



Forecast

ELECTION ISSUE 2017

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

Annual Town Meeting and Election

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

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 2017 election, Town residents will elect two members, each to serve for a two-year term. The poll 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 2](#).

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 2, 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 2017 General Assembly session. Mayor Scott Fosler will then provide an overview of the Town’s accomplishments over the past year, and Town Treasurer Barney Rush will present the proposed budget and tax rates for the 2018 fiscal year, followed by a public hearing.

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Candidates' Forum

The Election Board will host a “Candidates’ Forum” on [Wednesday, April 26 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 ninth 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 email it to the Town office at townoffice@townofchevychase.org by [Tuesday, April 25](#).

Proposed FY18 Budget

Highlights of the proposed FY18 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 website (www.townofchevychase.org).

Connect with the Town

Residents may sign up on the Town 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).

Fiscal Year 2017 Year-End Report from Mayor Scott Fosler

This has been an enormously busy and productive year for our Town. None of our progress and success would have been possible without our incredible standing and special committees, active and alert Town residents, and a dedicated and talented Town staff. I also want to recognize my colleagues on the Town Council for their tireless efforts and engagement. Many, many thanks to all!

Bethesda Downtown Plan

Through the combined efforts of the Town Council, Special Committee on the Bethesda Downtown Plan, Coalition of Bethesda Area Residents (CBAR), and numerous Town residents and neighbors, we have made steady progress in shaping the Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan in a manner we believe to be in the public interest, including the creation of an attractive urban cluster and protection of adjacent residential neighborhoods such as ours.

The Bethesda Plan, which has been over two years in preparation, is now before the County Council for final adoption. We will not know the outcome until the Council acts. But we have good reason to expect several Town proposals to be incorporated into the new Plan, including the following:

- development staging, which would place interim limits on growth so that the impacts on schools, transportation and parks can be measured and assessed before additional development proceeds;
- reduction of proposed building heights on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue, with higher buildings and density concentrated closer to the Metro station;
- an option for conversion of the surface parking lots along 46th Street to parks, with the proviso that means of financing will need to be found to make that option practical;
- a dedicated greenway between the Town and development along Wisconsin Avenue, with incentives for developers to provide additional greenway width.

We need to continue the Town's systematic and energetic focus during this "end stage" of the Plan's adoption to assure the gains we've made are accurately incorporated into law and policy documents, to guard against possible backtracking, or even reversals, and to push for further gains we still hope to make. We will continue to keep residents informed of our progress on these tasks.

Purple Line Mitigation

While some work on the Purple Line has been put on hold pending the outcome of litigation related to the environmental impact of the light rail project, the Town's Special Committee on Purple Line Mitigation has been actively engaged in reducing the anticipated impacts of the project. The Committee continues to focus on issues related to water quality and storm water management; parking, traffic and safety during both construction and ongoing future operations; aesthetic and visual mitigation; regulatory and legal issues; and realignment of the Capital Crescent Trail. The Council also has asked the Town's Public Services Committee to review and consider plans for a proposed Lynn Drive underpass, which would provide hiker/biker access beneath the light rail tracks. Again, we will continue to keep you informed of our progress on this front.

Town Budget and Financial Position

I am pleased to report that the Town continues to enjoy sound financial health. We expect to realize a surplus of approximately \$337,000 in this fiscal year, primarily a result of not spending budgeted monies to repave our streets and repair our sidewalks due to the ongoing utility replacement projects by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) and Washington Gas. We anticipate these surplus funds will be spent in future years once these utility upgrades near completion, so it is beneficial to have these surplus funds in our reserve account.

The Council recently approved a proposed budget for fiscal year 2018, which begins on July 1, 2017. The Council will hold a public hearing at the May 2 annual Town meeting before adopting a final budget for the next fiscal year. Budget information is included in this issue of the Forecast newsletter, and detailed budget documents are available for review on the Town website.

The proposed budget for next year maintains funding for all the high-quality municipal programs and services that we have come to enjoy, including backdoor household trash and single-stream recycling collection, household organic waste collection, a full repertoire of special events, and private tree planting and maintenance programs.

