come early for a good seat.

FY12 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

The Town Council recently approved the proposed budget and tax rates for fiscal year 2012. At the May 3 annual meeting at 8 p.m., the Town will hold a public hearing during which residents may comment on the proposed \$2.2 million budget, including proposed service changes and new permit fees, the real estate tax rate of \$0.0105 per one hundred dollars of assessed value (which represents the constant yield tax rate), and the business personal property tax rate of \$0.10 per one hundred dollars of assessed value. Following the public hearing, the Council will adopt the budget and tax rates, with any modifications to which it agrees, at the May or June regular Town Council meeting.

FINANCIAL REVIEW & BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Over the years, the Town has maintained its fiscal soundness through careful planning, including maintaining an adequate reserve balance to fund capital improvements and to provide for emergencies or unforeseen expenditures. The Town continues to enjoy sound financial health, although, due to the current economic climate, the future is more uncertain. Current projections indicate that income tax revenues for this year will be lower than the amount projected in the Town's FY11 budget. In the context of the Town's healthy reserves, this amount does not appear to be substantial, particularly because expenditures also fell well below projections. Next year's tax revenues will likely remain lower than in the past. However, even while maintaining a sizable rainy-day fund, the Town possesses sufficient funds to maintain exceptional service levels as well as to fund necessary capital projects.

2011 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Revenues

- Total **operating revenues** are estimated to be **\$2,198,290**, under budget by **\$276,710** due primarily to reductions in income tax and highway user revenues.
- Town revenue sources: **84.2% from income taxes** (\$1.85 million), **5.1% from property taxes** (\$112,000), **0.2% from highway user taxes** (\$5,480), and **10.5% from other sources** (\$230,810), including permit fees and interest income.

Expenditures

- Total **operating expenditures** are expected to be **\$2,405,751**, under budget by **\$281,749**, due to various budget cuts approved by Council during FY11.
- Total **capital project expenditures** are expected to be approximately **\$798,000**. The Town expended budgeted capital funds for road and sidewalk improvements and for the purchase of two new trucks.

2012 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Revenues

- Total **operating revenues** are budgeted at **\$2,217,000**, of which \$1.85 million is projected income tax revenue.
- The **property tax rate** is proposed at **\$0.0105 per \$100 of assessed value**, which is **the constant yield tax rate**. This rate will provide the Town with approximately the same property tax revenue as in FY11.

Expenditures

- Total **budgeted operating expenditures of \$2,187,000 are less than** total budgeted revenues by **\$30,000**. The excess revenue will be added to the General Fund to supplement Town reserves for capital projects and contingencies.
- Total **capital expenditures** are budgeted at **\$541,000**. FY12 capital expenditures include anticipated purchase of equipment, infrastructure repairs and maintenance, and reforestation. Future capital expenditures are projected to be substantially less because the Town completed major infrastructure improvements in FY10 and FY11.

Comprehensive budget documents are available for review in the Town Office and on the Town website: www.townofchevy Chase.org.

