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The FORECAST is published monthly by the Town of Chevy Chase, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, 301-654-7144, Kathy Strom, Editor

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**Jane E. Lawton Center**

On Sunday, June 14, at 2:30 p.m. at the Leland Center, the County will host the official renaming of the Center as the Jane E. Lawton Center. We encourage you to join Jane's family and friends to honor a beloved and respected Town resident and community leader. Jane died on November 29, 2007.

Jane made an extraordinary impact on the lives of town, county and state residents through leadership evidenced by a keen intellect and an admirable commitment to seeing projects completed, all while befriending everyone with her great smile and sense of humor.

Jane served admirably on the Town of Chevy Chase Council, including acting as its Chair for several terms and leading the effort to build the Leland Community Center in partnership with Montgomery County. Her long list of accomplishments include: being a founding member of the Montgomery Women organization that now presents an annual shining star award in memory of Jane and former County Council Member Marilyn Praisner; serving as a Special Assistant to County Executive Neal Potter; and serving as County Cable Administrator under County Executives Doug Duncan and Ike Leggett.

Jane was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates for District 18 in November 2006. In just one year, she became a force in environmental and affordable housing advocacy.

Through all her years of public service, Jane kept her family as her first priority by giving her love, counsel, encouragement, joy, intelligence and creativity to inspire her daughters Kathleen and Stephanie to become women of substance.

A brief history of the Leland Center can be found on page 5 of this issue.

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**Volunteer Appreciation Garden Party**

June is the month to salute our volunteers. On Sunday, June 7, from 2 to 5 p.m., the Town is hosting a Garden Tour. As a special treat for our residents and volunteers, Linna Barnes and Chris Mixter have graciously offered to host the Town's annual volunteer appreciation event in their garden at 5 p.m. All Town residents are invited to the garden party. Wine and refreshments will be served, and you will have an opportunity to find out more about volunteer opportunities in the Town. Town committee members will have information about the committees to share with you. This might be your year to volunteer!

In case of rain, we will move the party to the Town Hall. Please RSVP to the Town Office at 301-654-7144 by Wednesday, June 3.

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Sunday, June 7 – Garden Tour, 2 – 5 p.m.  
Sunday, June 7 – Volunteer Appreciation Garden Party, 5 p.m.  
Monday, June 8 – Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 9 – Public Services Committee, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 10 – Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, June 13 - Climate Corps, 2 – 4 p.m.  
Monday, June 15 – Long Range Planning Committee, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 17 – Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, June 18 – Discussion and Dessert, 7:30 p.m.

[Check the Town website for up-to-date details about Town events and meetings.](#)

The Town Council meets in open session the second Wednesday of each month in the Town Hall unless otherwise announced.

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## Discussion and Dessert June 18, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall

Town residents Barbara Opper, Peter Winglee and Michael Lebowitz will be our guest speakers at the June Discussion and Dessert. The topic is "National and International Aspects of the Current Economic Climate." Each of our guests will give a brief introduction on their backgrounds and field of experience and will offer their observations on the current financial climate. Attendees should come with questions to prompt a free-flowing discussion along the lines of:

- how the world-wide economic challenges arose.
- what governments--US and abroad--have done to ameliorate the economic challenges.
- what next steps are being undertaken abroad by countries and groups.
- general ideas and proposals that would be of interest to government and private actors in the economic drama.
- how these recent economic events may affect the world for our children -- their career paths, their economic behavior, their prospects.

Join us on June 18 for a lively discussion and delicious desserts. RSVP to 301-654-7144 by June 12.

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## July 4 Picnic and Parade

**Plan to join the Council and your neighbors to celebrate the much anticipated Town event! If you would like to volunteer to help, please call the Town office at 301-654-7144. We have a few surprises in store for you!**

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## Crimewatch

Crimes reported to the Town Office since the last issue of the **FORECAST**:

- 5/19/09 Vandalism to the newly installed curbs on East Avenue.
- 5/9/09 7000 block of Oakridge Ave. Car vandalized, sideview mirror ripped off.
- 5/6/09 4000 block of Woodbine Street, GPS stolen from unlocked car.  
4400 block of Walsh Street, bookbag with work related and personal papers and change stolen.  
7500 block of Maple Avenue, change stolen.  
3900 block of Woodbine, change stolen from unlocked car.
- 5/5/09 4000 block of Leland Street, garden urn stolen from front of house.

We cannot overemphasize 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. Any information you can give to the police about criminal or suspicious activity in Town will help to make us safer. Also, when you contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144 to report crimes, you help us provide accurate crime information in Town Crier notices, the FORECAST and on the Town website.

