



# Forecast

ELECTION ISSUE 2019

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

## Annual Town Meeting and Election Tuesday, May 7, 2019

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 2019 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 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.

On May 7, the Town Council will host a reception beginning at 6:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., the annual meeting will begin. Mayor Barney Rush will provide an overview of the Town's accomplishments over the past year, and Town Treasurer Joel Rubin will present the proposed budget and tax rates for the 2020 fiscal year, followed by a public hearing.

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### Annual Meeting Agenda

Mayor's Report ..... Barney Rush, Mayor  
Treasurer's Report ..... Joel Rubin, Treasurer  
Public Hearing on Proposed FY20 Budget  
Adjournment ..... Barney Rush, Mayor

### Candidates' Meet & Greet

The Election Board will host a "Candidates' Meet & Greet" on **Tuesday, April 30 at 7 p.m.** in the Town Hall. This event will give residents an opportunity to talk to the candidates and learn more about their positions on the many issues facing the Town.

### Proposed FY20 Budget

A summary of the proposed FY20 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)).

# Fiscal Year 2019 Year-End Report

Our Town is in good shape. We have maintained our services at a high level, and, as reported in the budget discussion, we expect to close the year with a surplus and have ample financial reserves. We've also been busy with many projects that I'd like to quickly review:

## Along Our Borders:

- **East West Highway Sidewalk Safety:** We cleared the foliage from the sidewalk along East West Highway, and the State Highway Administration has agreed to narrow the lanes from the bridge over the CCT right-of-way past Maple Avenue, an effective traffic calming measure. We also pushed for safer crosswalks across East West Highway and expect the SHA to provide recommendations soon.
- **Higher Noise Wall along the Purple Line:** We secured approval from the Maryland Transportation Authority to raise the noise wall from 4 to 6 feet and approved the funds to pay for this.
- **Parking Lots to Parks:** The proposed project is approaching our goals of ensuring a sizable park and an activated Farm Women's Market retail area, but more work is needed to make this a reality.

## Inside Our Town:

- **Infrastructure and Road Work:** Much of the Town now has new water and gas lines, and many of our streets have been repaved -- with much of the remaining paving to be undertaken this summer.
- **Safety:** Safety signs are up alerting motorists and cyclists to "share the road." A scope of work has been prepared for a comprehensive traffic study that will be undertaken in September and will be used to develop recommendations for improved safety in Town.
- **Sustainable Garden:** The plans for the new sustainable garden in the south end of Zimmerman Park are well advanced, and planting will commence in the fall.
- **Path and Staircase:** A conceptual plan is in hand for a safe means to ascend the slope in Zimmerman Park to East West Highway. Given the time required for engineering and permitting, construction may not start until the fall, and this project remains subject to final Council approval.
- **Other Amenities at Zimmerman:** We have begun to examine what other amenities can be added to our park, including a play area, a grass ball field, and possibly a dog exercise area.
- **New AV System:** We now have a new audio-visual system in our Town Hall, with better microphones, speakers, and a large plasma screen to better serve all our functions.

## Neighbor to Neighbor:

- **Chevy Chase @ Home:** We undertook a concerted effort to inform residents of this organization's services and of the assistance it can provide in emergencies. We also provided financial support.
- **Using our Town Hall as a Shelter:** We revised procedures so that it will be easier to use our Town Hall as a refuge if we have a long-lasting and significant loss of power during a storm
- **Celebrating our Centennial:** We had a grand time, on many different occasions, celebrating our Town turning 100 years young.
- **Non-U.S. Citizen Voting:** We amended our Charter to expand voting rights in our elections.
- **Building Ordinance Review:** The Land Use Committee has proposed further changes to our building code that will offer additional flexibility to residents. The Council has reviewed these and will consider them over the next two months.
- **Our Active Committees:** The Long-Range Planning Committee has focused on the Farm Women's Market project. A revitalized Climate and Environment Group organized a "green" fair this past fall, planned the Sustainable Garden, and is now considering noise mitigation. The Public Services Committee has reviewed numerous traffic safety issues. The Land Use Committee, in addition to building ordinance review, has been considering amenities in Zimmerman Park. And the Community Relations Committee has offered an outstanding series of events -- fun and informative.