FY12 Proposed Budget Summary

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE				
Budget Summary	FY10 Actual	FY11 Budget	FY11 Estimated Actual	FY12 Budget
OPERATING REVENUES				
Taxes				
Property Taxes @ \$0.0105 for FY12; \$0.01 For FY11	110,379	112,000	112,000	112,000
Income Taxes	2,094,975	2,150,000	1,850,000	1,850,000
Highway User Taxes	15,460	12,000	5,480	34,000
Subtotal - Taxes	2,220,814	2,274,000	1,967,480	1,996,000
Permit Fees and Cable TV Revenue	51,766	47,000	52,000	78,000
Reimbursements and Dump Fees	150,378	130,500	155,800	124,500
Other Revenue	23,583	23,500	23,010	18,500
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	2,446,541	2,475,000	2,198,290	2,217,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES				
General Government				
Administration	1,270,046	1,237,000	1,199,551	1,055,000
Civic Affairs and Constituent Services	205,355	277,000	199,500	163,000
Subtotal - General Government	1,475,401	1,514,000	1,399,051	1,218,000
Public Safety and Code Enforcement	361,915	355,000	314,000	280,000
Public Works				
Sanitation and Waste Removal	370,703	376,500	373,100	359,000
Streets and Roads	288,350	189,000	102,100	126,500
Parks and Grounds	258,092	253,000	217,500	203,500
Subtotal - Public Works	917,145	818,500	692,700	689,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2,754,461	2,687,500	2,405,751	2,187,000
NET CHANGE TO GENERAL FUND BALANCE	(307,920)	(212,500)	(207,461)	30,000
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES				
Facilities and Equipment	3,472	1,000	1,000	1,000
Streets and Roads	1,115,129	1,075,000	732,000	505,000
Parks, Grounds and Trees	28,911	80,000	65,000	35,000
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	1,147,512	1,156,000	798,000	541,000
ENDING GENERAL FUND BALANCE	4,802,423	3,433,923	3,796,962	3,285,962
	FY12 Contingent Reserve			665,100
	Capital Improvement Plan Reserve			2,620,862

REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

Town of Chevy Chase Council Election May 3, 2011

A resident must be a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen years of age, have resided within the corporate limits of the Town for thirty days preceding any Town election and be a registered, qualified voter of the State of Maryland, Town of Chevy Chase to be eligible to vote.

DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Please provide an absentee ballot so that I may vote in the Annual Election of the Town, May 3, 2011.

signature of applicant required

print name (must be legible)

The ballot will be dropped or mailed (out-of-Town) to you beginning April 13, 2011.

To be counted, any absentee ballot must be received by the Town office by **8 p.m. on Election Day, May 3, 2011**. The ballot must be in the printed return envelope provided by the Town at the time the ballot was issued.

MAYOR'S REPORT

David Lublin

On behalf of the Town Council, I am pleased to present the Town's accomplishments over the past year. In addition to continuing to provide excellent services, the Town launched many new and innovative programs to improve our quality of life. The Town also was recognized and awarded for numerous forward-thinking initiatives. These achievements would not have been possible without the help of the volunteers on the Town's committees, boards and commissions – and, of course, Town staff. We thank all of you for your hard work and sense of civic duty!

- Continued to provide excellent services to our residents, including **backdoor trash collection, Trash and Treasures, and sidewalk snow removal.**
- Worked with the County to complete the second phase, and begin the third phase, of **storm sewer repairs** in Town to improve water drainage in our neighborhood.
- Produced the **2011-2012 Resident Directory** that residents can use to contact their friends and neighbors.
- Published the **2010-2011 Community Handbook**, which provides residents with a convenient reference guide to Town, County, and State programs and services.
- Developed an online **handbook on the Town's land use and development regulations**, which will greatly assist residents with building questions.
- Hosted a variety of special events for residents of all ages and continued promoting **resident outreach projects** and supporting **charitable causes.**
- Monitored, and advocated Town interests, in **proposed development projects on the Town's borders.**
- Produced and analyzed a survey to solicit **community input on the Urban Forest Ordinance.**
- Worked with an engineering consultant to develop and implement **additional traffic safety measures around Chevy Chase Elementary School.**
- Sponsored the **2nd Annual Bike Day** to encourage residents to bike more and drive less in an effort to **save money** and **cut greenhouse emissions.**
- Played a significant role in working with the State to help identify ways **to reduce the impacts of the proposed Purple Line light rail project.**
- Helped to organize the **Connecticut Avenue Corridor Committee** to exchange information among local communities on development plans for **Chevy Chase Lake.**
- Offered the **Native Canopy Tree Planting Program**, which resulted in **planting 30 canopy trees** on residents' private property.
- Continued the **Energy Audit and Improvements Assistance Program**, which reimburses residents for some costs of an energy audit and home efficiency improvements.
- Funded the **Consulting Water Management Program** to provide residents with free advice regarding problems with water runoff and drainage on private property.
- Supported the **Neighborhood Watch Program** to help increase the safety and awareness of Town residents.
- Distributed and analyzed the results of the **2010 Community Survey**, which offers important resident feedback on existing and proposed Town programs and services.
- Won two awards from Bethesda Magazine for our promotion and implementation of **climate protection and environmentally-conscious practices.**

