

“Where’s My FYI?”: Well, by now you have received your Cheverly newsletter and noticed there was no Mayor’s FYI. I’m sure you were all disappointed that your sleeping material was missing.

Actually, for the first time since 2010, I simply missed the deadline. That’s what driving the east coast to finalize the college selection process will do to you. Trudy would tell you that I miss the deadline all the time, but she has always been there to save me. This time I was just too late.

The May FYI is important because of the Budget information, so I hope to get the FYI distributed via the website, the Town’s News and Announcements system and maybe a little door to door.

Budget Process: The Town Administrator submitted the initial draft of the 2015 Budget (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) in the March work session. Copies of the budget are available at the town office for residents to review.

The Council reviewed the budget in the April work session and will finalize any changes in the May work session. It is critical that any comments you might have regarding the budget are provided to the council prior to May 22nd so that they can be considered prior to the June 12th Town Meeting where a budget will need to be approved prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.

Last year I provided a detailed overview of Cheverly’s revenues and expenses. Rather than use a lot of newsletter space, I invite you to go on-line and re-read the newsletters from March and April of last year to find out where the money comes from and where it goes. http://www.cheverly-md.gov/Pages/CheverlyMD_Newsletters/index

Closing out FY14: The first order of business in setting the budget for FY15 , is to close the books on FY14. Last year the council planned to have a \$338,000 deficit in FY14 primarily driven by road projects. However, the road projects have yet to begin as WSSC has yet to complete their work. The result is that the current projected deficit for FY14 only \$37,000. I still believe this deficit will be filled, with increased revenues however our FY14 plan calls for a \$37,000 deficit.

The resulting Fund Balance for Cheverly will be \$2.044M at the end of FY14. The Town Council is thrilled with this financial result; however it is critical to note that much of the success is due to delayed capital projects that must be addressed.

So, Let’s Hear about FY15: The bottom line is that the Town Council is planning to address long standing capital projects and is currently planning for \$922K deficit in FY15, which would result in a year ending fund balance of \$1,121K. While this Fund Balance is still a very healthy number for a town of our size, the Town Council would still like to see a larger fund balance.

However, we have general agreement that the following capital projects and large operating expenses should be included in the budget: Bond Payment for Police Station (\$108K), Purchase Payment for Refuse Vehicle (\$80K), Town Park Stage Construction (\$148K, offset by \$115K grant), Repaving Streets w/WSSC (\$300K), Building Security System (\$ 90K), Paving of Lydell Circle (\$130K), Resurfacing Cheverly Public Works Yard (\$63K), Two New Police Vehicles (\$80K), Storm Water Management Project (\$20K), Magruder Park Steps (\$18K), Boyd Park Improvements (\$10k).

After three years of smaller capital expenditures the Council felt this was the time to address these needs.

Overall, the council continues to attempt to limit operating expenses and identify non-property tax revenues.

Results of the Three Year Financial Plan: Three years ago as we headed into FY13, the town received news that due to lower assessments property tax revenue would be reduced by over \$750K. The impact was actually much greater because of reductions in other state revenue sources and the Council had to plan for a reduction of over 2.4M in revenue over three years.

As everyone knows the biggest action the council took was to raise the town tax rate from .48 per \$100 of assessed value to .58. This action did not fully recover the revenue short fall, but it did keep the average homeowner's total tax bill flat. The council's goal was to keep the average Cheverly resident's total taxes flat for three years to help them through the difficult economic times.

There were three financial goals for the plan:

1) *Increase Revenues where possible while holding Property Taxes Flat.*

Result: In FY12 total Town revenue was \$4.998M, total Town revenues are projected to be \$4.917M in FY15. Revenue has remained virtually flat, although we have seen increases in Income Tax and Delinquent Red Light and Speed Camera Tickets. Sources of income from state and federal grants have shown a decrease.

However, as promised Property Tax revenue has stayed flat. In FY12 it was \$2.948M, and in FY15 it is projected at \$2.917M.

2) *Hold the line of Operating Expenses:*

Result: In FY12 the total Town operating expenses were \$4.436M and in FY15 operating expenses are projected to be \$4.761M. Therefore, operating expenses increased by only \$325K or 7.2% for the last three years.

3) *Limit Capital Spending:*

Result: In FY12 total Town capital expenditures were \$657K. At the time the council would have invested more in infrastructure, but was unable to. However, if you multiply FY12 spending by 3 (for the 3 year plan) the Town typically would have spent \$1.971M over the last three years. However, the Town is projected to spend only \$1,615M from FY13 through FY15. So while we are planning to spend over \$1M in capital in FY15, we will actually spend \$356K less than what would be expected.

Overall, I believe the Town Council met the goals that we outlined starting in FY13. Given the very conservative budgeting of our Town Administrator (overestimate expenses and underestimate revenues) I believe that at the end of FY15 this analysis will prove to be even better.

Feet on the Street: There is only one financial fact that everyone in town should know, "70% of all operating dollars go directly to "Feet on the Street"". (Based on number crunching I did in 2012). One reason why our crime rate is low and our town is so beautiful is because of our Town employees.

Our Front Office administrative staff is very small at 2.5 employees or just 9% of our employee budget. Therefore you can see our employees (and your tax dollars) working on our streets.

If you are wondering where the rest of our operating dollars go here is a look at the big hitters: Professional Services Legal, Computer, Auditor (\$125K), Speed Camera and Red Light Vendors (\$110K), Street Lights and Trash Disposal (\$200K), Various Insurances (\$50K), Building Loans and Maintenance (\$200K) and Fleet Maintenance (\$180K).

