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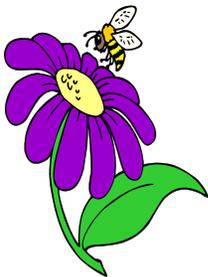
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Resident-Council Dialogue Sessions

In an ongoing effort to maintain a transparent and open government, the Town Council will engage in structured dialogue with residents during monthly Town Council meetings beginning in May. Until now, the public comment period at the beginning of each Council meeting was designed to allow residents to provide their remarks to the Council without an opportunity for discussion.

At its March meeting, the Council agreed to this initiative proposed by the Town's Community Relations Committee, and decided to set time limits on the dialogue and to provide flexibility to the Mayor in managing the discussion depending on the length of the agenda. Residents are reminded that the Council and staff may not be able to provide immediate answers to certain questions posed during these dialogue sessions, since some research may be required.

Also, as always, residents are welcome to provide comments or pose questions to Council or staff at any time. Information is available on the Town website, www.townofchevychase.org, and by calling the Town Office at 301-654-7144.

Repaving Project

The Town will repave several streets as soon as Washington Gas completes the installation of the gas main at Thornapple Street and Meadow Lane. Repaving is planned for the 3900/4000 and 4100 blocks of Thornapple Street, the 3900/4000 block of Underwood Street, the 6900 block of Beechwood Drive and Valley Place. We will send notices to the affected residents as soon as the project is scheduled.

A Great Evening in the Town

Thanks to the following residents for making the wine tasting and welcome to new residents event a smashing success: Cathy Wolf, Ann Wild, Pat Burda, David Lublin, Ketch Ryan, Charles Wessner, Put Ebinger, Erin Kopelman, Jean Carlson, Julie Stanish, Kathy Strom, Christine Riley, and Holly and Chris Wright.

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.



May

Tuesday, May 3 – Election and Annual Meeting
Election, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Reception, 7 – 8 p.m.
Annual Meeting, 8 – 9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 4 – Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 5 – Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10 – Mitigation Advisory Group, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 11 - Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 12 - Public Services Committee, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 15 – Bike Day, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Monday, May 16 – Long Range Planning Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17 – Environment Committee, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 19 – Manager’s Coffee, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 22 – Garden Tour, 1 – 5 p.m.

Thursday, May 26 – Discussion and Desserts, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 28 – Save the Trail, 9 a.m.

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

www.townofchevychase.org

Coffee with the Town Manager

Todd Hoffman will host the monthly “Coffee with the Town Manager” on **Thursday, May 19** from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Town Hall. We encourage you to take this opportunity to stop by the Town Office and chat with Todd about issues that are important to you and the Town. If you cannot attend the coffee, but would like to discuss an issue with Todd, you can call the Town office at 301-654-7144 and arrange a meeting with him or e-mail him at thoffman@townofchevychase.org.

Forecast Available Via E-Mail

The Town now offers residents the option of receiving the Forecast newsletter electronically. Residents may sign up for, or modify their subscriptions to, the Town Crier e-mail alert system and choose to receive a message on the first of each month providing a link to the online Town newsletter. This initiative was proposed by the Community Relations Committee and supported by the Council, in response to resident feedback from the 2010 Community Survey. Hardcopies of the newsletter still will be delivered to each household. However, this electronic delivery option provides

residents with another way to stay informed about Town news and events. Residents can sign up for this special email distribution by going to the Town's website, www.townofchevy Chase.org, and clicking on "Town Crier" under Quick Links.

Shades of Green

Sustain Your Landscape, and Yourself, Too! From the Environment Committee

In addition to seeing some lovely gardens, you can learn lots more about sustainable gardening at the Town Garden Tour on **Sunday, May 22**. Here's why you should: A sustainable landscape is easy on the planet and easy on YOU! It is in balance with the local climate, conserves resources, increases health and safety for those who inhabit it, and limits negative environmental impact.

Save time and aggravation: once installed and established, sustainable landscapes require less maintenance, remaining healthy and improving with age without constant "babying."

Save money: Thoughtful choices will cut your costs for such things as water, energy, pesticides, fertilizers, mulch and landscape services.

Skip the worry: Are your dogs and children safe playing in your yard? Is the stuff you're breathing or touching going to make you sick? Say goodbye to these concerns when you choose organic products and methods.

Save the Bay: The health of the Chesapeake—not to mention our forests and streams-- is critically influenced by the choices homeowners make in their lawns and gardens.