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION 2011

Election Day

Tuesday, May 3 is Election Day in the Town. The polls will be located in the Town Hall, 4301 Willow Lane. The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. The election will be administered by the League of Women Voters and monitored by the Town Election Board.

Town elections are governed by the provisions in Chapter 8 of the Town of Chevy Chase Municipal Code, which state: "An election shall be held on the first Tuesday in May of each year to elect members of the Town Council. Three members shall be elected in even-numbered years and two members in odd-numbered years."

The Nominees

Biographical sketches and statements of the Council candidates appear in this issue of the Forecast and also can be found on the Town's website, www.townofchevychase.org.

Floor Nominations

Floor nominations for Councilmembers cannot be considered at the Annual Meeting since voting will begin in advance of the meeting.

Election Board

Questions regarding the May 2011 election can be directed to the Election Board:

Brenda Lizzio, Chair
Ed Finn
Hope Pinkerton

bren@brendalizzio.com
ejfinn724@aim.com
hope.pinkerton@gmail.com

Voting Eligibility

A resident must be a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen years of age, have resided within the corporate limits of the Town for thirty days preceding any Town election and be a registered, qualified voter of the State of Maryland, Town of Chevy Chase to be eligible to vote. If you have recently moved to the Town of Chevy Chase or for other reasons are doubtful whether your name is on the list of registered, qualified voters, you may call the Montgomery County Election Board at 240-777-VOTE.

Voting By Absentee Ballot

Any qualified voter may vote by absentee ballot. Residents desiring an absentee ballot must apply individually in writing (by mail, fax, email or in person) to the Town Office. Absentee ballots will be available in the Town office on **Wednesday, April 13** after 12 p.m. The absentee ballot must be returned in the printed envelope provided by the Town. To be counted, any absentee ballot must be received by the Town by 8 p.m. on **Election Day, May 3, 2011**.

Voting Procedure

The polls will be located in the Town Hall, 4301 Willow Lane. The polls will open at 8 a.m. and will close at 8 p.m. on **Election Day, May 3, 2011**. Names of candidates will appear on the printed ballot in alphabetical order. Voters may vote for no more than two candidates. There will be appropriate blanks on the printed ballot for the purpose of adding write-in candidates.

Town residents will elect two Councilmembers in the May Election. Each will serve on the Council for a two year term. The candidates for the 2011 Election are Linna Barnes, Patricia Burda and Deborah Vollmer.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Linna Barnes 7112 Ridgewood Avenue

Candidate's Biography and Statement

I have lived in the Town with my husband and daughters for 24 years and been a Council Member for eight years. In addition to my duties on the Council, I am active in the Montgomery County branch of the Maryland Municipal League on behalf of the Town and regularly lobby state and county officials on Town issues. Also, I produce a television program on Channel 21 and work with many county non-profits including the League of Women Voters, Committee for Montgomery, and Interfaith Works. I was active in county PTAs, including serving as president of Rosemary Hills. Now a non-practicing attorney, I received degrees from the UGA, Duke Law School, and Columbia School of Architecture and Preservation.

While much has happened in the Town during the eight years I have served, my past two years have been particularly rewarding. The Council has initiated programs, which I supported, for residents to receive direct benefits, such as tree planting, energy audits, and water run-off assessments. I serve as Council liaison to the Land Use Committee and the results of the work by that committee can be seen online in the new Land Use Handbook, which explains the ins and outs of building in the Town, and in the revised sections of the Town's building code that improve the order of the sections and modify areas to end duplicative and confusing language. The Council also has increased the number of hours Montgomery County police officers patrol the Town, including over-night duty. The work on the Lawton Center playground has been completed, and I am now working with Councilmember Pat Burda to achieve another wonderful result with the Elm Street Park playground. These are just some of the Council and my accomplishments during the last two years.

