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## Public Meeting on Town Lighting Options

On February 16 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall, the Town will hold a public meeting to present the findings of the recently completed street lighting evaluation and improvements study. The Town's consultant, Precision Systems Inc. (PSI), completed the study and submitted a final report to the Town in late January. PSI presented its preliminary findings to the Public Services Committee (PSC) at its January 12 meeting and to the Council at its January 13 meeting. Comments from both the PSC and the Council were incorporated into the final report.

### Public Meeting

At the public meeting, the Public Services Committee and PSI will present an executive summary of the lighting study and outline several alternative approaches, both short and long term, that are available to the Town to improve its street lighting. The Committee and PSI also will take questions from residents. Samples of the various lighting technologies will be on display. Following this meeting, the Council will discuss the Town's options and determine the best way to proceed.

The Town wants to thank members of the PSC and Town staff who spent the last several months working with PSI to develop this informative report on the Town's options to improve its street lighting.

## Town History: 59 Years Ago in Our Town

A failed grand hotel within the Town's borders that later served as a "finishing school" for young ladies was purchased in 1951 and rebuilt as today's National 4-H Conference Center. The Chevy Chase Land Company had originally built the Chevy Chase Springs Hotel on Connecticut Avenue's streetcar line to entice Washingtonians out to its new suburb in the Maryland countryside. The hotel was popular in the summer but sat nearly empty in the winter, so the Land Company sold the property to the Chevy Chase College for Young Ladies. A school remained in operation there under various names for 50 years. In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower cut the opening-day ribbon for the National 4-H Conference Center, where the Town of Chevy Chase had its offices and annual meetings until the Leland Center, now renamed the Jane E. Lawton Center, opened in 1989.

[Fifth in a series of Town of Chevy Chase historical vignettes published during 2009-2010.](#)

## Greetings from the Mayor Kathy Strom

In February, at the monthly Town Council meeting, the Chairs of our volunteer committees, the Community Relations Committee, the Climate Protection Committee, the Environment Committee, the Land Use Committee, the Long Range Planning Committee and the Public Services Committee, will report on their activities since September 2009. These committees have been hard at work, and the Chairs will be presenting us with a mid-year report on their progress and accomplishments. Already this year the Council has been able to consider and implement a number of worthwhile programs recommended by these committees, from the canopy tree planting initiative recommended by the Environment Committee, the energy audit and improvements program brought forward by the Climate Protection Committee, the water evaluation program crafted by the Public Services Committee, to the progressive supper to celebrate the centennial of the first plat in our Town, an event recommended by the Community Relations committee – these are a few of the initiatives of our committees. The Land Use Committee continues to work towards improving our land use rules, while the Long Range Planning Committee works to make sure Town concerns are addressed when there are County or State projects that will impact the Town. We also have many other volunteers serving the Town on the Election Board, Tree Board, Parks and Playgrounds Commission, Water Board and in other liaison capacities with the larger community. We are very fortunate to have these dozens of residents who have volunteered their talents and time to the Town. We thank you wholeheartedly for your contributions to our community.



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# FEBRUARY

- Tuesday, February 2 - Public Services Committee, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 4 – Purple Line Mitigation Board, 7 p.m.
- Monday, February 8 – Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 9 – Town Women’s Coffee, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 10 – Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Public Hearing on Revised Noise Ordinance
- Monday, February 15 – Presidents’ Day – Office Closed
- Monday, February 15 – Long Range Planning Committee, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 16 – Public Meeting on Lighting Options, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 17 – Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, February 18 – Environment Committee, 7 p.m.
- February 21 – Chili Dinner, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 23 – Climate Protection Committee, 7 p.m.

Please check the Town website for up-to-date details about Town events and meetings.

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## CRIMEWATCH

1/8/10

The overnight police officer reported that he stopped a suspicious car at the intersection of Willow Lane and 44<sup>th</sup> Street. The officer found that the driver's license had been revoked and arrested him. After the arrest, he found illegal substances (drugs / marijuana). The man was charged accordingly.

12/21/09

The police reported that an unknown suspect(s) entered a home in the 7200 block of 46<sup>th</sup> Street through an unlocked rear door. Once inside, the suspect(s) removed jewelry and several digital cameras.

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 for our records. 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.

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## Public Hearing on Revised Noise Ordinance

Following the public hearing on the proposed noise control ordinance at the January 13 Council meeting, the Town Council discussed and agreed on several changes to the ordinance and scheduled a second public hearing for the **February 10** Council meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. The proposed ordinance continues to rely on "quiet hours" during which construction activities and the use of motorized equipment would be prohibited in the Town. The Town would rely on Montgomery County noise regulations, which use decibel levels to control noise-producing activities, at all other times, specifically during the majority of daylight hours.

