



Forecast

APRIL 2016

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

Friday, April 1
Movie Night for Grown-Ups
Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 7
Community Relations
Committee,
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 8
Lulu's Fate Concert,
Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, April 11
Climate and Environment
Committee,
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 12
Purple Line Mitigation
Ad Hoc Committee,
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13
Council Meeting,
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 14
Public Services Committee,
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

**Saturday & Sunday,
April 16 & 17**
Trash & Treasures Weekend

Saturday, April 16
Alternatives to Trash &
Treasures

Monday, April 18
Long Range Planning
Committee,
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 26
Presentation on Emergency
Preparedness,
Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 28
Land Use Committee,
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 30
Spring Festival,
Lawton Center, 12 p.m.

Message from Mayor Al Lang

We have made significant progress on several fronts. We have simplified our regulations, reducing the efforts on our residents to improve their homes. The staff has additional authority to grant administrative variances, and the complexities of the Urban Forest Ordinance have been significantly reduced. Both were accomplished with 5-0 votes of the Council. There is further information in this Forecast.

With the efforts over the past 9 months, we now have a firm grasp on the Town's finances. We understand the impact on our reserves, currently \$7.5M. We will owe \$5.6M, due to the Supreme Court case, Wynne versus Maryland, and Maryland's misallocation of income tax revenues. To put it simply, Maryland gave the Town tax revenues that were not the Town's, but belonged to other municipalities. We will be able to make payments over a number of years and will not pay interest. While these payments are large, the Town will retain significant reserves.

In addition to the non-recurring payments, described above, our annual revenues will be impacted. Yearly revenues will be reduced from \$3M to approximately \$2.2M. This affects the operating budget, and we welcome your views on what services should or should not be affected, as well as the possibility of a property tax increase to alleviate the projected shortfall.

Regarding the Bethesda Sector Plan, we have made progress on parking lots 10 and 24, which run along our western border. These large open lots are behind the Farm Women's Market and the restaurants on Wisconsin south of Leland. Specifically, with so little green space available in Bethesda, the Planning Board is considering using these lots along the lines of the Town's Bethesda Commons Plan, which is available for review on the Town website.

We are working with Board members, Planning Staff, developers and St. John's Church to significantly reduce the heights along Wisconsin, from 120+ feet to 70 feet. I want to be sure you are aware that there is an important meeting of the Planning Board on April 7 when the property directly north of St. John's Church will be discussed. I urge all to attend and testify.

Lastly, while the above focuses on our ongoing efforts, I thought it important to remember a dear resident by highlighting a ceremony for Naomi Kaminsky, which will take place on Wednesday, April 13, at 5 p.m. Naomi was a good friend and tireless worker. Her efforts with Chevy Chase at Home speak volumes about her commitment to our Town and to Chevy Chase at large. There is further information in this Forecast.

Town Election and Annual Meeting

The Town Election and Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 3**. Town residents will elect three Council members, each to serve on the Council for a two year term. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Town Hall.

On May 3, the Council will host a reception beginning at 6:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., the 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 for the 2017 fiscal year, followed by a public hearing on the budget and tax rates.

FY17 Budget Process Continues

On March 23, the Town Council held a work session to review the proposed FY17 budget that the staff and Town Treasurer prepared. The Town Council is scheduled to approve the proposed budget and tax rates at its meeting on April 13, at which time residents will be able to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting. The Council will then hold a public hearing on the proposed budget and tax rates at the Town’s Annual Meeting on May 3. The Council will adopt a final budget for the next fiscal year at the Council meeting on May 11.

A summary of the proposed budget will be published in the Election issue of the FORECAST, and a complete version will be posted on the Town website, so that residents may review it prior to the May 3 public hearing. If you are unable to attend any of the budget meetings, you may submit written comments to the Town Office at 4301 Willow Lane or to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Utility Work Update & Presentation

At the April 13 Council meeting, representatives from WSSC and Washington Gas will present and discuss plans for upcoming Town infrastructure replacement projects, which are scheduled to begin this spring. At this meeting, both utility companies will address the scope of their projects, timelines, impacts to residents, communication, and restoration plans. Residents are encouraged to attend the April 13 meeting to learn more about these projects.

