



Forecast

ELECTION ISSUE 2022

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

Town Council Election & Annual Meeting

The Town Council has five elected members. In the 2022 election, Town residents will elect three members, each to serve for a two-year term. The terms of Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Irene N. Lane, and Barney Rush will expire in May. There are three candidates on the ballot in the 2022 election: Rich Brancato, Irene N. Lane, and Barney Rush. Candidates' statements are on pages 2-4 of this newsletter.

Balloting will be undertaken by mail and drop box only. There will not be in-person voting on Election Day, Tuesday, May 3. Instead, each registered Town voter will receive a ballot by mail. All ballots and ballot envelopes must be properly completed. For a resident's vote to be counted, ballot return envelopes must be mailed by May 3, 2022 and received by May 10, 2022 or placed in the drop box outside the Town Hall by 5 p.m. on May 3, 2022. See detailed election procedures on page 7.

On May 3, 2022 at 7 p.m., the Town will hold its Annual Meeting both in-person in the Town Hall and by Zoom video conference. During this meeting, Mayor Barney Rush will provide an overview of the Town's accomplishments over the past year, and Town Treasurer Joy White will present the proposed budget for the 2023 fiscal year, followed by a public hearing and Council adoption.

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Candidates' "Meet & Greet"

The Election Board will host a Candidates' "Meet & Greet" on **Wednesday, April 27 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.

May 3 Annual Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order (7 p.m.)
- II. Mayor's Report (Barney Rush, Mayor)
- III. Treasurer's Report (Joy White, Treasurer)
- IV. Public Hearing on Proposed FY23 Budget
- V. Adjournment (8 p.m.)

Proposed FY23 Budget

A summary of the proposed FY23 budget can be reviewed on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter. Comprehensive budget documents are available for review on the Town website.

Connect with the Town & Neighbors

Residents are encouraged to connect with the Town and fellow residents by signing up on the Town website for the **Town Crier** email alert system and the private **Town Neighbors** listserv. Both resources offer an important way to stay informed and in touch.

The Town's Annual Meeting will be held in-person in the Town Hall and by Zoom videoconference. Information on how to join by Zoom is on the Town website.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Rich Brancato, 4304 Leland Street

I am running for Town Council because I care about our neighborhood. My wife, Mary, and our dog, Winnie, live on Leland Street and enjoy walking all over our Town. I am a retired civil servant and was a program manager in the Departments of Energy and Transportation. Prior to my retirement I was a policy advisor on transportation and energy issues for the Governors of the Northeastern states. I am the current Chairperson of the Public Services Committee and was on all the Town's Purple Line Committees.

We need to address the impacts of Bethesda development, including the Farm Women's Market and the proposed green spaces, the Purple Line construction, and the new project on the former 4-H site. We can achieve good outcomes if we continue our Town tradition of civil and respectful discourse while encouraging stewardship of our environment and maintaining the Town's strong financial position.

I would listen carefully to residents, looking for solutions that are acceptable to the majority of residents, and achieving balanced and fair results. As a long-time resident, I am committed to making sure that the Town keeps its friendly, small-town character and remains a vibrant and safe neighborhood.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Irene N. Lane, 4106 Aspen Street

My name is Irene Lane and I ask for your support to be re-elected for a second term on the Town Council.

Over the last two years, I have been privileged to serve the Town, first as Community Liaison and now as Vice Mayor, with a dedicated team of staff and volunteers who have been generous with their time, skills, and energy as we tackle the complex issues facing our Town.

As a Town Council member, I have instituted resident listening sessions on key issues such as Thrive Montgomery 2050 and the Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative, designed online surveys on topics such as improving Zimmerman Park and the East-West Highway Crosswalk, advocated on behalf of residents to our County Councilmembers and County Staff regarding the Capital Crescent Trail Tunnel and the Farm Women's Market Parks Creation projects, and spearheaded the response of a coalition of residential communities across the county who aimed to increase the social, economic, and environmental benefits of Thrive Montgomery 2050.

In assessing the impacts on Town residents of policies or projects such as the Accessory Dwelling Unit Building Ordinance, ARPA Fund Distribution Requirements, or the Capital Crescent Surface Trail, my goals have been to learn the details, listen to your concerns, provide timely answers to questions, work to find solutions, and provide beneficial results to residents while keeping an eye toward the future.

While we have made big strides over the last two years, there is more work to be done and new challenges to deal with, including ensuring that the Galerie Living / Community Three Senior Living Community development on the former 4-H property is compatible with the Town and its goals, enhancing pedestrian safety when crossing East West Highway and Wisconsin Avenue, and securing County funding for parks as part of the project to redevelop the Farm Women's Market.

