



Forecast

ELECTION ISSUE 2012

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

Annual Town Meeting and Election

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Voting:	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Town Hall
Reception:	7 p.m.	Social Hall
Welcome and Introductions:	7:30 p.m.	Social Hall
Guest Speaker – State Senator Rich Madaleno		
Business Meeting:	8 p.m.	Social Hall

The Town Council has five elected members. Town residents will elect three candidates in the 2012 election to serve for two years. The polls will be located in the Town Hall, 4301 Willow Lane, and will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on **Election Day, May 1**. Any qualified voter may vote by absentee ballot. Residents desiring an absentee ballot must apply individually in writing (by mail, fax, email or in person) to the Town Office or fill out an absentee ballot request form provided by the Town. The form is included in this newsletter and available on the Town website. More details about the election are on page 3.

Beginning at 7 p.m., the Council will host a reception featuring the Town's volunteer committees. During the reception, you will have an opportunity to talk with many of the residents who volunteer their time and talents to work on the many issues facing the Town. At 7:30 p.m., Mayor David Lublin will introduce the invited guests, including State Senator Rich Madaleno, who will deliver a "wrap-up" of the 2012 General Assembly session. The business meeting will begin at 8 p.m.

In This Issue

Mayor's Report
- page 2 -

Election 2012
- page 3 -

Meet the Candidates
Bios and Statements
- page 4, 5 and 6 -

FY13 Proposed
Budget Highlights
-page 7-

FY12 Financial Review &
FY13 Budget Overview

FY13 Proposed Budget
- insert -

Absentee Ballot
Request Form
- insert -

Meeting Agenda

Mayor's Report	David Lublin, Mayor
Treasurer's Report	Linna Barnes, Treasurer
Public Hearing on Proposed FY13 Budget	
Adjournment	David Lublin, Mayor

Candidates' Forum Set for April 19

A candidates' forum will be held on **Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m.** in the Town Hall. Charles Duffy, host of the Montgomery Municipal Cable TV show "Political Pulse," has agreed to serve as moderator for the fifth consecutive year.

If you have a question you would like posed to the candidates, please submit it by April 16 to Ed Finn, Election Board member, at ejfynn724@aim.com. The Election Board might need to consolidate questions that are similar. The Forum will begin promptly, so come early for a good seat.

MAYOR'S REPORT

David Lublin

On behalf of the Town Council, I am pleased to present the Town's accomplishments over the past year. In addition to continuing to provide excellent services, the Town launched several new and innovative programs to improve our quality of life. These achievements would not have been possible without the help of the volunteers on the Town's committees, boards and commissions – and, of course, Town staff. We thank all of you for your hard work and sense of civic duty!

- Added **24 hour police coverage** in response to an increase in criminal activity in and around Town.
- Continued to provide excellent services, including **backdoor trash collection, Trash and Treasures collection, and sidewalk snow removal.**
- Maintained a sound Town infrastructure by **repaving roads and repairing and replacing sidewalks.**
- Installed **15 new street lights** to increase the safety and security of Town residents and improve walkability in the Town.
- Worked with the County to **secure funding for the final phase of storm sewer repairs** to improve water drainage in Town.
- Monitored, and advocated Town interests, in **proposed development projects** on the Town's borders and in **proposed County zoning changes.**
- Developed the **Land Conservation Program** to enable Town residents to donate gifts of open space to the Town in order to protect that space in perpetuity.
- Played a significant role in working with the State to help identify ways to **reduce the impacts of the proposed Purple Line light rail project.**
- Continued our participation in the **Connecticut Avenue Corridor Committee** to exchange information among local communities on **development plans for Chevy Chase Lake.**
- Amended the Town's **Urban Forest Ordinance** to clarify and expand some provisions and to improve public notification procedures.
- Amended the Town's **Building Ordinance** to clarify and relax some permitting requirements and to allow accommodations for handicap accessibility.
- Hosted a variety of **special events** for residents of all ages and continued promoting **resident outreach projects.**
- Offered the **Native Canopy Tree Planting Program**, which resulted in planting over 30 canopy trees on residents' private property.
- Continued the **Energy Audit and Improvements Assistance Program**, which reimburses residents for some costs of an energy audit and home efficiency improvements.
- Supported the **Neighborhood Watch Program** to help increase the safety and awareness of Town residents.
- Implemented **resident-Council dialogue sessions** at monthly Town Council meetings in a continuing effort to maintain a transparent and open government.
- Worked with neighboring communities to **oppose the use of toxic pesticides** by the Chevy Chase Club to treat its golf course greens.

