



Forecast

JANUARY 2011

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

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Greetings from the Mayor

David Lublin

Following the pattern for the County and the State, revenues for our Town are below those anticipated at the start of the fiscal year last July. The Town expects to receive at least 13 percent less revenue than last year and than projected in this year's budget.

At the December Town Council Meeting, Town Treasurer Linna Barnes presented a list of potential budget cuts that was an updated version of a list put together in cooperation with Town Manager Todd Hoffman and myself towards the end of last summer in case of revenue shortfalls. This advance preparation was done to allow the Town to act quickly but still allow for public consultation in the event of a further decline in revenues, such as that we are now unfortunately experiencing. These proposals are designed to prevent the Town from drawing too heavily on its reserves even as it minimizes any impact on the high-quality services that we have come to expect.

The Council modified the proposal further and a detailed explanation of the potential cuts appears in this issue of the Forecast. All members of the Council look forward to hearing from residents at a public hearing on January 12 before taking any final action. We welcome your input which you can send in writing to the Town Office or by email at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org if you are unable to attend the public hearing.

In light of the current fiscal situation, the Council deferred a request at the last Council meeting for a charitable contribution of \$6000 to support the purchase for Rosemary Hills Primary School of a new Promethean Board, an exciting new technology that I had the chance to experience for the first time when I taught as a guest at my old high school last month. If you would like to donate, please write out a check to The Rainbow Fund and drop it off or send it to Rosemary Hills Primary School, The Rainbow Fund, c/o Rosemary Hills PTA, 2111 Porter Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Public Hearing on 7206 Meadow Lane Resubdivision

The Montgomery County Planning Board has tentatively scheduled the public hearing on the resubdivision application for 7206 Meadow Lane for January 20.

Since last May, the Town Council has held two public hearings on the proposed resubdivision of this property into 3 single-family lots and, following each hearing, voted unanimously to oppose the plan. The Town submitted its comments on the proposed resubdivision to the Planning Board after each public hearing. *continued on page 2*

The FORECAST is published monthly by the Town of Chevy Chase, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815; 301-654-7144; townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. Kathy Strom, Editor. Copies are mailed to each address in the Town and posted on the Town website, www.townofchevy Chase.org.



JANUARY



Tuesday, January 4 – Purple Line Mitigation Advisory Group, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 5 – Neighborhood Watch, 7 p.m.

Thursday, January 6 – Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.

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

Wednesday, January 12 – Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, January 13 – Public Services Committee, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 16 – Sunday Afternoon for Families, 2 p.m.

Monday, January 17 – Last Pickup of Christmas Trees

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

Tuesday, January 18 – Environment Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 25 – Climate Protection Committee, 7 p.m.

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

www.townofchevy Chase.org

Public Hearing on 7206 Meadow Lane Resubdivision, continued from page 1

In its reports to the Planning Board, the Town opposed the proposed resubdivision for a variety of reasons, chief among them being the plan's incompatibility with the character of the surrounding neighborhood. The report also cites concerns with the protection of existing trees and wetlands on the property.

Formal written notification of the Planning Board's public hearing on the proposed subdivision will be sent to the Town Office no later than ten days before the hearing, and the Town will post this information on the listserv and website. If unable to attend the public hearing, residents may send written comments on the proposed resubdivision to the Development Review Division, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Residents also may submit comments to the Planning Board via e-mail (MCP-Chairman@mncppc-mc.org) or fax (301-495-1320) at least 24 hours before the hearing.

If you have any questions on the County process, please contact the County Planning Department's Development Review Division at 301-495-4595 or visit:

http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/info/resident_guides/subdivison_process/intro.shtm.

County Hearing Examiner Denies Special Exception at 6705 Connecticut Avenue

Responding to opposition from the Town, Chevy Chase Section 3 and other neighboring municipalities, the County's Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings (OZAH) has denied a special exception request to permit an expansion of a day care facility at 6705 Connecticut Avenue. The daycare is located in Section 3 across from Rosemary Street.