Council Approves Amended Urban Forest Ordinance

On March 9, the Town Council approved amendments to the Town’s Urban Forest Ordinance. Under the new ordinance, which becomes effective on April 8, a resident must obtain a permit to remove any tree measuring 24 inches in circumference at 4.5 feet above the ground. Once an application is received, the Town arborist will inspect each tree requested to be removed. If the arborist determines that the tree is not a canopy tree, as defined in the new ordinance as 45 specific trees, the Town will issue a removal permit without conditions.

If the tree is a canopy tree, as newly defined, the arborist determines whether the tree is dying, dead, in danger of falling, or a hazard to the safety of persons or property. If the arborist finds one of these conditions to exist, a removal permit will be issued without conditions. If the arborist does not find one of these conditions to exist, the Town Manager will consult with the applicant and will review all available information to determine whether the tree meets the standards for removal.

If the Town Manager issues a removal permit for a tree that the Town arborist does not find meets a standard for removal, the applicant will be required to plant a replacement tree for each tree removed or pay an impact fee of \$750 per tree. The list of approved replacement trees is the same as the list of canopy trees as defined in the new ordinance. If the Town Manager denies a removal permit, the property owner may appeal to the Town Council.

In addition to these changes, the ordinance includes stricter measures to protect all trees on public and private property adjacent to construction sites. The ordinance also removes the misdemeanor provision of the prior ordinance so that any violation of the ordinance is now a municipal infraction subject to a \$1000 fine and possible abatement of the violation. A complete copy of the ordinance is available for review on the Town website.

Council Approves Administrative Variances and Retaining Wall Ordinance

On March 9, the Town Council approved an ordinance to expand the types of construction projects that are eligible for administrative variances and to allow certain retaining walls to be constructed without a variance. Administrative variances are exceptions to Town building regulations granted by the Mayor and Town Manager if no objections are received following public notice. The primary goal of these changes is to save time and cost to residents who wish to make certain minor improvements to their properties.

The new ordinance allows the following improvements to be considered via administrative variance: new front yard fences, not constructed of chain link, 4' or less in height, and on corner lots or border streets, if they have at least 30% fenestration; new retaining walls less than 30" in height in the public right-of-way if they are set back from public improvements; new retaining walls 30" or greater in height in a front yard if they are set back from public improvements; non-enclosed improvements, such as decks, porches, stairs, etc., and other projections such as chimneys and air conditioners, stairs, etc., that extend beyond the allowable projection into front or rear yard setbacks; bay windows, one story in height and 10' or less in width, that extend beyond the allowable projection into front and rear yard setbacks; non-shared driveways with a proposed width between 10' and 16' in a front yard or in the public right-of-way; extension of existing wall planes over 34' in length; and replacement of all or part of existing nonconforming structures in the same location and in the same dimensions.

In addition, the following retaining walls will be allowed by right: new front yard retaining walls less than 30" in height if they are set back from public improvements; and replacement retaining walls at the same height and location in front yards and in the public right-of-way regardless of whether the wall material is changed.

The new ordinance also requires administrative variance requests to be posted on the Town's web site for public review. A complete copy of the ordinance is available on the Town website.

TOWN UPDATES

Clear Vegetation from Sidewalks

As a reminder, residents are asked to keep all sidewalks clear from edge to edge up to a height of 7 feet. The Town's maintenance standards for vegetation installed by Town residents on public and private property are available on the Town website. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep Town sidewalks safe.

New Street Light Installations

If you are aware of any street in Town that has a dark area and would like the Town to consider installing a new street light at that location, please contact the Town Office at [301-654-7144](tel:301-654-7144) or email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. For your convenience the Town has provided a street light request form on the Town website.

Presentation on Emergency Preparedness

Tuesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall



We all know that we should take steps to be prepared in the event of an emergency or natural disaster - but what exactly does that mean? Come hear Joseph Corona of the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security as he outlines the steps you can take to improve your and your family's personal emergency preparedness. Topics will include how to make an emergency plan, how to build an emergency kit and ways to get additional information and stay involved. He will also talk briefly about the role of the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions, and materials will be distributed to help you organize information and to create your own emergency plan. All residents are encouraged to participate. Sponsored by the Public Services Committee.

