



# Forecast

ELECTION 2018

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

## Annual Town Meeting and Election Tuesday, May 1, 2018

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 2018 election, Town residents will elect three 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 1](#).

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 1, the Town Council will host a reception beginning at 6:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., the annual meeting will begin. Mayor Mary Flynn will provide an overview of the Town's accomplishments over the past year, and Town Treasurer Scott Fosler will present the proposed budget and tax rates for the 2019 fiscal year, followed by a public hearing.

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### Candidates' Forum

The Election Board will host a "Candidates' Forum" on [Wednesday, April 25 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 tenth 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](mailto:townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org) by [Tuesday, April 24](#).

### Proposed FY19 Budget

A summary of the proposed FY19 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](http://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](http://www.townofchevyCHASE.org)).

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

## Fred Cecere, 4503 Leland Street

I am Fred Cecere and I would like to once again serve on our Town Council.

Three years ago as your Treasurer, I worked closely with our Town Manager to continue delivery of services expected by our citizens but within a dramatically reduced budget necessitated by two overlapping events: the United States Supreme Court 's decision in the Wynne case, which had the effect of reducing revenue to the Town; and our discovery, following an audit that I demanded, that the State had distributed to our Town, over the previous five years, revenue of about \$5.6 million to which we were not entitled. Through changes to staffing and regulatory reform, we were able to craft a budget that continued services at previous levels while absorbing an almost \$1 million reduction in annual revenue.

I championed the expansion of administrative variances and relaxing of land-use ordinances, promoting neighborliness and cooperation rather than contention and divisiveness. I successfully fought for eliminating the Town's Tree Board as unnecessary. My philosophy was as follows: First, homeowners should be able to exercise reasonable control of their property, as long as their actions do not compromise public safety or unfairly impinge on neighbor's rights. Second, no one should be required to maintain a tree that poses a threat to lives or property. I pledge to continue to be guided by this set of values if elected.

These achievements by the Council required all councilmembers to act with common purpose. My philosophy was to stick to the issues, reduce disagreement, and promote compromise. I propose to bring these principles to the next Council through hard work, fiscal discipline, governmental transparency, critical analysis, and respect for fellow Councilmembers.

While a member of the Council, I learned a lot about the impact on our Town of both the Bethesda Sector Plan and the Purple Line. I am surprised and disappointed at the continued intransience of some county and state officials to respond to our needs – in particular, addressing traffic issues, the need for green space, and protection of our children who must walk to B-CC High School under unsafe conditions. I pledge to work vigorously with my colleagues to demand greater attention to Town priorities until elected officials and staff get it right!

I ask for your vote on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Wicca Davidson, 7600 Connecticut Avenue

When this Town Council election season began I realized no women were running for office. 3 men were candidates for 3 spots. I wondered what woman might run.

Then I thought of myself.

I am not a politician. There are many things I am not. Not a lawyer, not a PhD, not a financier.

But there are many things I am. I was a nurse for 20 years. I was a Court-Appointed Special Advocate for children. At the age of 35 I graduated from UNC-CH. I've worked 23 years as a realtor.

When we moved to Town, into a house on Connecticut Ave, it was difficult to meet neighbors. Connecticut Avenue is not exactly the heart of Town. I was in a new marriage, working full time, raising a child.

Community matters to me. I had none, so I built it by volunteering.

I volunteered one day a week every year, at every school my daughter attended from CCES through B-CC graduation. During the same years, I volunteered for The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

When the Community Relations Committee needed a Chair, I volunteered, because this Committee's mission is building community and communication. Last year the Committee took one of my ideas and ran

with it, and we delivered Welcome Bags to 100+ homes. As Chair, I have a strong reputation of organizing, leading, and following-through on commitments.

When Town Neighbors listserv needed a co-Moderator, I volunteered. I recently began the Facebook group 'Town of Chevy Chase Residents'. Moderating these forums grew my sense of belonging.

Until this year when the Council moved their meeting date around the calendar, I attended most Town Council meetings since 2015. The book club I belong to changed our regular meeting night to accommodate my wish to attend Town Council meetings. Because I paid attention at meetings, the Purple Line, safety, the Bethesda Sector Plan are all issues I have knowledge of. I learn more daily.

I have run dozens of Town events, moderated hundreds of messages. This is my home. I intend to live here for years to come. I now have my community, but it took me years to build.

Which brings me back full circle. We can grow a more engaged community, and work on these issues together. I ask for your support, your assistance, and your vote. I'd love to hear from you. Email [wicca@wiccadavidson.com](mailto:wicca@wiccadavidson.com) or call 301-980-5596.

