



Forecast

JANUARY 2015

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

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Bethesda Downtown Plan Update

In December, the Montgomery County Planning Board staff provided another briefing to the Planning Board on the Bethesda Downtown Plan, a twenty year land use plan for the Bethesda area. The Town also held a public meeting with the Planning Board staff to learn about many of the proposed changes to the plan that will impact the Town. Among the proposals under consideration are allowing buildings up to 250 feet high along portions of Wisconsin Avenue adjacent to the Town, and constructing new buildings between 35 and 70 feet high on the existing surface parking lots along 46th Street and West Avenue. The latter building heights would depend on the size of a proposed park area, or "greenway," that would serve as open space between the Town and the proposed buildings.

Many residents who attended the Town meeting expressed surprise and concern at the dramatic nature of some of the changes proposed by the Planning Board staff and the potential impacts of these changes to traffic, schools, and the residential character of the Town. The Town is working on preparing comments to share with the Planning Board and its staff. We encourage each of you to review the briefing on the plan at www.montgomeryplanning.org (search for "Bethesda Downtown Plan") and email your comments to the Board at BethesdaDowntownPlan@montgomeryplanning.org.

In order to provide an alternative vision, the Town also is developing a proposal for an expanded version of the "greenway" to be located on the existing surface parking lots adjacent to the Town. Such a park proposal, to be discussed by the Council at a work session on **January 12**, could be included in the Bethesda Downtown Plan in conjunction with the creation of underground parking in the area. We intend to solicit your views on this concept in mid-January, as we hope to present our vision to the Planning Board soon thereafter.

In January, at a date to be determined, the Planning Board staff will hold a public meeting on the plan concepts. The staff draft of the plan is expected to be released in April 2015, followed by a public hearing by the Planning Board.

Council Considers Tree Subcommittee Report

The Town Council recently discussed and made decisions on several recommendations regarding the Town's Urban Forest Ordinance. These recommendations were set forth in a report prepared by the Tree Subcommittee, which was formed last spring to review implementation of the Town's tree ordinance.

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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@townofchevychase.org; Kathy Strom, Editor.

A Message from Mayor Kathy Strom

I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season! As we look to the year ahead, two key issues facing the Town are the Bethesda Downtown Plan rewrite and the proposed Purple Line project. Since both projects could have a significant impact on the quality of life for Town residents, the Town will continue to engage actively in both.

The Town recently held a public meeting to allow Town residents to learn more about the County's proposals to expand development in downtown Bethesda. At this meeting, residents expressed their concerns and ideas directly to Montgomery County planning staff members, and Town officials reviewed the Town's involvement in the process to date. In January, the Town will submit comments and alternative proposals to the Planning Board, and we encourage residents to do the same. See page 1 of this newsletter for more information on how to submit your views to the Planning Board.

The Town also continues to work closely with our consultants to advance our concerns related to the proposed Purple Line light rail project. Over the next several months, we will continue to educate decision makers on the flaws of the project – including spiraling costs, weak ridership data, and potential environmental harm. We also will work with federal, state and local officials to help identify alternative, affordable transportation solutions that will improve the quality of life for our community and all communities in Maryland.

We believe our efforts have been productive, and we look forward to continuing this work over the coming months.



January 2 through January 31 - Annual Coat Drive

Thursday, January 8 - Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.

Friday, January 9 - Movie Night for Families, 6 p.m.

Monday, January 12 - Council Work Sessions, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 13 - Climate and Environment Committee, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 14 - Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, January 15 - Public Services Committee, 7 p.m.

Monday, January 19 - Long Range Planning Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 20 - Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 20 - Dinner Out, 7 p.m.

Saturday, January 31 - Lighting Forum, 3 p.m.

Sign up on the Town's website www.townofchevy Chase.org to receive Town Crier emails and Alert TOCC voicemail messages.

Winter Outerwear Clothing Drive
Continues until January 31

Town Events

Movie Night for Families

Friday, January 9, 6 p.m., Town Hall



Despicable Me is the featured family flick at **Movie Night for Families** on Friday, January 9 at 6 p.m. This movie gets rave reviews and is sure to be a crowd pleaser. Enjoy pizza and popcorn with the movie. Showtime is 6 p.m. Space is limited, so please **RSVP** to the Town Office at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or 301-654-7144. Parents must accompany their children throughout the movie.

Dinner Out at Vino Volo

Tuesday, January 20, 7 p.m.

Join your neighbors for Dinner Out at Vino Volo (7247 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda). Vino Volo is a lively wine tasting establishment that offers local, national, and international wines. The menu offers small plates ranging from cheese, cured meats and salmon rolls to tacos, penne, and pizzettas. Visit the website at <http://www.vinovolobethesdarow.com>. **RSVP** by January 16 to the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. Sponsored by the Community Relations Committee, Dinner Out meets periodically at area restaurants giving Town residents the chance to get to know each other and share a meal out.

Sunday Concerts 2015

Save the date for these musical events in 2015 for Town residents of all ages. Look for more details from the **Community Relations Committee** in future editions of the *Forecast*.