I am proud of what the Council and I have accomplished, but I know it is because of all the residents who have volunteered so many hours to the Town. My support of and belief in the Town's committee structure helps the Council achieve great things. If elected again, I will use my skills as a Town advocate in the county and state, a consensus builder on the Council, and supporter of community participation to continue this work.

Serving on the Council has been a great honor and wonderful experience. I hope to serve another two years to continue my work for the Town.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Patricia Burda **4108 Woodbine Street**

Candidate's Biography and Statement

Over the last two years as a Town Councilmember, I have worked hard to foster strong relationships and communication both inside and outside the Town. For instance, I am particularly proud of my role in establishing the Connecticut Avenue Corridor Committee, which has brought together over 20 communities to assure residents' concerns are addressed in the development plan for nearby Chevy Chase Lake. I also helped negotiate design changes to a new building at Pearl Street in order to mitigate its impact on abutting Town residences and to secure commitments for a new playground at Elm Street Park.

During the last two years, I have grown to appreciate even more the fine work and enormous volunteer hours so many residents contribute on behalf of the Town. As Council liaison to the Long Range Planning Committee, I saw the outstanding effort that went into that committee's 2010 elections educational endeavor and continue to see the dedication of members of the Mitigation Advisory Group as they seek to minimize the negative impacts on Town residences and the Trail should the Purple Line come. I was delighted to vote to support many committee and resident generated initiatives such as the Canopy Tree Planting Program, the Energy Audit Program, the Land Use Handbook and Chevy Chase at Home. And, I applaud and support the many social events that bring together Town residents.

After receiving an M.A. in Art History from the University of Maryland, I worked in the museum field, including more than 10 years with a consulting firm specializing in strategic planning. Currently, I have my own interior design business. Throughout my professional career, I have learned to take the long view, and to listen to opposing points of view in order to bring people together for a common goal. These are skills that have served me well on the Council.

My husband, Joe Guerra, and I moved to the Town in 2000. We raised our children, Alex and Annie, here and were empty nesters for the first time this year. Over the years, I have volunteered for many school events, arts organizations, and political causes.

I believe that the Town has an excellent foundation to address new challenges and opportunities. We have a strong financial footing, and have found effective ways to communicate and work together on community priorities.

I would be honored to continue to serve you on the Town Council.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Deborah A. Vollmer

7202 44th Street

Candidate's Biography and Statement

I am Deborah A. Vollmer, a candidate for the Town council, for the Town of Chevy Chase. I was born on January 15, 1948, and grew up with my parents and my older sister, Susan, in the house I still call home. My father, Erwin Vollmer, an endocrinologist working at Naval Medical and then at NIH, was an early advocate for the inclusion of our neighborhood in the Town. My mother was an artist, Aline Fruhauf Vollmer. As a child, I attended Chevy Chase Elementary School, Leland Junior High School, and B-CC.

After graduating from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in 1966, I attended and graduated from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, with a B.A. in Government, which I received in 1970. Then I attended the University of Maryland School of Law, obtaining my J.D. in 1973. Then I moved to California, where I worked as an attorney for the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO. After that I worked for a legal aid office in Bakersfield, California, and after that I went into sole practice which consisted primarily of court appointed criminal cases, representing low-income clients.

In 1997, I moved back to my childhood home, to stay with my father who passed away in 2004, at the age of 98. I have continued to live in our family home. I have been active working on issues concerning peace and social justice. In past years, I served as a Board member of the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Coalition. More recently, I served for a year on the Town's Land Use Committee. I have testified numerous times at various hearings in support of preserving the Georgetown Branch, Capital Crescent Trail, and in opposition to putting a light rail train on the surface of the Trail. Our Trail is a linear park with precious trees and greenspace, an oasis that we desperately need to hold on to, as Bethesda continues to become more and more developed.

