



Message from Mayor Scott Fosler

The past several months have been very productive, and I want to thank all of our volunteers for their efforts which have resulted in substantial progress being made in addressing many important issues facing the Town.

Progress on the Bethesda Plan

We continue to advance Town interests related to the Bethesda Downtown Plan, as the County Council is now fully engaged in considering the Planning Board's proposals. Notably, County Council President Roger Berliner, who is also our District 1 representative, has expressed support for the Town's recommendation to stage development associated with the Plan. Our staging proposal calls for specific interim limits to be placed on development in downtown Bethesda so that the impacts on schools, transportation and parks can be measured and assessed before additional development proceeds.

This staging concept is supported by a recent traffic study commissioned by the Town and conducted by the University of Maryland National Transportation Center. The study, which is available for review on the Town website, concludes that the additional development contemplated by the proposed Bethesda Downtown Plan would worsen area traffic congestion.

The Town Council also has made progress in building support among County Councilmembers for converting the County's surface parking lots along 46th street to parks (as opposed to filling them with more high-rise buildings). These lots are well situated to provide crucially needed recreational and open space for downtown residents, and, because they are already controlled by the County, they could be converted and developed with certainty. An energetic effort is underway to gather signatures from the entire Bethesda area on a petition to the County Council that would demonstrate the widespread appeal of this approach.

Town Budget Decisions

The Town Council is gearing up for discussions and public hearings on next year's budget. We have included an article in this *Forecast* that outlines the budget meeting schedule and opportunities for public comment. As many of you know, the Council agreed to some budget reductions in January due to lower than anticipated revenue forecasts for the year. Following an initial decision to reduce police coverage to 8 hours per day, the Council decided in February to reinstate 16 hour per day coverage for the remainder of this fiscal year. This action was taken in recognition of the recent crimes in Town, and a slightly improved revenue forecast. We will be reassessing our police coverage needs in light of recent discussions with the Montgomery County Police Department (reported to the Town earlier) in the course of considering next year's budget.

The Council chose to uphold a previous decision to establish the snowfall threshold at 6 inches for the Town's sidewalk snow removal program, rather than revert to the former 3-inch threshold. However, the Council agreed that the Mayor and Town Manager should have discretion to provide sidewalk shoveling at less than 6 inches' accumulation if we feel that actual conditions call for it (such as unusually wet and heavy snow). Because of the substantial cost associated with this program, the Council chose to establish the higher threshold in hopes of saving some money while continuing to assist residents when help is needed most.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to these Town activities and conversations. While winter still has a way to go, we look forward to seeing more folks outdoors with the approach of spring just a few weeks away.

Participate in the 2018 Budget Process

In March, the Town Council will begin to discuss and develop the Town's operating and capital budgets for the 2018 fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2017 and continues through June 30, 2018.

At its monthly meeting on **March 13**, the Town Council will hold a special public comment period to hear from residents about next year's budget and which new or ongoing initiatives they would like to see funded. Following this meeting, the Council will hold a work session on **March 22** to review the proposed budget that the staff and Treasurer have prepared.

Another discussion of the budget will occur at the **April 17** Council meeting, at which time residents will again be able to speak on the budget during the public comment portion of the meeting. There will be a public hearing on the final proposed budget at the Annual Meeting on **May 2**, before the Council adopts the budget at the **May 10** Council meeting.

Throughout the budget development process, the Town Council will consider suggestions from residents about what projects they would like to see funded. The Council also will consider the Town's property tax rates and will determine the amount of reserve monies to set aside for a "rainy day" fund and for future capital expenditures.

We look forward to hearing from you at these meetings.

TOWN UPDATES

March Meeting and Events Schedule

A complete calendar of March meetings and events is available on the Town website. **Please note that the March Council meeting has been scheduled for March 13.**

Native Canopy & Street Tree Plantings

The Town is finalizing its spring tree planting list. If you have a spot in your yard suitable for a canopy tree, you might want to take advantage of the Town's Native Canopy Tree Planting program. Under this program, the Town will purchase and install a canopy tree on your property at no cost to you. Residents are responsible for the long-term care of the tree once installed.

You also may request to have a tree planted along the street in front of your home. The Town prefers to plant canopy trees when possible. Once the trees are planted, the Town will care for the trees for the first year by ensuring that they are watered. If you would like to request a tree, please contact the Town office at [301-654-7144](tel:301-654-7144) or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Reminder About Permit and Restricted Parking

Residents are reminded that it is illegal to park in areas designated as "No Parking" zones, including those adjacent to and across from St. John's Church. Residents also are reminded that parking permits are intended for vehicles parked within the vicinity of your address only.

No Parking on Grass or Sidewalks

We want to remind residents that the Town prohibits parking any vehicle on the grass area between the curb and/or gutter and sidewalk, or parking on any sidewalk. Also, the County Code, which is applicable in the Town, prohibits parking opposite to the flow of traffic (left wheels to curb). Please be courteous to your neighbors by observing these rules.

Crime Watch

Please report all suspicious activity and crimes to the Montgomery County police at the non-emergency number: 301-279-8000. For emergencies or crimes in progress, call 911. Any information you can give to the police will help to make us safer. In addition, please report incidents to the Town office at 301-654-7144 so that we can notify our off-duty Montgomery County police officers.