TOWN EVENTS

Sponsored by the Community Relations Committee

Movie Night for Grown-Ups

Friday, April 1,
7:30 p.m., Town Hall



Movie Night for Grown-Ups features the Sundance Selection "A Ballerina's Tale" profiling the life of Misty Copeland, the first African-American woman to become a principal dancer of the American Ballet Theater. Released in 2015, the film is 88 minutes long. Come enjoy the movie, wine, and snacks. Space is limited, so please RSVP to [301-654-7144](tel:301-654-7144) or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.



Lulu's Fate

Friday, April 8,
7:30 p.m., Town Hall

Lulu's Fate performs a mix of music from the Appalachian, southern string band and country blues traditions, as well as original tunes and covers ranging from Hank Williams to Tom Waits. Comprised of Tom Espinola on mandolin & guitar, Kristen Jones on cello, and singer Kara Falck, the trio blends virtuosic instrumentals with lush 3-part vocal harmonies to create new interpretations of traditional tunes. Lulu's Fate is the 2014 Wammie Award Winner for Best Debut Recording (The Blackest Crow) and was nominated for Best Traditional Folk Group, New Artist of the Year, and Best Traditional Folk recording. Wine, appetizers & desserts will be served. Space is limited. Please RSVP to [301-654-7144](tel:301-654-7144) or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org

Town & Lawton Center Spring Festival

Saturday, April 30, 12- 4 p.m.

Town Hall & Jane E. Lawton Community Center



The Town and the Lawton Center celebrate spring with an afternoon of food, music, entertainment and presentations. Come join in the fun for Town residents of all ages. Delicious eats from food vendors Curley Q's, Holy Crepes and Balkanik with outdoor seating from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Great sounds from the B-CC Jazz Combo and art projects from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Moon bounces, carnival games, popcorn and sno-cones will be at the Lawton Center. Also, we will have presentations from experts on organizing and de-cluttering, estate planning, money management, aging-in-place, home care and long-term care. Pickleball will be on the tennis courts.

Art of Anne Herring in the Town Hall at the Spring Festival on April 30, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Stop by the Town Hall on April 30. Spring will be in full bloom. On display will be six large Masonite panels of art by the late Anne Herring. Long-time Town resident, painter and gardener, Anne was a frequent contributor to the Town's Art Shows and taught painting to aspiring young artists. Her oil and acrylic flowers are joyful expressions of her love of art and gardening. Anne's art will be offered for sale with all proceeds donated to the YMCA – Youth and Family Services so that children, regardless of their family's income, can discover their creative talents through art.

TRASH AND TREASURES

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!



The Town's spring Trash and Treasures is scheduled for the weekend of **Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17**. The Town offers this bulk trash pickup so that residents can dispose of items that are no longer usable, such as appliances (doors must be removed for safety), furniture, rolled rugs, mattresses, games and bikes, but, if the items are usable, we encourage you to review the list of **Alternatives to Trash and Treasures**.

GUIDELINES

Please remember to bag, box or contain all of your discards.

Please do not put items on the curb before Friday, April 15.

The following items will not be picked up:

- NO construction debris
- NO parts of junked automobiles (engines, transmissions), boats or trailers
- NO loose glass of any kind
- NO firewood or fencing of any kind
- NO paint cans
- NO flammable or hazardous liquids or solids
- NO recyclable items, such as newspapers, mixed paper or cardboard, landscape pots, old books and magazines, large plastic bins - please recycle!
- NO shrubbery cuttings, yard clippings, leaves or grass – recycle with yard trash!

If you have questions about how to discard any of these items, please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144. We will be happy to help you arrange a special pick-up for items that are not included in Trash and Treasures. There will be a charge for a special pickup.

PICK UP SCHEDULE: At 7 a.m., Monday, April 18, a crew will begin clearing feeder streets to Chevy Chase Elementary School. During non-rush hours, the peripheral streets will be cleared. After these priority streets are cleared, the truck will proceed according to a schedule arranged with the Town Manager. Once a street has been cleared, the contractor will *not* return to that street. Residents who discard items after the street has been cleared will have to arrange for a special pick-up.