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## Oakridge Fire Update

While the cause of the fire at 7206 Oakridge Avenue remains undetermined, the Town has learned more of the details about the incident through the fire and explosion investigation report issued by the County Fire Marshal's office. From witness interviews, the Fire Marshal has determined that the fire started before the large explosion occurred and that propane cylinders were located on the construction site. One witness noted the smell of gas prior to seeing the fire. While conducting a separate investigation, the homeowner's insurance company discovered a propane heater, gas line and cylinder in a debris pile in the basement under the collapsed building. The insurance company investigator took this equipment into evidence and agreed to let the Fire Marshal's office x-ray it to determine whether it was turned off. The equipment was so damaged by the fire that the Fire Marshal could not make this determination. The Fire Marshal is confident that the events that led to this incident were not malicious. Both the weather and collapse hazard restricted access to the fire-damaged building, which made it difficult to make a determination of the origin and cause of the fire.

In response to resident concerns, the Town has added a condition to its building permit to require that propane tanks remain outside of structures in accordance with state and county laws.

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## Street Lighting Improvement

In response to resident concerns about inadequate street lighting in Town, the Town is seeking a consultant to assess and suggest ways to improve this lighting. The goal of the Town is to ensure a street light system that meets industry standards for acceptable roadway lighting; is energy and cost efficient; provides for the security and safety of Town residents; reduces light pollution; respects the historic nature of the community; and can be operated and maintained with a manageable program.

The Town currently has 281 street lights along approximately 10 miles of residential streets. PEPCO operates and maintains these lights. Recent State legislation has provided the opportunity for municipalities to purchase and maintain street lights within their respective corporate boundaries. Prior to considering this option, the Town wants to determine 1) whether current lighting meets acceptable standards and the goals enumerated above, 2) whether the Town can change the type, number or location of lamps and fixtures on existing utility poles to achieve acceptable lighting standards and the goals outlined above, and 3) the Town's options with respect to equipment choices and associated costs of implementing any upgrade.

The consultant will evaluate existing street lights, assess lighting needs and develop a master plan for improving lighting on existing utility poles. The Town will provide updates on the progress of this evaluation in future editions of the Forecast.

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## Council Adopts Contribution Policy

The Council adopted a Contribution Policy at its May 13 Council meeting. This policy will guide the Council when considering future donation requests. The full text of the policy appears below.

### Recitals:

From time to time, the Town of Chevy Chase, its Town Council and its Committees have been asked by individuals or organizations to contribute funds for charitable purposes.

The Town Council recognizes that primary purposes for which Town funds should be expended are those identified in the municipal charter and Article 23A of the Maryland Code.

The Town Council finds that there are circumstances in which another organization may be providing facilities or services that correspond to the purposes for which Town funds may be expended.

The Town Council finds that establishing a policy regarding contributions will provide for the equitable and consistent treatment of those requesting contributions and help to ensure that Town contributions are used for purposes consistent with the Town's general authority under the municipal charter and State law.

### Now Therefore be it Resolved by the Town Council that:

The Town Council may make, but shall not be required to make, a contribution if the following criteria are met:

1. The Town Council may make expenditures for public purposes, including but not limited to grants and donations to organizations providing services or programs benefiting the Town and its residents.
2. The contribution will provide a direct and material benefit to a significant number of Town residents.
3. The contribution will support a capital improvement or other extraordinary need of a public institution, program or facility, as distinguished from supporting a current operating budget.
4. The contribution will supplement and not supplant funds from the requestor's primary funding source.
5. The contribution is important to the success of the project.
6. The request must be made by a Town resident.
7. The recipient of the contribution must be a governmental or quasi-governmental entity or a tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code that supports a public institution, program or facility.
8. Requests for donations may be made at any time in the calendar year, but must be made in writing and must contain the proposed use of the requested funds and the anticipated timing of the expenditure of the requested funds. Tax-exempt organizations must include documentation of their 501(c) status.
9. The recipient of any donation or contribution must commit the funds to the use specified in the written request and must provide the Town with a report and receipts documenting that the contribution was used for the purpose(s) for which it was made. The Town Manager will ensure that such documentation is received in a timely fashion.

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## Listserv Keeps Residents Informed

The listserv has proven to be a great communication tool to help us keep residents informed in a timely matter about breaking news. Just this month, we were able to reunite a young family with their beloved lab, who was found five miles from home in the District. The family is overjoyed and very appreciative of the neighbors who took such an interest in their search. We encourage you to join the "Town Crier," the Town's e-mail alert system. To subscribe, please visit the Town's website at [www.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org). The purpose of this notification system is to keep residents informed of timely Town news and information. The Council has adopted a policy for use of the listserv so that residents will not be inundated with e-mails.

