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The **FORECAST** is published monthly by the Town of Chevy Chase, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815; phone: 301-654-7144; fax: 301/718-9631. Mier Wolf, 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. All residents are invited to attend.

WORDS FROM MAYOR LINNA BARNES

Almost two years ago, the Town Council spent the summer finalizing the Town's Strategic Plan as a result of the work of the committees set up by former Mayor Bill Hudnut. This plan has served the Town and Council well, and I recommend it to all residents as bedside reading. It is available from the Town office or on the Town website, www.townofchevychase.org. One of the recommendations that has been put in place is the formation of five standing committees to aid the Town Council and staff in matters both small and large.

The Council decided that the committees would be filled with resident volunteers. Calls went out to the community in the summer of 2006, and numerous residents applied to join the committees. Almost every single volunteer was placed on a committee, and a few residents were placed on the reserve list to be appointed later. I was pleased that so many residents, who had never served the Town before, applied to be on committees. Each Councilmember was assigned a committee – Community Relations, Mier Wolf; Environment, Rob Enelow; Land Use, myself; Long Range Planning, Kathy Strom; and Public Services, Lance Hoffman. Committee members serve from September to September and are appointed by the Mayor in consultation with the Council.

It is with deep appreciation that I thank all the residents who are serving the Town on its committees. Volunteers are spending countless hours of their time to fulfill the goals for the Town set out in its strategic plan. We are so lucky to have the residents that we do.

My Mayor's Letter this month is a thank you to all committee members and certainly to those on the Land Use Committee, whose work on a new building regulations ordinance the Council is now reviewing. The Council is changing the ordinance, but its work has been greatly helped by the Land Use Committee's work. More information about the revisions the Council is making to the building regulations ordinance are on page 2.

Thank you again to all residents who serve on committees. Start planning now to apply this summer for the Town Committees' next appointments.

Yours,

Linna Barnes

UPDATE ON THE BUILDING REGULATIONS ORDINANCE

The Town Council has spent the past few weeks modifying the proposed building regulations ordinance in response to the public comments heard and received about it. The Town Council met for two evenings on February 20 and February 28 in work sessions to discuss modifications to the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance has not been formally amended at this time; however, the Council has reached consensus on the many changes that will be incorporated in it. These changes are described below and are posted on the Town website. When the proposed ordinance is finalized, it will be mailed to all residences with an explanation. This proposed ordinance will be introduced at the regular Council meeting on March 12.

Residents will have an opportunity to attend at least two public hearing on the proposed ordinance that will be scheduled in April. More details will follow with the mailing of the proposed ordinance. Comments via the internet and letters may be sent to the Town office. There also will be a meeting for Town residents on Saturday, March 15 to discuss the ordinance, ask questions and understand the effect of the changes on individual properties.

A list of the proposed ordinance modifications follows. It is divided into two categories: changes and provisions discussed and not changed. The proposed ordinance that will be mailed to residents should reflect these changes.

Changes

1. Create a FAR level of .5 for all construction in both new houses and additions.
2. Increase in minimum allowable buildable square footage from 2500 to 3000.
3. For existing homes, remove existing attic and basement/cellar space from calculation of gross floor area.
4. For new houses and additions, include any new attic space in the gross floor area calculation.
5. For new houses and additions, do not include basement/cellar space in the calculation of gross floor area.
6. Remove the credit system and increase the number of mandatory items.
7. Remove the requirement of pervious driveways.
8. Require driveways to be no more than 10 feet wide up to the front building line. Driveways may be wider past the front building line.
9. Make mandatory that no wall plane lengths would be allowed if greater than 34 feet without an offset of at least 2 feet deep and 5 feet long on the front, sides and rear of the houses.
10. Limit the amount of non-vegetative surfaces in front yards to 35%. The border streets of East-West Highway, Connecticut Avenue and Bradley Lane are exempt from this provision.
11. Remove the requirements for lots under 6000 square feet because the minimum buildable square footage is greater than .5 on lots under 6000 square feet.
12. Remove the cap on lots over 10,000 square feet.
13. Create a calculation of FAR for lots over 12,000 square feet of 6000 square feet plus .25 times the amount of lot square footage in excess of 12,000 square feet.

Provisions Discussed and Not Changed

1. The height of houses will be reduced to 28 feet as the ordinance provides (two feet lower than the county) unless the houses on the block are higher when an established building height is used.
2. No wall plane height may be greater than 36 feet.
3. 240 square feet of an accessory building will be exempt from gross square footage.
4. Only one 9 foot wide door for a front loading garage is allowed.
5. Front loading garages will be set back or forward a minimum of 3 feet.