In addition to addressing these challenges, additional priorities for the next term include the following issues, which residents have discussed:

- Address traffic, parking, noise, and other public safety enforcement challenges,
- Improve the Town's website and communication methods,
- Keeping the Town green by supporting the Dennison Garden as well as *Town Talks* on topics such as canopy trees, indigenous plantings, and recycling,
- Provide meaningful opportunities for Town teens to participate in events and community service,
- Expand cross-collaboration amongst Town committees, and
- Promote community spirit

I am a problem solver who offers dedication, experience, and consistency. I ask for your support and your vote on Election Day, Tuesday May 3, for another term on the Town Council.

If you have any questions or would just like to chat about your priorities for the Town, please call me at 202.758.4584 or email me at greenloons@me.com.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Barney Rush, 6917 Maple Avenue

I have had the honor of serving on the Town Council for six years. Over this period, I have been Treasurer twice, Vice Mayor once, and your Mayor for three years, including the Council year ending next month. I now ask for your support to serve another two-year term on the Council.

I have endeavored to serve conscientiously, thinking carefully about the opportunities and challenges we face, engaging with and listening to residents, and seeking constructive ideas and answers from my colleagues and residents alike.

I have also committed the time that I believe is needed to do this job. I have studied the details of our budget; become familiar with our land use regulations; reviewed the traffic study and ongoing concerns regarding safety; and considered numerous variance requests. I also have engaged seriously -- with residents and with government officials of many levels -- on the vital projects that affect our Town: new parks near the Farm Women's Market, redevelopment of Zimmerman Park, construction of the Purple Line, and the proposed development of a senior living center on the former 4-H property.

In all this work, it is of paramount importance to me that my colleagues on the Council and I maintain the tone of discourse that we've nurtured over the past years: engagement, listening, responsiveness, respect, and civility. Arriving at good decisions requires time to deliberate, open discussion and extensive communications with residents, and a continued focus on what we see as the best interests of the Town. And I have learned that a decision that arises from all five of us, thinking collaboratively, is better than a view held by any one of us individually. We are best when working together.

Looking ahead, I believe that we are close to realizing the vision we first shared six years ago -- creating two new urban parks near the Farm Women's Market adjacent to our Town. We should be proud of the leadership role the Town has undertaken to contribute \$4 million to this project, and I am optimistic that financial support is coming together from the developer, the State, and the County to complete a viable financial plan. Many important matters remain to be worked out, and the Town needs to continue its prominent role to ensure delivery of high-quality parks to our residents and the Bethesda region.

Many other matters will require time over the next two years: ensuring that the proposed senior living project is compatible with the Town and attractive to our residents; undertaking the permitting and construction of the improvements at Zimmerman Park; and paying close attention to the Purple Line as work re-commences. It also is likely that we will need to address County instigated proposals to change our single-family residential zoning.

I'm not sure how much door to door campaigning I will be able to do, but please e-mail me at barneyrush@outlook.com with any questions or comments you may have. I would also be pleased to come to homes and meet many neighbors at one time. I look forward to hearing from you.

It has been an honor to serve our Town. I hope I will earn your support to continue working on your behalf.

FY23 Budget Public Hearing and Adoption

At the May 3 Annual Meeting, to be held in-person in the Town Hall and by Zoom videoconference, the Town Council will conduct a public hearing on and adopt the proposed \$3.8 million combined operating and capital budgets as well as the proposed real estate tax rate of \$0.0097 per \$100 of assessed value. If you are unable to participate, you may submit comments to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Financial Position

The Town continues to enjoy sound financial health. We expect to realize a budget surplus of over \$1.9 million in the current fiscal year due primarily to a larger than anticipated state distribution of local income tax revenue and to a delay in the expenditure of funds for improvements to Zimmerman Park. Offsetting this surplus is the Town Council's commitment in the current fiscal year to contribute \$4 million to the Farm Women's Market parks creation project. As a result, the Town's net general fund balance is projected to decline from approximately \$10.8 million on June 30, 2021 to approximately \$8.8 million on June 30, 2022.

Looking ahead to FY23, we have assumed income tax revenues will be approximately \$800,000 less than estimated for FY22 due to adjusting for anomalous distributions in the current fiscal year. In addition, the Town continues to owe \$714,589 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). The quarterly repayments, which began in May 2021 and will continue over 20 years, amount to \$38,111 per year. Despite the anticipated reduction in income tax revenue and the Wynne repayment, we expect to realize a budget surplus of \$45,900 in FY23. In addition, the Town's balance of restricted American Rescue Plan Act funds is expected to increase from \$1.2 million in FY22 to \$2.3 million in FY23.

