



## Spotlight on the Community Relations Committee

As this is the season when the Mayor, with help from the Town Council, appoints new residents to our Town's committees, I have the honor of writing this month's message about the varied work that the Community Relations Committee (CRC) does throughout the year. I've been the Chair of this committee for the last 4 years and will again be the Chair when the new committee year begins in September.

I am using this forum to encourage new members to join our Committee. The CRC needs a minimum of 12 people to function well. Without enough volunteers, the Town's special events cannot continue, and the Committee cannot do the additional tasks we take on.

What does the Community Relations Committee do? **Family movie nights, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, concerts, the chili dinner, and wine tastings** are examples of popular Town events. These, and many others, are planned and run by the CRC. As well, the CRC has 3 other important aspects of its mission that are not as well-known. These are described below.

But first, let me stress that serving on the CRC is fun and satisfying. Committee meetings are enjoyable and efficient. We meet the first Wednesday evening of the month, September through June. Committee members form friendships with Town residents and with each other. We build community for others, and for ourselves.

As well as planning and working at Town events, the CRC considers ways to **improve communications to and between Town residents**. As one example, we are revitalizing the Town's Instagram account ([#chevychasetown](https://www.instagram.com/chevychasetown)). Next year -- for the first time -- our committee will have a designated Communications leader.

**Providing new residents with the information they need to be active participants in the Town** is another aspect of our mission. Two years ago, the CRC reintroduced Welcome Bags for new Town residents. These bags are full of useful information and a few small gifts. They introduce folks to the services provided by the Town, explain how to get the informative Town Crier news alerts, as well as how to join the unofficial Town Neighbors email group and the private Facebook group.

Finally, our Committee sponsors opportunities to **support those in need in the greater Montgomery County area**. We raise funds at Thanksgiving to feed over 100 families whose children go to school with our children. During the winter we collect and deliver warm clothing to the homeless in our area. At holiday time we raise funds to provide gifts for families dealing with domestic violence who work with the Family Justice Center. In fact, a few months ago, the Family Justice Center recognized the Town for supporting its work over the last 10 years and dedicated a room in our honor.

Members are not expected to dedicate an inordinate amount of time to committee work. Family and work commitments are respected. Whether you have lived in the Town for 50 years, or only moved in last week, this committee is a great way to make friends. I encourage everyone to consider joining us in this work. Please feel free to contact me at [wicca@wiccadavidson.com](mailto:wicca@wiccadavidson.com) or 301-980-5596 if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you!

-- Councilmember Wicca Davidson



**Independence Day Picnic and Parade**  
**July 4, 11:30 a.m.- 2 p.m., Lawton Center Grounds**  
*See page 2 for details*

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# TOWN NEWS

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## Public Hearing on Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

At its July 16 meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the Town's noise control regulations. The amendment, which was introduced by the Council in response to numerous complaints about leaf blower noise, is aimed at increasing the "quiet time" schedule beginning in the fall of this year.

The amendment would prohibit gas-powered leaf blower operation before 9:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m. on weekdays, weekends, and holidays. In contrast, electric and battery-powered leaf blowers could be used from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Town Council and the Town's Climate and Environment Committee believe that this schedule change will not cause significant inconvenience, but will encourage residents, landscape companies, and Town contractors to consider switching to quieter, cleaner electric and battery-powered leaf blowers. The schedule change would be supported by educational workshops and outreach efforts to demonstrate the benefits of battery and electric landscape equipment and the relative costs of such equipment and the options available.

The proposed ordinance amendment and supporting *Question & Answer* document are available for review on the Town website. Comments and questions can be presented in person at the public hearing or submitted by email to the Town office at [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org).

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# TOWN EVENTS

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## Independence Day Picnic & Parade

July 4, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Lawton Center Grounds

**11:30 a.m.:** Come to the Lawton Center to decorate your bikes, scooters, wagons, and baby carriages. The Town will provide decorating supplies.

**12 p.m.:** Parade and Dixieland Band

The parade will begin at 12 p.m. led by the Dixie Land Trio.

**12:30-1:30 p.m.:** Picnic

Town residents will be treated to barbeque catered by Red, Hot & Blue and the famous Ben and Jerry's ice cream truck. Vegetarian & vegan options are available upon request. Bring your appetite and picnic blanket!

The reading of the [Declaration of Independence](#) at this event has become a tradition. We encourage readers of all ages to take part. If you would like to volunteer to read a few lines, please contact the Town Office at [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) or 301-654-7144.

The Town needs volunteers to help set up and break down the event from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1:45 to 2:30 p.m. Please contact the Town office if you can assist.

