



Forecast

FEBRUARY 2018

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

Message from Mayor Mary Flynn



Thursday, February 1
Community Relations*
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Friday, February 2
Family Movie Night
Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Monday, February 5
Long Range Planning*
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 7
Voting Eligibility Forum
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 11
Seriously Fun Singers
Town Hall, 4-6 p.m.

Monday, February 12
Town Council
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 15
Public Services*
Lawton Center, 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 22
Land Use*
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 25
24th Annual Chili Dinner
CCES, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, February 26
Purple Line Mitigation*
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

* Town committee meeting

While changes on the national and international political scene dominate the news cycle, it may be easy to lose sight of the many changes that are occurring and coming to Montgomery County government. In 2016, voters approved term limits, which forces out four of the sitting nine County Councilmembers. Those members include our District 1 representative and three of the four at-large members. What this means is that the distribution of power on the Council will change dramatically, and it's our opportunity and responsibility to vote for the candidates who will best represent us and serve the county as a whole.

There are currently seven candidates running for the District 1 seat, and, depending on the day, approximately thirty running at-large. Our County Executive is also departing due to term limits, and that field is also full with seven candidates. Very few candidates hail from our district. Arithmetic suggests that the interests of District 1 residents will be under-represented this election cycle unless we make an effort to pay attention and participate in the conversation. If you have the opportunity to meet candidates at public or private gatherings, please do so. The Town, in coordination with neighboring communities, will co-host informational forums in late spring. Please keep an eye out for these events, and take note that primary election day is June 26 and the general election is November 6.

Here in Town, elections for Town Council are held every year on the first Tuesday in May. This year we have an opportunity to vote for three of the five seats. I encourage residents to attend monthly Council meetings to get to know current Councilmembers and see how we make decisions on behalf of our neighbors. Every Council meeting has an open public comments section, and your written comments are always welcome by emailing the Town at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. If you cannot attend meetings in-person, you can download audio recordings from the Agendas page on the Town website. As I mentioned last month, please consider running for Town Council yourself! Deadlines will be announced in an upcoming Forecast, and you can always call the Town office to learn more.

In other news, the Special Committee on Purple Line Mitigation continues to address issues and efforts related to the light rail project, including public safety along East-West Highway; review of stormwater management plans; the status of the Lynn Drive underpass; and review of civil works plans. The committee also intends to coordinate with other nearby communities to address issues of mutual interest. This spring, the Town will host an informational session to share the latest news on the project and to review the Town's mitigation efforts.

TOWN NEWS

Public Forum on Resident Voting Eligibility

On Wednesday, February 7 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall, the Town Council will hold a public forum on the idea of extending participation in Town elections to non-U.S. citizen residents of the Town.

As permitted by Maryland law, several nearby communities allow their residents to vote in their local elections regardless of citizenship. Town residents have asked the Council to consider amending our charter to allow non-U.S. citizens who live in the Town to vote in our annual Town elections.

This forum will provide an educational opportunity to learn more about the approaches taken by some of our neighboring municipalities, to ask questions, and to share thoughts about our voter qualifications. No voter qualification changes will go into effect for the May 2018 election.

Participate in the 2018-2019 Budget Process

In February, the Town Council will begin to discuss and develop the Town's operating and capital budgets for the 2019 fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2018 and continues through June 30, 2019.

At its meeting on **February 12**, 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. On **March 19**, the Council will hold a work session, prior to its regular meeting, to review the proposed budget that the staff and Treasurer have prepared. At the regular Council meeting on March 19, residents will again be able to speak on the budget during the public comment period. There will be a public hearing on the final proposed budget at the Annual Meeting on **May 1** before the Council adopts the budget at the **May 9** 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 the amount of monies to set aside in a reserve fund for emergencies.

Neighborhood Watch Block Captains Needed

The Town is seeking resident volunteers to serve as block captains for our Neighborhood Watch Program. The number of block captains has declined over the past few years, and the Town hopes to increase participation in the program. If we determine that there is insufficient interest among residents, the Town may choose to discontinue the program and rely solely on the Town's communication tools, such as Town Crier and Alert TOCC, to inform residents of public safety issues and incidents.



If you are interested in serving as a block captain, please contact Dave Eason, Chair of the Town's Public Services Committee, at deason@martoneconstruction.com for more information.