Among the changes to the ordinance agreed to at the January meeting are: 1) allowing the use of one piece of outdoor power equipment, such as lawn mowers, between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. weekdays. This change would allow homeowners to engage in landscaping activities later into the evening; 2) defining outdoor power equipment to exclude motor vehicles, air conditioners, heat pumps, generators, etc.; 3) increasing the fines for the second and third violations of the noise ordinance, and 4) adding a two-party noise complaint procedure, which would allow citations to be issued based on written complaints from at least 2 witnesses of a noise disturbance. These changes are incorporated into the revised ordinance, which appears below.

- a) No construction activities shall commence prior to 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, and 9:00 a.m. on weekends and all federal holidays. Construction activities shall end no later than 7:00 p.m. on all days. As used herein, "construction activities" means temporary activities directly associated with site preparation, assembly, erection, repair, alteration, renovation, construction, or demolition of improvements, or other similar activities, including but not limited to, moving heavy equipment, delivering materials, loading or unloading, operating equipment with audible "back-up" warning devices, and allowing engines to idle.
- b) Special Noise Limits: It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in, or permit another to engage in, the following conduct:

1. Except in an emergency, operate more than one piece of outdoor power equipment on a property between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekdays; and

*[continued on page 4](#)*

## **Public Hearing on Revised Noise Ordinance**

*[continued from page 3](#)*

2. Except in an emergency, operate outdoor power equipment after 8:00 p.m. or before 8:00 a.m. on weekdays or after 7:00 p.m. or before 9:00 a.m. on weekends and all federal holidays.
  3. As used herein, “outdoor power equipment” means motorized equipment such as a lawn mower, chainsaw, leaf blower or other similar equipment. “Outdoor power equipment” does not include motor vehicles or fixtures such as air conditioners, heat pumps, back- up generators and similar equipment attached to a building.
- c) Penalties. Violation of any provision of this chapter shall be a municipal infraction. Any person or persons guilty of a municipal infraction shall be subject to a fine in the amount specified below:
1. First violation                   \$ 200.00
  2. Second violation               \$ 400.00
  3. Third violation                  \$1,000.00
  4. Any person who violates this chapter or directs or allows another to commit an act that violates this chapter, the person’s employer if the person acted in the course of his or her employment, and any property owner who allows a violation of this chapter on his or her property shall be guilty of a violation and shall be jointly and severally subject to the penalties provided in paragraphs (1) through (3). If a violation occurs, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that all owners of the property allowed the violation.
- d) An enforcement officer may issue a municipal infraction citation for any violation of this Chapter if the enforcement officer:
1. witnesses the violations; or
  2. receives written complaints from at least 2 witnesses of a noise disturbance. Complaints by 2 witnesses are required to issue a citation under paragraph (2), but are not required to prove that a person violated this Chapter. The complainants must be willing to testify in court, if required.

If you are unable to attend the February 10 meeting to testify in person, you may e-mail comments to [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or submit written comments to the Town Office, 4301 Willow Lane, prior to that date. We look forward to receiving all resident comments on the proposals. For more information, please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144.

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## **FY11 BUDGET PROCESS UNDERWAY**

The Town is preparing its FY11 budget and has scheduled a series of planning meetings, outlined below, to determine priorities and allocate resources for the coming year. Residents are invited to attend all of these meetings, but are particularly encouraged to attend those that allow public participation and comment, including the March 3 public meeting and the May 4 Annual Meeting. All meetings will be held in the Town Hall, except for the Annual Meeting,

which will be held in the Lawton Center Social Hall. Please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 for more information.

- March 3 Public Meeting on Budget
- March 24 Council Budget Work Session
- April 7 Approval of Proposed Budget and Tax Rates (Rescheduled Council Meeting)
- May 4 Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and Tax Rates (Annual Meeting)
- May 12 Adoption of Budget and Tax Rates (May Council Meeting)

## Public Hearing in March On Proposed Ordinance To Change Definition of Street

At its March 10 meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance to change the definition of “street” in the Town Code. This change would conform the Town Code definition of street to the County Code definition. Specifically, the definition of “street” would be amended to include only public or dedicated rights-of-way that are “for vehicular travel” and “thirty (30) feet or more in width.”

**March 10** The Town Council proposed that the Code should be clarified to reflect that the yard of an interior lot abutting an alley is not to be considered a front yard for purposes of certain building regulations. Unlike streets, alleys do not act as major thoroughfares through Town and, as such, the yards of interior lots abutting alleys should not be subject to the same development standards as the yards of interior lots abutting streets.

