

Cheverly, Md., embraces traditions, neighborly charm

Where We Live | Prince George's County neighborhood has organizations, clubs and events.

Updated March 22, 2025

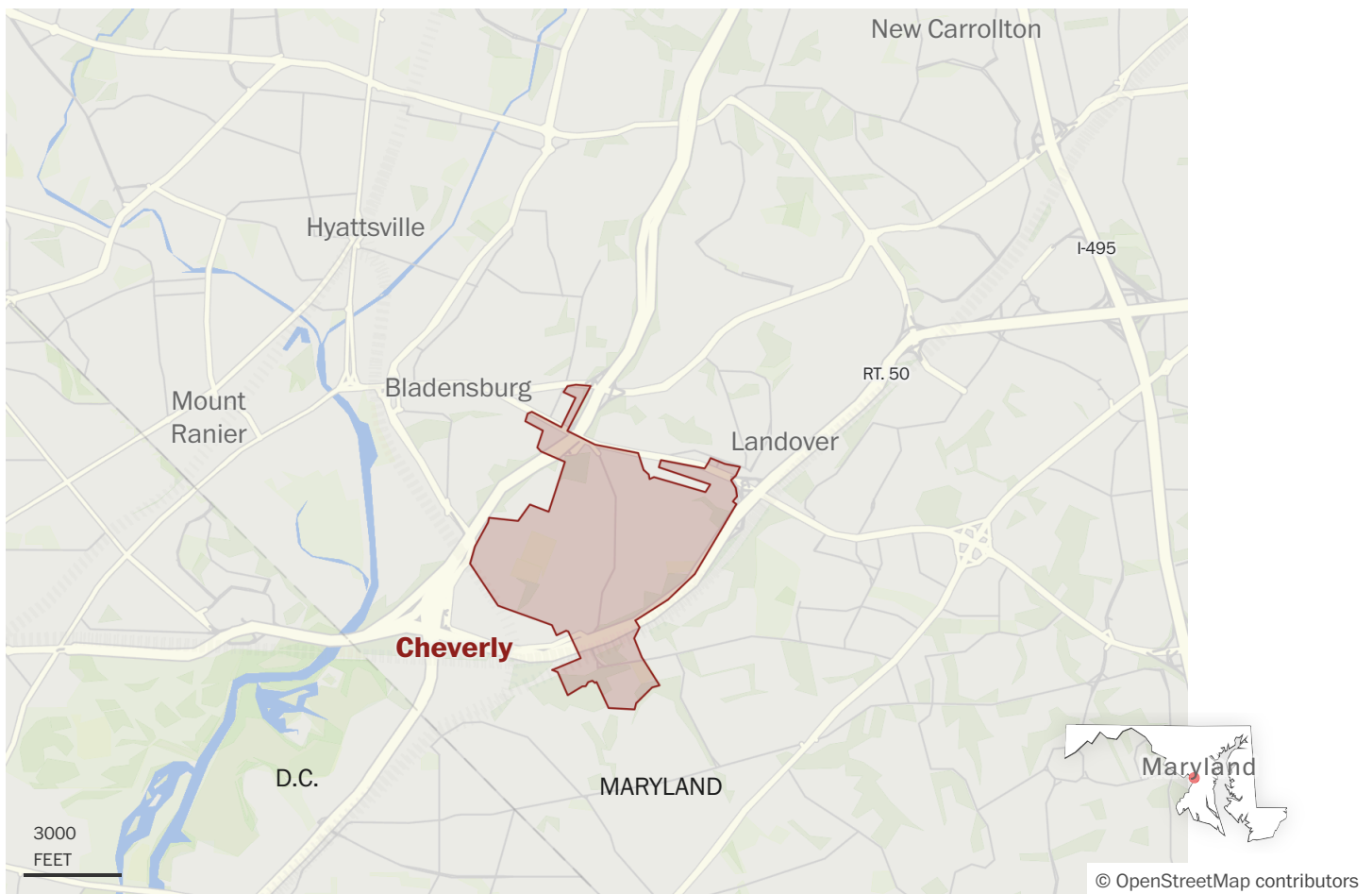
By Elliot Williams

Ten minutes east of the U.S. National Arboretum, just off the Columbia Park Road exit of Route 50, is the region's second-least-visited Metro station and a lone 7-Eleven. But from there, a right on Cheverly Avenue connects to a nearly century-old town with a lush tree canopy and residents who value its affordability, diversity, proximity to the District and suburban spirit.

"I call it the gated community without gates," said David Tansey, a D.C. math teacher who lived in Cheverly, Maryland, for a few years as a child and moved back once he had kids of his own. "There is a sense that we like not being easy to get to."

Longtime Cheverly residents boast of block parties, a bimonthly community market and other decades-long traditions. Cheverly Day draws hundreds of attendees each fall to a beer garden, food trucks and fireworks display.

It's not uncommon for Cheverly residents to sell their home and move to another in town, according to Susan Pruden, a real estate agent with Century 21 who's lived in Cheverly for 34 years. "There just seems to be a sort of a continuity that I haven't experienced anywhere else I've lived in Maryland," Pruden said.