I believe that our current building ordinance is not adequate to protect residents from the negative environmental impacts of teardowns and new construction. For all of the hard work that went into the FAR, I believe that it fails to protect our Town's character from the ravages of excessive development. I have some specific suggestions for strengthening the building code, and I look forward to sharing these ideas with Town residents.

FY12 Budget Proposes Minor Service Reductions, Increased Fees

In response to resident feedback and economic realities, the Town Council has proposed an FY12 budget that includes reductions in some Town services as well as increases to Town permit and variance fees. These proposed changes are in addition to the budget cuts already approved by Council during this fiscal year, including reductions in personnel and legal costs, charitable contributions and professional services provided by outside contractors.

For FY12, which begins on July 1, 2011, the Town Council has proposed to reduce the frequency of yard trash collection to once per week throughout the year and discontinue the Consulting Water Management Program. Proposed reductions in the frequency of yard trash collection respond to recent community survey results that indicate support for cutting back this service. An added benefit would be to reduce the Town's carbon footprint by limiting use of yard trash collection vehicles. The proposal to discontinue the Consulting Water Management Program reflects the decline in the number of residents taking advantage of this program. If, in the future, there is renewed interest among residents in receiving assistance with private property water management, the Town Council could consider re-establishing this program.

The proposed FY12 budget also includes an increase in Town permit and variance fees, as shown in the chart below (detailed spreadsheets are available on the Town's website). This proposal is intended to cover more of the Town's costs associated with processing a permit or variance. While the new rate schedule would not allow the Town to recover all costs, it would offset a greater portion of the Town's administrative and legal expenses.

The Town Council wants to hear your thoughts on these proposed changes and the proposed FY12 budget. You are welcome to share your comments at the public hearing on the proposed budget at the Town's Annual Meeting at 8 p.m. on May 3. You also are welcome to submit your comments by e-mail to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or by mail to Town Office, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

PROPOSED PERMIT AND VARIANCE FEE INCREASES

	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Average Actual Cost to Town
Demolition	\$100	\$500	\$545
New Construction	\$500	\$3,000	\$3,095
Addition with footprint increase of 0 – 200 s.f.	\$75	\$150	\$750
Addition with footprint increase of 201 - 500 s.f.	\$150	\$250	\$750
Addition with footprint increase of 501 – 750 s.f.	\$500	\$500	\$1,330
Addition with footprint greater than 750 s.f.	\$500	\$1000	\$1,925
Accessory building, deck, pool	\$50	\$150	\$808
New Fence, Wall, Hedge or Driveway	\$50	\$100	\$305
Replacement Fence, Wall, Hedge or Driveway	\$50	\$50	\$273
Right-of-Way disturbance permit	\$50	\$100	\$153
Dumpster/container permit only	\$25	\$50	\$333
Building Permit Amendment (buildings)	\$100	\$200	\$228
Building Permit Amendment (fence or wall)	\$25	\$50	\$50
Tree Removal Permit	\$0	\$0	\$135
Variance Application	\$200	\$400	\$2,595
Administrative Variance Application	\$200	\$200	\$1,530
Water Drainage Application	\$500	\$500	\$860
Water Drainage Appeal/Variance	\$0	\$300	\$2,970
Tree Removal Appeal	\$0	\$200	\$875

ELECTION ISSUE

**Election Information is posted on the Town website,
www.townofchevychase.org**

Absentee Ballot Request Form Enclosed

The FORECAST is published monthly by the Town of Chevy Chase, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, 301-654-7144, www.townofchevychase.org. Copies are mailed to all Town residents. The Town Council meets in open session the second Wednesday of each month in the Town Hall unless otherwise announced.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

TOWN COUNCIL

David Lublin, Mayor

Kathy Strom, Vice Mayor

Al Lang, Secretary

Linna Barnes, Treasurer

Pat Burda, Community Liaison