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION 2012

Tuesday, May 1 is Election Day in the Town. The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. The polls will be located in the Town Hall, 4301 Willow Lane. The election will be administered by the League of Women Voters and monitored by the Town Election Board.

Town elections are governed by the provisions in Chapter 8 of the Town of Chevy Chase Municipal Code, which state: "An election shall be held on the first Tuesday in May of each year to elect members of the Town Council. Three members shall be elected in even-numbered years and two members in odd-numbered years."

The Nominees

Biographical sketches and statements of the Council candidates appear in this issue of the FORECAST and on the Town's website (www.townofchevychase.org).

Candidates' Forum

Candidates are invited to participate in a moderated forum and dialogue with the community on Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. The Election Board will accept questions in advance from Town residents.

Floor Nominations

Floor nominations for Councilmembers cannot be considered at the Annual Meeting since voting will begin in advance of the meeting.

Voting Eligibility

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 for other reasons are doubtful whether your name is on the list of registered, qualified voters, you may call the Montgomery County Election Board at 240-777-VOTE.

Voting By Absentee Ballot

Any qualified voter may vote by absentee ballot. Residents desiring an absentee ballot must apply individually in writing (by mail, fax, email or in person) to the Town Office. An absentee ballot request form is included in this newsletter and available on the Town's website. The absentee ballot must be returned in the printed envelope provided by the Town. To be counted, any absentee ballot must be received by the Town by 8 p.m. on **Election Day, May 1, 2012.**

Voting Procedure

The polls will be located in the Town Hall, 4301 Willow Lane. The polls will open at 8 a.m. and will close at 8 p.m. on **Election Day, May 1, 2012.** Names of candidates will appear on the printed ballot in alphabetical order. Voters may vote for no more than three candidates. There will be appropriate blanks on the printed ballot for the purpose of adding write-in candidates.

Election Board

Residents with questions on any aspect of the election are encouraged to contact a member of the Election Board: Brenda Lizzio, Chair, 301-656-8595; Ed Finn, 301-657-4607; and Cory Modlin, 301-652-6789.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Al Lang
4008 Underwood Street

Candidate's Biography and Statement

My name is Al Lang. My wife, Susan, and I moved to the Town in September, 1980, and have lived in the Town for the past 32+ years. Our two sons, Albert and James, were born and raised here. My email address, cell are al.lang@coteva.com, 202 320 6202.

As first a mathematician, and then for the past 20 years as a businessman, who started, built, successfully ran and sold 2 technology companies, I understand how to make logical, efficient, effective decisions. I understand how to use resources appropriately: staff and financial, as well as our Town's true strength, all our neighbors.

I have been actively involved in the Town's government. I have served on our Town Council for the past 4 years; and served as liaison to the Public Services Committee.

The PSC is the committee I wanted to work with. While we are blessed in this Town with many active hard working residents and the financial wherewithal to do good work on the environment, climate protection, long range planning, to mention only a few, I believe that local Town government is about safety and services. I have worked very hard with the PSC and the Council to accomplish many important projects, a few of which follow:

- Thornapple and Oakridge sidewalks
- CCES bus-cars traffic flow plan
- Water run-off engineer program
- Montgomery County Phase 2 Storm Drains funding
- Traffic engineering studies
- Streetlights evaluation project
- Initial Street Lights Installation
- Chevy Chase @ Home – approval for the first 10 strategically placed benches
- Analysis of Street Lights purchase from PEPCO
- Worked and working hard to obtain approval for a policing evaluation

I have leveraged my financial expertise and worked diligently with the Council to be a good financial fiduciary for the Town. I will continue to work very hard to protect our financial resources.

