

IN THIS ISSUE

Playground Renovation

- page 1 -

Council Adopts Climate Protection Plan

- page 1 -

Mayor's Greetings

- page 2 -

Dates to Remember

- page 2 -

Crimewatch

- page 3 -

Fitness for Seniors

- page 3 -

Successful Gift Drive

- page 4 -

Town Events

- page 4 -

Solar Open House

- page 5 -

Shades of Green

- page 5 -

Committee Corner

Public Services

Long Range Planning

- page 6 -

Miscellaneous News

- page 7 -

Town Teens

- insert -

Let It Snow!

- back page -

www.townofchevychase.org

The FORECAST is published monthly by the Town of Chevy Chase, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Kathy Strom, Editor. 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.

PLAYGROUND RENOVATION UNDERWAY



The Town is pleased to report that the new playground at the Leland Community Center is under construction. The County expects to complete the renovation by early January.

Planning for the playground began last spring when the County announced plans to replace the playground equipment and invited input from the Town on the renovation. Town residents Susan Reynolds and Anjali Prakash spearheaded the effort to gather community input and worked with the County to generate a proposed design incorporating many of the elements on the community's "wish list." Since the cost of the resulting design exceeded the County's budget for the playground renovation, the Town Council approved a \$30,000 supplemental contribution in July. These supplemental funds allowed the County to acquire additional playground equipment to serve a wider range of age groups.

The final design of the new playground is posted on the Town's website as a link from the Public Services Committee page. The Town is excited about the new playground and extends its thanks to Susan and Anjali for helping our community achieve its collective vision of creating a safe and engaging play space where children and adults can come together to build community.

The Council has appointed Susan and Anjali to serve on a new Parks and Playgrounds Commission, to which Councilmember Linna Barnes is liaison, which is tasked with developing a master strategy for acquiring land for new parks, inventorying existing open space, and acting as advocates for playgrounds in and around the Town. The Council would like to appoint a third member to the Committee, so please contact the Town office if you are interested.

Council Adopts Climate Protection Plan

At its December 10 meeting, the Town Council adopted The Chevy Chase Challenge, a climate action plan developed by the Town's Climate Protection Committee. In November, the Council held a public hearing and work session to discuss the plan, which is posted in its entirety on the Town website.

The Chevy Chase Challenge is a four year plan to reduce the Town's greenhouse gas emissions by 7% below 1990 levels by 2012. To achieve this goal, established by the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, the plan focuses heavily on motivating residents to improve home energy efficiency; inspiring people to reduce their car use by walking, biking, carpooling, and using mass transit; promoting renewable energy production in town; and encouraging the Town's use of energy efficient streetlights.

The Town looks forward to working with residents to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Together we can make a difference and serve as a model for other towns like ours.

Greetings from the Mayor

Kathy Strom

We are all very excited to start 2009. This new year will bring many opportunities and challenges within the Town and within the larger community of which we are a part. We are very pleased that our new playground is underway at the Leland Center, and are grateful that we were able to work with the County to expedite and move forward with construction. I am confident that all of the families in the Town, as well as other communities, will enjoy this new play space.

In January, residents have the opportunity to comment on the State's Purple Line Analysis which describes and evaluates six different options for a possible Purple Line transportation project. After hearing from our residents regarding their concerns and views, the Town worked with engineers to analyze and understand the impacts of these alternatives. Here is what we have learned from this work. We have learned that the Jones Bridge Road Bus Rapid Transit option, one of the six studied, may have benefits for the region in terms of providing east west transportation and meeting new transportation and traffic demands resulting from the construction of additional facilities at the National Naval Medical Center as mandated by the Base Relocation actions of the Department of Defense. Moreover, the Jones Bridge Road Bus Rapid Transit alternative would cost hundreds of millions of dollars less than other options, an important savings in this time of tight budgets, while avoiding clear cutting of the trees on the Capital Crescent Trail adjacent to the Town. I think we would all agree that these are important benefits to consider. Even though this is a very complicated project and the outcome will not be known for quite a while, we appreciate the thoughtful resident input we have received to date. We will continue to update you and look forward to your continued participation in our process.