The Council encourages all residents to review the proposed building regulations ordinance and to continue to provide their comments and suggestions for improvements. Residents may submit comments by e-mail to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or in writing to Town Office, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

TOWN TOPICS

TOWN COFFEE

Please join us for the next bi-monthly Town coffee on March 10 at the home of Sandy and Scott DeCain (7715 Chatham Road), from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Shed those winter blues by reconnecting with your neighbors, or extend a warm welcome to a new neighbor by inviting him or her to come along with you. All are welcome, but please RSVP to Sandy at 301-961-1617. If you have questions or are interested in hosting a future coffee, please call Maria Olsen at 301-652-4370. We look forward to seeing you!

SUNDAY AFTERNOON FOR FAMILIES

Our first event in January was a very entertaining, well attended performance by the Bob Brown Puppets. In February, four Town artists and approximately 25 budding artists participated in Let's Create. The kids with inspiration from our artists created a mural titled Our Town. We hung the mural on the wall of the CCES all-purpose room so that all of the 300+ residents who attended the Chili Dinner would have a chance to see the mural in all of its magnificence.

We are happy to announce that the Great Zucchini will be our guest performer on Sunday, April 13, 3 p.m., in the Leland Center Social Hall. We are thrilled to offer this great children's entertainer as our final performer in the Sunday Afternoon for Families winter series. Don't miss this event! Visit the Great Zucchini's website, <http://greatzucchini.com>, for a preview of the show.

CHILI DINNER SUCCESS

Three hundred residents attended the annual Chili Dinner on February 24. The chili and hot dogs were very popular with neighbors reunited for the event. We provided children's entertainment and art work to make it a great event for every one.

GARDENING EVENTS

Tolbert Feather, the Town's Arborist, will host a Tree Walk through Town on Saturday, May 17. Once again, you will have a chance to hear about many of the favorite species planted in the Town rights-of-way. Also, you can ask questions about choices of trees to plant on private property. These tree walks are a Town tradition which we are pleased to host each year. We will start the tour with bagels and coffee in the Town Hall at 9 a.m.

Gardeners: Now is the time to decide if you would you like to include your garden on this year's Town garden tour – Through the Garden Gate. If you are not quite sure and would like to find out more about the tour, please give the Town staff a call at 301-654-7144. So that residents can see the gardens a little later in the growing season this year, we are hosting the tour in June. If you would like for your garden to be included on the tour, please sign-up by e-mail townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or call 301-654-7144

STORM DRAIN RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE

Montgomery County is projecting that the East Avenue/Stanford Street storm drain installation project will be completed in approximately three weeks, weather permitting. In late March, the County will begin scoping out the Chatham Road/ Meadow Lane storm drain system. The County will need to identify the location of all of the utilities before any work can begin. The crew estimates that this preliminary work will take approximately two weeks. We will continue to provide updates on the Town website www.townofchevy Chase.org and in future issues of the FORECAST. Thanks again to the residents who remain patient and cooperative.

WSSC WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

WSSC continues the replacement of the water main on Leland Street. The crew has completed the work at the intersection of Oak Lane and Leland Street. The work will progress up Leland Street to the intersection of Oakridge Avenue. The work on Leland should be completed by mid-March, weather permitting. Residents continue to be patient and cooperative. Thank you!

TIPS FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE...

A resident must be a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen years of age, have resided within the corporate limits of the Town for thirty days preceding any Town election and be a registered, qualified voter of the State of Maryland, Town of Chevy Chase to be eligible to vote. If you have recently moved to the Town of Chevy Chase or are doubtful whether your name is on the list of registered, qualified voters of the State of Maryland, Town of Chevy Chase, check with the Montgomery County Election Board at 240-777-VOTE. Please do this as soon as possible so your name will appear on the updated list of registered voters sent to our office one week prior to the Town election.

MONTHLY REMINDERS

Information included in each issue.