Although the County Planning Board had recommended approval of this request, with conditions, the Town opposed the expansion, believing that it would create traffic and pedestrian safety problems. The Town sent letters to both the Planning Board and OZAH expressing concerns that the proposed expansion could cause traffic back-ups on Connecticut Avenue due to a lack of sufficient on-site parking at the daycare facility. The Town's correspondence also noted that increased traffic related to the daycare expansion could pose additional hazards for children walking across Connecticut Avenue to Chevy Chase Elementary School. Mayor David Lublin testified against the daycare expansion at the OZAH public hearing.

On November 23, the County Hearing Examiner issued a ruling to deny the special exception request, citing many of the concerns expressed by the Town and other municipalities. While the applicants for the daycare expansion have the right to appeal the decision to the Circuit Court, the Town is not aware that an appeal has been filed to date. The Town will continue to monitor the situation and will update residents accordingly.

CRIMEWATCH

11/27/10

The overnight police officer patrolling the Town made an arrest in the 3900 block of Virgilia Street of a young man for use of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

11/24/10

A police officer patrolling the Town stopped a white van for a traffic violation. The driver did not possess a license and the vehicle was towed from the scene. During this time, a call went out from police dispatch of a theft of three bicycles from a nearby residence in Town. Through a field interview, the three occupants of the vehicle were identified as suspects and were arrested and charged. The stolen property was recovered.

11/23/10

A resident in the 4200 block of Thornapple Street reported that there was an attempted break-in at her house during the night. She heard the intruder rattling her back porch door. She called the police, but the person had left.

Please report all crimes to the Montgomery County police at the non-emergency number 301-279-8000. For emergencies, call 911. Any information you can give to the police about criminal or suspicious activity in Town will help to make us safer. In addition, please report incidents to the Town Office at 301-654-7144 so that we can notify our off-duty Montgomery County police officers. Also, when you report crimes to the Town Office, you help us provide accurate crime information. 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.

* * *

To make our neighborhood safer, volunteer for the Town's **Neighborhood Watch Program**. Please contact Warren Rizzi at the Town Office at 301-654-7144 to get more information and/or to become a block captain.

7300 Pearl Street Project Approved

In early December, the Planning Board approved a plan for the development of a 9-story office building located at 7300 Pearl Street, at the corner of Pearl Street and the Capital Crescent Trail adjacent to the Town. The building will add additional office space to the Air Rights Center.

Representatives from the Council, the Long Range Planning committee, and staff worked with the developer, the Donohoe Development Company, and the County Planning staff throughout this process to ensure that Town views were heard. Throughout the application and review process, the Town communicated its concerns with the overall building design, interior and exterior lighting mitigation, potential noise issues, and landscape screening for abutting residences. In discussions with the developer, Donohoe agreed to reduce the amount of dense, aggregate material on the side of the building facing Town, thus lessening the visual impact. The Town is also petitioning the developers and the County Department of Transportation to pursue the construction of a ramp access point from the Capital Crescent Trail to Pearl Street.

As part of the off-site amenity requirements for the development application, Donohoe provided contributions to renovate the Elm Street Park playground. The developer has been working with the Parks Department and representatives from the Town to improve the playground area which will include upgrading the equipment and replacing some of the landscaping.

The Town would like to especially thank all the Long Range Planning committee members who dedicated their time and energy to meeting with the County and the developers to make certain our concerns were voiced. Town representatives will continue to be in contact with the appropriate parties throughout the building project.

The concept drawings of the playground, the Planning Board staff report, and drawings of the approved development are available on the Town's website: www.townofchevy Chase.org/n/209.

Public Hearing on Potential Budget Cuts Scheduled for January 12

Town Receives Less Income Tax Revenue Than Anticipated

The Town Council will hold a public hearing on January 12 to hear from residents about potential cuts to this year's operating and capital budgets due to lower than anticipated income tax revenue from the State of Maryland. The Town's portion of State income tax represents the largest revenue source that the Town receives, comprising almost 90 percent of total annual revenue.