## [Kirk Renaud, 3906 Woodbine Street](#)

While the Town has weathered a few storms over the years, thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, we have come together successfully as a community again. We need to continue working together to keep our Town a wonderful place for all residents, from kids to seniors. I am running for Town Council because I care deeply about our neighborhood, and have the community knowledge, management experience, and leadership skills to help build on our positive momentum.

### **Extensive Community Service**

My wife Sally and I moved to the Town 25 years ago and raised our sons Alex and Bryant here, from CCES through BCC High School. During that time, I have volunteered in many different ways, including:

- Serving as a Block Captain and Town Committee member.
- Coaching youth baseball and soccer teams for many years.
- Organizing educational programs on renewable energy, electric vehicles, LED lighting, etc.
- Creating a nonprofit to put solar energy systems on homes, schools, and the Lawton Center.
- Negotiating Town purchase discounts on electricity contracts, roofing, and HVAC services.
- Mentoring students as an internship sponsor, science fair judge, and business class tutor.

### **Broad Management Experience**

My career has included work for large companies, government, and small businesses. I earned an MBA from Stanford University, and moved to DC to work as a management consultant for McKinsey and Co. Since then, I have held executive positions and Board directorships in several businesses and non-profits. Currently, I am the CEO of a health product company and Board Chair of an international sports product company. I have served on the BCC Education Foundation Board, and as an advisor to several environment advocacy boards. One of my favorite Board roles involves financing and mentoring social entrepreneurs working to reduce poverty in Africa and Central America.

### **Effective Leadership**

I would approach Town issues as practical problems to be solved, rather than political positions to be debated. I am very comfortable with numbers and budgets, and used to making decisions based on objective cost-benefit analysis. But I am equally committed to listening carefully to residents, looking for creative solutions, and achieving balanced and fair results.

### **Town Priorities & New Ideas**

We will need to remain vigilant to address the adverse impacts of Bethesda development and Purple Line construction, maintain strong finances, care for our environment, and foster a civil and respectful culture for all Town activities.

Please visit [www.KirkRenaud.com](http://www.KirkRenaud.com) for more information.

## Barney Rush, 6917 Maple Avenue

For the past two years, I have had the honor of serving on the Town Council, first as Treasurer and now as Vice Mayor. As part of my responsibilities, I also co-chaired the Bethesda Downtown Plan Committee, now co-chair the Purple Line Mitigation Committee, and serve as liaison to the Land Use Committee.

We - the Town Council, with the dedicated help from so many residents - have accomplished a lot in this short period, working together.

We collaborated with surrounding communities on the Bethesda Downtown Plan and prevailed in obtaining significant changes. These include a commitment that the county's surface parking lots should become parks and not be developed; increased width for the "greenway" between any development and the Town; and reduced heights for buildings bordering our Town.

We revised our ordinances to make it easier for residents to build additions and front porches without compromising a commitment to maintain the character of our Town.

We have undertaken careful reviews of key issues regarding the Purple line, such as storm water management, and now have a more productive dialogue with the County, the State and the contractor.

We maintained high quality municipal services while providing a stable operating budget; and the current large-scale infrastructure program will be completed without reducing our reserves.

We have set a civil and cordial tone in discussing our Town's affairs and made full use of the Town's Committee system to encourage resident input and connection to Councilmembers.

But there is more to do. If I am re-elected, I will work with my colleagues to:

- Mitigate the effects of Purple Line construction and operation – including securing safety improvements for pedestrians along East West highway;
- Ensure proper implementation of the Bethesda Plan, working closely with neighboring communities. Development of new parks, school quality and developers' adherence to the design guidelines are of vital importance;
- Maintain the high caliber and varied series of Town events and update the communications platform for Town residents.

Finally, I want to maintain the tone of discourse that we've nurtured over the past two years: engagement, listening, responsiveness, respect, and civility. It's good to enjoy each other's company, as we work on behalf of our community, together.

It has been an honor to be your councilmember, and I've greatly enjoyed meeting and working with so many fellow residents. I hope you will allow me to continue working on your behalf.

## Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44<sup>th</sup> Street

I am running for Town Council, and ask for your vote. The Town is my home; I live in the same house where I grew up, with my parents and my sister Susan, attending Chevy Chase Elementary, Leland Junior High School, and B-CC. I am a retired lawyer, and after practicing for years in California (having worked for the United Farm Workers Union, a legal aid office in Bakersfield, and having a sole practice focusing on criminal defense), I returned to my childhood home in 1997 to live with my father, Erwin P. Vollmer, who passed away at the age of 98 in 2004. In his younger years, my father, whose day job was as an endocrinologist on the Breast Cancer Task Force at N.I.H., was a model of civic engagement; he was one of a group of individuals who helped to make possible the annexation of our neighborhood to the Town, and also helped to make possible the creation of the Leland Community Center (now Lawton Center) and Elm Street Park. He was a role model for me, as was my mother, Aline Fruhauf, an artist.