RECYCLE COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS IN THE TOWN OFFICE

Have you wondered where to recycle CFL bulbs? We have a collection box for the bulbs in the Town office. Just drop them by and we will make sure the bulbs are recycled properly

JOIN THE "TOWN CRIER" LISTSERV TODAY

We encourage you to join the "Town Crier," the Town's e-mail alert system. The listserv enables the Town to provide residents with time-sensitive alerts and notices, such as the schedule of snow removal on Town streets and sidewalks and the cancellation of events due to inclement weather. The "Town Crier" is designed to provide time sensitive information to you. We limit the use of these alerts so we do not inundate your mailbox. To subscribe, please visit the Town's web page. In the sign-up form, you will be asked to provide your e-mail address and check the types of information you would like to receive from the Town. You may modify, update or cancel your subscription via the "Manage Your Subscription" link in each e-mail you receive from the Town.

"TOWN NEIGHBORS" LISTSERV COMPLEMENTS "TOWN CRIER" ALERTS

Town residents can join a new e-mail forum called "Town Neighbors" to post messages about local events, exchange information about service providers and discuss Town issues such as traffic, crime and development. "Town Neighbors" is not affiliated with the Town of Chevy Chase or any civic, governmental, religious or political organization. It is a moderated listserv, which means all messages are reviewed before being posted. If you wish to become a member of this new e-mail forum, contact Susan Goodman at susangoodman@worldnet.att.net.

COMPLAINT/COMPLIMENT FORM ONLINE

To make it convenient for you, we have created a form that you can submit from the Town's website. The purpose of the form is to provide a system for tracking issues of interest to residents so that the Town staff, Town Council and Town committees can be more responsive to broader resident issues and make informed and continual improvements to the Town's programs and services.

THE MVA IS ON A ROLL!

Reminder: MVA On Wheels will be in Friendship Heights, Monday, March 24, 10am to 2pm

The MVA on Wheels will be set up at the intersection of North Park Avenue and Friendship Heights Boulevard near the Friendship Heights Village Center. The mobile unit is usually in front of the Village Office on the fourth Monday of each month. (This month it is the fifth Monday.) For details of the services offered at the MVA on Wheels, call the MVA at 1-800-950-1682.

CRIMEWATCH

The Montgomery County Police Department has implemented a new crime data service to enable residents to access neighborhood crime incidents via the Internet. Enter www.crimereports.com to access this free service. Please read the instruction so that you will understand how to interpret the data.

ELECTION JUDGE RECRUITMENT

The Montgomery County Board of Elections needs Election Judges for the General Election, November 4, 2008. Interested voters willing to serve can download the application from the website: www.777vote.org or call 240-777-8533 to request an application be mailed to them.

SUMMER CAMPS AND PROGRAMS

Have you seen the Montgomery County brochure describing hundreds of summer camps and programs for preschoolers through teens? If not, you can pick up a copy at the Leland Center or visit the website, montgomerycountymd.gov/rec. The County is offering programs and activities that include sports, aquatics, the arts, nature experiences and much more. This year there are several new programs such as a cooking camp, Center Stage, and a Summer Ventures Camp.

Registration to the camps is on a first come/first served basis, so don't delay.

CLIMATE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Recycling: It's Habit-Forming! Carla Graeff, Committee Member

We are creatures of habit. Recycling has become more than a habit, like brushing my teeth ... it has become a ritual for me. Each day I am mindful of separating my trash and each week I take my recycling to the curb and watch it disappear, feeling good that my throw-aways will be used again. Because recycling saves energy, resources, and landfill space, it helps reduce global warming and clean up our environment. But what exactly happens to the things we recycle? The answer to that question, I found, lies at the end of a ½ mile conveyer belt located on Frederick Road in Rockville.

Each Wednesday our refuse contractor, Montgomery Sanitation and Recycling Co., sends two trucks to town. One truck picks up materials in the green bins; the other truck picks up paper. Then they travel to the County recycling facility located near Shady Grove Road on Frederick Avenue in Rockville. The truck containing the materials from the green bins, which include glass, plastics and metals (known as commingles), dumps the contents onto the "tipping floor" at the facility and a front-end loader pushes them onto the conveyer belt to be sorted. Once on the belt, workers remove the disposable waste that has inadvertently been included. Next, the recyclables travel along the conveyer belt to a *giant electromagnet* that removes steel, tin and bimetal cans. Then, the *broken glass screening machine* vibrates the recycled materials catching small pieces of glass and other items. The remaining materials travel to the *Tromme*, a spinning screen that catches small pieces of paper, broken glass and bottle caps. Here *another magnet* gathers metal not previously collected. The next step is the *air classifier/cyclone* where air currents separate the materials by weight. The heavier glass falls to the bottom of the machine where it is carried to another station and sorted by color. The lighter materials, specifically plastics and aluminum, are blown up to the *light material sorting station* where they are flattened for easy storage and plastics are sorted by type. Each type of recyclable material is carried away to its own storage silo. Once a silo is full it is taken to the baler where its contents are compressed into a large block, called a bale, which can weigh more than a ton. The bales are wrapped with wire and shipped to processors to be remade into new products.

