



Forecast

ELECTION ISSUE 2016

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

Annual Town Meeting and Election

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Voting	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Town Hall
Reception	6:30 p.m.	Lawton Center Social Hall
Annual Meeting	7 p.m.	Lawton Center Social Hall

The Town Council has five elected members. In the 2016 election, Town residents will elect three members, each to serve for a two year term. 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 3](#).

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 website.

On May 3, the Town Council will host a reception beginning at 6:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., the annual meeting will begin with a presentation by State Senator Rich Madaleno, who will provide a “wrap-up” of the 2016 General Assembly session. Mayor Al Lang will then provide an overview of the Town’s accomplishments over the past year, and Town Treasurer Fred Cecere will present the proposed budget and tax rates for the 2017 fiscal year, followed by a public hearing.

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Candidates' Forum

The Election Board will host a “Candidates’ Forum” on [Wednesday, April 27 at 7 p.m.](#) in the Town Hall. Charles Duffy, former host of the Montgomery Municipal Cable TV show “Political Pulse,” has agreed to serve as moderator for the eighth year. As in the past, questions at the forum will be posed by the moderator based on questions submitted by residents prior to the forum. There will be no questions from the audience at the forum. If you have a question you would like posed to the candidates, please send it to townoffice@townofchevychase.org by [Tuesday, April 26](#).

Proposed FY17 Budget

Highlights of the proposed FY17 budget can be reviewed in this issue of the FORECAST. Comprehensive budget documents are available for review in the Town Office and on the Town’s website www.townofchevychase.org.

Connect with the Town

Residents may sign up on the Town’s website to receive Town Crier emails, Alert TOCC voicemail messages and an electronic copy of the FORECAST newsletter. Information on how to connect with the Town using Facebook and Twitter also is available on the Town website www.townofchevychase.org.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Jennifer Burton, 4311 Leland Street

I'm running for our Town Council because I believe we need a fresh voice and an ability to bring people together – both on the Town Council and in our Town.

My priorities will be to address our budget problems, smartly focus on the impact of development in Bethesda, concentrate on the needs of our children and families, increase transparency of the Council's work and create an environment that encourages neighbors to respect each other and each other's decisions.

I have lived in the Town since 2001. My children attended Chevy Chase Elementary. Currently Paloma is a freshman at BCC and Lucia is a 7th grader at Westland. I love living in the Town and have found it an ideal place to raise children, build a home and be part of a community. I am a single Mom, own a political consulting business and serve as chair of the board of Stone Soup Films, a local non-profit.

I felt a need to step up this year, to serve as a voice for the many families of school-aged children, as well as people who feel apart from the Town's decision-making. From talking with many neighbors, friends, and town residents, I believe our priorities should be:

- **put the Town's fiscal house in order**
- **minimize impact of Bethesda development**
- **convert the surface parking lots into parks**
- **help mitigate the Purple Line**
- **improve pedestrian safety**

I believe at a time when our Town is grappling with how to address decreased revenues, an increased budget and a hit to our reserves – we need a fresh perspective on how we prioritize the Town's spending and resources.

I will also work to ensure our residents are safe by pushing for more street lights. Keeping our children safe when they walk to CCES and BCC, and the bus stops for Westland and Rosemary Hills is a top priority. The crossing for our high school students to BCC is particularly concerning. And I'll work to make sure the Town works with, not against the needs of Chevy Chase Elementary School.

I welcome your ideas, concerns and suggestions, as we need to listen to all of our Town residents, not just the most vocal ones.

I believe having a fresh voice and a balanced approach on the Town Council will build on our strengths, restore civility between neighbors and engage a wider part of our community.

Mary Flynn, 4114 Blackthorn Street

I moved to the Town of Chevy Chase in 2011 with my husband, You Mon Tsang, and our son, Liam, who is now a freshman at B-CC High School. Originally east coasters, we moved back after two decades in California to be closer to family.

I always make an effort to give back to the community that welcomed us when we were newcomers. In 2013, I volunteered to co-moderate the Town Neighbors listserv. I started a Twitter feed @chevychase_mmf to "live tweet" Town Council meetings, which has been

especially appreciated by working parents who are unable to attend in person. I also serve on the Town's Public Services Committee.