TOWN EVENTS

The following events are brought to you by the Town's Community Relations Committee

Family Movie Night – “Inside Out”

Friday, March 3, 6 p.m., Town Hall



Described on Red Tomatoes as “inventive, gorgeously animated, & powerfully moving,” *Inside Out* has a 98% rating. Growing up can be a bumpy road, and it's no exception for Riley, who, like all of us, is guided by her emotions - Joy (Amy Poehler), Fear, Anger, Disgust, and Sadness. The emotions live in Headquarters, the control center inside Riley's mind. As Riley and her emotions adjust to a new life in San Francisco, Joy - Riley's most important emotion - tries to keep things positive, while the emotions conflict on how best to navigate a new city, house and school. Come to the Town Hall by 5:40 p.m. for pizza, drinks & snacks. The movie starts at 6 p.m. 94 mins long. RSVP to 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Lulu's Fate Concert

Friday, March 10, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Lulu's Fate performs a mix of music from the Appalachian, southern string band & country blues traditions, plus early swing, gospel, & original tunes. Comprised of Tom Espinola on mandolin & guitar, Kristen Jones on cello, and singer Kara Bolling, the trio blends virtuosic instrumentals with lush 3-part vocal harmonies to create new interpretations of traditional tunes. Lulu's Fate has performed at the Takoma Park & Washington Folk Festivals (among others), as well as at a packed house concert for our Town last year. Lulu's Fate is back by popular demand! Winning the Wammie award for Best Debut Recording and nominated for New Artist of the Year, and Best Traditional Folk Recording, this group is not to be missed. Concert-ready children are welcome. Arrive at 7 p.m. for savory snacks and good seats. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. RSVP to 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Cookies, Cookies, Cookies!

Sunday, March 19, 2 p.m., Town Hall



Two judges and the best bakers in town will meet at our first cookie challenge on Sunday, March 19 at 2 p.m. in the Town Hall. Cookies will be tasted and judged, and prizes will be given! Bakers – get your best cookie recipes ready for this new event. Also needed is an audience to participate, taste & award the “People's Choice” prize. Our judges are Patty Craver of Henry's Sweet Retreat, a modern take on a traditional candy market and dessert bar, at 4823 St. Elmo Ave; and Chef Peter, owner/baker at Gold Leaf Bakery, where he creates elegant cakes and pastries, at 4918 St Elmo Avenue. To RSVP as a chef or an attendee, call 301-654-7144 or email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. Chefs will be given additional instructions when they RSVP.

Inviting Town Artists to Exhibit at Town Art Show

The Community Relations Committee invites Town artists, high school age and older, to sell or display their works in any media at the Town Art Show, April 28-29. Each artist may propose submission of up to three works, with space allotted to each artist depending on how many artists want to participate. If you would like to exhibit, please contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org and give your full name, street address, e-mail address, phone number, and what media you would like to display. Call 301-654-7144 or email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org if you would like to participate.



Town of Chevy Chase

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TOWN COUNCIL

Scott Fosler, Mayor

Mary Flynn, Vice Mayor

Fred Cecere, Secretary

Barney Rush, Treasurer

Cecily Baskir, Community Liaison



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AROUND CHEVY CHASE

CC@ H USHERS IN SPRING

Come celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** with us on **March 14, 2 - 4 p.m.** at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. There will be tempting Irish treats to taste, and best of all, live music on the Irish pipes and harp. Promises to be fun for all!

On a more serious note, CC@ H is sponsoring an important evening program on **Tuesday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. "**Medical Care Issues for an Aging Population: Part 1, New Models of Care for Chronically Ill Seniors**" will be presented by Dr. K. Eric De Jonge, Director of Geriatrics at MedStar Washington Hospital Center. In this first of a three-part series, Dr. De Jonge will speak about innovative home-based health care delivery to frail, ill elderly patients.

Brunch Bunch will get together on **Thursday, March 9, 10 to 11:30 a.m.** at the Olympia Coffee Shop on Brookville Road. Just drop in, buy a cup of coffee, and join the always lively conversation at the CC@ H table. For more information about our programs and how to join or become a CC@ H volunteer, please visit our website, www.chevychaseathome.org, or call 301-657-3115.

"Book Clubs of Early Chevy Chase" Talk on March 19

The Chevy Chase Historical Society invites the community to learn how early residents of Chevy Chase formed book clubs that combatted their solitude and created the community's first public library, at an illustrated lecture on Sunday, **March 19, at 4 p.m.** at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Details at www.chevychasehistory.org.

COUNCIL ELECTION 2017

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 2 candidates in the 2017 election, each to serve on the Council for a 2-year term. The terms of Fred Cecere and Cecily Baskir, who was appointed by the Council to complete the term of John Bickerman, 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 one 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 submit a completed [nominating petition](#) to the Town office before **5 p.m.** on **Tuesday, April 11**, the 3rd Tuesday preceding the election. The petition must show the consent of the individual to become a candidate and hold office. A petition must contain the signatures of five qualified voters of the Town other than the candidate. Nominating petitions are available in the Town office and on the Town website as a convenience to residents. Nominating petitions are public documents and are subject to public inspection.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

To be qualified for election, a write-in candidate must file a certificate of candidacy before 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 25**, the 7th calendar day preceding the election. There will be appropriate blanks on the printed ballot for the purpose of adding write-in candidates at the time of the election.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

A candidate for office is required to submit a [financial disclosure statement](#) at the time the candidate submits a 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 public documents and are 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 26** at **7 p.m.** in the Town Hall.

The Election Board will accept questions in advance from Town residents. Please email questions to townoffice@townofchevychase.org.

NOTICE OF CANDIDATES

Information about 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 Town 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 2, 2017**.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots will be available in the Town office as soon as they are printed, but no later than **Tuesday, April 18**. 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 original 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 2, 2017**.

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, 301-466-1204
Chris Wright, 301-656-3307

While voting will continue to be done by paper ballot, the Town has contracted to provide optical scanning and electronic counting of ballots on Election Day.