Many thanks to all of the residents who so generously supported the gift program for those in need and to Cathy Wolf of the Community Relations Committee for her hard work in organizing this very successful effort. Thanks as well to journalist Rose Edwards of the Community Relations Committee who is helping with the ongoing re-design of the Forecast. One feature introduced this month is the "Committee Corner". We hope to spotlight committee news and updates every month on ongoing committee projects and activities. Thank you to all volunteers for your hard work and important contributions to our Town.

JANUARY



DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, January 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thursday, January 1 – No Trash Pickup

Monday, January 5 – Leland Center Open for Walkers

Thursday, January 8 – Environment Committee Meeting

Monday, January 12 – Land Use Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 13 – Public Services Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 14 – Council Meeting

Monday, January 15 – Last Pickup of Christmas Trees

Sunday, January 18 – Solar Open House

Monday, January 19 – Long Range Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 21 – Community Relations Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 25 – Bob Brown Puppet Show

Wednesday, January 28 – Seniors Museum Event

CRIMEWATCH

Recent crimes reported to the Town office:

12/15/08 - Resident in the 4400 block of Ridge Street called to report that his briefcase with his personal information was stolen from his unlocked car.

12/14/08 - Resident in the 7000 block of East Avenue reported that her car was ransacked during the night of December 9. CD's and a bag of coins were taken.

12/2/08 - Resident in the 4300 block of Leland Street reported that someone entered his back yard through a gate. Also, he reported that several weeks ago a GPS was stolen from his unlocked car.

11/24/08 - Resident in the 7500 block of Tarrytown Road reported that one of his cars, a 1996 Jeep Cherokee, was stolen from the street in front of his house during the night.

11/14/08 - Residents in the 7600 block of Lynn Drive reported that their house was entered in the late afternoon. No one was home at the time. Nothing seems to have been taken though they went through drawers and left a mess. The house had no expensive electronic equipment or jewelry. The side window that opens to the screened porch was broken.

We continue to stress the importance of reporting all crimes to the police at 301-279-8000. These reports result in increased police coverage. In addition, please report incidents to the Town office so that we can notify our off-duty Montgomery County police officers and our overnight security service. Any information you can give to the police about criminal or suspicious activity in Town will help to make us safer. When you contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144 to report crimes, you help us provide accurate information in Town Crier notices, the FORECAST and on the Town website.

The Town has adopted the following policy on announcing crimes via the Town Crier listserv:

- To report all serious crimes committed within the Town limits and in Elm Street Park (plus any follow-up information available from the police). These crimes must either be reported to the Town by the police or to the Town by residents who were the victims of the crimes and have already reported the incidents to the police. The crimes reported would include, but are not limited to the following: crimes against persons (murder, rape, assault, battery, and robbery); crimes against property (home invasions, burglary, and theft; theft of cars or other major personal property; series of car vandalisms; and theft of property within a locked car); and suspicious activity that has been reported to the police in the areas of any of these crimes. Privacy should be protected within families, so that crimes to persons committed within families, with the exception of murder, would not be reported.
- To announce police alerts sent to the Town.

WINTER FITNESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS

The Montgomery County Department of Recreation is introducing two new exercise programs for seniors at the Leland Center. We encourage you to check them out. If you have questions, please call Ingrid St. Villier, Director of the Center, at 301-654-7144.

WALK FOR HEALTH

The Social Hall will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays 12 – 1 p.m. beginning January 5 for Seniors to walk in the climate controlled and secure building.

- No rain, ice or weather concerns, dogs, bugs or uneven walking surfaces
- Access Card recommended or sign-in required. Just check in at the front desk, swipe your card and do your walking.
- Bring a friend and talk or maybe just listen to your radio with earphones.

EXERCISE CLINIC AT THE LELAND CENTER

There will be a clinic at the Leland Center on February 19 from 7– 9 p.m. for people 55 years or older to inform them about the basics of healthy activity and how to utilize the exercise facilities at the Center. The clinic will be conducted by a Professor of Health at Montgomery College and is free to the public. Pre-registration is necessary. Please call 240-777-4922 for registration and additional information.

Holiday Gift Project: A Resounding Success!

Cathy Wolf, Committee Relations Committee

The generosity of Town residents has brightened the holiday season for County adults and children who are victimized by domestic violence. The response from the Town was overwhelming and heartwarming. Virtually everyone who participated spoke of the joy of giving and asked that this project be held annually. At least one Town family decided to forego gift giving among themselves and contribute to this cause. On behalf of the Community Relations Committee, I thank everyone who participated and want you to know that you have brought smiles to many faces.