Hazardous Waste Disposal

The Household Hazardous Waste receiving area at the Shady Grove Solid Waste Transfer Station is located in the recycling drop-off section of the Public Unloading Area, 16101 Frederick Rd, Derwood, MD 20855. Please use the car entrance to the facility. The drop-off is open: Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Household Hazardous Waste can only be received during these hours -- please do not drop off this material at other times. Batteries are accepted (alkaline batteries may be put in regular trash) as are fertilizers with herbicides, fluorescent light tubes and bulbs, including CFLs, herbicides, insecticides, mercury containing items, oil-based paints, paint thinners, pesticides, used motor oil and most other oils. Visit the website www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/dropoff/ for a complete list of items accepted or for more information.

New Homes for Old Bikes



Bikes for the World (BfW) mission is to collect valuable but unwanted bicycles and related material--parts, tools, and accessories--in the United States and deliver them at low cost to community development programs assisting the poor in developing countries. If you have a bike you would like to donate, please take it to City Bikes, 8401 Connecticut Avenue, 301-652-1777. A \$10/bike donation is suggested to defray shipping to overseas charity partners. Receipts will be provided for all material and cash donations. For more information, please visit the BfW website, www.bikesfortheworld.org.

ALTERNATIVES TO TRASH AND TREASURES

**The following vendors will be in the Lawton Center Parking Lot on
Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Donate Books

The Town will be collecting books for the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC) at the Town Office. There are 17 FOLMC chapters at branches throughout the county, including Chevy Chase, Little Falls and Bethesda. Please bring gently used books (no damaged or mildewed books accepted) in a box or bag. Textbooks are welcome, but no magazines or encyclopedias will be accepted. The donations will benefit the libraries in Montgomery County.



Recycle Clothing and Home Goods

Recycle your gently used clothing and home goods and preserve our planet while helping your Montgomery County neighbors in need. The Interfaith Clothing Centers provide clothing/home goods free of charge to low income County residents. Please put items in a plastic bag that has been secured at the top. Your donation is tax deductible.

Donate Furniture and Household Items

We are happy to continue our partnership with A Wider Circle by hosting our twenty-third event to collect gently-used items for families in need. The mission of A Wider Circle is to end poverty. A Wider Circle provides basic need items to families transitioning out of shelters or simply living without life's necessities. If you have furniture or household items in gently-used condition that you would like to donate, please bring them to the Lawton Center parking lot. Families are always in need of beds (including mattresses that are free of rips and stains), dressers, tables and chairs, living room furniture, bedding, dish sets, baby items, professional clothing, and children's clothing up to size 4T. If you have items that are too large to bring to the drop-off, please contact A Wider Circle at [301-608-3504](tel:301-608-3504) or furnish@awidercircle.org and they will be happy to schedule a pick-up date. For more information, please visit www.awidercircle.org

**The following vendors will be in the Lawton Center Parking Lot on
Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Shred-It – Shred Your Documents



Back by popular demand! The Town has contracted with SHRED-IT to have a truck in the Lawton Center parking lot on **Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** to shred paper for residents. Staples and paper clips are okay. Shred-It is bonded and insured. If you have additional questions, please call the Town Office at [301-654-7144](tel:301-654-7144).

Recycle Electronic Equipment

PotomacECycle will have a truck in the Lawton Center Parking Lot for the collection of the following electronic equipment: TVs, monitors, printers, copiers, stereos, VCRs & DVD players, camcorders, CD players, fax machines, calculators, scanners, electronic toys, microwaves, computer monitors, and hard drives. For a complete list of electronic items that can be recycled, please visit <http://potomacecycle.com/electronics-recycling/>

Donate Building Supplies

The following organizations accept donations of reusable or new building materials. Please visit their websites or give them a call. For large items, both organizations will arrange special pickups.

Community Forklift <http://communityforklift.com>

[301-985-5180](tel:301-985-5180)

Habitat for Humanity <http://www.habitat-mc.org>

[301-947-3304](tel:301-947-3304)

COUNCIL ELECTION 2016

TOWN ELECTIONS

Town elections are governed by the provisions of Chapter 8 of the Town of Chevy Chase Municipal Code and election procedures adopted by the Town Council.

Town residents will select 3 candidates in the 2016 election, each to serve on the Council for a 2-year term. The terms of Al Lang, Vicky Taplin, and Kathy Strom will expire in May.

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for office, a candidate must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age, have resided in the Town for at least 1 year immediately preceding the election, and be a registered voter of the State of Maryland in Montgomery County.