In sum, we've had an active year indeed. My colleagues on the Council and I want to thank to all who have worked hard on all these endeavors. I look forward to next year, to carry forward all those projects which we've started but not yet completed. Let's continue working together.

-- Mayor Barney Rush

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

## Cecily Baskir, 4408 Ridge Street

I have had the honor of serving on your Town Council since 2017 and am currently Vice Mayor. I am running for re-election this year and ask for your vote.

Together with my Council colleagues, the Town staff, committee members, and volunteers, I have worked on many issues since joining the Town Council in January 2017. Among other things, I

- spearheaded a successful effort to expand voting rights in Town elections,
- advocated on the Town's behalf regarding future development in downtown Bethesda,
- helped prepare for this fall's Town-wide traffic study,
- pursued pedestrian safety improvements and noise mitigation related to the Purple Line, and
- recommended an increased budget for enforcement of parking regulations.

I also initiated a series of informal "Chats with Councilmembers," where I have had the pleasure of talking with many residents about issues in and around the Town.

The next Council will face difficult decisions about the implementation of new Town traffic and safety measures and the vision for Zimmerman Park. It will engage in complex negotiations about the future of the Farm Women's Market and nearby parking lots, as well as further Purple Line mitigation efforts. In addition, the Town will also transition to a new Town Manager for the first time in 17 years. I hope that my experience and leadership can help steer us through these challenges as smoothly as possible.

I am a proud graduate of Rosemary Hills, CCES, Westland, and B-CC. After studying, working, and traveling around the world, I moved home in 2007 to raise my family in the community where I grew up. I am now a resident of Ridge Street, a mother of two young children, a lawyer, a small business owner, a professor, a PTA board member, a cyclist, and a dog owner. Each aspect of my diverse experience informs the perspectives I bring to the Town Council.

If re-elected, I commit to maintaining a focus on mutual respect, civility, and community. I will do my best to listen to all sides, approach each issue methodically and analytically (as I do in my "day job"), and serve the Town with the flexibility, compassion, and patience that I have learned as a parent. I may not be able to make everyone happy all of the time, but I promise to act thoughtfully and conscientiously.

Please vote for me for Town Council on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. Thank you!

## Joel Rubin, 4401 Walsh Street

I'm honored to seek your support for a second term on the Town Council. We have accomplished a significant amount during the past two years and are on the cusp of making major long-term investments in our town that will enhance our quality of life for years to come. This is why I would like to ask for your support on Election Day, to return me to the Council for another two years.

In the last two years, our Council has engaged actively on a variety of key issues important to our residents. We have extended local voting rights to non-US citizens, commissioned a sustainable garden in Zimmerman Park, held a public forum against hate speech, and expanded support both for Chevy Chase at Home and the Chevy Chase Historical Society.

We have also advocated effectively on behalf of our town, especially related to activities affecting our town's borders. We have pressed the Purple Line Transit Partners to improve their work by obtaining a higher noise wall that will help residents living adjacent to the line. We have pressed State officials to enhance pedestrian safety along East-West Highway. And we are working closely with County officials on the potential conversion of Parking Lots 24 and 10 into a park next to the Farm Women's Market.

Yet there is still much more work to do. Key issues like the parking lot conversion, oversight of the Purple Line's implementation, potential new County legislation on Accessory Dwelling Units, and the discussion about a Dog Exercise Area in the town are still on the top of our minds.

I have been intimately involved in helping to advance each of these issues, including, as Treasurer, overseeing a balanced budget and record financial reserve levels. And I am working very closely with Mayor Rush on the potential Parking Lots conversion issue.

I therefore promise that if you reelect me, I will offer not just continuity of experience on these issues but will also maintain an open door to ensure that you are being heard, so that the town makes the right decisions on your behalf.

Our town is in the midst of significant change, both physically at our borders and in terms of our residents' hopes for the future. We have much more work to do, and I hope that you'll support me again this coming election so I can continue to work on your behalf.

## FY20 Budget Public Hearing and Adoption

At the May 7 annual meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing during which residents may comment on the proposed **\$3.15 million combined operating and capital budgets** as well as a proposed **real estate tax rate of \$0.0099 per \$100 of assessed value**. If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may submit comments to [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org). The Council will adopt a final budget in May.

### 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, 2019 is projected to be \$8.15 million.

Looking ahead, we **continue to owe approximately \$754,000 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). These payments, which will be deducted from our income tax receipts, are interest free and will be repaid over five years beginning in May 2021. The Town's **general fund balance reflects a full repayment** of this future liability.