TOWN EVENTS

CLOWNING AROUND – BOB BROWN PUPPET

We are going to kickoff our annual winter series of events for families on Sunday, January 25 at 4:30 p.m. Bob Brown, everyone's favorite puppeteer, will perform Clowning Around. Master Puppeteer Bob Brown has been acknowledged as one of the nation's leading performers and puppet builders. His charming style and delightfully colorful characters are instantly recognizable to three generations of fans.

DOUBLE HEADER - CREATE A MURAL IN THE AFTERNOON AND DINE ON CHILI IN THE EVENING

On Sunday, February 22, a few of our Town artists will host an art workshop in the Art Room at the Leland Center. We will create a mural to decorate the walls of the Chevy Chase Elementary School all-purpose room for our annual chili dinner. The theme of the mural will be a pedestrian friendly town. This event is not limited to kids. If you love to paint, cut and paste, please join us. At 6 pm we will meet at CCES for our annual chili dinner. We will have all the details of these two events in the February newsletter.

MARCH MAGIC – SUNDAY, MARCH 15

A guest magician will entertain us and to teach us a trick or two.

Hartman Family To Pass July 4 Baton

The summer of 2009 will mark the end of an era for the Town as the Hartman family retires from producing the July 4 Picnic and Parade. The annual celebration is a highlight of every summer and one of the most popular Town events, thanks to Bridget and Lees Hartman and their three sons, who have organized every July 4 celebration starting with the first one in 1993. Last spring, the family said it would be stepping down as the event's organizers after the 2008 celebration. The Council congratulates the Hartmans on an incredibly successful run and extends special thanks for all of their hard work.

Now the Town is looking for another family, or a couple of families, who'd like to take over the job for this event this summer. Bridget has offered to help the new volunteers plan for this year's event. If you are interested, please contact the Town office.

SENIORS HEAD TO BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART



Baltimore Museum of Art
January 28, 2009
Course # 230987
Trip times: 9:15 am - 3:30 pm

Fee: \$7 (does not include lunch or any other fees). Ages 55 & Up

Space is limited to the first 20 people to register. Registration begins January 5th.

We will leave Leland Community Center at 9:15 am and return at 3:30 pm.

Lunch will be on your own at the Museum.

Questions: Please call 240-777-4925.

SPONSORED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
SENIOR PROGRAMS MINI TRIP

Town Solar Open House: January 18th, 2009



We know it's cold out there, but the Town solar co-op, Common Cents Solar, wants you to THINK SUN! Congratulations to your neighbors who have joined the co-op and chosen solar already, including the Edwards, Farrens, Gltchells, Gordons, Griffins, Hague, Hoffmans, Prices, Renaud, Ryans, and Stroms!

We are all hosting an Open House so you can learn more about the process from our experiences. Betsy Hague, 4507 Leland St., is kind enough to open her home Sunday the 18th from 3 to 5 p.m. Betsy and several other Town residents will share their experiences with their new solar electric and solar hot water systems, and we will have cookies and hot cider to share, too.

Remember that the federal tax credits, multiple incentives in Maryland, plus our Co-op discounts make solar cheaper than it has ever been before, so our solar installers are booked far in advance. You need to consider your solar options now, if you want to "chill out" for less \$\$\$ next summer. To learn more before you join us, check out www.commoncentssolar.org and fill out our survey to get started!

PLEASE RSVP for the Open House to Ketch at: ketchryan@gmail.com.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE!

The Town offers curbside pickup of Christmas trees. All wire, ornaments and tinsel must be removed. The deadline for pickup is January 15.

Shades of Green

As Kermit the frog told us, "It's not easy being green." This new column, *Shades of Green*, from the Town Environment Committee is about helping residents make "greener," or more environmentally sustainable, choices. "Green living" is taking the decisions we make daily -- from how we travel, to what we eat or buy, to how we fix up our houses or what we put in our yards -- becoming aware of the environmental impacts of those decisions, and choosing the greener options. This boils down to choices that conserve resources and energy, don't pollute, and are generally healthier for people, animals, plants, and our planet. There are shades of green—from using fluorescent bulbs on one end, to moving "off the grid" on the other, for instance. We can ALL make choices somewhere on the spectrum.