My most recent accomplishment is founding the Coalition of Bethesda Area Residents (CBAR). This group was formed to strengthen residents' participation in the Bethesda Downtown Plan through education and collaboration. As CBAR's power and strength comes from the communities it serves, I lead with the following principles: inclusivity, transparency, reliance on good information and data, defining desired outcomes, and finding navigable paths to success. I can bring that same strong leadership to the Town Council.

I am running for Town Council now because I believe that my approach to local government can move the Town beyond the challenging years we recently experienced. I can bring back to the Council a professional management style that is open, accessible, and collaborative. I believe the public deserves access to information and I strongly abide by the principles of the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

My priorities for the Town include:

- Supporting and building on the work done by Town staff and Council to **balance the budget** and re-establish a healthy reserve
- Advocating for **Purple Line mitigation** and concessions for homeowners adjacent to the Capital Crescent Trail
- Supporting **reasonable regulations** that place a minimum burden on property owners while maximizing benefits to Town residents
- Contributing my professional expertise as a software technologist to further **modernize and optimize Town operations and communications**
- Collaborating with school, business, and community leaders to **achieve common goals**, such as excellent schools, reliable transportation, safe neighborhoods, and vibrant and attractive public spaces

I understand and take seriously the responsibilities associated with serving on the Town Council. If elected, I will accept the position with respect for all residents. Please support me with your vote on May 3. www.maryflynn.org <http://facebook.com/FlynnForTOCC>

[Scott Fosler, 4104 Woodbine Street](#)

Interest in good governance and sustainable economic development have been themes throughout my professional career. I would like to apply the skills I've honed from that experience to serve our Town on the Town Council once again.

Years ago, I was honored to have served on the Montgomery County Council for two terms, including a stint as its president. Before that, I had had the pleasure of serving on our Town Council. At that time, one of my principal concerns was to restrain overheated development in the Bethesda Central Business District (CBD). We took a major step in that direction by reducing the CBD zoning envelope by 80 % down to 12 million square feet of floor space.

Unfortunately, development in Bethesda in the last two decades has risen steadily beyond that cap, and the Planning Board is now poised to recommend a new cap of some 36 million sq. ft., the equivalent of about six Pentagons. I feel my past success with controlling overheated development in Bethesda, and more recent success pressing the current County Council to protect Ten Mile Creek, will be invaluable to the Town as we, and other communities, work to protect the quality of life in the region which is so important to us all.

A related concern throughout my public career has been to improve the quality of public services while restraining taxes through better management. All of these interests are consistent with my education, including a BA from Dickinson College and MPA from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, as well as my professional work with the US National Commission on Productivity; the Committee for Economic Development (CED), a national business organization of top corporate executives; as president of the congressionally chartered National Academy of Public Administration; and with the University of Maryland School of Public Policy, where currently I'm a Senior Lecturer.

My wife, Gail, and I love our Town. In 2014 I was appointed to the Town's new Ethics Commission, on which I served until last month. The Commission turned out to be in the eye of the storm that stirred up our Town following last year's eventful Town Council election. We need to work together as a community to heal old wounds and to face the challenges, both internal and external, that put at risk so much that so many have worked for. I'm running for the Town Council to address those challenges.

Barney Rush, 6917 Maple Avenue

I moved to our town 13 years ago with my wife, Marjorie Shaw, our two daughters. We've always felt grateful to live here.

I enjoy giving back to our community, and have served for the past two-and-a-half years on the Climate and Environment Committee, and as a member of the Power Reliability Task Force. If you attended the Town's July 4th Event with the Rockville Concert Band, you heard me playing saxophone. I've also been a Red Cross volunteer at Walter Reed.

My career in finance and business has allowed me to develop skills in analysis, budgeting and negotiation which I can bring to the Town Council. Following positions with the State Department and investment banking, I developed large scale alternative energy projects and then served as CEO of European operations for a US electric utility, and CEO of a startup company making hydrogen generators. More recently, I've worked with several start-up companies as an operating partner of a private equity firm. I'm currently on the Board of Directors and on the Audit and Finance Committee of ISO - New England, the independent non-profit authority that operates the electric grid for that six state region.

On key issues we face, I believe that:

- The Council must be fully engaged and work with our residents to push for a rational Bethesda Downtown Plan that does not harm our community and instead adds to our green space.
- As it appears likely that the Purple Line will proceed, we must have a comprehensive mitigation plan.
- We need to maintain our high standard of community services, while ensuring a prudently managed budget.