I hope to see many of you at the Town's May 2 annual meeting and election.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Cecily Baskir, 4408 Ridge Street

My involvement with Town government began in 2015, when my husband John Freedman and I became concerned about the impact of new Bethesda development on our neighborhood. Although I could hardly imagine it at the time, what began as grassroots activism evolved rapidly into co-chairing the Town's Special Committee on the Bethesda Downtown Plan and then my recent appointment to fill a Council vacancy. Since then, I have been honored, energized, challenged, and motivated to make a positive impact. I ask for your support on May 2 to continue my service on the Town Council.

The most important function of Town government is to provide services that maintain – and even improve – our quality of life. The Town today faces a number of significant challenges within and around our borders that have the potential to imperil that quality of life, such as the redevelopment of downtown Bethesda and the future of the Purple Line and Capital Crescent Trail. Our Town Council should pay vigilant attention to protecting the interests of Town residents in the face of these challenges, as well as to other vital municipal services like trash collection, snow removal, public safety, and more. And it should do so in a responsive, fiscally responsible, and informed way.

If you elect me to a full term, I commit that I will approach each issue, big or small, with an open mind, willing to listen respectfully to all ideas and concerns. As I have since January, I will ask a lot of questions, examine available information, and apply the best independent judgment that I can. I may not be able to make everyone happy all of the time, but I promise to act thoughtfully and conscientiously.

I am a proud graduate of Rosemary Hills, Chevy Chase Elementary, Westland, and B-CC. After studying, working, and traveling around the world, I moved home in 2007 to raise my family in the community in which I was raised. I am now a resident of Ridge Street, a mother of two young children, a lawyer, a small business owner, a teacher, a PTA board member, a cyclist, and a pet owner. Each aspect of my diverse experience informs my perspectives – perspectives that I would be thrilled to bring to the table as your representative on the Town Council. Thank you for your support.

Joel Rubin, 4401 Walsh Street

My name is Joel Rubin and I am running for a seat on the Chevy Chase Town Council because of my deep commitment to our community and our families, concerns about the changes affecting our town's long term future, and passion for public service.

My wife, our three young daughters - who attend Montgomery County public schools - and my mother-in-law have been living in the town for more than a decade. I have been an active volunteer for the Town of Chevy Chase for many years, including having served on the Land Use, Public Services, and Long Range Planning Committees, the latter of which I now serve as the Chair.

As you may know, I ran for Congress in last year's Democratic primary, which provided me with an opportunity to learn about the issues facing our community. It also gave me the opportunity to develop strong relationships with our new Member of Congress, Jamie Raskin, and the State's new Democratic Party chair, Kathleen Matthews.

Right now, our town is at a crossroads. We are in the midst of dynamic physical changes, with explosive growth along all of our borders. Yet there is insufficient investment in the services we need to match these changes. Our town is growing and bringing in roughly 70 new, younger families every year. However, it's not clear that the schools are meeting the needs of our children. And our senior citizens are facing uncertainty at the national level. In the near future, we will also be facing significant budget choices on both the State and local level.

With your support, I will bring nearly 20 years of public service experience to the table. From my time as a Peace Corps Volunteer to most recently serving as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Obama Administration, I have learned the importance of engaging people directly about the issues that affect them most. I promise to be both a strong listener and an advocate for you on the Town Council, to the County leadership, to the State delegation, and when necessary, to our Congressional representatives.

We live in a wonderful town that is going through significant changes. Our Town's government has done an excellent job, yet we have more work to do. With your vote, I will join the Town Council to help us chart a path forward together. Please vote for me on May 2nd.

FY18 Budget Public Hearing and Adoption

At the May 2 annual meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing during which residents may comment on the proposed **\$2.6 million combined operating and capital budgets** as well as a proposed **real estate tax rate of 1 cent per \$100 of assessed value**, which is the same rate as this year. The Council will adopt the budget following the public hearing.