If the proposed ordinance is adopted, the definition of “street” would be amended to exclude alleys. Since a “front yard” is identified as adjacent to a street, the yards of interior lots abutting alleys would not be “front yards” and would not be subject to front setbacks.

The proposed amendment would result in the following additional changes to Town regulations. First, fences, earth berms, hedges, and walls would no longer be prohibited in yards of interior lots adjoining alleys. In the past, residents have been required to obtain variances because the yards were deemed to be “front yards” under the Town Code. Under the new definition of “street,” variances would not be required because the yards would not be “front yards.” The 6-foot, 6-inch height limitation for these improvements would continue to apply.

Second, the maximum nonvegetative surface area regulation in the Town Code would not apply to the yard of an interior lot adjoining an alley, as the yard would no longer be considered a “front yard.”

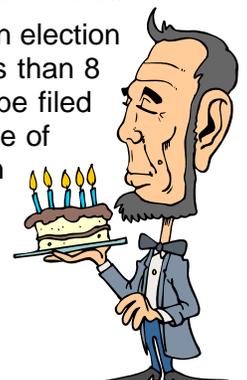
If you are unable to attend the March 10 Council meeting to testify in person, you may e-mail comments to [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or submit written comments to Town Office, 4301 Willow Lane, prior to that date. For more information, please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144.

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## Changes to Town Election Timetable

In November 2009, the Council adopted several amendments to the Town’s Election Ordinance to improve and clarify Town election procedures. These amendments became effective in December and will apply to the Town’s future elections, including the upcoming May 4 election.

The most significant effects of the amendments are: 1) to increase the time prior to an election when notice of an upcoming election is mailed to residents from 4 weeks to not less than 8 weeks: 2) to increase the time prior to an election when nomination petitions must be filed from 2 weeks to 3 weeks: and 3) to increase the time prior to an election when notice of candidates and a short biographical sketch of each candidate is mailed to Town residents from 1 week to 2 weeks. The amendments also established procedures for appointing the Election Board and requesting nominating petitions and absentee ballots.



Mayor Kathy Strom has appointed Costis Toregas (one year), Hope Pinkerton (two years) and Brenda Lizzio (three years) to serve on the Election Board for staggered terms (the length of the term is in parenthesis). The Board will put the new amendments into action in this year's election.

To read the entire Election Ordinance, we encourage you to visit the Town website ([www.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org)). We have designed a new section on the website dedicated to election procedures and Information. You will find this information under the heading "About the Town." For more information, please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144.

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## New Easy-to-Use Directions for Joining Town Neighbors Listserv

Have you tried to join the Town Neighbors Listserv but given up because it was too confusing? Thanks to John Coble and Scott Henderson, new easy-to-use directions should be of help. Just go to the Town's website at [www.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org), and at the bottom right of the home page you will find Town Neighbors under Quick Links. Click on Town Neighbors; under How To Join, you will find the link to the new directions. The Town Neighbors website also has two new features: a monthly calendar and optional neighbor profile under Applications.

Town Neighbors is not affiliated with the Town of Chevy Chase or any other organization. The listserv offers members a way to share information on many issues, such as seeking and giving recommendations for restaurants, plumbers, nannies, etc.; announcements of nearby events; discussion of local issues; and much more.

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## Chevy Chase at Home January Events Joan Hoover, ChevyChase@Home

On Ground Hog Day, February 2, you can now stand in the sunlight and cast your long shadow. Come to the Mix and Mingle, sponsored by Chevy Chase at Home, and tell us the story of YOU. Sandy Geller has created an exciting new group called "Myself Growing Older; Stories and Reminiscences." Since the participants are all our good friends and neighbors, it ought to be even more fun than Facebook or Reality TV. Join us at the Chevy Chase Village Hall at 2 p.m., and take home some tales to tell.

The Mix and Mingle on February 16 (same time and place) will have all the usual delights - Book Club, Bridge, Scrabble, computer skills, refreshments and good conversation, plus another new addition: Puzzles! What more could you ask for?

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## Manna Monthly Weigh-In

Thanks to all of you who continue to contribute food to the non-profit Manna Food Center by dropping it by the Town Office and to those who brought food to the Sunday Afternoon for Families Event in January. We increased our contribution by 74 pounds bringing our grand total to 731 pounds. We will continue to collect food in the Town Office and at Town-sponsored events, including the Chili Dinner, through the winter months. Each time you shop, you may wish to simply buy one extra item for the food drive. When a grocery bag is full, drop it at the Town office or call 301-785-0933 for a pick-up. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact the Town Office.