These efforts attest to my organizational and results oriented skills. To continue to move the Town forward I will assure that we listen to all: I will assure an open dialogue, discussion of the issues; and I pledge to use all our resources effectively.

I am asking you to vote for Al Lang for Town Council.

THANK YOU.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

David Lublin 4214 Thornapple Street

Candidate's Biography and Statement

It has been an honor to serve as your mayor for the past two years and on the Town Council for four years.

I grew up in Montgomery County, and am now a Professor of Government at American University. When my partner Eric and I moved to Thornapple Street in 2005, I knew we had found a special place. As your councilmember, I am committed to making sure that the Town keeps its small-town friendly character and remains such a vibrant neighborhood.

The past two years have been challenging in the Town as throughout the country. But, even as revenue declined due to the economic downturn and we had to make substantial budget cuts, we were able to maintain the high quality of Town services and keep the Town property tax steady. Revenues have recently improved, but it is important that we continue to budget carefully.

Throughout my time on the Council, I have worked closely with county and state officials on a variety of issues. Some recent projects I am especially proud of include:

- working with local police on crime and with Councilmember Kathy Strom on the 24-hour presence in Town by our off-duty police officers.
- working with residents and staff to get Pepco to install additional street lights. Even as these new lights are installed, we need to look to the future and explore alternatives, such as environmentally friendly LED lights that increase lighting on the streets but also reduce light spillage into homes.
- helping to establish the Town's Native Canopy Tree Program, which provides trees to residents and helps maintain our distinctive tree canopy. The Town also needs to continue to fund tree maintenance, so that our trees remain healthy, safe, and are replenished at their end of their natural life cycle.

Strong communication remains very important to me, and the Town has improved its efforts to inform neighbors about activities from crime to snow removal. I am grateful for the positive feedback I've gotten for the summaries I post on the unofficial Town listserv.

Over the next two years, I look forward to continuing efforts to make it easier for our older residents to live independently and stay engaged in our community. The Council should continue to support the renovation of Elm Street Park playground and to press for the best possible outcome on the Capital Crescent Trail.

I would be honored to receive your vote.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Kathy Strom 7212 Ridgewood Avenue

Candidate's Biography and Statement

Kathy Strom has been a resident of the Town of Chevy Chase for twenty-one years, a member of the Town Council for the past six years, having served as Vice-Mayor for the past two years, and previously as Mayor, Secretary and Treasurer. She lives at 7212 Ridgewood Avenue with her husband David and their youngest son Jacob, a senior at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, from which her older two children graduated five years ago.

Elected to the Town Council in 2006, Kathy served as Council liaison to the Town's Community Relations Committee for the past four years and as Council liaison to the Town's Long Range Planning Committee for the previous two years. Kathy has worked to involve residents in a wide range of community activities and to improve Town communications through use of the Town Crier and as editor of the Forecast. She has been Council liaison to the Town's Neighborhood Watch program which has grown over the past years. She has worked to make the voice of the Town heard in Montgomery County on a number of important issues, such as working to protect the Trail bordering our Town.

A graduate of Harvard College and New York University School of Law, she is Counsel in the Washington, D.C. office of the law firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP.

It has been an honor to represent and to serve you on the Town Council these past six years. I am proud of our progress on many issues which affect the Town and am excited to be seeking re-election to continue this progress.

Through the Community Relations Committee, we have built and expanded our Neighborhood Watch program. We have improved our communications through an updated Forecast and website, and greater use of the Town Crier email notification system. We have worked to build community spirit through numerous and varied events for Town residents.

I ask for your support for another term on the Council. We must continue to keep our neighborhood safe, to mitigate the impact of Bethesda development on the Town, to protect and maintain our natural environment, and to implement our new land conservation program. My promise is to listen to you and work hard to accomplish our community's goals. I ask that you give me the opportunity to continue to work with you and for you.

