



Forecast

DECEMBER 2015

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



December 1-16

Brighten the Holiday for
Domestic Violence Victims and
Their Children

Thursday, December 3

Community Relations
Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 8

Purple Line Mitigation Ad Hoc
Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 9

Council Meeting, Town Hall,
7 p.m.

Thursday, December 10

Public Services Committee,
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

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Stage Kiss at Round House
Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 11

Movie Night for Families,
6 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, December 16

20th Annual Holiday Buffet for
Seniors and Retirees,
Town Hall, 12 p.m.

Monday, December 21

Long Range Planning
Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day,
Office Closed

Friday, January 1

New Year's Day,
Office Closed

Mayor's Message Al Lang

I want to start by wishing all a wonderful Holiday Season. And thanking all for their generosity during the Thanksgiving food drive, as well as reminding all of the clothing drive that is underway until January 31, 2016, more details appear elsewhere in the Forecast.

As we continue to develop ways to make Town processes less burdensome – the administrative variance changes are moving forward, and The Climate and Environment Committee is looking at ways to make it easier to deal with private property trees, and continue to address both the Bethesda Sector Plan and Purple Line Mitigation, we are confronting serious budget and revenue issues.

We have two fundamental financial components, one is operating and the other is reserves. Our reserves have gone down – FY '15's \$1M deficit and the Wynne Case. We expect that there may be a further substantial reduction to the reserves, please visit the Town website for further information. This problem is due to a significant error by the State Comptroller's Office. This error was uncovered by the Revenue Working Group, which was the first working group we established. While it is painful to get bad news, it is far better than budgeting with our eyes closed to the problem.

The State's mistake not only affects the reserves, but also will impact, negatively, our operating revenues. As currently reported by Maryland, the revenues will be impacted this fiscal year and fiscal years going forward. It is now very important that we to continue with Mission Based Budgeting, which prioritizes expenditures against the Town's missions. The Long Range Planning Committee and our Town Treasurer are working with staff to take on this task. The LRP will provide recommendations for review and comment by residents and Council. Additionally, we are exploring changes to our budgeting process to smooth out the fluctuations in our revenue.

Please do realize that this critical issue has our complete attention and while I do not, as I write this, have details, the state is still working the numbers, I will make them available to all as soon as we receive them. And also realize that we have substantial reserves and will budget to maintain our fiscal strength.

Council to Discuss Administrative Variances

At its December 9 meeting, the Town Council will discuss and consider introducing an ordinance to expand the types of building variance requests that may be processed administratively. Administrative variances may be granted by the Mayor and Town Manager if no objections are received following sufficient public notice, rather than be subject to a formal Council hearing. In December, Council also will discuss allowing certain retaining walls to be constructed without the need for a variance from Town building regulations. The primary goal of these proposed changes is to save time and cost to residents who wish to make certain minor improvements to their properties. The staff memo and draft ordinance related to these proposals are available for review on the Town website.

Public Hearing on West Avenue Traffic Plan

On December 9, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on a new traffic plan for West Avenue. Over the past several years, the Town has received complaints about vehicular traffic on West Avenue, particularly related to excessive vehicle speeds and blocked travel lanes caused by the drop off and pick up of students at the Oneness-Family School.

At the direction of the Council, the Public Services Committee worked with our consulting engineer and Town staff to develop a new traffic and parking management plan for West Avenue. The plan, which provides for improved traffic flow and control, was developed in consultation with affected residents and school and church officials. Highlights include creation of a 15 mile per hour school zone speed limit; creation of a parking queue area on the west side of West Avenue; better delineation of "No Parking" areas on the east side of West Avenue; and creation of a new permit parking area (currently "No Parking") on the west side of the 6800 block of West Avenue to accommodate school employees and visitors.

A complete copy of the proposed ordinance and resolution, as well as a map of the proposed traffic plan, are available on the Town website and in the Town office.

TOWN UPDATES

Leaf Vacuuming To End on December 15

Vacuum trucks will collect leaves continuously, street by street, until **Tuesday, December 15**. A map detailing the collection schedule is available on the Town's website. All leaves should be raked to the curb, not into the street. After collection has ended, please place leaves in reusable containers or paper yard waste bags and place them at the curb by 7 a.m. for Monday pickup.

Town Teen List

For the current list, please contact the Town office at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or 301-654-7144.

Preparations for Winter Weather

The Town's Winter Weather Preparedness flyer is available on the Town website at www.townofchevy Chase.org

Holiday Trash Collection and Tree Pickup

Trash will not be collected on Christmas Day, **December 25**, or New Year's Day, **January 1**, but will be collected on the next regularly scheduled day. The Town offers curbside pickup of Christmas trees. All wire, ornaments and tinsel must be removed.