I like to listen, ask questions, listen to the answers and study the information, before making a decision. That has been my approach while serving this year on the Climate and Environment Committee, where very divergent yet legitimate views regarding the Tree Ordinance were expressed. I worked hard to offer a compromise proposal to address the concerns raised by all.

Finally, I believe our Town Council is strongest and can carry the most weight with other jurisdictions and officials when it has been elected with the broadest participation of our residents. This principal – the inclusiveness of our representative government – is fundamental, in my view.

Town government matters. It should be collegial, open, respectful and fair. That is the attitude I will foster on the Council, if I'm elected.

Henry Smith, 4301 Bradley Lane

Dear Neighbors:

My wife Laurie and I moved to Chevy Chase in 1998. Our three children are now adults and we have five grandchildren. Our Town has also changed since 1998 and now faces great challenges requiring new **Leadership, Know-how and Action**.

Our next Town Council will grapple with the **Bethesda Sector Plan, Purple Line mitigation and the \$5 million owed the state**. The Town's budget needs serious attention. These are challenges that directly impact our town's lifestyle and finances. They require leaders who can build partnerships for success, and who can take the Bethesda and Purple Line fights to our county and state officials.

As your Council Member I offer 40 years of experience building coalitions in government, universities and the private sector. **I offer leadership to take on these challenges, know-how to get it done, and action that will be felt in Rockville and Annapolis!**

I will use my **leadership** experience as a former mayor, U.S. assistant secretary and university administrator to: Reduce unnecessary Town regulations; protect Chevy Chase's tree canopy; *and protect Chevy Chase Elementary from town intrusions*.

I will use my **know-how** from years in government to: Take the Bethesda Sector battle to county officials; take the Purple line mitigation battle to state officials; and to restrain the Town budget.

Finally, I will take **action** to: Email residents on all key issues; demand safety and traffic management during Chevy Chase and Bethesda construction; fight for smaller buildings and more green space in the Bethesda Sector Plan; and hold Town elections on the state election day.

I respectfully request your vote for Town Council on May 3rd.

Henry M. Smith

henrymsmithedd@email.com

Biography:

- **Johns Hopkins School of Education (SOE):**
Led transformation team that made SOE #1 in *US News*
Assistant Professor of Education Politics
- **Assistant Secretary of Education in Clinton Administration:**
Built national coalitions for Direct College Loans, Goals 2000, Gear-Up
- **Chevy Chase Long Range Planning Committee:**
Led Town Council plan to lobby County on Bethesda Sector with citizens
- **Mayor of Dover, NH:** Fought for downtown redevelopment and schools
- **New Hampshire Director of Public Transit:**
Led public/private coalition to build transit system for 15-town region
- **Administrator at Tufts, Johns Hopkins, and AFL-CIO's National Labor College:**
Raised millions through public/private partnerships
- **MPA, Harvard Kennedy School of Government; EdD, George Washington Univ; BA, Boston University**

FY17 Budget Public Hearing And Adoption

The Town Council recently approved the proposed budget and tax rates for fiscal year 2017. At the May 3 Annual Meeting, the Town will hold a public hearing during which residents may comment on the proposed **\$2.7 million combined operating and capital budgets** as well as a proposed **real estate tax rate of 1 cent per \$100 of assessed value**. Following the public hearing, the Council will adopt the budget, with any changes, at the May 11 Council meeting.

Financial Review & Budget Overview

Over the years, the Town has maintained fiscal stability through careful planning, and the Town continues to enjoy sound financial health. However, looking ahead, the Town will see a significant impact to its reserves and ongoing annual operating revenue. One reason is due to the recent Supreme Court decision that requires a state to provide a local income tax credit to those residents who pay taxes to another state. Another reason is that the state incorrectly assigned the Town income tax revenue that belonged to other municipalities due to an addressing error. To correct for past overpayments, the Town will owe \$5.6 million from the reserve account, which currently has a balance of \$7.5 million. However, we will be able to make interest-free payments over 15 years, beginning in May 2019, and the Town will retain significant reserves even after repayment of the \$5.6 million. Correcting for these two factors moving forward, the Town expects to receive approximately \$750,000 less in annual operating revenue, assuming a static tax base. This may affect the Town's annual operating budgets, and we welcome ideas from residents on what services should or should not be affected, as well as the possibility of a property tax increase to alleviate any shortfall.

FY16 Financial Review

Revenues

- Total operating revenues are estimated to be \$2,602,000, under budget by \$696,000, due primarily to a decrease in income tax revenue as a result of correcting for State overpayments.