The Town recently received the November distribution of income tax from the State Comptroller's office. This distribution is the largest of the fiscal year and allows the Town to project total anticipated income tax revenue for the remainder of the year. Using a formula provided by the State, the Town projects that we will receive a minimum of \$320,000 less in income tax revenue for FY11, or about 13% of total budgeted revenue.

To offset this shortfall, the Town Council has identified potential cuts to the FY11 operating and capital budgets. At the December Council meeting, Town Treasurer Linna Barnes presented a list of potential cuts, prepared in cooperation with the Mayor and Town Manager, which the Council discussed and modified. This list appears below and outlines the accounts in which potential savings may be realized, the FY11 budget for the accounts, the potential savings if the cuts are made, and the rationale and impact of the cuts.

The potential cuts to the operating budget would allow the Town to realize a net savings of \$208,000. The Town will look for more cuts, especially those related to administrative costs, to augment these anticipated savings. Also, proposed cuts to the capital budget would permit the Town to save an additional \$340,000. Together, these potential budget cuts would more than offset the current projected budget shortfall and protect the Town against any further declines in revenue this year.

Residents are encouraged to review these potential budget cuts and provide the Council with their comments. These are proposals, not final decisions, and the Council welcomes input from residents. If you are unable to attend the January 12 public hearing, you may also submit comments by mail to 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 or by e-mail to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Recommended Operating Budget Cuts				
Account	Action	FY11 Budget/ YTD Expenditures	Potential Savings	Comments
Awards (Salaries/Benefits)	Eliminate staff bonuses for FY11	\$25,000/ \$0	\$25,000	The FY11 budget equals about 4% of staff salaries. The Town could eliminate staff bonuses this year.
Professional Services (Administration)	Reduce use of land use and planning firms for FY11	\$50,000/ \$31,565	\$10,000	This account includes funds for professional services, including engineers, plan reviewers, land use/planning firms, etc. The Town could defer some discretionary professional services to future years.
Postage (Civic Affairs/ Constituent Services)	Reduce postage costs by publishing certain materials online, rather than in print	\$12,000/ \$4,511	\$4,000	This account funds postage for the Town's newsletters and special mailings. The Town could choose to publish certain materials online, such as the Land Use Handbook, and reduce the number of special mailings by making more use of the Town Crier Listserv.
Printing (Civic Affairs/ Constituent Services)	Reduce printing costs by publishing certain materials online, rather than in print	\$50,000/ \$19,275	\$10,000	This account funds the printing of the Town's newsletters and special mailings. The Town could choose to publish certain materials online, such as the Land Use Handbook, in FY11. The Forecast and Town's Resident Directory would continue to be published in print.
Municipal Cable TV Contribution	Retain cable tv revenue rather than provide to Montgomery Municipal Cable	\$33,000/ \$3,266	\$25,000	The money that the Town receives as Cable TV revenue is contributed to fund the operations of Montgomery Municipal Cable (MMC). The Town could contribute \$8,000 of the franchise fees for FY11 and retain the remainder.