The truck containing the paper dumps its contents into large containers that are transported to Office Paper Systems in Gaithersburg and sold to paper mills to be remade into new paper products that are marked with the recycled logo.

This nationally recognized award-winning system helps to define Montgomery County as a leader in recycling. The recycling complex has been in use since 1991 and cost the county \$9 million dollars to build. It also turns a profit, amounting to \$700,000 in 2006. It is open to the public so take a field trip out with the kids! Go to the Montgomery County website, <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/dpwt/solidwaste/collectionservices/curbside.asp>, to see what can be recycled.

What happens next? #1 plastics are used to make fiberfill, bean bags, rope, car bumpers, tennis ball felt, combs, cassette tapes, sails for boats, furniture and, of course, other plastic bottles. #2 plastic is remade into toys, piping, plastic lumber and rope. Only #1 and #2 plastic containers with necks are recyclable. Plastics 3, 4, and 5 are not collected and are not easy to reuse or recycle so try to buy things NOT packaged in these plastics. Plastic #6 or Styrofoam can be readily recycled into cassette tapes and rigid foam insulation but unfortunately this is not collected in our system. Newsprint is directly reprocessed into newsprint. Recycling a four-foot stack of newspapers saves the equivalent of one 40-foot fir tree. Aluminum cans and foil can be used directly to manufacture aluminum products. Using recycled aluminum beverage cans to produce new cans allows the aluminum can industry to make up to 20 times as many cans for the same amount of energy. Recycled glass is made into new bottles and jars, fiberglass insulation, roadbed aggregate for the nation's highways, driving safety reflective beads and decorative tile.

How does all this relate to the Town? As a county we recycle 42% of our trash. The goal of the county is to reach 50% by 2010. Here in Chevy Chase each house recycles roughly 18 lbs of paper and 10 lbs of commingles each week. We could increase this amount substantially by paying attention to the little things, such as always recycling the paper towel rolls, the junk mail, used computer paper and all of the clean paper in the kitchen. We could move all glass, metal and recyclable plastics from the garbage bag to the trash bin when we empty our waste baskets. Recycling only works, though, if consumers demand products made from recycled materials. Think about buying recycled paper for stationary and computer paper, buying goods in plastic containers only when they can be recycled, and saying "no" to unnecessary packaging. And how about using reusable grocery bags (like the spiffy new Town of Chevy Chase bags you get for signing the Climate Pledge <http://app.icontact.com/icp/sub/survey/take>)?

Recycling has become a habit for most Town residents. If you don't recycle regularly, please start. If you already recycle, try to get all your recyclables into the bin. If each of us increased our recycling, we would exceed the county goal. The hard part is already done. How about putting just a little extra effort into recycling starting this month?

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE **GOT THE RECYCLING BLUES? Monique Shimm, Committee Member**

Recently, on the Town Neighbors Listserv, many residents weighed-in about the benefits of moving from our green recycling bins to their larger cousins – the 22 and 60 gallon blue bins that can be found in other parts of the County. Well, the Council has taken notice of your concerns and the Public Services Committee is working with the Town Manager to look into the options.

In the meantime, let's tackle some of the other questions that were raised on the Listserv. In this issue, we tackle PAPER. Did you know that we can recycle almost any paper that you can think of... newspaper, magazines, catalogs, cereal boxes, paperback books, egg cartons, computer paper and unwanted mail.

What's out? Wax paper, carbon paper, hardback books, photographs, milk and juice cartons, anything contaminated with paint or chemicals or food or kitty litter, foil wrap, paper towels, napkins or tissues. Also out are boxes from refrigerated and frozen foods which are often shiny, due to a thin plastic coating.