Expenditures

- Total operating expenditures are expected to be \$2,389,000, under budget by \$241,500.
- Total capital project expenditures are expected to be \$213,000, under budget by \$324,500. The Town expended funds for infrastructure repairs, new trees and park improvements.

General Fund Balance

- The Town's reserve balance as of June 30, 2016 is projected to be \$7,503,059.

FY17 Proposed Budget Overview

Revenues

- Total operating revenues are budgeted at \$2,684,000, of which \$2.2 million is projected income tax revenue and \$120,000 is proposed real property tax revenue.

Expenditures

- Total operating expenditures are budgeted at \$2,139,000. The FY17 operating budget includes funds to continue the Town's high quality municipal services.
- Total capital expenditures are budgeted at \$545,000. The FY17 capital budget includes funds for anticipated infrastructure repairs, additional street lighting and new street trees.

General Fund Balance

- The Town's reserve balance as of June 30, 2017 is projected to be \$7,503,059.

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

FY17 Proposed Budget Highlights

Revenues

Income Taxes

Given anticipated reductions in income tax revenue, primarily as a result of correcting for State overpayments, the FY17 budget assumes income tax revenue of \$750,000 less than budgeted in FY16.

Property Taxes

The Town Council is proposing to levy a real property tax of 1 cent per \$100 of assessed value. This is approximately equal to \$100 for each \$1 million in a home's assessed value.

Municipal Tax Duplication Reimbursement

If the Town levies a property tax in FY17, Montgomery County will provide approximately \$130,000 to the Town for savings realized by not providing certain services within the Town's borders.

Expenditures

Municipal Services

The FY17 budget includes funds to maintain the Town's excellent municipal services, including twice weekly household trash collection; single stream recycling collection; yard trash and household organic waste collection; sidewalk snow removal; and street sweeping.

Civic Affairs & Special Events

The FY17 budget includes funding to continue and expand the Town's special events, including the annual July 4 picnic and parade, the Chili Dinner, movie nights, and concerts.

Employee Salaries

The FY17 budget includes a 1.4% cost of living adjustment for non-contractual Town staff members.

Professional Services for Purple Line and Bethesda Sector Plan Analysis

The FY17 budget does not include funding for services related to the proposed Purple Line project or the Bethesda Sector Plan.

Charitable Contributions

The FY17 budget does not include funds for charitable contributions given the anticipated reduction in income tax revenue.

Private Tree Planting and Maintenance

The FY17 budget includes funds to continue the Town's Native Canopy Tree Planting Program and Private Canopy Tree Maintenance Program.

Montgomery County Police

The FY17 budget maintains funding for 16 hours per day police coverage. In March 2016, the Council reduced this coverage from 24 hours per day.

Street Lighting

The FY17 budget includes funds for new street lights, upon the request of Town residents.

The Town Council wants to hear your thoughts on these proposals as well as the FY17 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 7 p.m. on May 3. 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.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

Al Lang, Mayor

John Bickerman, Vice Mayor

Vicky Taplin, Secretary

Fred Cecere, Treasurer

Kathy Strom, Community Liaison

Annual Town Meeting and Election Issue 2016 Election and FY17 Budget Information Enclosed

Election Day - May 3, 2016

Polling Location and Hours: Town Hall, 4301 Willow Lane, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Voting Eligibility

To be eligible to vote in the May 3 Town Election, you 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 the Town election and be a registered, qualified voter of the State of Maryland, Town of Chevy Chase.

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 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 3**.

Election Board

Residents with questions on any aspect of the election are encouraged to contact a member of the Election Board: **Steve Lawton, Chair, 301-654-5904; Mike Lebowitz, 301-652-0452; and Gloria Tristani, 301-215-4005**. The Town has contracted with the League of Women Voters to work with the Town's Election Board to administer and monitor the election.

REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

Town of Chevy Chase Council Election Tuesday, May 3, 2016

To be eligible to vote in the May 3 Town election, 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 voter of the State of Maryland in Montgomery County.

DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Please provide an absentee ballot so that I may vote in the Annual Election of the Town of Chevy Chase on **Tuesday, May 3, 2016**.

signature of applicant (required)

print name (must be legible)

To be counted, any absentee ballot must be received by the Town office by **8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, May 3, 2016**. The ballot must be in the printed return envelope provided by the Town at the time the ballot was issued. Absentee ballot requests are considered public documents and are subject to public inspection.