Since returning to the Town, I have been active on Town committees. I currently serve on the Purple Line Mitigation Committee, and on the Long Range Planning Committee. Previous assignments have included

the Town's Special Committee on the Bethesda Sector Plan, the Land Use Committee, and the Climate and Environment Committee.

The Town is facing some serious issues. The implementation of the Bethesda Sector plan and the construction of the Purple Line create continuing challenges. I was against the Purple Line project from the beginning, because of concerns that I have for the environment generally, and for quality of life in our Town. Now, as the project goes forward, we must focus on holding the powers that be to the letter of the law, with respect to environmental protection.

I favor slowing development in Bethesda, preserving some of the surface level parking behind the Farm Women's Market and Tudor shops, and converting the parts of those lots closest to our Town to green space planted with trees, a linear park. I would like to see the Tudor Shops marked for historic preservation, to help preserve the buffer between downtown development and our Town.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss these and other issues with voters in the course of this campaign.

## TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION -- May 1, 2018

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

### Election Day is Tuesday, May 1

Town residents will select three candidates in the 2018 election, each to serve on the Council for a two-year term. The terms of Mary Flynn, Scott Fosler and Barney Rush will expire in May.

### 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 24**, the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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](http://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.

### Voting Eligibility

To be eligible to vote in the May 1 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 <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, May 1, 2018**.

### Election Board

Residents with questions on any aspect of the election are encouraged to contact a member of the Election Board: **Mike Lebowitz, Chair, 301-466-1204; Chris Wright, 301-656-3307; and Rob Enelow, 301-664-6430.**

## FY19 Budget Public Hearing and Adoption

At the May 1 annual meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing during which residents may comment on the proposed **\$3.09 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 at its regular meeting on May 9.

### Financial Position

The Town has maintained fiscal stability through careful planning, and we continue to enjoy sound financial health. The Town's unassigned **general fund balance** as of June 30, 2018 is projected to be \$8.1 million.

Looking ahead, we **continue to owe approximately \$730,000 in payments 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, which will be deducted from our income tax receipts, are interest free and will be spread out over five years beginning in May 2019.

While the Town's operating expenditures have been stable from year to year, our **capital expenditures have fluctuated**. Capital expenditures were significantly under budget in fiscal years 2016 and 2017 because the Town delayed street and sidewalk repairs in anticipation of the utility upgrades in Town. Now that these upgrades are nearing completion, **extensive infrastructure repair work** will result in higher than normal capital expenditures both this year and next; however, a substantial portion of these costs are offset by reimbursements from both WSSC and Washington Gas. The net cost that the Town expects to incur is approximately \$1.8 million over four years. This equates to an annualized cost of \$450,000, which is consistent with the Town's normal annual capital expenditures.

Due to the variability in capital expenditures, we expect to realize a **budget surplus of approximately \$267,000** in the current fiscal year while **budgeting for a deficit of approximately \$244,000 next year** -- effectively realizing a balanced budget over a two-year period.

### FY19 Budget Overview

#### Operating Revenues

- Total operating revenues are budgeted at \$2,850,000, of which **\$2.2 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.

#### Operating Expenditures

- Total operating expenditures are budgeted at \$2,130,700.
- The FY19 budget includes funds to continue all the Town's **high quality municipal programs and services**.

#### Capital Expenditures

- Total capital expenditures are budgeted at \$963,000.
- The budget includes funds for **anticipated street and sidewalk repairs**, including funds for regular annual maintenance as well as for repairs needed due to the ongoing infrastructure work. Funds are also available for **additional street lighting, new street trees** and **information technology upgrades** for the Town office and Town Hall.

#### General Fund Balance

- The Town's unassigned **general fund balance is projected to be \$7,828,844** on June 30, 2019.

The Town Council wants to hear your thoughts on the proposed FY19 budget. You may share your comments at the public hearing on the proposed budget at the Town's annual meeting on May 1, or you may submit your comments by mail or e-mail to [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org). Comprehensive budget documents are available for review in the Town office and on the Town website.