Current Financial Position

The Town has maintained fiscal stability through careful planning, and we continue to enjoy sound financial health. Looking ahead, we note the recent decision by the Maryland General Assembly to **forgive the repayment of over-distributed income taxes** to Maryland municipalities, including the Town. The bill awaits the decision of the Governor. The Town **continues to owe approximately \$725,000 to the state** due to the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decision that requires a state to provide a local income tax credit to those residents who pay taxes to another state (the “Wynne Decision”). However, these payments are interest free and will be spread out over five years beginning in May 2019.

We expect to realize a surplus of approximately \$337,000 in the current fiscal year. This arises almost entirely from underspending our budget for street paving and sidewalks, and we expect this amount will be spent in the near future as we catch up on repaving as the utility work winds down. The Town’s **general fund balance** as of June 30, 2017 is expected to be approximately \$7.72 million.

FY18 Budget Overview

Revenues

- Total operating revenues are budgeted at \$2,632,700, of which **\$2 million is projected income tax** revenue and \$120,000 is proposed real property tax revenue.
- The Town Council is proposing to maintain a **real property tax of 1 cent** per \$100 of assessed value. This is equal to \$100 for each \$1 million in a home’s assessed value.
- If the Town maintains a property tax in FY18, Montgomery County will provide the Town with approximately \$130,000 in **municipal tax duplication reimbursement** for savings realized by not providing certain services within the Town’s borders.
- The Town Council is proposing to levy a **tax on utility property** in the Town of 66 cents per \$100 of assessed value. This tax is paid by utility companies, not Town residents.

Operating Expenditures

- Total operating expenditures are budgeted at \$2,087,500.
- The FY18 budget includes funds to continue the Town’s quality municipal services. The Council is recommending continuation of all current policies and levels of support for Town programs and services.
- The FY18 budget maintains funding for **16-hour per day police coverage**.
- The FY18 budget includes funding for **sidewalk snow removal** when snowfall amounts to 6 inches or more. The Mayor and Town Manager will continue to have discretion to provide sidewalk shoveling under this threshold should conditions warrant it.
- The FY18 budget includes modest funding to continue Town efforts to mitigate the impacts of the new **Bethesda Downtown Plan** and the proposed **Purple Line** light rail project.

Capital Expenditures

- Total capital expenditures are budgeted at \$528,000.
- The budget includes funds for **anticipated street and sidewalk repairs**, although we may spend an additional amount beyond what is budgeted, corresponding to the surplus realized this year. Funds are also available for additional street lighting and new street trees.

General Fund Balance

- The Town’s unassigned reserve balance is projected to be \$7,741,650 on June 30, 2018.

The Town Council wants to hear your thoughts on the proposed FY18 budget. You may share your comments at the public hearing on the proposed budget at the Town’s annual meeting on May 2, or you may submit your comments by mail or e-mail to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. Comprehensive budget documents are available for review in the Town office and on the Town website.