Civic Affairs	Discontinue charitable contributions for FY11	\$115,000/ \$61,850	\$15,000	This account funds all Town events and contributions to charitable groups and causes. The Town could suspend contributions to charitable groups for the remainder of FY11 beyond the \$25,000 already donated to College Tracks at B-CC and the \$9,000 donated to Chevy Chase at Home (CC@H).
Energy Audit and Improvements Program	Reduce available spots for the remainder of FY11	\$20,000/ \$1,700	\$9,000	This account funds the program that reimburses residents for costs associated with energy audits and improvements. The Town could reduce the number of available participants by 15. This cut would still allow approximately 20 residents to participate.
Montgomery County Police	Eliminate overlap of daytime police coverage	\$300,000/ \$112,511	\$40,000	The Town could eliminate some overlapping daytime patrol hours of the off-duty Montgomery County police officers. Overnight and rush hour coverage would remain unchanged.
Supplies (Streets & Roads)	Reduce gas and oil costs	\$15,000/ \$6,539	\$5,000	This account funds supplies for streets and roads, including winter salt and sand, gas and oil. The projected savings is based on previous years' expenditures and efforts to control costs this year.
Consultants & Engineers (Streets & Roads)	Forgo additional traffic-related studies for FY11	\$50,000/ \$3,304	\$35,000	This account funds consultants to assist the Town with infrastructure improvements and implementation of the traffic-related recommendations of the Public Services Committee, as approved by the Council. The Town could choose to forgo additional traffic-related studies for the remainder of FY11. In addition, if Town infrastructure repairs are scaled back in this fiscal year, additional savings could be realized.
Tree Maintenance	Schedule contractor visits for deadwood pruning on a biweekly basis instead of a weekly basis.	\$150,000/ \$114,637	\$20,000	This account funds the Town's street tree maintenance program. The contractor currently visits the Town once per week, and the Town could decrease these visits to every other week for the remainder for FY11. This service reduction would not impact the overall health or viability of the Town's street trees.
Landscaping Services	Eliminate edging and mulching of Town street trees for FY11	\$55,000/ \$14,365	\$10,000	This account funds the Town's landscaping contract. The Town could reduce the scope of landscaping services, including not edging and mulching Town street trees in FY11.
Total			\$208,000	

Recommended Capital Budget Cuts				
Account	Action	FY11 Budget/ YTD Expenditures	Potential Savings	Notes
Equipment (Street and Roads)	Eliminate additional purchase of street and road equipment	\$75,000/ \$7,662	\$30,000	This account funds any new equipment needed for street and road maintenance, such as trucks, salt spreaders or new plow blades. This account also includes funds for the installation of new street lights, which the Town does not expect to occur in this fiscal year. The Town has already purchased and taken delivery of a new truck used for snow plowing.
Street/Sidewalk Project (Street and Roads)	Reduce scope of road repair work for FY11	\$1,000,000/ \$133,843	\$300,000	This account funds regularly-scheduled street and sidewalk work. The Town could defer some street repair work, such as milling and asphalt overlay, until FY12.
New Trees/Reforestation (Parks and Grounds)	Reduce number of street trees to be planted in the spring	\$45,000/ \$12,125	\$10,000	The Town could reduce the number of street trees that are planted in the spring of 2011. This potential cut would still allow almost 30 trees to be planted in the spring cycle.
Total			\$340,000	

Presidents' Day Sales: Buy Greener From the Environment Committee

Home appliance and electronic sales are just around the corner. Why not spend your money on something more fun than higher electric bills and at the same time reduce your carbon footprint? You don't have to spend more to save energy. Many of the new efficient products are simply built better.

Greenest New Electronics and Appliances - ToptenUSA.org ranks the top 10 green products across all types of home appliances and electronics by factoring in the manufacturing impact, lifetime electric consumption, and after-use recycling.

Energy Star: Trust but scrutinize. Though consumer groups have criticized this standard as too lax, more reliable standards are now phasing in. New standards for TVs became effective May 2010, and stricter guidelines will follow in 2014. For refrigerators, a new standard starts in 2014. We recommend using Energy Star as a "first cut" before checking other sources listed in Shades of Green on the Town's website.

TV and Entertainment Systems - Larger flat screen TVs and home theatre electronics have replaced the refrigerator as the biggest consumer of household electricity. Annual electricity costs, based on screen size: 30-49 inches - \$125; 40-49 inches - \$175; 50-59 inches - \$200+

Toss Old Refrigerators - Running an old refrigerator to keep a few things cold can cost as much as \$700 a year in electricity. Have the service delivering your new fridge haul away your old one. If you need spillover space, buy a new efficient mini fridge that will do a better job at a fraction of the power cost and pay for itself very quickly.