Enjoy More: more variety, more birds and butterflies, more shade, and more peace of mind.

Can't wait for the tour to start learning? Start here: <http://www.hgic.umd.edu/index.cfm>
<http://www.sustainable-gardening.com>

The Shades of Green "Lawn and Garden" section, accessible via quick link, from the Town website.

Climate Protection Committee

Energy Trailblazers



Hats off to the Urdan-Sporn Family for reducing their home energy use by 15%! Between 2008 and 2010 they sealed air leaks, improved insulation, and replaced some of their old single pane windows with high efficiency ones. Results: \$1000 savings per year and a much more comfortable home. Read more about their story on the Town website!

Energy Factoids



How about putting your outdoor floodlights on motion sensors? Save 35-40% in cost and energy!

CC@H Programs

Joan Hoover

On Wednesday, **May 4 at 7 p.m.** Dr. Nathan Billig, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Georgetown University, will discuss "Who Does Well in Old Age?," a subject of interest for all who are taking that journey. Dr. Billig is the author of "Growing Older and Wiser: Coping with Expectations, Challenges and Changes in the Later Years." Take the opportunity, when you come to hear Dr. Billig, to bring along your out-of-date and unused medications. A supervised Medications Drop will be available at the door for their proper and careful disposal.

May 3 at 2 p.m. will seem "like only yesterday" when Lois Fern asks the group, "What Was Your Favorite Book as a Child?" and wonders how it has influenced your life. You are welcome to bring the book itself for a Show and Tell, or just your fond memory of it.

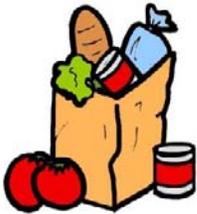
May 17 at 2 p.m. brings us an opportunity to hear Stephanie Brown, the Executive Director of the Chevy Chase Historical Society, discuss oral histories. After explaining how we ourselves can create Oral Histories, Stephanie will save us some time for discussion and questions.

Each of these events will take place at the Chevy Chase Village Hall.

Neighborhood Coffee – Neighbors Hosting Neighbors

Please join your neighbors for a Town coffee at the home of Susan Young and Bob Grunewald, 4101 Stanford Street, on **Friday, May 13**, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Please reach out to invite new neighbors or come by to connect with long-time residents. All are welcome (including children), but please RSVP to Susan at bsyoung@mac.com. If you have any questions or would like to host a future morning or evening town gathering, please call Maria Olsen at 301-652-4370. Hope to see you there!

Manna Food Collection



Thanks to all of you who continue to donate food to Manna Food Center. To date, Town residents have donated **2115 pounds** of food. 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. We hope you will continue dropping your donations by the Town Office during office hours, 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Bethesda Community Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

Gardeners and anyone who loves plants won't want to miss the Bethesda Community Garden Club's annual plant sale. Rain or shine, the 2011 sale will run from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. on **Thursday, May 5** at the Bethesda Farm Women's Market, 7155 Wisconsin Avenue. Find wonderful buys on a large selection of perennials grown in members' well-tended gardens, plus herbs, annuals, native plants, shrubs, and vines. Pose gardening questions to knowledgeable garden club members on site. Proceeds benefit various community projects.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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Bring Your Wheels To the 2nd Annual Chevy Chase Bike Day!

May 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Chevy Chase Elementary School

4015 Rosemary St.

Cosponsored by the Town of Chevy Chase and the Chevy Chase Elementary School PTA

Riding a bike is great exercise, lots of fun, a terrific family activity, and a clean and non-polluting way to get around. Commuters, kids, racers and newbies, there's something here for everyone.

Bike Rodeo	Obstacle course, safety tips, bike and helmet adjustment just for kids.
Free Bike Check	Mechanics from Griffin Cycle in Bethesda will check your bike and diagnose problems.
Biker's Corner	Talk to neighbors about local rides, equipment for commuting and info from local cycling groups.
Bikes for the World	Donate your old, but rideable, bike to Bikes for the World, a group that ships them to children and families in developing nations. A \$10 donation helps with shipping.
Bike Generator	Can you bike hard enough to make a smoothie in a blender? Come find out what it takes.
Bike to Work Day	Have fun, win prizes, and connect with neighbors by becoming part of a convoy that rides to work together on May 20.

Free Popsicles! Go green and bring your own water bottle.

For more information contact Warren Rizzi in the Town office at 301-654-7144 or Eric Niiler at 301-657-8842.