The Town's capital expenditures have now normalized after fluctuating at relatively high levels due to the substantial costs for infrastructure improvements between FY15 and FY20. Now that the utility upgrades are substantially complete, capital expenditures for streets and sidewalks have declined materially.

FY23 Budget Overview

General Revenue

- Total operating revenue is budgeted at \$3.8 million, of which **\$3.2 million is projected income tax revenue**, \$235,000 is County tax duplication reimbursement, and \$128,500 is real property tax revenue.
- The Town Council proposes a **real property tax rate of \$0.0097** per \$100 of assessed value. This reflects the constant yield tax rate and is equal to \$97 for each \$1 million in a home's assessed value.

Operating Expenditures

- Total operating expenditures are budgeted at \$3.4 million, compared to \$3.1 million in the current fiscal year.
- The FY23 budget includes funds to continue the Town's **high-quality programs and services**. The Council proposes to maintain funding for expanded **off-duty police** coverage for traffic enforcement; sidewalk **snow removal**; and **professional services** to address major issues facing the Town. The Town Council also proposes to increase funding for **private tree planting and maintenance programs** due to increased demand and to restore funding for Town **special events** to pre-pandemic levels.

Capital Expenditures

- Total **capital expenditures are budgeted at \$357,500**, compared to \$552,500 for the current fiscal year due primarily to a reduction in anticipated costs for improvements to Zimmerman Park.
- The budget includes funds for **new street trees** and **maintenance of street and sidewalks**. It also includes funds to **improve Zimmerman Park**; however, this amount is substantially offset by a state grant, resulting in a **net cost to the Town of \$112,500**.

General Fund Balance

- The budget projects a **general fund balance of \$12.8 million and a net general fund balance of \$8.8 million** at the end of FY23. The net balance reflects the Council's commitment of \$4 million to the Farm Women's Market parks creation project in FY22.

Restricted Funds

- The budget anticipates **receipt of the second half (\$1.2 million) of American Rescue Plan Act funds** and **obligation of all remaining grant monies (\$2.3 million) in FY23**. It also funds additional cable-related capital improvements.

Comprehensive budget documents are available for review on the Town website.

FY23 Proposed Budget

Budget Summary	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budget	FY22 Est. Actual	FY23 Budget
GENERAL REVENUE				
Taxes				
Income Taxes	3,374,423	2,700,000	3,923,000	3,182,000
Real Property Tax (\$0.0097/\$100 for FY23)	126,595	124,500	127,500	128,500
Highway User Revenue	120,186	113,000	122,250	127,000
Utility Property Tax (\$0.66/\$100 for FY23) ¹	28,923	31,000	31,000	31,000
Subtotal - Taxes	3,650,127	2,968,500	4,203,750	3,468,500
Reimbursements and Bank Shares	132,179	170,500	265,500	235,500
Permit Fees and Cable TV Revenue	58,714	62,000	62,000	62,000
Other Revenue	81,480	79,000	76,500	80,000
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE	3,922,500	3,280,000	4,607,750	3,846,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES				
General Government				
Salaries & Benefits	644,757	692,000	605,000	796,000
Professional Services	249,316	647,000	412,500	563,000
Civic Affairs & Community Programs	104,927	165,000	105,500	146,000
Other Services & Supplies	112,337	138,600	136,600	142,100
Subtotal - General Government	1,111,337	1,642,600	1,259,600	1,647,100
Public Works				
Sanitation and Waste Removal	434,358	439,500	434,500	788,500
Streets and Roads	193,450	217,500	172,500	220,000
Parks, Grounds and Trees	288,362	375,000	295,000	368,000
Subtotal - Public Works	916,170	1,032,000	902,000	1,376,500
Public Safety (Police)	379,068	424,500	418,000	419,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2,406,575	3,099,100	2,579,600	3,442,600
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES				
Streets and Sidewalks				
Asphalt and Concrete (Net of Reimbursements)	176,131	100,000	24,720	150,000
Street Lights	0	5,000	0	5,000
Street Signage	0	15,000	11,000	10,000
Subtotal - Streets and Sidewalks	176,131	120,000	35,720	165,000
Parks, Grounds and Trees				
Park Improvements (Net of Reimbursements)	13,500	412,500	10,000	112,500
New Trees/Reforestation	21,945	15,000	22,000	25,000
Subtotal - Parks, Grounds and Trees	35,445	427,500	32,000	137,500
Facilities and Equipment				
Town Office Improvements	0	0	0	50,000
Information Technology	1,345	5,000	5,000	5,000
Vehicles	21,965	0	0	0
Subtotal - Facilities and Equipment	23,310	5,000	5,000	55,000
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	234,886	552,500	72,720	357,500
TOTAL OPERATING & CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2,641,461	3,651,600	2,652,320	3,800,100
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	1,281,039	(371,600)	1,955,430	45,900
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	10,798,449	10,426,849	12,753,879	12,799,779
RESERVED FOR FWM PARKS PROJECT²	0	0	(4,000,000)	0
NET GENERAL FUND BALANCE	10,798,449	10,426,849	8,753,879	8,799,779
			FY23 Contingent Reserve³	1,538,400

