



# Forecast

FEBRUARY 2014

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

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Preparations for Winter Weather  
[www.townofchevyCHASE.org](http://www.townofchevyCHASE.org)

## Public Forums on Town Reserves

In February, the Town will hold two public forums to present and discuss options for using the Town's reserve funds for new or expanded programs, services or special initiatives. These options were developed by the Town's Long Range Planning Committee based on the results of the questionnaire that was sent to every Town household in January. The forums will be held on **Sunday, February 9** from 2 to 5 p.m. and on **Tuesday, February 11** from 5 to 8 p.m. At either of these meetings, you can learn more about the options and weigh in on your favorites. Following the forums, the Council will use the feedback it has received to determine which projects to consider for funding or further analysis.

## Purple Line Legal Assistance

At its February 12 meeting, the Town Council will decide whether to engage a law firm to assist in responding to the proposed Purple Line project and its local impacts. The Council held a public hearing at its January 8 meeting and will keep the public record open until 5 p.m. on **Tuesday, February 11**.

If you would like to submit comments, please send them to [townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org) or to 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. More information on the proposed engagement was included in the January Forecast, which is available on the Town website.

## Overgrown Vegetation Management

In an effort to improve public safety, the Council recently approved procedures to ensure that plantings and vegetation do not obstruct sidewalks or streets or impede pedestrian and motorist access and visibility. The procedures state that all sidewalks must be kept clear from edge to edge up to a height of 7 feet, while all streets must be kept clear from curb to curb up to a height of 14 feet.

When the Town observes violations of these standards, it will deliver a notice to the resident explaining the violation and the necessary remedial action, and advising that the Town will prune the vegetation if the plantings are not trimmed back by the homeowner within 10 to 30 days. If the homeowner does not take care of the issue, the Town will schedule the pruning work and will post a notice advising of the work at least 7 days in advance.

In addition, the Town may require pruning or removal of vegetation on public or private property to eliminate obstructions to pedestrian or vehicular visibility. A complete copy of the approved procedures is posted on the Town's website.

## A Message from Mayor Pat Burda

I want to thank those of you who shared your ideas on use of the Town's reserve funds by responding to the questionnaire that was mailed in January, and I encourage all of you to attend the public forums on **February 9 and 11** (see the article on page 1). Next month, the Town Council will begin discussing and developing the Town's FY15 budget. As part of this process, the Council will carefully consider your ideas for new or expanded Town programs and services. For an overview of the Town's fiscal situation and available reserves, please review the Treasurer's Report below.

While the Council may be able to include funds in the FY15 budget to support many of your ideas, some proposals will need more thorough analysis to determine their feasibility, desirability and cost. In addition, the Council will need to ensure that any recommended programs or services further a public purpose, benefit a significant number of Town residents, and are something a town government can accomplish, either legally or otherwise.

We look forward to a productive dialogue at the February forums and at the public meetings on the Town's FY15 budget that will be held over the next few months.

## Treasurer's Report

### David Lublin

As we enter the seventh month of fiscal year 2014, I would like to provide an update on the Town's financial outlook, including projected reserve funds and considerations for their use.

The Town is on track to receive approximately \$4.3 million in revenue this year, while we expect to spend approximately \$3.5 million from the operating and capital budgets. At the end of the year, we expect to realize a surplus of approximately \$800,000. This amount will supplement the Town's general fund balance, which is projected to be about \$9 million on June 30, 2014. With respect to the Town's annual revenues, it is worth noting that the Town eliminated its property tax in FY14, and, as such, no longer levies any tax on Town residents. The Town's primary revenue sources now consist of a portion of residents' state income tax, which is based on a formula established by state law, as well as highway user revenues. The Town has no control over these distributions.

As the Council considers ways to use available Town reserves for new or expanded programs and services, it will be necessary to save some of the available monies for future capital expenditures. Over the years, the Town has been fortunate to be able to fund all capital projects from its available reserves without the need to set aside annual operating revenues. Because the Town cannot predict future revenues, and because of the volatility in revenues that we have experienced over the past 10 years, it would be prudent of the Town Council to ensure that a certain amount of the Town's reserve monies be saved for future year capital projects. The Town's 5-year capital improvement plan estimates that the Town will spend approximately \$3.7 million on capital projects between July 2015 and June 2019.

In addition to a capital project reserve, the Council may choose to save some additional monies as a contingent reserve, which provides funds to respond to emergencies such as snowstorms, hurricanes, etc. Historically, the Town has earmarked 30% of the Town's annual operating revenue for such a purpose. In FY14, the amount earmarked for a contingent reserve is \$1.2 million.

In the March Forecast, the Town will publicize its FY15 budget schedule, including specific dates for public hearings on the proposed budget. I encourage you to participate in the budget development process by sharing your thoughts with the Council.