Save the Trail! 5K To Be Held May 28

Get your running shoes on and come out and support a worthy cause: the second annual Save the Trail! 5K will be held on Saturday, May 28th starting at 9 a.m. at Elm Street Park.

Benefitting Friends of the Capital Crescent Trail, the race is co-sponsored by the Town of Chevy Chase, Chevy Chase Running Company and other local businesses.

Friends of the Capital Crescent Trail is a local non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting open space, park land and quality of life in lower Montgomery County. The group is a leader in the effort to stop the Purple Line from destroying the threatened three-mile segment of the trail between Bethesda and Silver Spring.

“The event helps us raise awareness about the unique value of the trail and our growing campaign to protect it from destruction by the Purple Line,” said FCCT president Ajay Bhatt. “At a time when our state has so many other pressing needs and is cutting education and other funding, building a \$1.6 billion transit system that destroys the trail as it exists today is reckless and unconscionable.”

On-line registration for the event is now open at <http://therunningcompany.net/events> and the entry fee is \$25. All pre-registered runners receive a high-quality technical t-shirt, tote bag and sponsor discount coupons. The top three male and female runners will win gift certificates for merchandise at Chevy Chase Running Company and all runners will be entered in a post-race random prize drawing. At last year’s inaugural race, more than \$1,000 in gift certificates were featured in the drawing.

The 5K course starts and ends in Elm Street Park. Runners first cover a short distance on residential streets before going east on the Capital Crescent Trail. Following a turnaround at Connecticut Avenue, they retrace their path back to the start/finish line.

For more information about the event and Friends of the Capital Crescent Trail, visit www.savethetrail.org.



Through the Garden Gate



Sunday, May 22, 1 - 5 p.m., the Town of Chevy Chase Garden Tour

This year's garden tour gives Town neighbors a chance to see and experience gardens of distinctive styles and outdoor spaces, and to learn more about environmentally sustainable gardening practices. All Town residents are welcome! Neighbors can pick up a map and program at any of the gardens listed below. There is no specific order for the tour. Gardens will be marked with balloons and signs, and the homeowners will be on hand to welcome neighbors. At 5 p.m., we invite Town neighbors to a wine and cheese reception at the garden of Sally and Ernie Kelly at 7400 Oak Lane. Two Master Gardeners will be at the Kelly Garden to answer questions.

The following eight gardens will be open on **Sunday, May 22 from 1 to 5 p.m.** When asked about their outdoor creations, here's what our gardeners had to say.



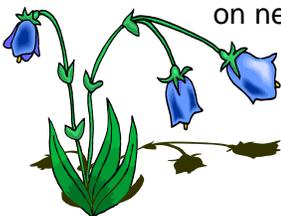
The Bonardi Garden - 4105 Thornapple Street

I always seem to be in the middle of one project or another in my garden. In the front yard, I have been tearing out the pachysandra and planting woodland perennials, ferns and bulbs. Our walkways define two smaller beds, one planted with masses of Christmas ferns and the other with hostas. The other front yard beds and hillsides are a collection of woodland plants, ferns, hostas, still in the making. This spring, competing with a county drainage project in my front strip, I dug up and rescued many of the woodland plants and bulbs I had planted last year. The back yard, where our six-month old lab mix romps, includes a hand-dug pond with frogs and fish, a vegetable garden, two different sunny perennial beds and a patio herb garden. The climbing roses, originally up against the fence, I transplanted to a sunnier spot over an arbor over the walkway. I built a rock wall with rocks I found digging in the yard. My garden has two compost bins and a rain barrel. I never use pesticides. I release ladybugs and praying mantises. I rake leaves, and in the fall, cut them up with an electric leaf chopper to mulch my beds.

The Guhin Garden - 4006 Rosemary Street



We have a special attachment to each item in our garden. When we moved in, our "as-is" house was surrounded by a weed-filled yard. Over the years, the house has become our home and the yard, a series of gardens and outdoor living areas in which we have planted every tree and designed every bed. Every structure (except the rear stone walls) we have built ourselves. We are constantly moving plants to better spots in the garden or donating plants to friends and neighbors as we lose shade or gain sun in different areas of our yard. Blooms spring up throughout the spring, summer and fall; and our bio-filtered pond provides unending pleasure with frogs and dragon flies as well as the fish, irises and lilies. We have just completed building and installing a raised organic vegetable garden bed and associated streambed. This area in Town was originally the pumping station for our community with the water tower located on nearby Rosemary Circle. Our house sits on top of a major streambed. As a result, we placed two pumps in the basement go to the front beds and lawn. We continue to tinker with our composting efforts with varying degrees of success.