Shades of Green will simply serve as a gateway to help residents act on their good intentions and avoid roadblocks. For a range of common home improvements and consumer purchases, the column will briefly

lay out the benefits of and options for making greener choices. Then, we'll do some of the legwork for you by directing you to our new "Green Pages" on the Town website. The *Green Pages* will feature "Greentips," with tips on subjects covered in *Shades of Green*; "Greensources," a collection of links to online and other resources that we have found to be particularly useful; and "Greentalk," a place to communicate directly with neighbors on green topics.

The *Green Pages* are now under construction and we'll let you know as soon as they are ready. Meanwhile, we need your ideas. Are you an expert who can help out on a particular topic? Do you have questions or topics to suggest? Have you found resources you'd like to share with your neighbors? If so, please contact us through our "Shades of Green" liaison, Sally Kelly, at salkelly@earthlink.net.

TOWN DISCLAIMER

The Town's newsletter and listserv sometimes refer to companies and organizations that may be of interest to Town residents. In providing this information, the Town does not formally endorse these groups or their products or services. The Town encourages all residents to perform the screening they feel necessary to determine if these groups are suitable.

COMMITTEE CORNER

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE PEPCO ISSUES

STREET LIGHT OUTAGES

Town residents who observe that a street light is burned out or functioning erratically should file a report by visiting the following web page: www.pepco.com/home/requests/outage/streetLight/outagereport/default.aspx

We also suggest that a copy of PEPCO's reply message be forwarded to the Town office with a brief description of the problem. This will help the Town track such incidents as we seek to improve the quality of service in this area.

BURYING POWER LINES

Almost every time we experience an extended power outage someone asks "Why aren't the power lines buried?" PEPCO's response is almost invariably "It would cost too much." Persons who are interested in this discussion can download a report prepared by the Edison Electric Institute. The URL is:

http://www.eei.org/industry_issues/energy_infrastructure/distribution/UndergroundReport.pdf

According to the Executive Summary of the report, the cost for burying power lines averages \$1 million per mile. This cost would have to be paid for by PEPCO rate increases of more than 80 percent.

Public Services Committee, Sub-Committees Goals

Committee Chair Bill Pritchard and Councilmember Lang have organized the Public Services Committee into sub-committees. The following lists each sub-committee together with selected goals of each sub-committee. More information will be on the Town's website within the coming weeks. Any and all comments are welcomed. Our next meeting is January 13, 2008, 7:30pm.

Traffic

Town:

1. Thornapple Path to Leland
2. Leland Center Cut-thru
3. East and Leland
4. Enforcement – speed cameras, ticketing

County and State:

1. Montgomery and E-W
2. Turning left onto Connecticut from the Town
3. Willow and Wisconsin

Security

1. Options for a TOCC police force, policing options
2. Strengthening security services
3. Speed cameras

Water Run-Off

1. Tracking the County's efforts, e.g., reduce flooding
2. Public vs Private issues

PEPCO Power

1. Increasing street lighting
2. Street lights purchase, e.g., ROI and improvement
3. Improving utility reliability

Long Range Planning Committee - Purple Line Update

Things are still chugging along with the Purple Line. Members of the Town Council and the Long Range Planning Committee continue to meet with elected officials and to respond to questions regarding the Town's position. We were disappointed that a recent letter to the editor of the Post submitted by Mayor Kathy Strom was not published. You can see that letter, however, by going to the Town's website. A copy was sent to all our elected officials.

While the State has completed its public hearings on the Purple Line, residents can still submit comments in writing until January 14, 2009. To do so, send an email to purpleline@mtamaryland.com or a hard copy to: Diane Ratcliff, MTA Director of Planning, 6 St. Paul Street, 9th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Also, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the Purple Line on January 8th. Because this hearing is only expected to last two hours, we encourage residents to submit written comments by January 2nd so that they will be considered in advance of the Planning Board vote also on January 8. The Town will provide formal testimony. The County Council is taking up the topic later in January; we encourage residents to write to our District's Councilmember, Roger Berliner, directly at councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Results of the Community Services Survey Results

Three hundred fifty residents responded to the community services survey. The results of the surveys are posted on the Town's website, www.townofchevychase.com. In the coming months, the Council will be addressing areas of concerns identified by residents. We thank you for participating in this survey.