## FY19 Proposed Budget

Budget Summary	FY17 Actual	FY18 Budget	FY18 Est. Actual	FY19 Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>				
<b>Taxes</b>				
Income Taxes <sup>1</sup>	2,046,870	2,075,000	2,278,000	2,242,000
Real Property Tax (\$0.01/\$100 for FY19)	119,795	120,000	120,000	120,000
Highway User Revenue	82,445	85,000	85,000	86,000
Utility Property Tax (\$0.66/\$100 for FY19) <sup>2</sup>	0	29,700	29,700	30,000
<b>Subtotal - Taxes</b>	<b>2,249,110</b>	<b>2,309,700</b>	<b>2,512,700</b>	<b>2,478,000</b>
<b>Reimbursements and Bank Shares</b>	<b>132,178</b>	<b>130,500</b>	<b>157,179</b>	<b>131,500</b>
<b>Permit Fees and Cable TV Revenue</b>	<b>193,191</b>	<b>195,000</b>	<b>195,000</b>	<b>195,000</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>	<b>62,436</b>	<b>79,500</b>	<b>79,510</b>	<b>91,500</b>
<b>From General Fund Balance<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36,000</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>2,636,915</b>	<b>2,714,700</b>	<b>2,944,389</b>	<b>2,932,000</b>
<b>RESTRICTED REVENUES<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>82,092</b>	<b>82,000</b>	<b>82,000</b>	<b>82,000</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>2,554,823</b>	<b>2,632,700</b>	<b>2,862,389</b>	<b>2,850,000</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>General Government</b>				
Salaries & Benefits	741,044	567,500	543,500	636,200
Professional Services	258,763	255,750	200,250	222,000
Civic Affairs and Community Programs	104,762	140,000	137,000	109,000
Other Services & Supplies	98,184	89,500	88,000	88,000
Payment of Legal Claims	0	92,000	92,000	0
<b>Subtotal - General Government</b>	<b>1,202,753</b>	<b>1,144,750</b>	<b>1,060,750</b>	<b>1,055,200</b>
<b>Public Works</b>				
Sanitation and Waste Removal	378,498	379,250	383,500	381,500
Streets and Roads	69,786	188,500	104,500	188,500
Parks, Grounds and Trees	173,933	162,000	161,000	166,000
<b>Subtotal - Public Works</b>	<b>622,217</b>	<b>729,750</b>	<b>649,000</b>	<b>736,000</b>
<b>Public Safety (Police)</b>	<b>354,215</b>	<b>340,000</b>	<b>340,000</b>	<b>339,500</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,179,185</b>	<b>2,214,500</b>	<b>2,049,750</b>	<b>2,130,700</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Streets and Roads	33,020	500,000	1,700,000	1,000,000
Reimbursements for Utility Repairs	0	0	(1,176,000)	(95,000)
<b>Net Expenditures for Infrastructure</b>	<b>33,020</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>524,000</b>	<b>905,000</b>
<b>Other Capital Projects</b>				
Street Lights	4,478	8,000	2,000	8,000
Facilities and Equipment	0	5,000	5,000	35,000
Parks, Grounds & Trees	19,531	15,000	15,000	15,000
<b>Subtotal - Other Capital Projects</b>	<b>24,009</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>58,000</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>57,029</b>	<b>528,000</b>	<b>546,000</b>	<b>963,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,236,214</b>	<b>2,742,500</b>	<b>2,595,750</b>	<b>3,093,700</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>318,609</b>	<b>(109,800)</b>	<b>266,639</b>	<b>(243,700)</b>
<b>ENDING GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>7,841,905</b>	<b>7,732,105</b>	<b>8,108,544</b>	<b>7,828,844</b>
		<b>FY19 Contingent Reserve<sup>4</sup></b>		<b>1,140,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> the Town's state tax credit liability ("Wynne" credit) will be deducted from income tax receipts. The draw from our general fund is equal to the FY19 deduction and conforms to the Town Council's decision to use our reserves to pay this liability.

<sup>2</sup> this tax is paid by utility companies, not by Town residents.

<sup>3</sup> this revenue is restricted for cable television facilities and equipment.

<sup>4</sup> this figure represents 40 percent of the Town's annual operating revenues. It is included in the Town's general fund balance.

## Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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### TOWN COUNCIL

*Mary Flynn, Mayor*  
*Barney Rush, Vice Mayor*  
*Cecily Baskir, Secretary*  
*Scott Fosler, Treasurer*  
*Joel Rubin, Community Liaison*



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

## Annual Town Meeting and Election Issue

2018 Election and FY2019 Budget Information Enclosed

Information also may be found on the Town website

[www.townofchevychase.org](http://www.townofchevychase.org)



**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 1, 2018

*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 1, 2018. 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.*