Please note that while Speed and Red Letter Cameras are listed as an expense, this expense is totally offset by a revenue account.

Volunteers of the Year Gabe Horchler and Pat Nelson: Each year it is one of my great pleasures to designate two Cheverlians (with consultation from the Town Council) who demonstrate outstanding service to the Town of Cheverly. This is usually a very difficult process, as Cheverly is a community of special people who do special things.

However, this year it came to me in an instant. Pat and Gabe have been dedicated to our town for many years and are always there to help when needed.

Pat Nelson: Pat has been the hidden force that drives the Cheverly Day celebration. She conceived and constructed the Midway Games and has maintained and enhanced them for years. This year she is incorporating many new themes such as Mini Golf and the Ping Pong Flume. However, her greatest contribution is her creativity and artistic interpretation of the Cheverly Spirit, which is found each year on our Cheverly Day Tee-shirts. Each Tee-shirt is a work of art: The Cheverly View of the World, The Fireworks, The Cicada Crunch, It's Not Easy Being Green, and of course this year's "Cheverly, Greater Than the Sum of its Parts".

Gabe Horchler: Gabe can be found almost anywhere where people need a hand; toting tables, moving mulch, and helping the needy through his association with St Vincent DePaul. While I rely on Gabe to assist with the set-up and take down of the Community Market, Gabe's biggest mark on our community can be found in the trail of wood chips that go from Town Hall to Seven Eleven. This trail is Cheverly's best kept secret and a wonderful place to get away from the world.

Of course Gabe doesn't do this alone. He does this as part of the Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek, and he does this with a core of contributors: Ken Furnkranz, Rudd Moe, Riley Grimes, Rex Korden, the Scouts and many others. This is why this Plaque will read: Gabe Horchler and the Mulchers.

Gabe and the Mulchers, quietly go about the process of continually improving the path; building bridges, building steps, managing water problems and spreading mulch by the ton. Gabe has transformed the process from wheel barrels to tractors with multiple cart attachments easily quadrupling production.

New Trash Truck Makes Debut Appearance at Truck Touch: Have you ever wanted to play in a trash truck? Of course not, who wants to play in a trash truck it's all dirty and yucky. Well on Saturday May 3rd, you can play in a Trash Truck? Why? Cheverly's new Trash Truck will make its first appearance at Truck Touch.

Of course if you don't go to Truck Touch, just look out your window on Monday. Starting May 5th our new Trash Truck will be making the rounds.

Whoooo's That in the Tree? If you've seen the newsletter or been to Town Park recently you've likely seen our new residents. A beautifully carved Horned Owl, with her owlets now adorns the tree on the

west side of the Town Park entrance. Our Town Administrator needed to remove a tree at that location, and simultaneously met a chain saw wood carver. For the price of removing the tree, the Town Administrator was able to hire the artist, and *voila* we now have some very beautiful tree art.

However, the question remains: "What should we call the owl?" Chief Robshaw has offered a \$25 gift card to the Cheverly Resident who comes up with the best name for the owl. The contest will end on May 31st at Cheverly Day. If you have an idea for a name please send it to Chief Robshaw (policechief@cheverly-md.gov) or Mike Callahan (mayor@cheverly-md.gov) or simply drop the name in the suggestion box at Town Hall.

National Park Service Work Begins: After many long months (years) and countless emails and phone calls, work has finally begun on the demolition of homes on 58th Place across from the Exxon Station on Route 202. The National Park Service purchased these homes in 2008 because of continuing issues caused by water from the BW Parkway. Cheverly has been working with the Park Service since 2009 in an attempt to get the homes removed. Funding and Government process issues have held up the demolition for all this time.

The Town Council and I, and the residents of the neighboring homes look forward to the end of this long journey. Hopefully, by mid-summer the homes will be gone.

Please Pick Up After Your Pet: Pretty Please. Seriously, it's just not that hard to do and it would save me a lot of embarrassment. How would you like to run a town meeting where the major topic of conversation is "the dog poop problem is out of hand".

If you leave the house with your pet, bring a bag! It's that simple! Your neighbors really don't want to experience your pet's poop in their yard. Please consider for a second your neighbor's children playing or an individual in a hurry trying to get to work when they accidentally step in it. It's really just not pleasant.

So bring a bag. The Town has installed three Dog Stations in Town and is considering adding more. However, this shouldn't be necessary.

Monthly Advice from the Green Infrastructure Committee: When possible replace impervious surfaces with permeable surfaces on your driveway and walk ways. When we experience heavy rains as we have done lately, impervious surfaces create large amounts of run-off that create issues with our storm drain systems, rivers and streams.

Reducing impervious surfaces helps to reduce this issue. This can also save you money via tax rebates from the county under the Prince George's County Rain Check program:
<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/StormwaterManagement/RainCheck/Pages/default.aspx>

47th Delegation Lending a Hand: With the election upcoming I think this is a good opportunity to plug our current crop of legislators from the 47th District for the work they do for Cheverly. State Senator Ramirez, and State Delegates Ivey, Summers and Niemann have always been there for us.

Delegates Ivey and Summers have been instrumental in identifying resources to help with bike path planning as well as assisting in Ways and Means Committee hearings on Property Tax Legislation targeted at Cheverly. Delegate Summers was also instrumental in acquiring the funding to fix the graffiti

problem on the Route 50 Bridge. Senator Ramirez has continually attempted to identify solutions to the sound issues from Route 50. The entire delegation has supported Bond Bills for Historic Restoration of the Cheverly United Methodist Church and the American Legion.