MARYLAND TAX RETURN 2008 FORM 502 RESIDENT

One of the major sources 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. This will insure that a portion of your tax dollars will return to the Town. Do not assume that people at the state level understand the different municipalities which share the 20815 zip code.

More...Exercise? Music? Dance? Art?

The Montgomery County Department of Recreation is inviting Town residents to apply to serve on the Leland Community Center Advisory Committee. The Committee will be looking for new ideas for events and programming. As you can see in this issue, Ingrid St. Villier, Director of the Center, is introducing a few new programs for seniors. She would welcome your ideas for programming you would enjoy and support. To apply to serve on the Advisory Committee, contact Ingrid at 301-652-2249 for an application.

OUR PUBLIC LIBRARY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



Two organizations that help support local Montgomery County libraries are looking for volunteers:

Friends of the Library

The Chevy Chase Chapter of the Friends of the Library (FOLCC) funds many library programs, purchases equipment for the library, helps finance staff development; and supports the staff. FOLCC-funded programs include Summer Reading Program events, Family Fun Day, celebration of Chinese New Year, and author talks. Among the equipment the FOLCC has purchased are the library's AV/DVD projection system, bookcases for paperbacks and over-sized books, a die-cut machine, a laminator, and wall-mounted folders. To support the staff, the FOLCC has given small holiday and Library Lover's Month gifts and purchased a microwave and toaster oven for staff use.

Library Advisory Committee

The Library Advisory Committee for Chevy Chase (LAC) advises and consults with the local Library manager, and represents the Chevy Chase community's interests regarding library needs before the Library Board and the County Executive.

The FOLCC is looking for members to help pay for what was mentioned above. It costs \$25 for a family to join, \$15 for an individual, and memberships are tax-deductible. Joining the FOLCC automatically conveys membership in the Montgomery County FOL, which provides support to the entire County library system. And both the FOLCC and the LAC are looking for persons who can contribute time, as volunteers, in addition to money. To become a member and/or to volunteer, please contact Steve Schmal at (301) 652-8620 or at schmals@verizon.net. The next joint meeting of the FOLCC and LAC will be at the library on Wednesday, January 21 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Phillip Lopate Headlines The Writer's Center's 32nd Birthday Celebration

Saturday, January 31, 7:30 P.M., The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street

The Writer's Center will celebrate its 32nd birthday with a reading by acclaimed memoirist, essayist, and film critic Phillip Lopate. Lopate, author or editor of more than a dozen books, including *The Art of the Personal Essay*, will read from his recent collection of novellas, *Two Marriages*, his first work of fiction since his 1987 novel *The Rug Merchant*. About Lopate, critic Sven Birkerts writes: "His fearlessness is tonic, his candor is straight gin." A reception and book signing will follow the event. The cost of this event is \$25. RSVP at www.writer.org or call 301.654.8664.

SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

The Town will continue its sidewalk snow removal program this winter to assist residents with the clearing of public sidewalks when snow accumulates to 3 inches or more. This snow removal plan will assist residents with clearing sidewalks following significant snowstorms, when help is needed most. **If the accumulated snowfall is under 3 inches, you will be responsible for clearing the sidewalk abutting your property.** The snow removal will begin as soon as practically possible after the end of a snowstorm, and the Town's contractor will do all it can to limit excessive noise. This program includes snow removal from public sidewalks only, so clearing your driveways and walkways is still your responsibility. In icy conditions, the Town Manager will use his discretion in determining whether to salt and sand public sidewalks. The Town will continuously update information on the sidewalk snow removal program on its website and on the Town's telephone answering machine so it will be accessible to you throughout the winter season.



CLEARING TOWN STREETS



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.** Parking in a driveway will not only protect your cars from possible accidents or damage but assures that more of the roadway can be cleared. This practice also provides more parking spaces for residents without driveways. The odd-numbered sides of all streets, unless otherwise posted, should be left free of all vehicles so that we can plow the snow from them. To help avoid the frustration that occurs when a snow-plow covers your driveway with snow after you have shoveled, stand facing the street and shovel snow to the right into the yard instead of into the street. The Town begins plowing Town streets when two inches of snow has accumulated.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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