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## Town Teen List

The Town maintains a list of Town Teens who are available for a variety of jobs, including baby-sitting, pet-sitting and yard work. If you would like the list emailed to you, please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144.



# February



- Tuesday, February 4 – Mitigation Advisory Group, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 5 - Speaker on Tax Assessment, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, February 6 – Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.
- Friday, February 7 – Movie Night for Families, 6 p.m.
- Sunday, February 9 - Public Forum on Town Reserves
- Tuesday, February 11 - Public Forum on Town Reserves
- Tuesday, February 11 – Climate and Environment Committee, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 12 – Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, February 13 - Public Services Committee, 7 p.m.
- Monday, February 17 – Presidents’ Day – Town Office closed
- Monday, February 17 – Long Range Planning Committee, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 18 – Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, February 23 – Chili Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

## Movie Night for Families

Friday, February 7, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Our next “Movie Night for Families” will be on **Friday, February 7** at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall. Remember to arrive right at 6 p.m. to get a slice of pizza and a bag of popcorn before the movie starts. Space is limited. Please RSVP to the Town Office at [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or 301-654-7144. Parents must accompany their children.

## Theater Night Returns to Chevy Chase

Thursday, February 13, 7:10 p.m., Round House Theatre

Join your friends and neighbors for another evening of theater for Town residents at Round House Theatre on **Thursday, February 13** at 7:30 p.m. The play is “Seminar,” a fast, funny and smart comedy by Theresa Rebeck, a Pulitzer Prize nominee and one of Broadway’s most-produced female playwrights. We will gather at 7:10 p.m. in the patron’s lounge at the theater for distribution of the tickets. After the show, you are invited to a private reception with members of the theater’s production team. The price of tickets is \$30. For seniors 65 and over and for those 30 and under, a discounted price of \$20 is available. For more details, please contact the Town Office at [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or 301-654-7144. This event is organized by the Community Relations Committee.

## Annual Chili Dinner plus Ice Cream Sundae Bar - the 20<sup>th</sup> year!

Sunday, February 23, 5:30 - 7 p.m., CCES

The Community Relations Committee is happy to continue the tradition of hosting the Town’s Annual Chili Dinner at Chevy Chase Elementary School. At the event, there be a special table for our senior residents, basketball for teens in the gym beginning at 6:15 p.m., and entertainment for our youngest residents beginning at 5:45 p.m. Chili (meat and vegetarian) will be provided by Hard Times. We also will serve **Ice Cream Sundaes** for a special treat. To continue the Town’s support of Manna Food Center, residents may make a cash donation or write a check payable to Manna Food Center to help needy individuals and families in Montgomery County, which you can drop in the box we will provide at the dinner. This event is very popular, so you must RSVP to 301-654-7144 or [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) by Wednesday, February 19.

# Town Updates

## CRIMEWATCH

1/9/2014

A resident in the 7500 block of Connecticut Avenue reported that his car was stolen from the Woodbine Street side of the property.

Two residents in the 4100 block of Leland Street reported that their unlocked cars were entered. An iPad was stolen from one of the cars.

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 process, call 911. Also, report incidents to the Town staff at 301-654-7144 so that we can post the incidents on the Town website.

## Public Use of the Town Facilities During Power Outages

With the recent installation of a generator at the Town Office and Town Hall, the Town Council has approved a policy for public use of these facilities during power outages. The policy states that, during power outages, the Town Office will be open and available to the public for the purpose of conducting normal Town business, while the Town Hall shall be open and available to the public for use as a temporary shelter. During power outages, Town facilities will be open during normal business hours, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. These hours may be extended as necessary or warranted. The policy limits the number of persons in the Town Hall to 50 and prohibits the overnight use of the Town Hall during power outages. The approved policy is posted on the Town's website.

## Organic Waste Collection

Household organic waste is collected curbside every Tuesday. Participants receive one (1) 5-gallon bin and liner. On collection day, the contractor will empty the bin, wipe it down, replace the liner and return it to the curb. A compostable materials list is posted on the Town website. This is a voluntary service. Residents wishing to opt-in may do so by contacting the Town by the last Tuesday of any month. Bins will be delivered to new participants on the first Tuesday of the following month, with regular pickup beginning the following week. We encourage you to join the 221 households that are currently participating in the program.

## Native Canopy & Street Tree Plantings

The Town is in the process of preparing the spring tree planting list. If you have a spot in your yard suitable for a canopy tree, you may want to take advantage of the Town's Native Canopy Tree Planting Program. Under this program, the Town will purchase and install a canopy tree on your property at no cost to you. Residents are responsible for the long-term care of the tree once installed. You also may request a tree to be planted along the street in front of your home. If you would like to request a tree, please contact the Town Office at [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or 301-654-7144, or visit the Town website.