Thanks for Your Generosity This Holiday Season!

Town residents, the Lawton Community Center, and the B-CC High School football team once again joined together in strong support of the 2017 Thanksgiving Dinner Basket Program. Your generosity at Thanksgiving brought overflowing food baskets to 100 Montgomery County Public School families plus food cards to many more families to help over school breaks and long weekends throughout the year.

Donations to the Holiday Gift Drive reached an all-time high of \$4,315 in gift cards and checks. Seven Town families also adopted families to give specific gifts to them. The recipients of your donations--women and children recovering from the trauma of domestic violence--are served by Chesapeake Counseling via the county's Family Justice Center.

TOWN EVENTS

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

Family Movie Night – “Bears”

Friday, February 2, 6 p.m., Town Hall



In an epic story of breathtaking scale, DisneyNature's "Bears" showcases a year in the life of a bear family as two impressionable young cubs are taught life's most important lessons. Set against a majestic Alaskan backdrop, their journey begins as winter comes to an end and the bears emerge from hibernation. Pizza, drinks and snacks will be served at 5:30. Show starts promptly at 6. 78 minutes long, rated G. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Space is limited, so please RSVP to 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Seriously Fun Singers

Sunday, February 11, 4-6 p.m., Town Hall

Seriously Fun Singers (SFS) began three years ago when two friends in Town were looking to sing popular and “fun” music in a small group setting. They organized SFS, recruiting many like-minded, musically-talented Town residents. SFS performs programs of eclectic popular music. The concert will offer a blend of 60's pop and folk selections, traditional folk tunes, and some Broadway standards, with a special focus on LOVE (Valentine's Day is on the 14th!). Refreshments will be served. Space is limited, so please RSVP to 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

24th Annual Chili Dinner

Sunday, February 25, 5:30 – 7 p.m., Chevy Chase Elementary School

Beat the winter blues with chili, hot dogs and ice cream sundaes, as well as vegetarian options. The evening features musical fun for the entire family performed by Leroy Hyson beginning at 6. There will be a special table for seniors. To continue the Town's support of Manna Food Center, please do not forget your donations to help feed families in Montgomery County. Please RSVP for this popular event to 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Magic Show!

Friday, March 2, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Join us for a special family event featuring magician Michael Chamberlin. Using music & comedy, this master magician performs dazzling magic with hilarious audience participation routines. The show is fast-paced, original and spellbinding sorcery for the entire family. Please arrive at 6 p.m. to enjoy pizza and snacks before the show starts at 6:30 p.m. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Space is limited, so please RSVP to 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.



Winter Outerwear Clothing Drive

Continues until February 28

The Town's Community Relations Committee, working with the Lawton Community Center, is collecting clean, gently-used or never used warm coats, gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, sweaters, pants, and socks to donate to local charities serving those in need. Clothing boxes for your donations are in the Town Hall and the Lawton Community Center.

Town of Chevy Chase

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Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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Mary Flynn, Mayor

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Joel Rubin, Community Liaison



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AROUND CHEVY CHASE

CC@H in February – Music for Your Soul And Strategies for Your Brain!

Come in from the cold on Saturday, February 10, 3-5 p.m., and enjoy a **Jazz Reception** with local jazz guitarist **Steve Herberman**, who will play selections from the Great American Songbook. His music is bound to warm up a winter afternoon, so come to the Chevy Chase Village Hall and bring a friend.

On Thursday, February 8, join the **Brunch Bunch** group at the Olympia Cafe on Brookville Road from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for some interesting conversation with neighbors. Everyone is welcome -- just buy something to drink and/or eat and pull up a chair at the CC@ H table.

Worried about "senior moments"? CC@ H is excited to present just what you need -- **Strategies for Supporting Your Brain**. On Tuesday, February 13, Marti Bailey, Director of Sibley Senior Association and Community Health, will address a common concern among seniors -- whether our brains are beginning to fail us -- and how to deal with some of the all too familiar frustrations. At the Chevy Chase Village Hall, 2 to 4 p.m.

STOP for School Buses!

When approaching a stopped school bus with activated flashing red lights, Maryland law requires that motorists traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop. The law also requires that motorists approaching the bus from the opposite direction must stop if there is no physical barrier, such as a median. It is crucial to the safety of school children and other motorists that people obey the law pertaining to a stopped school bus.