While the Town's operating expenditures have been relatively 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. These upgrades are now substantially complete, and our extensive infrastructure repair work has resulted in higher than normal capital expenditures in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 and will consume most of the \$650,000 budgeted for street repair for fiscal year 2020. Since 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 \$2.23 million over five years. This equates to an annualized cost of \$446,000, which is consistent with the Town's normal annual capital expenditures. The FY20 capital budget also includes two extraordinary expenditures. One is **\$175,000 to fund improvements to Zimmerman Park**, mostly for a planned pathway and the engineering and construction of a staircase to East West Highway. The other is **\$85,000 for a new Town truck**. As a result, we anticipate a deficit of approximately \$101,000 next year.

We expect to realize a **budget surplus of approximately \$180,000** in the current fiscal even after accounting for the expenditure of **\$107,000 for the higher noise wall adjacent to the Purple Line**.

## FY20 Budget Overview

### General Revenue

- Total operating revenue is budgeted at \$3,052,000, of which **\$2.4 million is projected income tax revenue** and \$122,000 is proposed real property tax revenue.
- The Town Council is proposing to adopt the **constant yield tax rate of \$0.0099** per \$100 of assessed value. The constant yield rate is a property tax rate that, when applied to new real estate assessments, will produce the same revenue in the coming taxable year that was produced in the prior taxable year. The Town's proposed rate is equal to \$99 for each \$1 million in a home's assessed value.

### Operating Expenditures

- Total operating expenditures are budgeted at \$2,248,000.
- The FY20 budget includes funds to continue all the Town's **high-quality programs and services**.

### Capital Expenditures

- Total capital expenditures are budgeted at \$905,000.
- 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 included for **Zimmerman Park improvements, new street trees, and a new Town truck**.

### General Fund Balance

- The Town's unassigned **general fund balance is projected to be \$8,055,163** on June 30, 2020.

### Restricted Funds

- The Town will use a \$100,000 bequest to create a **sustainable garden in Zimmerman Park**.
- The Town will use restricted cable TV grants to acquire **audio/visual equipment**.

*Comprehensive budget documents are available for review in the Town office and on the Town website.*

## FY20 Proposed Budget

Budget Summary	FY18 Actual	FY19 Budget	FY19 Est. Actual	FY20 Budget
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>				
<b>Taxes</b>				
Income Taxes	2,259,626	2,278,000	2,710,000	2,400,000
Real Property Tax (\$0.0099/\$100 for FY20)	122,074	120,000	122,000	122,000
Highway User Revenue	84,360	86,000	92,154	117,500
Utility Property Tax (\$0.66/\$100 for FY20) <sup>1</sup>	30,381	30,000	30,000	30,000
<b>Subtotal - Taxes</b>	<b>2,496,441</b>	<b>2,514,000</b>	<b>2,954,154</b>	<b>2,669,500</b>
<b>Reimbursements and Bank Shares</b>	<b>157,179</b>	<b>131,500</b>	<b>132,179</b>	<b>132,500</b>
<b>Permit Fees and Cable TV Revenue</b>	<b>65,129</b>	<b>113,000</b>	<b>74,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>	<b>106,962</b>	<b>91,500</b>	<b>152,260</b>	<b>175,000</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>2,825,711</b>	<b>2,850,000</b>	<b>3,312,593</b>	<b>3,052,000</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>General Government</b>				
Salaries & Benefits	544,215	636,200	520,200	641,200
Professional Services	166,204	272,000	224,000	248,000
Civic Affairs and Community Programs	103,142	221,658	224,658	120,000
Other Services & Supplies	116,302	88,000	86,600	87,000
Payment of Legal Claims	92,000	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal - General Government</b>	<b>1,021,863</b>	<b>1,217,858</b>	<b>1,055,458</b>	<b>1,096,200</b>
<b>Public Works</b>				
Sanitation and Waste Removal	369,943	381,500	381,670	386,800
Streets and Roads	121,315	188,500	110,500	212,500
Parks, Grounds and Trees	158,457	179,000	174,000	213,000
<b>Subtotal - Public Works</b>	<b>649,715</b>	<b>749,000</b>	<b>666,170</b>	<b>812,300</b>
<b>Public Safety (Police)</b>	<b>354,643</b>	<b>339,500</b>	<b>339,500</b>	<b>339,500</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,026,221</b>	<b>2,306,358</b>	<b>2,061,128</b>	<b>2,248,000</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Streets and Roads	1,564,059	1,000,000	1,200,000	650,000
Reimbursements for Utility Repairs	(1,176,225)	(95,000)	(145,000)	0
<b>Net Expenditures for Infrastructure</b>	<b>387,834</b>	<b>905,000</b>	<b>1,055,000</b>	<b>650,000</b>
<b>Other Capital Projects</b>				
Street Lights	0	8,000	2,000	5,000
Facilities and Equipment	11,469	35,000	4,000	100,000
Parks, Grounds & Trees	22,657	15,000	10,000	150,000
<b>Subtotal - Other Capital Projects</b>	<b>34,126</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>255,000</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>421,960</b>	<b>963,000</b>	<b>1,071,000</b>	<b>905,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,448,181</b>	<b>3,269,358</b>	<b>3,132,128</b>	<b>3,153,000</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>377,530</b>	<b>(419,358)</b>	<b>180,465</b>	<b>(101,000)</b>
<b>ENDING GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>7,975,698</b>	<b>7,556,340</b>	<b>8,156,163</b>	<b>8,055,163</b>
				<b>1,220,800</b>
				<b>FY20 Contingent Reserve<sup>2</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> this tax is paid by utility companies, not by Town residents.