Karin & Mike Kelleher - Jazz — Classical Fusion

Sunday, February 8, 3 p.m. Town Hall

Town residents Karin and Mike Kelleher join fellow musicians to perform a unique mix of jazz and classical styles in the Town Hall. The ensemble includes a string quartet of violins, viola and cello along with an acoustic bass, drum, guitar and singer.

Simple Gifts - Learn to Play the Ukulele

Sunday, March 8, 3 p.m., Town Hall

Simple Gifts shares its musical talents and teaches Town residents (children 8 and up and adults) how to play the ukulele. Participants learn two to three cords and the basics of strumming and fingerpicking and will perform as the opening act for the concert that follows the workshop.

Simple Gifts - Traditional Folk Tunes

Sunday, March 8, 4 p.m., Town Hall

Two women plus twelve instruments equals one good time when Simple Gifts performs for Town residents. Playing fiddle, mandolin, banjo, recorders, bowed psaltery, hammered dulcimer, baritone fiddle, guitar and percussion, Simple Gifts puts its own distinctive stamp on traditional folk tunes.

Rockville Concert Band - Summer Tunes on Rosemary Circle

Sunday, June 14, 5:30 p.m.

The Rockville Concert Band, entertaining Washington area music lovers since 1957, comes to Town this summer to perform outdoors on Rosemary Circle. A 70-person group of amateur musicians presents Dixieland, marches, big band era music, show tunes and much more.

Town Updates

CRIMEWATCH

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. Any information you can give to the police about criminal or suspicious activity in Town will help to make us safer. After you have contacted the police, please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 with the information so we can update our records. Thank you!

Winter Storm Preparedness



A Winter Storm Preparedness reference guide was included in the December issue of the newsletter and is posted on the website. We encourage you to review the information and post the guide in a prominent place in your home. If you would like a hard copy dropped to you, please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144.

Please Remember to Shovel Your Sidewalk

It is important after inclement weather to make sure that the sidewalk adjacent to your house is cleared of snow and ice. If the accumulated snowfall is under 3 inches, you are responsible for clearing the sidewalk. The Town will assist with the clearing of public sidewalks when snow accumulates to 3 inches or more.



Recycle Your Christmas Tree!



The Town offers curbside pickup of Christmas trees. All wire, ornaments and tinsel must be removed. Please place the tree on the curb.

Household Organic Waste Collection

The Town continues to offer curbside household organic waste collection in partnership with the Compost Crew. There are many benefits to participating in this service, which residents must opt to receive. Participants receive a 5-gallon bin with lid and compostable liner. Every Tuesday, Compost Crew empties the bins at the curb, wipes them down, and replaces the liner. Participants also are eligible for two free bags of compost per year, which can be requested through the Town website (www.townofchevy Chase.org) or by contacting the Town Office. If you would like to participate, or if you would like more information, please contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144.

Council Considers Tree Subcommittee Report *continued from page 1*

At its December meeting, the Council discussed the subcommittee's proposal to allow one healthy tree to be removed by a homeowner once every five years. Asked to comment on the proposal, the Town attorney noted numerous legal and practical concerns. Upon considering such concerns, and in lieu of the subcommittee's proposal, the Council agreed to change certain tree removal procedures and processes with the intent of making it easier for residents to meet the requirements of the Town's tree ordinance while continuing to protect the tree canopy.

The Council agreed to 1) eliminate the tree removal appeal fee, 2) reexamine the list of trees exempt from the ordinance, 3) provide ongoing training to the Tree Board, and 4) engage in a comprehensive public education effort.

Since the Council was unable to consider all of the subcommittee's recommendations, the Council will hold a follow up work session on **Monday, January 12** to complete its discussion. The Tree Subcommittee report and related documents are on the Town's website for review.

Committee Corner

Land Use Committee

Town Researches Options for Tot Lot

In response to resident interest in a “tot lot” playground, the Town, in conjunction with members of the [Community Relations Committee](#) and [Land Use Committee](#), organized a meeting with the County and others to discuss this possibility. The meeting was productive and resulted in agreement that the existing playground at the Lawton Center provides the best location and available space for additional play equipment designed for 2-5 year olds. Given Montgomery Parks Department’s current lack of funds for such a project, the Town Council has agreed to look into options and costs for providing tot equipment at the Lawton Center playground. We will provide updates as plans progress.

Climate and Environment Committee

Lighting Forum

Saturday, January 31, Town Hall, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Due to the federally mandated “phase out” of traditional incandescent light bulbs, 60, 75 & 100 watt bulbs are no longer manufactured as of 2014.

With new developments in LED lighting (light-emitting diodes), their ‘color rendering’ now compares favorably with incandescent light bulbs, with the added benefit of 80% energy savings and much, much less maintenance. But many choices confront homeowners in finding the right LED replacement bulbs.