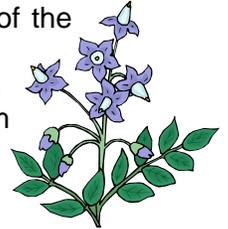
The Kelly Garden - 7400 Oak Lane

If you're looking for a manicured, formal, professionally designed garden you can skip this one. When we moved to Chevy Chase 17 years ago we inherited great garden "bones" in the form of mature trees and shrubs on an interesting multi-level site. Then with three kids and a tight budget, we embarked upon a big DIY project with our kids benefitting from lots of character-building family yard work. Over the years, we've added a patio, an arbor/Santa and reindeer display, walks, walls and stairs surrounded by a variety of informal, low maintenance planting beds. To save money, we bought sad plants at sales, divided and moved the plants we had, accepted gifts from generous neighbors, and (with permission) "rescued" plants and stones from construction sites. Through trial and error and "seat of the pants" design, some recurring themes have emerged. We transform problems into opportunities: a soggy spot became a rain garden, leaves become mulch, and the kid's playhouse is now a garden shed. When in doubt use rocks. Native perennials take care of themselves and multiply readily. There is no such thing as a perfect lawn.



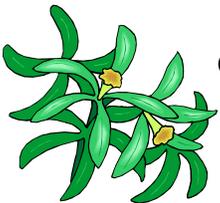
The McGuire/Tsien Garden - 4003 Rosemary Street

My garden is informal, and I am constantly tinkering with it. Over the past six years, I have been converting the front yard from lawn to a perennial garden. The original motivation was partly to reduce lawn mowing. I started by planting scented plants in southwest section of the yard. Although initially using herbicides to eliminate the grass in this area, I turned to Marney Bruce, a Master Gardener, for guidance on a non-toxic solution for the large area that remained. I used the "lasagna" method of getting rid of the grass. After spreading generous amounts of garden gypsum on the soil, I layered newspapers, home compost, leaf gro and then many inches of mulch. A year later, I was ready to dig. By planting 75% of my garden with native plants, I qualified for Montgomery County's Rainscapes Reward Program. The first phase of the garden is now fairly mature. In fact, I cull a number of plants and give them away to neighbors each spring. I have made many discoveries and mistakes in the process both in soil preparation and in plant selection, but I continue to experiment. I am always looking to increase my native plant stock and hope to move into edible landscaping.



The Seidel Garden - 4426 Stanford Street

Our garden is a multi-textured, low maintenance garden on a small, one-tenth acre plot of land. With environmentally friendly plantings, I have created a garden with a great variety of shapes, colors and textures throughout the year. Ornamental boulders, also extremely low maintenance, provide additional visual interest and texture to our garden landscape. Plantings feature a few specimen trees including a tulip magnolia, tulip poplar, dogwoods and Japanese maples. The shade trees also reduce sunlight on the house in the summer. Shrubs include azalea and rhododendrons that are easy to grow in our area. I've planted ground cover to minimize the weeds. Perennials and bulbs round out the garden. In late May, we might see lilies, daylilies, Astilbes, roses, candytuft, peonies and bleeding heart. Ferns fill in a dry shady spot where little else thrives. Greens, whites, pinks and purples are the dominate color scheme throughout the year. Because of the shady quality of our garden, I grow herbs and vegetables in containers in the sunny areas of the yard. With minimal grass, I am able to use a manual mower. I avoid all pesticides and chemical fertilizers. I have two working rain barrels and a passive composting systems using four bins.



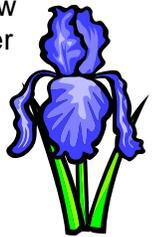
The Walker Garden - 4302 Stanford Street

My garden is an extension of our house, an additional room. It's a place to enjoy looking out the windows of our family room and kitchen. It's a place to eat on a summer evening. When we first purchased our home in 1996, it had been professionally landscaped. I knew nothing about gardening. Over the years, I learned, on my own, to maintain the garden to add my own influences. Now I am hooked. The garden has evolved tremendously over the years. It has matured, and I have had to focus more on shade plants. I do not use pesticides and have created a habitat that is environmentally friendly and one that also attracts birds and other wildlife. One of the highlights of our yard is the waterfall in the back that was installed about five years ago. Unexpectedly, it has become a haven for birds. In the spring, we get flocks of robins who bathe on the ledges and then, throughout the summer, many other species use the waterfall to bathe and drink. I also have two active composting bins and a rain barrel. The National Wildlife Federation certified our yard as a Certified Wildlife Habitat.