The Town's Reduce Plastic Waste sub-committee, along with the Community Relations Committee, have been working hard to reduce the amount of plastic waste at Town events. We are happy to report that in place of the 1200 plastic water bottles we've used at past July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations, we will be providing filtered water. We encourage you to [bring your own water bottles](#) to the event. But, if anyone forgets, we will be providing compostable cups too. The Town also is providing compostable plates and utensils, and The Compost Crew will be in attendance to collect all those items. [Since this is a lot to manage, we need at least 6 volunteers to help us with the provision of filtered water and for guiding people to the right disposal bins \(compost, recycling, landfill\).](#) If you are willing to help, please reply to Betsy Johnson at 240-461-1402, and she will provide more details.

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# TOWN UPDATES

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## Have a Wonderful Summer!

The FORECAST is not published in August, and the Town Council does not meet in August. We encourage you to visit the Town website for current Town news and information. To receive news alerts and other timely messages from the Town, we encourage you to sign up to receive Town Crier emails and Alert TOCC voice messages. Please visit the Town website and follow the prompts to sign up.

## Committee Volunteer Deadline Extended Until July 31

The Council has extended until July 31 the deadline to submit requests to serve on a Town committee or board for the coming year. Information about the various committees and boards is posted on the Town website. If you are interested in volunteering, please submit a brief note expressing interest to the Town Office. Your correspondence may be submitted by mail or e-mail to [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) and should include your name, address, telephone number, email address and a few sentences about why you would like to volunteer to serve.

## Overgrown Vegetation

As a reminder, residents are asked to keep all streets and sidewalks clear of overgrown vegetation. Please prune vegetation to ensure unobstructed sight lines for pedestrians and motorists. The Town's vegetation maintenance standards are available for review on the Town website.

## Mosquito Control

Over the past two decades, mosquitoes have gone from being a nuisance to a larger public health concern in Montgomery County. The most effective method to reduce mosquito numbers is to eliminate standing water in rain gutters, buckets, plastic covers or any other container where pests can breed.

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# AROUND CHEVY CHASE

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## Local Fireworks Shows

Columbia County Club's annual Independence Day celebration will be held on July 2. The fireworks display will begin at dusk. A rain date of Wednesday, July 3 has been set. Chevy Chase Club's celebration will be held on July 3. The fireworks performance will begin at or around 9:25 p.m. and will last approximately 25 minutes.

## Bethesda Outdoor Movies

**Wednesday, July 24 - Saturday, July 27, 9 p.m., Woodmont Triangle**

Enjoy four nights of blockbuster hits at downtown Bethesda's 15<sup>th</sup> annual outdoor movie series! Show times begin at 9 p.m. at the corner of Norfolk and Auburn Avenues. A limited number of chairs will be provided, and attendees are invited to bring their own lawn chairs. Admission is free.

## Bethesda Farmers' Markets

Bethesda is home to two fabulous farmers' markets! The **Bethesda Central Farm Market** is open Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bethesda Elementary School parking lot, 7600 Arlington Road. The **Montgomery Farm Women's Cooperative Market's** inside market is open Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The outside market is open Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays, Fridays & Sundays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (weather permitting). 7155 Wisconsin Avenue, Between Willow & Leland Streets.

**MVA On Wheels** will be in Friendship Heights from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on July 29, August 19, September 23, October 21, November 18, and December 16. The bus parks on Friendship Heights Boulevard adjacent to the Village Center. For more information, please call 301-656-2797.

## Town of Chevy Chase

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### TOWN COUNCIL

*Barney Rush, Mayor*

*Cecily Baskir, Vice Mayor*

*Wicca Davidson, Secretary*

*Kirk Renaud, Treasurer*

*Joel Rubin, Intergovernmental and Public Liaison*



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## CC@H Celebrates Summer with a Movie & Ice Cream Social



Our CC@H summer movie is the delicious comedy *Julie & Julia*, written for the screen and directed by Nora Ephron. Based on two true stories, it stars Meryl Streep as culinary legend Julia Child and Amy Adams as fledgling writer Julie Powell, who finds a new recipe for life when she decides to cook all 534 recipes in Child's "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" in 365 days! Come to the Chevy Chase Village Hall on **Tuesday, July 23**, at **2 p.m.**, for this delightful treat, popcorn included.

**Brunch Bunch** at the Olympia Cafe on Brookville Road will meet on **July 11, 10 to 11:30 a.m.**, and again on **August 8**, same time, same place. This is a monthly neighborhood get-together -- just buy something to eat or drink and join the CC@H table for some interesting conversation.

And on **August 13, 2 to 4 p.m.**, we'll beat the heat with our annual **Ice Cream Social**. Come to the CC Village Hall for a cooling scoop or maybe a root beer float and the chance to give us your suggestions for programs you'd like to see developed in the future.