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## Leland Community Center – Past and Present

The story begins in 1981 when the Montgomery County Board of Education announced the closing of Leland Junior High School. The 3.7 acre school campus had been in continuous use for a school since the original developers Monroe and R.B Warren gave the land, 22 lots of their new “Leland Community”, to the Board of Education. In 1928, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School was built there. The building became Leland Junior High School in 1936, and, in 1963 a completely new building for the school was built in a different location on the site. Following the school closing in 1981, the Board of Education transferred ownership of the site to Montgomery County.

The residents on Elm Street, Willow Lane, 44<sup>th</sup> Street and Oakridge Avenue were very concerned about the future of the site and began lobbying the County for a neighborhood friendly facility in a renovated building. The 1982 Town election focused on the Leland re-use issue. Jane Lawton ran for the Council on the platform that the Council should become more directly involved in the re-use issue. She won the election. Jane wrote a chapter in the Town history book, *The Town of Chevy Chase: Past and Present*, which chronicles the discussions and negotiations that led to the construction of the recreation center, which began in 1987.

The official opening of the Leland Center was held twenty years ago on Saturday, June 17, 1989. The night before the opening, 600 residents gathered at the Center for a preview of the new facility. Two days before the opening, the Town experienced the most devastating storm in its history. The National Weather Service classified the storm as a #5 (with #6 being the most destructive). Most streets in Town were blocked by fallen trees and debris. Roofs and cars were crushed. Power lines were entangled and hanging over sidewalks. Seventy Town trees, many over 100 years old, were downed completely, and another 150 were severely damaged. Hundreds of private trees were lost. The Leland Center was one the few buildings in Town with power, so the decision was made to proceed with the party.

The Leland Center has lived up to the original concept of a neighborhood friendly facility. It includes the Town offices and meeting hall; the Wonder's Daycare Center and the Community Center itself, managed by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, with a gymnasium, social hall, conference room and art room. The Center is a very busy place providing programs, activities and events for all ages.

Visit the Town website, [www.townofchevy.org](http://www.townofchevy.org), to read more about the Leland Center. Click on *About the Town, History, Town of Chevy Chase: Past and Present*.

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## Noise Control – A Sound Priority

In an effort to address noise concerns in Town, especially with the advent of warmer weather, the Town is preparing a series of articles, to appear in successive issues of the Forecast, detailing ways that the Town and residents can help reduce noise pollution. This month, the Town has contacted lawn service and landscaping companies to remind them of the Montgomery County Noise Ordinance. In addition to asking them to respect the County noise limits, the Town is suggesting ways that these companies can further limit noise disturbances, including using one piece of equipment at one time, turning off equipment not in use, and utilizing non-mechanical tools when appropriate. The companies also are being educated on the requirement to use only certified leaf blowers. As part of the education process, the landscape companies have been invited to meet with Town staff to further discuss the County's Noise Control Ordinance. The Town encourages residents to speak with their lawn care and landscaping contractors about respecting the noise limits set by Montgomery County. Further information on the ordinance can be found on the Town website (<http://www.townofchevy.org/c/151>). If you feel the lawn service company that you employ respects these noise standards, please feel free to recommend their services to your neighbors either by word of mouth or on Townneighbors, the community listserv, which is accessible via the Town website.

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## Foster Community Spirit – Host a Block Party

Join the block party tradition. Many blocks in Town have been hosting block parties for decades. These residents are a testament to our theory that this is a great way to get to know your neighbors and create a stronger sense of community. If your block has not hosted a block party and would like to give it a try, call the Town staff (301-654-7144) to find out how to get started. Once your block has hosted the first party, you will want to make it an annual tradition. In the month of May, five blocks hosted parties. Join the fun!

## Climate Tip of the Month: Cool It!

### Climate Protection Committee

Here are some tips to save money and energy on air conditioning and use your air-conditioner (A/C) optimally.