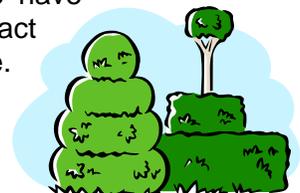
The Wiencek Garden – 7210 Ridgewood Avenue

We had two goals when setting out to design our garden: to use, but relocate, the significant amount of fairly pedestrian foundation planting installed by the builder/developer; and to create three separate outdoor rooms, each with its own character and scale. In the front, we created an oval-shaped lawn, edged with granite. We re-planted the existing shrubs to establish a hierarchy of height from our house to the new lawn area. An asymmetrical mix of new vertical and horizontally spreading trees reinforces the geometry of the front oval and creates a major axis across the front of the house, parallel to the street, and a minor axis centered on the entry to the front garden. The back yard is a symmetrical circular lawn intersected by the existing rectangle of a flagstone patio. Again, we relocated the existing low planting, arranging them around the circle and against the fence and house. Four new river birch trees in the corners add informality to an otherwise formal plan, provide dappled sunlight across the yard and shade the house and yard on the southwest exposure. In progress is a contemplative side-yard outdoor reading area where we hope to create a lush and shaded fern garden with a water feature.



The Williams Garden - 4305 Elm Street

My garden is a surprise. Elm Street was developed around 1937. The developer ended up building his own house three doors down on Oakridge Lane, I think, because he became enamored with 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 railroad to Georgetown, 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 50 plus years later, I am still held by the magic of our ravine. About four 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 sculptures featured in the garden to have a more dramatic impact and have introduced new plants, shrubs and trees to add color and texture. I can't wait for you to see my garden.





Front-Yard Stopover Gardens

We have added two front-yard stopover gardens to see as you stroll through Town on your way to the next garden.

The Lund Native Plants Garden – 7409 Oak Lane

The Lund front yard garden on Oak Lane is planted almost entirely in native plants. Native plants are shrubs, perennials flowers, ferns and annual flowers that naturally grow in the area in which they evolved. They are easy to grow, have adapted to local climates, and have developed natural defenses to insects and disease. The Lunds have labeled each of their plants so neighbors can see a number of successful native plants in one location.



The Shorett/Russell Siberian Elm Tree – 7107 Oakridge Avenue



In the front yard of the home of Bruce Russell and Jean Shorett stands Montgomery County's Champion Siberian Elm Tree. A Champion Tree is the largest tree of its type in a geographic area. Since 1989, the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board has been identifying Champion Trees for 154 native and non-native species. The Oakridge Avenue Siberian Elm is 12' 7" in circumference, 103' tall with a 76' crown spread.

For More Information

For more on Champion Trees, where others are located, and how to nominate a tree, go to <http://www.mcmdforestryboard.org>.

For more on Certified Wildlife Habitat, what are the criteria, and how to qualify, go to <http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife>.

For more on general home and garden tips, go to <http://www.hgic.umd.edu>.

For more on native plants, shrubs and trees in our area, go to the following:

<http://www.mdflora.org/>

<http://mastergardener.umd.edu/gardeningtopics/nativeplants/index.cfm>

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/trees.html>

Rainscapes - Discussion and Desserts – May 26

On **Thursday, May 26 at 7 p.m.** in the Town Hall, the Community Relations Committee will host a Discussion and Desserts with a gardening theme. Pamela Rowe with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection will discuss the County's RainScapes Neighborhoods program and how Town of Chevy Chase residents can participate. The Town is being considered for inclusion in the RainScapes Neighborhood program, which provides contractor support and funding to attain higher levels of voluntary participation by property owners in reducing the level of runoff leaving residential lots and entering local waterways.

At this event, Ms. Rowe will discuss potential projects that can be used by Town residents to reduce stormwater runoff and available technical resources and funding. The presentation will cover how rain gardens, driveway retrofits, conservation landscaping, and other similar landscaping techniques can be installed. Please feel free to send specific questions in advance to pamela.rowe@montgomerycountymd.gov. Pamela also plans to attend the Garden Tour on May 22.