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

² In FY22, the Town Council committed \$4 million to the Farm Women's Market parks creation project.

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

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS	FY22 Est. Actual	FY23 Budget
Revenue	1,214,954	1,214,954
Estimated Expenditures and Obligations	(125,000)	(2,304,908)
Balance	1,089,954	0

2022 TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION

Voting will be undertaken by mail and drop box only. There will not be in-person voting.

The Town Council has five elected members. Town residents will select three candidates in the 2022 election, each to serve on the Council for a 2-year term. The terms of Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Irene N. Lane, and Barney Rush expire in May. There are three candidates on the ballot in the 2022 election: Rich Brancato, Irene N. Lane, and Barney Rush.

Write-In Candidates

- A Town resident seeking election to the Council as a write-in candidate shall submit a certificate of candidacy and a financial disclosure statement to the Town office by 5 p.m. on April 26, 2022. These documents are available on the Town website. The Town will notify residents of the names of any qualified write-in candidates after 5 p.m. on April 26. There will be appropriate blanks on the ballot for the purpose of adding write-in candidates.

Voter Registration & Eligibility

- To be eligible to vote, residents who are U.S. citizens must be at least 16 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. (Prospective voters who are at least 16 years old may register to vote with the state although they may not vote in state or federal elections until age 18.) If you have recently moved to the Town or are uncertain whether your name is on the list of registered, qualified voters, you may visit the Maryland State Board of Elections website at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch> or call the Montgomery County Election Board at 240-777-VOTE.
- Residents who are not U.S. citizens must be legally authorized to reside in the U.S.; be at least 16 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. Any non-U.S. citizen resident who wishes to vote in the election must submit a completed registration form to the Town by 5 p.m. on April 26, 2022. The registration form is available on the Town website.

Voting Procedures

- Approximately 2 weeks prior to the election, the Town will mail a ballot, a ballot envelope, and a stamped return envelope to each registered Town voter.
- Return envelopes must be mailed no later than Election Day, May 3, 2022 and received no later than May 10, 2022, or placed in the drop box outside the Town Hall no later than 5 p.m. on May 3, 2022, in order for the enclosed ballots to be counted.
- Ballots enclosed in an incomplete, illegible, or unsigned ballot envelope, or in a return envelope whose control number does not correspond to the control number issued to that voter, shall not be counted. The Town will not accept copies of ballots or envelopes.
- If a voter desires their ballot to be mailed to an address that is different than the address in the precinct register, the voter should email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org to inform the Town of the address to which the ballot should be mailed. In order to allow sufficient time for a replacement ballot to be issued and voted, any such request shall be made no later than 5 p.m. on April 26, 2022. Upon receipt of such request, any previously issued balloting material for that voter will be voided.
- In the event an issued ballot is lost or missing, a voter may email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org to request a new ballot. In order to allow sufficient time for a replacement ballot to be issued and voted, any such request shall be made no later than 5 p.m. on April 26, 2022. Upon receipt of such request, any previously issued balloting material for that voter will be voided.
- If a resident did not receive a ballot because the resident's name did not appear on the precinct register, the resident may email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org to request a provisional ballot. In order to allow sufficient time for a provisional ballot to be issued and voted, any such request shall be made no later than 5 p.m. on April 26, 2022. In order for the provisional ballot to be counted, the voter's registration must be reflected on the precinct register no later than May 3, 2022.
- Election results will be announced after 5 p.m. on May 10, 2022.

The complete plan for the Town's 2022 election is available on the Town website.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

Barney Rush, Mayor

Irene Lane, Vice Mayor

Joel Rubin, Secretary

Joy White, Treasurer

Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Community Liaison



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Council Election and Annual Meeting Issue

2022 Election and FY23 Budget Information Enclosed

Information also may be found on the Town website

www.townofchevychase.org