- Now, before air-conditioning season starts, change your central A/C filters and get a tune-up if you haven't had one in a few years. Check those filters monthly while the A/C is in use.
- Make sure your outdoor A/C unit is in the shade so it doesn't have to work too hard. If you don't have a tree or high bush to shade it, why not plant one (it will suck up CO<sub>2</sub> also)? You can also shade your unit with fencing or a tarp at least 2 feet from the unit.
- Check the ductwork to make sure there are no leaks where ducts connect. Seal them with duct mastic (applied with a paint brush) if you find gaps.
- Set your programmable thermostat no higher than 78 degrees while you're at home and much higher when you're away and at night. The A/C will still dry the air and you won't be spending money keeping an empty house cool. If you have a two zone A/C, turn the downstairs temperature up at night.
- While the outdoor temperature is still pleasant (in the 80s), use fans and windows rather than the A/C. Close your windows in the morning to keep out the hot air and open them at night to let in the cool air. Take good care of your shade trees (remove all those invasive climbing vines to keep them happy) and plant new ones to shade your house. One Town family found that shade reduced their bills by one-quarter.
- Consider installing awnings above windows where the sun shines in. Close your curtains on the sunny side during the day.
- Make sure your appliances aren't generating heat inside the house by cleaning your refrigerator coils and clearing off fridge top; turning off lights, office equipment, TVs, and entertainment centers when not in use; using a clothesline instead of the dryer. Keep lids on your pots when cooking; and turn off vent fans when you don't need them: they're just pushing all your air-conditioned air outdoors.
- Close vents in and doors to rooms you don't need to air condition.
- If you have window units, clean their vents and turn them on only while in the room. If you have an old unit, consider upgrading to a newer more energy efficient model. Install it in a shaded window.
- Have a whole house energy audit done on your home and follow-up on the recommendations.

By doing all these things, you can save at least a ton of CO<sub>2</sub> and \$250 over four months.

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## Recycling Tip for June – How to Recycle Plastic Bags

Please recycle plastic bags at local grocery stores. The stores accept any plastic shopping bags, as well as plastic newspaper wrappers -- look for collection bins near store entrances. Remember to remove receipts and other papers from the bags before recycling them. The stores cannot accept trash bags, sandwich bags, films, plastic wrap or sheeting. Remember that plastic bags are *not* accepted in the Town's recycling program.

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## Household Hazardous Waste



On Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the County has scheduled a household hazardous waste satellite collection event at Westland Middle School, 5511 Massachusetts Avenue. Items accepted include: batteries containing nickel, cadmium, mercury, silver-oxide, lead or lithium (alkaline batteries may be put in with regular trash); fertilizers with herbicides; fluorescent light tubes and bulbs (compact fluorescent lights - CFLs); herbicides; insecticides (Chlordane, DDT, Malathion, Sevin, Arsenic, etc.; mercury containing items, i.e. thermostats and thermometers; oil-based paints (Latex paints are not hazardous waste); paint thinners and solvents; other pesticides (used for control of rodents, fungi, snails, mites, etc.); used motor oil, most other oils, hydraulic fluids, kerosene (5 gallon limit).



## Congratulations to Linna Barnes and Pat Burda!

As we have announced on the Town website and in a special mailing, Linna Barnes and Pat Burda were elected in the Town's 2009 Election to serve on the Council for two year terms. Their terms will expire in 2011. At the May Council meeting, officers were selected for the coming year. Kathy Strom will serve as Mayor, Linna Barnes as Vice Mayor, Pat Burda as Secretary, David Lublin as Treasurer and Al Lang as Community Liaison.

We would like to extend special thanks to the Town Election Board members: Costis Torgas, Brenda Lizzio and Hope Pinkerton for overseeing and monitoring the election and to the League of Women Voters for administering the election.

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## Town Launches Centennial Celebration with Progressive Dinner on September 12, 2009

Watch for more information in a special June mailing.

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## Manna Monthly Weigh-In – Three Hundred-Twenty Six Pounds To Date!

### Community Relations Committee

In response to your generosity and continued support of the food drive for the non-profit Manna Food Center, we will continue to collect foods in the Town Office on an ongoing basis and at major Town events. To date, residents have donated 326 pounds of food to Manna. 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 (301-654-7144) or call (301) 785-0933 for a pick-up. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact the Town Office.

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### **Town of Chevy Chase**

4301 Willow Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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### **TOWN COUNCIL**

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

## Through the Garden Gate

**Sunday, June 7** is the date of the Town garden tour - "Through the Garden Gate." The gardens will be open from 2 - 5 p.m. The following gardens will be open:

### Linna Barnes and Chris Mixter 7112 Ridgewood Avenue



The north side of the property is an under-story woodland garden with foam flowers, azaleas, oak leaf hydrangeas and dogwoods with masses of daffodils blooming in the spring. A sunken garden on the south side of the property is planted with a variety of plants that will thrive in the shady environment created by the canopy trees on the property. The garden is full of plantings in all shades of green that give texture to the garden. The plans for the lower back yard garden will be on display. We invite you to visit the garden during the tour and encourage you to return at 5 p.m. for the Volunteer Appreciation Garden Party. The garden was designed by Melissa Clark, APLD, of Landscape Projects in Bethesda.