NOMINATING PROCEDURES

To be designated as a candidate on the printed ballot, a resident must complete the [Town's official nominating petition](#). Nominating petitions are available in the Town Office. The nominating petitions are considered public documents and subject to public inspection. Completed nominating petitions must be delivered to the Town Office before [5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12](#), the 3rd Tuesday preceding the election, in order for the candidate's name to appear on the printed ballot.

The Election Board may make additional nominations and must do so if an insufficient number of candidates have been nominated to ensure that at least 1 person is nominated for each opening on the Town Council.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

There will be appropriate blanks on the printed ballot for the purpose of adding write-in candidates at the time of the election. To be qualified for election, a write-in candidate must file a certificate of candidacy before 5:00 pm on [Tuesday, April 26](#), the 7th calendar day preceding the election.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

A candidate for office is required to submit a [financial disclosure statement](#) at the time the candidate submits the official nominating petition or certificate of candidacy, as applicable. The financial disclosure form is available for review in the Town Office. Once filed, financial disclosure statements are considered public documents and subject to public inspection.

CANDIDATES FORUM

The candidates will be invited to participate in a moderated forum and dialogue with the community on [Wednesday, April 27](#) at [7 p.m.](#) in the Town Hall. The

Election Board will accept questions in advance from Town residents.

NOTICE OF CANDIDATES

The name, a short biographical sketch and short statement (not to exceed 400 words) of the nominated candidates will be mailed to all residents 2 weeks preceding the election. Notice of the filing of a certificate of candidacy for a write-in candidate will be provided to all residents within 24 hours of the filing of the certificate.

VOTING ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to vote, a person must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age, have resided in the Town for at least 30 days immediately preceding the election, and be a registered voter of the State of Maryland in Montgomery County.

POLL LOCATION AND HOURS

The poll will be located in the Town Hall, 4301 Willow Lane. The poll will be open from [8 a.m. to 8 p.m.](#) on [Election Day, Tuesday, May 3, 2016](#).

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots will be available in the Town Office on [Tuesday, April 19](#) at [12 p.m.](#) 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. The requests are considered public documents and are subject to public inspection.

Once an absentee ballot request has been received, the Town will mail or hand deliver a ballot and return envelope to the requestor in a sealed envelope. 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 Office by [8 p.m.](#) on [Election Day, Tuesday, May 3, 2016](#).

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](#)

[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.

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



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

The Moveable Feast is Back! Calling all Town Chefs and Hosts to Volunteer & Town residents to sign up to join the fun



Mark your calendars for the evening of **Saturday, May 7** for our progressive dinner. We begin with hors d'oeuvres & wine at the Town Hall (Dinner & dessert homes will be randomly assigned at that time). Afterwards, guests first go to dinner at a neighbor's home and then to dessert at another host's home. Chefs cook dinner or bake dessert for 10. Dinner hosts seat 8 guests, plus themselves. Dessert hosts entertain 18 people, plus themselves. A small stipend is provided to dinner hosts and chefs. To volunteer as a chef or host (or both!), and as a guest, contact the Town Office. Questions? Contact Community Relations Committee members Loretta Sevier (loretta@lorettasevier.com) or Kathie Legg (kathleenlegg@gmail.com).

Naomi Kaminsky Bench Dedication

On **Wednesday, April 13 at 5 p.m.**, at the Town Hall, the Town will hold a ceremony in honor of the life and work of Naomi Kaminsky, a Town resident and co-founder of Chevy Chase at Home. The Town has installed plaques in memory of Naomi on Town benches in the public right-of-way. These benches were purchased and installed by the Town at the urging of Naomi to provide a place for senior residents to rest while walking through Town. The final plaque will be installed on the bench at the end of Willow Lane during the dedication ceremony.

Celebrate April with CC@ Home

Tuesday, April 12, 2 to 4 p.m. -- "From Gutenberg to Twitter: My 45 Years at the Library of Congress" will be the subject of a talk by Mary Levering at Chevy Chase Village Hall.

Thursday, April 28, 7:30 to 9 p.m. -- The Chevy Chase Village Hall will feature John Ydstie, NPR's long-time Economics Correspondent.

For more information and a complete calendar, please visit www.chevychaseathome.org