Pepco Rebate - Recently purchased energy-saving refrigerators may qualify for a \$50 Pepco rebate. Details at pepco.com

E-Cycle: Never toss out electronics. E-cycling reclaims valuable resources and controls toxic chemicals. Our Trash and Treasure weekend sponsors a semi-annual drop-off. Or look for nearby county e-cycling events throughout the year.

Vampire Energy: Many home electronics and appliances continuously draw power even when not in use. Consider timers or power strip surge protectors.

Shades of Green, articles and resource links are always accessible through the Town's home page.

CC@H Celebrates the New Year with Fascinating New Programs

Joan Hoover

We will begin a New Year of our Meet and Mingle Programs on **January 4** with an interesting speaker. Donna Devall, the celebrated local author, will discuss her book, "The Power of Positive Aging." She has some stimulating ideas that may change your perspective about growing old. On **January 18**, Millie Schott, a creative artist and art instructor who lives in Martin's Addition, will show us how collages are made. Then she will produce the necessary materials and help each of us produce a collage of our own. Millie believes that everyone is an artist, so you have no excuse not to come and join in the fun. On **February 1**, we'll have another session of the popular "Recent Reads." Lois Fern will serve as group leader, as members of the Book Club each present a brief review of a recent book, then open the floor to discussion. Each of these fascinating programs will take place at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tempting refreshments have been planned for each event.

And something new: Ms. Lama Dajani, from the Tranquil Space yoga center, has arranged to teach a 10-session class in yoga. Classes will be held in the Town Hall of the Town of Chevy Chase. Classes will begin in January, and they will be free of charge. For further information, please call, Mark Ward at (301) 913-0384, or e-mail: markward123@verizon.net.

Winter Storm Preparedness 2010 - 2011



A Winter Storm Preparedness reference guide was included in the December issue of the newsletter and is posted on the website. We encourage you to review the information and post the guide in a prominent space in your house. If you would like a hard copy dropped to you, please call the Town staff at 301-654-7144.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

David Lublin, Mayor
Kathy Strom, Vice Mayor
Al Lang, Secretary
Linna Barnes, Treasurer
Pat Burda, Community Liaison

Upcoming Events

Sunday Afternoon for Families

**Bob Brown Puppeteer Presents Second Hand Stars
Sunday, January 16, 2 p.m., Lawton Center Social Hall**

SECOND-HAND STARS is so much more than just another puppet show.

Bob Brown, the famous local puppeteer, will present his new puppet show, **Second Hand Stars**, to kickoff our annual Sunday Afternoons for Families series of events. We have reserved the Social Hall at the Lawton Center so that we can accommodate a larger audience. There will be plenty of room for strollers so bring kids of all ages.

Everything in **SECOND-HAND STARS** show has been created from **recycled materials**, not just the puppets, but the sets, props, and curtains as well. And...as an added bonus, immediately following the performance, Bob is happy to chat with the kids, showing them how to turn old toys into puppets.



**Let's Create: Making Art from Recyclable Objects
Sunday, February 13, 2 p.m., Lawton Center Art Room**

Super creative Town resident Ketch Ryan is going to supervise a fun afternoon of creating art from **recyclable objects**. We will have all of the details in the February newsletter. Mark your calendar today. You do not want to miss this event designed for **all ages!**



Chili Dinner

Sunday, February 27, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., CCES
Details in the February newsletter and on the Town website.

Town Bake-Off

Sunday in March – TBA

Garden Tour

Sunday in May – TBA

Neighbors Greeting Neighbors

Please join your neighbors for a Town coffee at the home of Farideh Muse, 4105 Stanford Street, on January 21, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Please reach out to invite new neighbors or come by to connect with long-time residents. All are welcome (including children), but please RSVP to Farideh at 301-654-6915. If you have any questions or would like to host a future morning or evening Town gathering, please call Maria Olsen at 301-652-4370. Hope to see you there!