Crime Watch

Please report all suspicious activity and crimes to the Montgomery County police at the non-emergency number: 301-279-8000. For emergencies or crimes in progress, call 911. Any information you can give to the police about criminal or suspicious activity in Town will help to make us safer. In addition, please report incidents to the Town office at **301-654-7144** so that we can notify our off-duty Montgomery County police officers.

TOWN EVENTS

Sponsored by the Community Relations Committee

Brighten the Holidays for Domestic Violence Victims and Their Children

December 1- 16

The Town's Community Relations Committee is collecting gift cards and/or gifts for County victims of domestic violence and their children. The recipients are clients of the Montgomery County Abused Persons Program and Chesapeake Counseling. Town residents have been wonderfully generous in the past, and we hope



our neighbors will once again extend a helping hand to these needy families. You can purchase gift cards for \$10 or \$25 from stores such as Target, Marshall's, Kohl's, Ross, Giant or Sears. Please bring the cards to the Town Office, after hours slip them through the mailbox at 7104 Oakridge Avenue, or mail them to the Town of Chevy Chase, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Please include your name and your e-mail address to receive a donation receipt. Also, contact Cathy Wolf at wolfcs@starpower.net if you prefer to "adopt" a family and purchase specific items.

Stage Kiss at Round House Theatre

Thursday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.

There is still time to join friends and neighbors for an evening at Round House Theatre on Thursday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. The play *Stage Kiss*, by MacArthur Fellowship recipient Sarah Ruhl, follows two actors with a past, cast as romantic leads in a 1930s melodrama. There will be a post-show discussion. Round House is at 4545 East-West Hwy, one block from Wisconsin Ave. The price for discounted tickets is \$30 per ticket. Please RSVP to 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.



Movie Night for Families
Friday, December 11
6 p.m., Town Hall

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, this award-winning, 90 minute animated film for children is sure to please. Showtime is 6 p.m. Pizza, drinks, & popcorn will be available. Space is limited. To RSVP, please call 301-654-7144 or email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

20th Annual Holiday Buffet for Seniors and Retirees

Wednesday, December 16,
12 p.m., Town Hall

Join friends and neighbors at the 20th annual Holiday Buffet for Town Seniors and Retirees on **Wednesday, December 16** at noon in the Town Hall. While you feast on a delicious meal, you will have a chance to visit with old friends and meet some new ones. Please RSVP to 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. We look forward to seeing you.

Winter Outerwear Clothing Drive November 1 - January 31

The Town's Community Relations Committee and the Lawton Community Center are still collecting clean, gently-used or new warm coats, gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, heavy sweaters, pants, and socks for local charities serving those in need.

Clothing boxes for donations are in the Town Hall (Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and the Lawton Community Center (Monday thru Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday until 5 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.)

Save The Date ~ Wine & Cheese Re-Gifting Party! Put aside an unwanted holiday gift & save it to trade at a party in the Town Hall on **January 24, 2016** from 4 to 6 p.m. Details in the next Forecast.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

Al Lang, Mayor

John Bickerman, Vice Mayor

Vicky Taplin, Secretary

Fred Cecere, Treasurer

Kathy Strom, Community Liaison



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Celebrate the Holiday with CC@Home

By Caroline Michaelis

December 15, 2 - 4 p.m. - CC@ H will host its annual Holiday Party at the Chevy Chase Village Hall with a "Cookie Exchange". Bring two dozen of your favorite holiday cookies and a copy of the recipe to share. We will have special live entertainment by Celtic fiddler William Shropshire, a music major at UNC Chapel Hill. Everyone is invited to come join the fun!

December 10, 10 - 11:30 a.m. - Brunch Bunch at the Olympia Coffee Shoppe on Brookville Road. Drop in anytime and meet your neighbors at the CC@ H table.

December 7 and 21, 1 - 3 p.m. - Jewelry Making Workshop at the Chevy Chase Village Hall with Mary Gorman. It's the perfect opportunity to make those holiday gifts! Free and open to all.

Anyone interested may drop in as a guest to the Walking Club, which meets every **Friday** morning at **10 a.m.** in front of the Brookville Market. For more details, please call **301-657-3115**.

New and renewing Members of CC@ H who join and pay by **January 4** are invited to a festive Member Celebration at La Ferme on **January 16**, so consider joining us now! We also welcome new volunteers and end-of year charitable donations. Visit us at www.chevychaseathome.org for more details.