### Pam and Tim Gardner 7320 Meadow Lane

Our garden was a baked plain of solid clay with nothing growing on it when we came twenty years ago. We have used it for pony rides, climbing forts, raising boys, Labs, and engaging in many failed experiments in horticulture. We garden together for pleasure, more than for predictable results. Our aim is to keep the garden as romantic and eccentric as our house: other than the graceful round stone wall designed by Marion Oxford-Dearth in 1993, nothing is orderly or symmetrical. Every year, we plant washes of favorite color, scent, and texture. We move plants around all season long. In the summer time, our garden becomes the family living and dining room. In the evening, it is dreamy and scented. If we could sleep in the garden, we would!



### Marcy and Arthur Forrest 4136 Leland Street

Most gardeners will say to you, "Oh, you should have been here last week" or "You should really see my garden in spring." The point being that a garden in a four season climate is always evolving. The Bearhouse garden shifts from a blooming garden to a tapestry garden once the blooms have faded. Our garden has a wide range of shapes, heights, colors and textures and there is not a blade of grass on the entire property. Even if you have visited my garden in the past, you will see a completely different display of greenery this year. During the warmer months, each area serves a purpose and becomes our outdoor living room, dining room and entertainment lounge...come visit the Bearhouse!



### Kathleen Williams 4305 Elm Street

Kathleen's introduction to her garden is..."My garden is a surprise!" She continues..."Elm Street was developed around 1927. The developer ended up building his own house three doors down on Oakridge Lane, I think, because he became enamored of our ravine. He took the trouble to terrace the ravine as it sloped so steeply down to the stream before rising into the embankment of what was then the B&O rail road to Georgetown, but is now the Capital Crescent Trail. We purchased the house in 1951 because of the swimming pool shared by neighbors with three children the same ages as ours. Now, more than fifty plus years later, I am still here, still held by the magic of our ravine. About three years ago, I met master gardener Eleanor Hillgeist and found that she enjoyed working with older ladies in their gardens. A match was made. Together Eleanor and I have been working to enhance my original design for the garden. We have emphasized the sculptures featured in the garden to have a more dramatic impact and introduced new plants, shrubs and trees to add color and texture. I can't wait for you to see my garden!"



June 2009

Dear Resident:

As you begin to think about the coming year in the Town, the Town Council encourages you to consider volunteering to serve on a Town Committee. In July, I will appoint, with the advice of the Town Council, nine residents to serve on each of the Town's five standing committees for a period of one year. The terms will begin in September 2009.

Following is a list of the five standing committees, including a short description of each, and the Councilmember who will be serving as the liaison:

- Community Relations: Encourages a strong sense of neighborliness through community activities and communications; Kathy Strom, Council Liaison
- Environment: Promotes the Town as a good steward of its natural resources through innovative environmental initiatives; David Lublin, Council Liaison
- Land Use: Guides building and redevelopment through the use of available planning tools; Linna Barnes, Council Liaison
- Long-Range Planning: Identifies emerging issues that require longer-term planning and analysis; Pat Burda, Council Liaison
- Public Services: Advocates high-quality Town programs and services for our residents; Al Lang, Council Liaison

In addition, we invite residents to serve on the Climate Protection Committee: working to reduce the Town's CO2 emissions; David Lublin, Council Liaison.

If you are interested in volunteering please submit a letter of interest to the Town Office by June 30, 2009. Your correspondence may be submitted by mail or e-mail and should include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and a few sentences about why you would like to serve on a specific committee.

In addition to the committees, residents are appointed to serve on various boards which include: the Town's Water Board, Election Board, Tree Ordinance Board and Parks and Playgrounds Commission; the Bethesda and Chevy Chase Fire Boards; and the Montgomery County Police Advisory Board, District 1. The length of these appointments varies from one to three years. As these appointments become available, we will include a notice in the FORECAST and on the Town website.

The Town's goal is to involve as many residents as possible in Town affairs, so we hope you will consider applying to serve on a Committee to help lead the Town through another year of challenge and change. We look forward to hearing from you

In closing, the Council would like to extend a special thanks to all of you who served on a committee during the past year. Your time and talents are an invaluable resource for the Town.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Strom*

Kathy Strom  
Mayor