<sup>2</sup> this figure represents 40 percent of the Town's annual operating revenues. It is included in the Town's general fund balance.

RESTRICTED FUNDS	Est. Balance 6/30/2019	FY20 Est. Revenue	FY20 Est. Expenses	Est. Balance 6/30/2020
Cable TV Improvements -- PEG Grants	164,495	82,000	15,000	231,495
Lee Dennison Bequest/Sustainable Garden	90,000	0	80,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL - RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>254,495</b>	<b>82,000</b>	<b>95,000</b>	<b>241,495</b>

# TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION – May 7, 2019

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

## Election Day is Tuesday, May 7

Town residents will select two candidates in the 2019 election, each to serve on the Council for a two-year term. The terms of Cecily Baskir and Joel Rubin will expire in May. Town elections are governed by the provisions of Chapter 8 of the Town's Municipal Code and election procedures adopted by the Town Council.

## 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 30**, 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 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.townofchevy Chase.org](http://www.townofchevy Chase.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' Meet & Greet

The Election Board will host a "Candidates' Meet & Greet" on **Tuesday, April 30 at 7 p.m.** in the Town Hall. This event will give residents an opportunity to talk to the candidates and learn more about their positions on the many issues facing the Town.

## Voting Eligibility

To be eligible to vote, **residents who are U.S. citizens** must be 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>.

**Residents who are not U.S. citizens** must be legally authorized to reside in 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 registered to vote with the Town. Voter registration forms for non-U.S. citizen residents are available on the Town website and in the Town office.

## Voting By Absentee Ballot

Absentee ballots will be available in the Town office once they are printed, but no later than **Tuesday, April 23**. 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. Requests are 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 by **8 p.m.** on election day.

## Election Board

Residents with questions on any aspect of the election are encouraged to contact the Election Board at [election@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:election@townofchevy Chase.org). Current Election Board members are **Mike Lebowitz, Chair; Chris Wright; and Rob Enelow**.



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

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

Town Request #
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# REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

## Town Council Election -- Tuesday, May 7, 2019

*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 election of the Town of Chevy Chase.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Applicant**

*Voter Eligibility: To be eligible to vote, residents who are U.S. citizens must be 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. Residents who are not U.S. citizens must be legally authorized to reside in 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 registered to vote with the Town. Voter registration forms for non-U.S. citizen residents are available on the Town website and in the Town office.*

*To be counted, any absentee ballot must be received by the Town office by 8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, May 7, 2019. 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**

*Barney Rush, Mayor*  
*Cecily Baskir, Vice Mayor*  
*Kirk Renaud, Secretary*  
*Joel Rubin, Treasurer*  
*Wicca Davidson, Community Liaison*



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

## Annual Town Meeting and Election Issue

2019 Election and FY20 Budget Information Enclosed

Information also may be found on the Town website

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