More than 6,100 residents live within the town's roughly 1.3 square miles, per the 2020 U.S. Census. A colorful mix of Colonials, Cape Cods, bungalows and a handful of 1920s-era Sears & Roebuck Catalog houses sit close together on rolling green hills. The Prince George's County town also encompasses a stretch of Landover Road that has a gas station, a Wyndham Garden hotel, an Aldi grocery store and a 550-unit apartment complex built in the 1960s.

"We're pretty densely packed in," says Cathy Wintermyer, 70, who moved to Cheverly from D.C. with her husband, Art, in 1983. "As a result, whether we want to be or not, we're sort of in each other's back pockets."

The town has an extensive list of community organizations led by volunteers that meet regularly at each other's homes, the town hall, the Catholic and Methodist churches and American Legion Post 108. The Cheverly Garden Club has existed since 1954 and is responsible for several benches along town sidewalks. A local nonprofit supports seniors in town by offering services like snow shoveling and transportation.

Children from across the area enjoy the active Cheverly Boys & Girls Club, while adults participate in activities like 35-and-older men's pickup basketball games and the daytime pickleball league in the town gym.

"It's not easy to maintain those traditions, and it requires an intentionality that Cheverly has and that I still feel," said Tansey, who is now running for a town council seat. "And it's what compelled me to move to Cheverly when it was time to start a family and raise them."

“When people move to Cheverly, they don’t really go out — they go to each other’s houses,” said Mayor Kayce Munyeneh, who lists her cellphone number in the town newsletter.

In 2021, Munyeneh became the town’s first Black mayor. As a town council member in 2020, she helped remove the image of Cheverly’s Mount Hope house — a former tobacco plantation — from the town seal. The move came as part of a town resolution in support of Black lives during the 2020 racial justice protests.

The goal wasn’t to erase the town’s history, Munyeneh said, but to start a conversation and educate people on issues that matter to a neighborhood that prides itself on its diversity. (Cheverly is more than 39 percent Black, 30 percent White and 17 percent Latino, according to the census.)

“We cannot ignore the history of our town, which is that it was tantamount to being a sundown town after slavery,” Munyeneh said, referring to the term for communities that barred Black people from living there or remaining after dark through intimidation tactics and discriminatory laws. “And prior to that, we did have enslaved people here.”

Dale Manty and Liz Tuckermanty, who have lived in the Mount Hope house for more than 40 years, founded the Mount Hope Commission to “celebrate equity in the community,” Tuckermanty said. For decades, the couple has also hosted informal potluck dinners for as many as 120 neighbors at a time on their sprawling property.

The neighborhood has a few notable instances of historical significance: British troops drank from the town’s springs before and after the Battle of Bladensburg, on their way to set fire to the Capitol and White House, according to a town history webpage. (A lesser known fun fact is that local rapper GoldLink spent some of his childhood in Cheverly and filmed much of the music video for his Grammy-nominated single “Crew” in the town park.)

Ohio investor Robert Marshall purchased much of the original Cheverly subdivision in 1918 and incorporated it in 1931. He marketed the town to federal employees saying it was “10 cents and 12 minutes to downtown Washington, D.C.” Nearly a century later, Cheverly is still home to many federal workers and commuters.

Sean Evans, a 38-year-old mortgage broker who returned home to Cheverly after spending years on the West Coast, described childhood summers filled with bike rides and shooting hoops in friends’ driveways until after dark. Many of his neighborhood friends were multiracial, like him, he said.

He still rides his bike to the private Cheverly Swim and Racquet Club. “When I was a kid growing up, I mean, there’d just be bikes scattered out front just from all the kids who had ridden their bike down to the pool for the day,” Evans said.

The pool atmosphere began to shift in the early 2000s when the Capitol Hill crowd discovered it, according to the locals — the wait list now has over 1,000 names.

Other things have changed, too: The town has more residents with advanced degrees than what Tansey remembers from his childhood, when Cheverly had more of a “blue-collar vibe.” And given how politically active the residents are — including a handful of well-known politicians who live in town, such as the Iveys — there’s more than the occasional spat in the town email group these days.

But the bickering isn't out of the ordinary for Cheverly, said Fred Price Jr., an 84-year-old Marine veteran and former town council member who lives in Old Ward Four, a historically Black part of town. (He's also the only Republican running for the District 5 county council seat).

"We're just family," Price said. "And families have fights, too. And that's okay."

When Price's grandson died, it was Cheverly residents, some of whom didn't even know him, who first came to console him in his grief.

"They've just been good neighbors," he said.

Living there: About a dozen homes are on the market, ranging from a three-bedroom rambler built in the 1940s, listed at \$450,000, to an updated, five-bedroom home for \$679,900.

In the last year, 56 homes were sold in Cheverly. The lowest-price home sold for \$250,000, while the highest sold at \$796,000. The average price was \$521,000, an increase from the previous year's average of \$479,000.

Public Schools: Gladys Noon Spellman Elementary, Judith P. Hoyer Montessori, Charles Carroll Middle and Bladensburg High School.

Transit: Cheverly sits between Route 50, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 202. It's less than nine miles from Interstate-495, about seven miles from the Capitol and 25 miles to Annapolis.

The Cheverly Metro Station is on the Orange Line. The F1, F13 and 18 bus routes pass through Landover Road and Cheverly Avenue.

CORRECTION

A photo caption in a previous version of this article transposed the names of two family members. The father is Jonathan and their son is Buddy. The caption has been updated.