FY13 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

The Town Council recently approved the proposed budget and tax rates for fiscal year 2013. At the May 1 Annual Meeting, the Town will hold a public hearing during which residents may comment on the proposed \$2.5 million budget, the real estate tax rate of \$0.0104 per one hundred dollars of assessed value (which represents the constant yield tax rate), and the business personal property tax rate of \$0.10 per one hundred dollars of assessed value. Following the public hearing, the Council will adopt the budget and tax rates, with any modifications to which it agrees, at the May or June regular Town Council meeting.

FINANCIAL REVIEW & BUDGET OVERVIEW

Over the years, the Town has maintained its fiscal soundness through careful planning, including maintaining an adequate reserve balance to fund capital improvements and provide for emergencies or unforeseen expenditures. The Town continues to enjoy sound financial health, although, due to the current economic climate, the future is uncertain. Current projections indicate that income tax revenues for this year will be higher than the amount projected in the Town's FY12 budget. Next year's tax revenues may be lower than what was received this fiscal year, depending on the economy. However, even while maintaining a sizable rainy-day fund, the Town possesses sufficient funds to maintain exceptional service levels, as well as to fund necessary capital projects.

2012 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Revenues

- Total **operating revenues** are estimated to be **\$3,556,255**, over budget by **\$1,339,255** due primarily to the unexpected increase in income tax revenue.
- Town revenue sources: **90% from income taxes** (\$3.2 million), **3.2% from property taxes** (\$115,000), **0.9% from highway user taxes** (\$33,445), and **5.9% from other sources** (\$207,810), including permit fees and interest income.

Expenditures

- Total **operating expenditures** are expected to be **\$2,200,500**, over budget by **\$13,500** due to increases in police coverage and additional tree maintenance.
- Total **capital project expenditures** are expected to be approximately **\$551,000**. The Town expended capital funds for road and sidewalk improvements and for the purchase of new street lights.

2013 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Revenues

- Total **operating revenues** are budgeted at **\$2,860,000**, of which \$2.5 million is projected income tax revenue.
- The **property tax rate** is proposed at **\$0.0104 per \$100 of assessed value**, which is **the constant yield tax rate**. This rate will provide the Town with approximately the same property tax revenue as in FY12.

Expenditures

- Total **budgeted operating expenditures of \$2,512,000 are less than** total budgeted revenues by **\$348,000**. The excess revenue will be added to the General Fund to supplement Town reserves for capital projects and contingencies.
- Total **capital expenditures** are budgeted at **\$355,000**. FY13 capital expenditures include anticipated infrastructure repairs and maintenance as well as reforestation. Future capital expenditures are projected to be substantially less because the Town completed major infrastructure improvements in FY11 and FY12.

Comprehensive budget documents are available for review in the Town Office and on the Town website: www.townofchevy Chase.org.

FY13 Proposed Budget

Budget Summary	FY11 Actual	FY12 Budget	FY12 Estimated Actual	FY13 Budget
OPERATING REVENUES				
Taxes				
Property Taxes @ \$0.0104 for FY13; \$0.0105 for FY12	119,600	112,000	115,000	115,000
Income Taxes	2,174,114	1,850,000	3,200,000	2,500,000
Highway User Taxes	10,397	34,000	33,445	22,000
Subtotal - Taxes	2,304,111	1,996,000	3,348,445	2,637,000
Permit Fees and Cable TV Revenue	71,241	78,000	78,000	78,000
Reimbursements and Dump Fees	105,057	124,500	114,500	130,500
Other Revenue	56,921	18,500	15,310	14,500
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	2,537,330	2,217,000	3,556,255	2,860,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES				
General Government				
Administration	1,216,066	1,055,000	1,033,000	1,199,000
Civic Affairs and Constituent Services	182,288	163,000	153,800	188,000
Subtotal - General Government	1,398,354	1,218,000	1,186,800	1,387,000
Public Safety and Code Enforcement	357,965	280,000	365,000	436,000
Public Works				
Sanitation and Waste Removal	352,231	359,000	343,500	300,500
Streets and Roads	132,300	126,500	71,000	129,000
Parks and Grounds	259,682	203,500	234,200	259,500
Subtotal - Public Works	744,213	689,000	648,700	689,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2,500,532	2,187,000	2,200,500	2,512,000
NET CHANGE TO GENERAL FUND BALANCE	36,798	30,000	1,355,755	348,000
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES				
Facilities and Equipment	0	1,000	8,000	5,000
Streets and Roads	209,820	505,000	512,000	305,000
Parks, Grounds and Trees	55,440	35,000	31,000	45,000
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	265,260	541,000	551,000	355,000
ENDING GENERAL FUND BALANCE	4,560,369	4,049,369	5,365,124	5,358,124
	FY13 Contingent Reserve		858,000	
	Capital Improvement Plan Reserve		4,500,124	

REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

Town of Chevy Chase Council Election May 1, 2012

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.

DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Please provide an absentee ballot so that I may vote in the Annual Election of the Town, May 1, 2012.

signature of applicant required

print name (must be legible)

The ballot will be dropped or mailed (out-of-Town) to you beginning April 11, 2012.

To be counted, any absentee ballot must be received by the Town office by **8 p.m. on Election Day, May 1, 2012**. The ballot must be in the printed return envelope provided by the Town at the time the ballot was issued.

FY13 Proposed Budget Highlights

Town's Proposed Budget Provides for 24 Hour Police Coverage

In response to resident feedback and economic realities, the Town Council has proposed a FY13 budget that reflects conservative estimates for Town revenues and includes funding for a number of new or expanded programs and services. Following are highlights of the proposed FY13 budget.

REVENUES

Property Taxes:

The Town Council proposes to adopt the Constant Yield Tax Rate (CYTR) of \$0.0104 per \$100 of assessed value (this rate provides for about \$100 per \$1 million in assessed value). The CYTR will produce the same revenue in the coming year that was produced in FY12.

Income Taxes:

The Town is continuing to be conservative in estimating income tax revenue. The FY13 budget reflects a decrease in income tax revenue from that estimated for FY12, when the Town received higher than anticipated income tax revenue.

EXPENDITURES

Montgomery County Police:

The FY13 budget will allow the Town to continue to provide for 24 hour police coverage in Town.

Employee Salaries:

The FY13 budget includes a 3.3% cost of living adjustment for Town employees.

Native Canopy Tree Planting Program:

The FY13 budget will allow for the planting of 50 canopy trees on private property, rather than 30 as in previous years.

Energy Audit and Improvements Program:

For FY13, the Council decided to discontinue this program due to lack of participation.

Yard Trash Collection:

The Town Council decided to continue to offer once per week yard trash collection in the coming year, rather than reinstate twice per week collection.

Sidewalk Snow Removal:

The FY13 budget includes funds to provide for public sidewalk snow removal when snow accumulates to 3 inches or more.

Park Improvements:

The FY13 capital budget includes funds to purchase benches for placement along Town rights-of-way.

The Town Council wants to hear your thoughts on these proposals as well as the FY13 budget as a whole. You are welcome to share your comments at the public hearing on the proposed budget at the Town's Annual Meeting at 8 p.m. on May 1. You also are welcome to submit your comments by e-mail to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or by mail to Town Office, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

ELECTION ISSUE

Election Information is posted on the Town website,
www.townofchevy Chase.org.

Absentee Ballot Request Form Enclosed

The FORECAST is published monthly by the Town of Chevy Chase, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, 301-654-7144, www.townofchevy Chase.org. Kathy Strom, 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.

www.townofchevy Chase.org

TOWN COUNCIL
David Lublin, Mayor
Kathy Strom, Vice Mayor
Al Lang, Secretary
Linna Barnes, Treasurer
Pat Burda, Community Liaison

PRRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Bethesda, MD
Permit No. 418

Town of Chevy Chase
4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815