



Forecast

ELECTION ISSUE 2013

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

Annual Town Meeting and Election Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Voting:	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Town Hall
Reception:	7 p.m.	Social Hall
Welcome and Introductions:	7:30 p.m.	Social Hall
Business Meeting:	8 p.m.	Social Hall

The Town Council has five elected members. Town residents will elect two candidates in the 2013 election to serve for two years. The polls 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 7**. 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.

Beginning at 7 p.m. on May 7, the Council will host a reception featuring the Town's volunteer committees. During the reception, you will have an opportunity to talk with many of the residents who volunteer their time and talents to work on the many issues facing the Town. At 7:30 p.m., Mayor Patricia Burda will introduce the invited guests, including State Senator Rich Madaleno, who will deliver a "wrap-up" of the 2013 General Assembly session. The business meeting will begin at 8 p.m.

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Candidates' Forum

A moderated candidates' forum will be held on **Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m.** in the Town Hall. Charles Duffy, host of the Montgomery Municipal Cable TV show "Political Pulse," has agreed to serve as moderator for the sixth consecutive year. If you have a question you would like posed to the candidates, please submit it by Wednesday, April 24 to the Town Office at townoffice@townofchevychase.org.

Proposed FY14 Budget

Highlights of the proposed FY14 budget can be reviewed in this issue of the FORECAST. For the next fiscal year, the Town Council has proposed eliminating property taxes, continuing popular Town programs and services, and implementing a new program to provide assistance to homeowners for the maintenance of canopy trees.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Patricia Burda

On behalf of the Town Council, I am pleased to present some of the Town's many accomplishments over the past year.

We maintained a high quality of life in Town by continuing to provide excellent public services; better securing our homes and property with 24-hour police coverage and an expanded Neighborhood Watch program; maintaining a solid infrastructure; and providing excellent communication to our residents. Specifically we:

- Repaved many of our roads and repaired and replaced sidewalks and curbs;
- Secured funding for and oversaw the final phase of storm drain repairs in Town;
- Worked with Pepco to continue pruning trees near power lines and upgrading electric wires, which will help reduce storm-related power outages in Town;
- Implemented "Alert TOCC," the Town's voice message broadcast service;
- Expanded the use of the Town Crier email alert system, including the new "Weekly Update" feature;
- Worked with Chevy Chase at Home to enhance services for our senior residents.

We continued to be a good steward of our natural environment and participated in numerous initiatives to establish the Town as a leader in environmental preservation and sustainability efforts throughout the State. Specifically we:

- Planted 138 trees in the public rights-of-way; and planted 22 trees on private property as part of the Town's Native Canopy Tree Planting Program;
- Worked with the Town's Climate and Environment Committee on new initiatives to promote the care of private trees;
- Maintained the Town's trees and removed over 56 dead or dying trees in the Town's rights-of-way;
- Participated in the Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) program, developed specifically for municipalities in Maryland who want to "go green."

We continued to monitor and advocate Town interests in proposed development projects on the Town's borders and within the County. Specifically we:

- Followed closely and commented on the County's Zoning rewrite;
- Worked with the State to help identify ways to reduce the impacts of the proposed Purple Line light rail project on the Town;
- Continued our participation in the Connecticut Avenue Corridor Committee to exchange information among local communities on development plans for Chevy Chase Lake.

And finally, we expanded our special events programming and hosted over 27 social events that not only brought together residents of all ages, but also raised significant funds for important charitable causes in our larger community.

I am sincerely grateful for our dedicated staff and the many volunteers who serve on our various committees, boards and commissions. Thank you all for your hard work and sense of civic duty.

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION 2013

Tuesday, May 7 is Election Day.

The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. The polls will be located in the Town Hall, 4301 Willow Lane. The election will be administered by the League of Women Voters and monitored by the Town Election Board.

Town elections are governed by the provisions in Chapter 8 of the Town of Chevy Chase Municipal Code, which state: "An election shall be held on the first Tuesday in May of each year to elect members of the Town Council. Three members shall be elected in even-numbered years and two members in odd-numbered years."

The Nominees

Biographical sketches and statements of the Council candidates appear in this issue of the FORECAST and on the Town's website (www.townofchevy Chase.org).

Candidates' Forum

Candidates will participate in a moderated forum and dialogue with the community on **Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m.** in the Town Hall. The Election Board will accept questions in advance from Town residents. The Election Board may need to consolidate similar questions.