I don't know if you are aware of this, but some of your neighbors are grumbling. Yah, you! It's cause you take your recycling bins out the day before pickup... so everyone gets to see your trash as they go to work in the morning... not too mention the fact that the wind picks up and throws your paper around the streets. Your neighbors even get to see what you are spending your money on by reviewing your receipts and old bills. So remember, if have to put your paper recycling out early, please ensure that it is secure and your privacy is maintained by enclosing in used paper bags. Also, although shredded paper is desired by nesting birds, it is not appreciated in your neighbor's perennial bed. The County recommends either placing paper shreds into a paper bag and closing it with staples or tape or "sandwiching" your unbundled shreds in your bin between layers of unshredded paper or cardboard at the top and bottom of your bin. By the way, newspapers do not have to be bundled separately. And the plastic "windows" in envelopes and the staples in paper items do not have to be removed.

Some of you have mentioned that you don't like our green bins – neither the color nor the size. Although the color makes it easy for our haulers to identify your recycling, you may buy your own container and color-coordinate with your house trim. And remember, you must observe the 45 pound per container limit so that the haulers may empty the container by hand. At this point in time, we do not have the capability to handle anything heavier.

And what about cardboard? You don't even need to flatten it. Simply lay it beside your green bin or, better yet, under your green bin if you think the wind will carry it away. Just remember to remove packing material that is not paper, even the biodegradable packing peanuts.

You will hear more from us as we flush out our options for adopting the blue bins. Next time we discuss PLASTICS.

MARYLAND TAX RETURN 2007 **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.

CHEVY CHASE DISCOVERY DAY MARCH 15 **THE CCHS INVITES ALL AGES TO EXPLORE "THE CHEVY CHASE HOUSE"**

Community residents of all ages can explore the past, personality and potential of the typical Chevy Chase house, during "Chevy Chase Discovery Day" on Saturday, March 15, from 1-4 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Avenue. The free family event is being hosted by the Chevy Chase Historical Society (CCHS).

Activities will include trolley tours of architectural styles in Chevy Chase Village, workshops on creating curb appeal, advice on how to research your own house history, exhibits of house histories compiled by CCHS, hands-on children's activities and entertainment. Old-fashioned refreshments will be served.

Trolley tours will depart at 1:15, 2:15 and 3:15 p.m., and workshops will begin at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30. No reservations are required, but sign-up for trolley tours on March 15 will be necessary since space is limited on the old-fashioned streetcar.

The Chevy Chase Historical Society collects, records, interprets and shares materials relating to the history of Chevy Chase, MD, one of America's first streetcar suburbs.

Questions about Chevy Chase Discovery Day may be directed to Shelly Brunner at 301/907-8072.

B-CC'S PRODUCTION LEND ME A TENOR

Feeling those winter blahs? Put laughter on your calendar this March.

Scene: The Cleveland Opera Company circa 1934. The star tenor is incapacitated but the show must go on! Desperate, the show's manager shoves his assistant, Max into the role. What follows is a chain-reaction of confusion, plot twists, double entendres, innuendoes, and banging doors that would do the Marx Brothers proud.*

TWO CASTS and a crew of B-CC students, will stage the shows on March 7, 8, 14 and 15. EVERYTHING including costumes, sets, props, lights and sound is the work of talented students, under able direction of teachers Aaron Taylor and Jeffrey Kenton.

Show times: 7:30 p.m. - March 7, 8, 14 and 15; 2:00 p.m. - Matinee Saturday, March 8

Tickets are \$9 for students and senior citizens and \$12 for adults.

Purchase them online from B-CC's website www.bcctheater.com or call B-CC's Box Office at 240-497-6346 or just buy them at the door.

For more information, contact: Leslie Atkin at leslieatkin@comcast.net.

*This show is recommended for audiences 12 years old and up.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Used Book Sale and Café **4301 East-West Highway**

Saturday and Sunday

April 5, 2008, noon - 5:00

April 6, 2008, 10:00 - 4:00

Don't miss this event!

Trash and Treasures – April 26 and April 27

SPRING PARADE AND EGG HUNT

Sunday, March 16, 2 – 4:30 p.m., Leland Center

Ages: 3-8 – Have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny!

Schedule of Events:

2:00 – 2:10 p.m.	Line-up for the parade
2:10 – 2:20 p.m.	Parade around the playground and neighborhood
2:20 – 2:30 p.m.	Prizes for best dressed parade participants
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Egg Hunt
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Games, arts and crafts, light refreshments in the gym

www.townofchevy Chase.org

Town of Chevy Chase

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Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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Robert Enelow, Vice Mayor

Lance Hoffman, Secretary

Kathy Strom, Treasurer

Mier Wolf, Community Liaison

TOWN MANAGER

Todd C. Hoffman