Join your neighbors for an informal discussion and demonstration of the latest LED lighting sponsored by the [Climate and Environment Committee](#). Hear about a special free, in-home lighting audit program being offered to Town residents and get some of your ‘burning’ questions answered, such as: Why LED’s?, Which LED bulb fits my favorite lamp?, and What about CFL’s?

Refreshments will be provided. RSVP by Thursday, January 29 to the Town office at 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Introduction to Solar Energy

In early December, the [Climate and Environment Committee](#) hosted an event to introduce solar energy to an increasing number of interested residents. The program included an overview of the technology, economics, and aesthetics of solar energy. Town residents Kirk Renaud and Barney Frank led the discussion and helped the audience learn about what makes a home a good candidate for this technology.

Town residents Chris Wright, John Kolakowski and Marcie Meditch and her husband John Murphey (both architects) shared their experiences with using solar energy and participated in a panel discussion. All of these residents are very satisfied with their systems. (You can read more about the panel discussion on the Town website.) To date, about 30 homes in the Town have already gone solar.

For more information about solar energy, including detailed questions and answers from the program, references for installation companies, and a potential group discount program, we encourage you to visit the Town website, www.townofchevy Chase.org.

Around and About Chevy Chase

Happy 2015 from Chevy Chase At Home!

Many thanks to all our wonderful neighbors who have been so supportive of CC@ H's efforts to make Chevy Chase a great community in which to "age in place." In the new year, we will continue to offer a number of interesting activities that are open to the public, as well as special events only for our members, friends, and volunteers.

The Brunch Bunch, which is open to all, will gather on **Thursday, January 8**, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Olympia Cafe on Brookville Road. It's a great way to get together with old friends and to meet new ones, so drop by, order a cup of coffee or your entire breakfast, and join the conversation at the CC@ H table.

On **Saturday, January 24**, Jan Augustine will share tales and photos from her most recent adventure, *Walking the Camino: An Illustrated Talk on the History and Reality of Walking the Camino de Santiago de Compostela*. For six weeks in September and October, Jan walked the 750 km French route across northern Spain. Everyone is invited to come to the Chevy Chase Village Hall at 11 a.m. to hear all about it.

Our fitness classes, offered to all for a modest fee, will begin again in January. The new eight week session of the Wednesday morning (10:30 to 11:30 a.m.) **Gentle Pilates/Balance Class** starts on January 21; the Friday afternoon (2:30 to 3:30 p.m.) class begins on January 23. They both meet at the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church. **Zumba Gold** starts anew on January 21 at 11:45 a.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Register and pay in advance on the CC@ H website.

As always, we welcome new volunteers. If you would like to join our award-winning group, please sign up for the Volunteer Training class to be held on **Thursday, January 15** from 10 a.m. to noon at the Town of Chevy Chase Town Hall. Application and release forms are found on the website www.chevychaseathome.org. In addition, a brief interview is required before the training date. Schedule your interview by calling the office at 301-657-3115.

Studio at The Writer's Center Opens

With the recent renovation of the Writer's Center at 4508 Walsh Street, 18 bright, inviting rental work spaces are now available for writers to pen their next poem, essay, or story. These carrels include laptop ports with wi-fi. Users have access to the space 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with a keyed entrance just for the Studio.

For \$100 per month, writers can use the studio, or pay for 3 months in advance for \$250. There is a 15% discount for Writer's Center members. The Studio also includes a lounge in which subscribers can take a break from their writing efforts, have a snack, and chat about their craft.

"Ernest Hemingway did some of his best writing in cafes in Paris and Madrid. He preferred large, airy rooms that were not tomb-silent like a library, but places where people talk in low voices and leave you alone when they pass your table," said studio subscriber Geert van der Kolk. "He even wrote a story about it. He called it 'A Clean, Well-Lighted Place,' and that's exactly what you'll find at the new Studio at The Writer's Center on Walsh Street."

"Coffee shops are noisy. A home office presents too many distractions," said Stewart Moss, Executive Director of the center. "Our renovated space is just the spot for emerging and seasoned writers to write their next piece."

For more information about the Studio or the variety of writing workshops offered at The Writer's Center adjacent to our Town, you can visit The Writer's Center at www.writer.org or call 301-654-8664.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

Kathy Strom, Mayor

Patricia Burda, Vice Mayor

Al Lang, Secretary

Vicky Taplin, Treasurer

John Bickerman, Community Liaison



Happy New Year!

A New Year's Thanks from the Community Relations Committee

The generosity of Town residents was overwhelming this holiday season. We thank each of you who reached out to help others in our community.

Town residents sent more than 300 items of warm winter clothing to the Betty Ann Krahnke Center, Bethesda Cares and Family Services, Inc. through the Outwear Clothing Drive. This outreach effort continues through January.

Eighty bountiful Thanksgiving dinner baskets (3,200 pounds of food!) were assembled and decorated by children in Town, the Lawton Center and the B-CC High School football team thanks to generous contributions from Town residents.

Gifts and gifts cards poured into the Town Office from Town residents for the annual December Gift Drive for individuals and families of domestic violence supported by Montgomery County Abused Persons Program.