Floor Nominations

Floor nominations for Councilmembers cannot be considered at the Annual Meeting since voting will begin in advance of the meeting.

Voting Eligibility

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, qualified voter of the State of Maryland to be eligible to vote. 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.

Voting By Absentee Ballot

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. 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 by 8 p.m. on **Election Day, May 7, 2013.**

Voting Procedure

The polls will be located in the Town Hall, 4301 Willow Lane. The polls will open at 8 a.m. and will close at 8 p.m. on **Election Day, May 7, 2013.** Names of candidates will appear on the printed ballot in alphabetical order. Voters may vote for no more than two candidates. There will be appropriate blanks on the printed ballot for the purpose of adding write-in candidates.

Election Board

Residents with questions on any aspect of the election are encouraged to contact a member of the Election Board: Cory Modlin, Chair, 301-652-6789; Ed Finn, 301-657-4607; and Steve Lawton, 301-654-5904.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

LINNA BARNES

7112 Ridgewood Avenue

I have lived in the Town with my husband and daughters for almost 26 years and have been a Council Member for ten. In addition to my duties as Treasurer for the last several years and previous service as mayor, I am active in the Montgomery County branch of the Maryland Municipal League on behalf of the Town and regularly lobby state and county officials on town issues. I produce a television program on Channel 21 and work with many county non-profits including the League of Women Voters, Committee for Montgomery, and Interfaith Works. I am also on the Advisory Council of the Woodrow Wilson House in the District. I was active in county PTAs, including being president at Rosemary Hills. Now a non-practicing attorney, I received degrees from the UGA, Duke Law School, and Columbia School of Architecture and Preservation.

A lot has changed in the Town during my 10 years on the Council, but more has stayed the same. We are still a place where people come to put down roots and find a community of friends. I believe the role of the Council is to enhance this community. I have worked hard to keep our tree canopy healthy and vibrant with the Town planting more trees and now a plan to assist residents with the expenses of tree maintenance. There is now 24-hour police presence with off-duty officers patrolling. The county has rebuilt our storm sewers because of my and the Council's efforts. The Town's building regulations were revised to create houses, which are both appropriate in the Town's landscape and also provide modern living spaces. We continue to find new ways to hold community events.

I am proud of what the Council and I have accomplished, but I know it is because of all the residents who have volunteered so many hours to the Town. My support of and belief in the Town's committee structure helps the Council achieve great things. If elected again, I will use my skills as a Town advocate in the county and state, a consensus builder on the Council, and supporter of community participation to continue this work. My experience on the Council and in the county enhances my ability to achieve this goal.

Serving on the Council has been both a great honor and wonderful experience. I hope to serve another two years to continue my work for the Town.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

JOHN BICKERMAN

4011 Thornapple Street

I've lived in Chevy Chase and Bethesda since 1992 and been a resident of the Town since 2006. In recent weeks, a number of friends and neighbors here in Chevy Chase suggest I run for the Town Council, which after some consideration on the merits, I've decided to do.

For the past 20 years, I've devoted my professional career as a mediator to resolving conflicts around the country among a wide variety of parties. Prior to earning my law degree and practicing as an attorney, I was an economist with experience in the federal budget. I believe that my skills as a mediator, as an attorney who knows and understands our legal system and as a former budget expert will be an asset to the Town Council.

As I explored the idea of serving on the council, I was flattered to receive the support of both long-time residents and newer families within our community.

I'm an independent thinker. I'm for making sensible decisions based on facts that provide the greatest benefit for the most citizens of our Town.

I do believe, however, that the Town's resources could be better directed than they are now. We need to do a better job of listening. We should be careful about substituting our judgment of what problems are most pressing to listening to residents about what they believe are most important.

I believe, for example, that more effort should be spent on making our streets and homes as safe as possible and insuring that we have effective communication in emergencies. Less energy should be spent regulating things that are of little concern to most of the Town, like bay windows. We shouldn't always be in search of a problem to solve when there is no evidence to suggest that a problem exists. (An example: Our trees are a wonderful amenity but we need to get smarter about their healthy management, because too often neglect has led to severe property damage.)

In sum, we need a smarter, more strategic approach on the issues that matter.