## Doggie Do and Doggie Don't



The Town Office has received calls from residents complaining that dog owners do not observe the leash law. Please remember that your dog should always be on a leash when not in a fenced portion of your yard. Please observe this law so that all dog owners can enjoy walks through the Town with their dogs.

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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; [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org); Kathy Strom, Editor. Copies are mailed to each address in the Town and posted on the Town website.

Residents may sign up on the Town's website [www.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org) to receive Town Crier emails, Alert TOCC voicemail messages and an electronic copy of the FORECAST.

# Committee Corner

## Climate and Environment Committee

### Ask the Energy Efficiency Experts!

Do you wonder why one of your rooms is freezing cold in the winter? How can you get rid of the breeze blowing through the sunroom on windy days? What incentives are available to reduce the cost of making energy efficiency improvements? Get answers to these questions and many more on **Sunday, March 2** from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. Town residents and energy consultants Suzanne Parmet and Michael Whelan will talk about how to identify and find funding to solve the most common home comfort problems. Come prepared with questions about your own house, so the experts can answer your energy efficiency questions. Please join us for refreshments at 3 p.m. The program will start promptly at 3:30 p.m. Please RSVP to the Town Office by Friday, February, 28.

### “Power Breakfast” Offers Information about Energy Supplier Options

About sixty neighbors met over coffee and bagels on Saturday, January 4 to learn more about how to choose an energy supplier. Town resident Barney Rush, who works in the energy industry, began the discussion, followed by Paula Carmody from the Office of People’s Counsel for the State of Maryland, who provided an extensive presentation about things to consider, and things to watch out for, as we try to decide which supplier to choose.

If you missed it, you can watch the video of the event on the Climate and Environment Committee page on the Town website. The website also has a complete written summary of the discussion and links to other information sources, including renewable energy options.

# Around and About Chevy Chase

## February 2014 with Chevy Chase At Home

Learn “How To Tell And Record The Stories Of your Life For Future Family Generations” at the next Mix & Mingle (M & M) on **Tuesday, February 4** from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Louis P. Solomon, founder and president of a book publishing service, will guide us in organizing our recollections and photographs.

“The Alexander Technique: An Introduction and Demonstration of a Method of Movement Re-education” will be the M & M offering on **Tuesday, February 18** from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Melissa Harrison, a certified Alexander teacher, will offer pointers on movement technique that should be useful to even the healthiest among us.

Don’t forget to drop by the Olympia Cafe on Brookville Road on **Thursday, February 13** from 10 to 11:30 am, for the monthly gathering of the Brunch Bunch. Buy a cup of coffee or sweet treat and join the CC@ H table for some good company and conversation.

Please visit our website [www.chevychaseathome.org](http://www.chevychaseathome.org) for more information about all our activities or call the CC@ H office at 301-657-3115.

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## Construction in Bethesda

Construction continues at the Lot 31 project in downtown Bethesda, with nighttime work scheduled through late March to accommodate substantial concrete work at the site. The work will occur two nights per week, with a scheduled start time of 3 a.m. For more information, or to lodge a complaint, please contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or County’s Department of Environmental Protection at 240-777-7746.

## Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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### TOWN COUNCIL

*Patricia Burda, Mayor*

*Kathy Strom, Vice Mayor*

*Al Lang, Secretary*

*David Lublin, Treasurer*

*John Bickerman, Community Liaison*

## Moveable Feast is Back! Calling all Town Chefs and Hosts to Volunteer!

Mark your spring calendars for the evening of Saturday, March 22 for *Moveable Feast*, our community's Town-wide progressive dinner. Event and RSVP details will follow in the *March Forecast*. We are now looking for Town chefs to prepare a main meal or dessert and Town hosts to hold the dinner or dessert parties. Chefs cook dinner or bake dessert for 10. Dinner hosts entertain 10 guests, including themselves. Dessert hosts entertain 20 people, including themselves. A small stipend is provided to dinner hosts and chefs. To volunteer as a chef or host (or both!), please contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org).

If you have questions, contact Community Relations Committee members Jean Carlson ([jeancarlson55@gmail.com](mailto:jeancarlson55@gmail.com)) or Bridget Hartman ([bridget@hartmanjr.net](mailto:bridget@hartmanjr.net)).

## Maryland Resident Tax Return 2013 - Form 502

A major source 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. If you use a tax form online, please type TOWN OF CH CH in the box (there are not enough spaces for the complete spelling). This will insure that a portion of your tax dollars will return to the Town so that the Town is able to provide exceptional municipal services. Do not assume that people at the state level understand the different municipalities that share the 20815 zip code.