**731 pounds**

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## DOGGIE DO, DOGGIE DON'T



The Town office has received several requests from residents that we once again include a reminder to dog owners to leash their pets. There have been several encounters that have prompted these requests. We ask for your cooperation as we strive to create a pedestrian-friendly Town. Also, we have received calls from residents asking us to remind dog owners to be sure that they do not allow their pet to defecate on a neighbor's property or on public rights-of-way.

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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; townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org. Kathy Strom, Editor. Copies are mailed to each address in the Town and posted on the Town website, [www.townofchevyCHASE.org](http://www.townofchevyCHASE.org).

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# Shades of Green

## From the Environment Committee

### **GET OUT FROM UNDER ALL THAT PAPER!**

Sick of spending so much time sorting, handling, and recycling all the unwanted paper that arrives at your house in the form of catalogs, solicitations, statements, magazines, and newspapers? Changing a few habits will save forests, energy, and water and also reduce air pollution.

#### **Consider this:**

- 100 million trees are cut down each year to create the approximately 4.5 million tons of unwanted mail in the U.S..
- A single daily newspaper subscription equals up to 400 lbs. of paper per year!
- Environmental costs: energy and water consumed and pollution created in harvesting, transportation, production, printing, and recycling.

#### **Here's what you can do:**

**Get rid of unwanted mail solicitations and catalogs.** A quick note to several direct mail organizations will get you off the lists. (Go to the online *Shades of Green* for addresses.)

**Choose the paperless option.** Utilities, banks, and even insurance companies all offer a paperless option for monthly statements. Switch to online accounting and skip the filing and shredding.

**Cut back on newspapers and magazines.** Limit your subscriptions to only those you actually read, share a subscription with a friend or neighbor, or read content online. No more shuffling out to pick up the paper on slippery mornings and then hauling it all back out again on recycling day!

**E-readers have arrived!** Amazon, Sony, and Barnes & Noble now offer E-reader devices that are easy on the eyes (unlike a computer screen) and comfortable to hold. With no set-up or Internet connection, you "shop" the store, and instantly download books and magazines at substantial savings off the print editions (and no shipping cost!) Major newspapers are delivered to these devices every morning.

**Rediscover the library!** Books, newspapers, and magazines of course, but also audio-book CDs and Playaways (like a single book iPod), and used book recycling.

For more information and insights about reducing household paper consumption, check out the new online *Shades of Green* on the Town's homepage under "Quick Links."

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### **SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

The Town will assist with the clearing of public sidewalks when snow accumulates to 3 inches or more. ***If the accumulated snowfall is under 3 inches, you will be responsible for clearing the sidewalk abutting your property.***

**CLEARING TOWN STREETS HIGHLIGHTS**

When snow or ice is forecast for this area, cars must be parked either in driveways or on the ***even-numbered sides of the street, unless otherwise posted.***

For a complete description of the Town’s snow removal program, please visit the Town website, [www.townofchevyCHASE.org](http://www.townofchevyCHASE.org), or call the Town Office at 301-654-7144.



**MARYLAND RESIDENT TAX RETURN 2009 - FORM 502**

**FORM 502 MARYLAND RESIDENT INCOME TAX RETURN**

OR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 2009, ENDING

SOCIAL SECURITY #		SPOUSE'S SOCIAL SECURITY #	
Your First Name	Initial	Last Name	
Spouse's First Name	Initial	Last Name	
PRESENT ADDRESS (No. and street)			
City or Town	State	Zip Code	
Name of county and incorporated city, town or special taxing area in which you were a resident on the last day of the taxable period. (See Instruction 6)	Maryland County	City, town or taxing area TOWN OF CH CH	

A major source of revenue that the Town receives each year is the Town's share of income taxes, which each resident pays to the State of Maryland. Remember to write *Town of Chevy Chase* in the box marked city, town or taxing area. If you use a tax form online, please type *TOWN OF CH CH* in the box (there are not enough spaces for the complete spelling). This will insure that a portion of your tax dollars will return to the Town so that the Town is able to provide you with municipal services. Do not assume that people at the state level understand the different municipalities that share the 20815 zip code.

**Town Crier Keeps Residents Informed**

We strongly encourage residents to join the “Town Crier,” the Town’s e-mail alert system. The Town uses the listserv to keep residents informed of timely Town news and information. To subscribe, please visit the Town’s website, click on “About the Town” and follow the instructions.

**Chili Dinner - A Town Tradition for Sixteen Years**  
**Details in this issue.**

**Town of Chevy Chase**  
 4301 Willow Lane  
 Chevy Chase, MD 20815



**TOWN COUNCIL**

*Kathy Strom, Mayor*

*Linna Barnes, Vice Mayor*

*Pat Burda, Secretary*

*David Lublin, Treasurer*

*Al Lang, Community Liaison*