I've been a progressive all my life and I believe government can make an important difference. Philosophically, I believe that the Town Council should do as little as possible to interfere in residents' lives, while doing as much as necessary to improve our safety and quality of life. With your help, I think we can do better for our Town.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

PATRICIA BURDA

4108 Woodbine Street

It has been a pleasure and an honor to have served as your Mayor over the past year. And, boy did my tenure start out with a bang thanks to the derecho. As difficult as that time was, however, I marveled at the resilience of our residents and how community members came together to help one another. I also saw firsthand how professional, compassionate and capable our staff was in an emergency. Pepco aside, we can all be proud of how we weathered that difficult time.

The Council, staff and I have been busy on your behalf since the storm. Communication is a particularly important issue for me and I have been pleased that we have instituted the Town Alert voice messaging system, expanded the Town Crier notification system, and instituted a weekly Town update. We also, at my request, held two informational meetings on issues important to residents—open space acquisition and trees—and asked for resident comment. Because of what we heard, the Council worked with community residents and endorsed a comprehensive report on parks and playgrounds to help guide future actions on open space and developed new tree maintenance initiatives.

I have also continued my work outside the Town borders on behalf of the Town. I am particularly proud of my role in establishing the Connecticut Avenue Corridor Committee, which brought together over 20 communities to address the development plan for nearby Chevy Chase Lake. Not only has this helped in our efforts with the Lake development, but it has worked to strengthen our ties with other communities in the area.

Throughout my professional career, I have learned to take the long view, and to listen to opposing points of view and work to bring people together for a common goal – both as a museum consultant in strategic planning and now as an interior designer working with families. These are skills that have served me well on the Council.

My husband, Joe Guerra, and I moved to the Town in 2000 and raised our children, Alex and Annie, here. I have a B.A. from the University of Virginia and an M.A. from the University of Maryland, and over the years, I have volunteered for many organizations.

Moving forward, I believe that the Town has an excellent foundation to address new challenges and opportunities. I would be honored to continue to serve you on the Town Council.

FY14 Proposed Budget Highlights

Town's Proposed Budget Eliminates Property Taxes

In response to resident feedback and economic realities, the Town Council has proposed a FY14 budget that reflects conservative estimates for Town revenues and includes funding for a number of new or expanded programs and services. Following are highlights of the proposed FY14 budget.

REVENUES

Property Taxes

The Town Council has proposed eliminating property taxes for FY14. Currently, homeowners pay approximately \$100 per \$1,000,000 in assessed value of their home. The elimination of property taxes will result in a decrease in Town revenues of approximately \$120,000, which represents 2.8% of the Town's total annual revenue.

Income Taxes

The Town is continuing to be conservative in estimating income tax revenue. Due to economic uncertainties, the FY14 budget reflects a decrease in income tax revenue from that estimated to be received in FY13.

EXPENDITURES

Employee Salaries

The FY14 budget includes funds to provide a 2.2% cost of living adjustment for all Town employees and a 3.5% step increase for four employees.

Montgomery County Police

The FY14 budget maintains funding for 24-hour police coverage in Town.

Private Canopy Tree Maintenance Program

The FY14 budget includes funds to provide partial reimbursements to homeowners for costs incurred in maintaining canopy trees on private property. Details of the program, if approved, will be publicized in a future issue of the FORECAST.

Native Canopy Tree Planting Program

The FY14 budget includes funding for the planting of 40 canopy trees on private property in response to residents' requests.

Tree Maintenance

The FY14 budget increases funding for public tree maintenance, primarily in anticipation of addressing tree damage resulting from severe storms.

Website Redevelopment

The FY14 budget includes funds to redesign the Town's website, which will incorporate more interactive features, such as online registration forms and automated citizen request tracking.

Yard Trash Collection

The FY14 budget maintains funding for weekly yard trash collection.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

The FY14 budget maintains funding for public sidewalk snow removal when snow accumulates to 3 inches or more.

The Town Council wants to hear your thoughts on these proposals as well as the FY14 budget as a whole. You are welcome to share your comments at the public hearing on the proposed budget at the Town's Annual Meeting at 8 p.m. on May 7. You also are welcome to submit your comments by e-mail to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or by mail to Town Office, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

Patricia Burda, Mayor
David Lublin, Vice Mayor
Al Lang, Secretary
Linna Barnes, Treasurer
Kathy Strom, Community Liaison



www.townofchevychase.org

Information also may be found on the Town website

Election and FY14 Budget Information Enclosed

ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING ISSUE