FY18 Proposed Budget

Budget Summary	FY16 Actual	FY17 Budget	FY17 Est. Actual	FY18 Budget
OPERATING REVENUES				
Taxes				
Income Taxes	2,345,056	2,200,000	2,075,000	2,075,000
Real Property Tax (\$0.01/\$100 for FY18)	110	120,000	120,000	120,000
Highway User Revenue	84,512	88,000	88,000	85,000
Utility Property Tax (\$0.66/\$100 for FY18) ¹	0	0	0	29,700
Subtotal - Taxes	2,429,678	2,408,000	2,283,000	2,309,700
Reimbursements and Bank Shares	76,977	130,500	132,178	130,500
Permit Fees and Cable TV Revenue	102,479	115,000	113,000	113,000
Other Revenue	43,345	30,500	47,510	79,500
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	2,652,479	2,684,000	2,575,688	2,632,700
OPERATING EXPENDITURES				
General Government				
Salaries & Benefits	740,817	658,250	611,675	567,500
Professional Services	218,089	281,000	302,300	255,750
Civic Affairs and Community Programs	107,527	109,000	104,500	105,000
Other Services & Supplies	109,237	84,000	90,622	89,500
Subtotal - General Government	1,175,670	1,132,250	1,109,097	1,017,750
Public Works				
Sanitation and Waste Removal	354,985	360,500	354,750	379,250
Streets and Roads	333,186	219,000	62,500	188,500
Parks, Grounds and Trees	125,887	157,000	153,000	162,000
Subtotal - Public Works	814,058	736,500	570,250	729,750
Public Safety (Police)	407,592	353,000	341,295	340,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2,397,320	2,221,750	2,020,642	2,087,500
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES				
Streets and Roads	106,539	510,000	207,500	508,000
Parks, Grounds and Trees	19,327	30,000	10,000	15,000
Facilities and Equipment	0	5,000	0	5,000
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	125,866	545,000	217,500	528,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,523,186	2,766,750	2,238,142	2,615,500
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	129,293	(82,750)	337,546	17,200
COUNTY PENSION LIABILITY PAYMENT²	0	0	(142,582)	0
CHANGE TO GENERAL FUND BALANCE	129,293	(82,750)	194,964	17,200
ENDING GENERAL FUND BALANCE	7,529,486	7,446,736	7,724,450	7,741,650
		FY18 Contingent Reserve³		1,053,080

¹ this tax is paid by utility companies, not by Town residents.

² this represents a lump sum payment of the Town's remaining liability in the County pension plan.

³ this represents 40 percent of the Town's annual operating revenue. It is included in the Town's general fund balance.

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION – May 2, 2017

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

Election Day is Tuesday, May 2

Town residents will select two candidates in the 2017 election, each to serve on the Council for a two-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.

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.

Poll Location & Hours

The poll 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, Tuesday, May 2, 2017.

Write-In Candidates

To be qualified for election, a write-in candidate must file a certificate of candidacy and a financial disclosure statement before 5 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 25**, the 7th calendar day preceding the election. Both forms are available in the Town office and on the Town website. There will be appropriate blanks on the printed ballot for the purpose of adding write-in candidates at the time of the election.

Notice of Candidates

Statements of the nominated Council candidates appear in this issue of the FORECAST and on the Town website (www.townofchevyCHASE.org). 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.

Candidates' Forum

Candidates will 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. If you have a question you would like posed to the candidates, please send it to the Town office at townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org by **Tuesday, April 25**.

Voting Eligibility

To be eligible to vote in the May 2 Town election, you 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. If you have recently moved to the Town of Chevy Chase or are uncertain whether your name is on the list of registered, qualified voters, you may call the Montgomery County Election Board at 240-777-VOTE or visit the Maryland State Board of Elections website at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>.

Voting By Absentee Ballot

Residents desiring an absentee ballot must apply individually in writing (by mail, fax, email or in person) to the Town office. Absentee ballot 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; and Chris Wright, 301-656-3307.**



Town of Chevy Chase
 4301 Willow Lane
 Chevy Chase, MD 20815

301-654-7144 (phone)
 301-718-9631 (fax)
 townoffice@townofchevychase.org

Town Request #

REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

Town Council Election -- Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Incomplete or illegible absentee ballot requests cannot be processed.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Town of Chevy Chase Street Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____
 (used only if needed to process this request) (used only if needed to process this request)

If you are not picking up your absentee ballot in person, please indicate how you would like to receive your absentee ballot.

Delivered by hand or mail to the address above.

Mailed (first class USPS) to a different address:

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Delivered by hand or mail to a designated agent for the requestor:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please provide an absentee ballot so that I may vote in the Annual Election of the Town of Chevy Chase.

Signature of Applicant

Voter Eligibility: To be an eligible voter in the Town, 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.

To be counted, any absentee ballot must be received by the Town office by 8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, May 2, 2017. 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.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

Scott Fosler, Mayor

Mary Flynn, Vice Mayor

Fred Cecere, Secretary

Barney Rush, Treasurer

Cecily Baskir, Community Liaison



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Annual Town Meeting and Election Issue

2017 Election and 2018 Budget Information Enclosed

Information also may be found on the Town website

www.townofchevychase.org