



Forecast

APRIL 2023

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

Greening Our Town

For at least the past decade, communities have wrestled with mitigating the effects of climate change and planning for a greener tomorrow. With encouragement from residents, the Town has taken steps to improve our environment now and for the future. By supporting new and upgraded green spaces, investing in drainage infrastructure, and protecting our urban forest, the Town is providing residents with opportunities to connect with nature and each other.

If you have been asking yourself, what can I do now to help green my town? here are some options:

The **Lee Wick Dennison Garden** provides a green space for reflection and community enjoyment while providing an opportunity to learn more about native plants and how sustainable landscaping practices can enhance various home landscapes. Celebrate the Dennison Garden's official opening on May 13. See insert for details.

The Town's **Private Native Tree Planting Program** helps plant native trees, including canopy trees, on residents' private properties. And the Town's **Private Canopy Tree Maintenance Program** provides subsidies that incentivize the preservation and protection of the Town's tree canopy (visit bit.ly/TOCCTreePrograms).

The Town's **RainScapes Supplemental Rebate Program** offers residents who want to address stormwater management issues on their properties with a supplemental rebate of up to 50% of the County's RainScapes rebate amount (visit bit.ly/TOCCRainScapes).

Also, the Town is investing in climate resiliency projects:

Zimmerman Park Redevelopment will offer an upgraded green space including improved grading and drainage, native landscaping, and amenities such as benches and bike racks.

Coquelin Run Stabilization will address erosion along the banks of the run given the increased severity and frequency of rainstorms.

Finally, the Town is securing the long-term sustainability of green space and our urban forest through two upcoming projects:

The **Bethesda Market Park** project will convert two parking lots into new urban parks with exciting amenities on our western border.

The **Corso Forest Conservation Easement** will protect almost 3 acres of urban forest from future development on our eastern border.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg once said, "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." If you have an idea for how you would like the Town to make a difference, we would appreciate hearing from you.

– Councilmembers Irene N. Lane and Joy White



Monday, April 3
Land Use*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 5
Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 7
Spring Holiday
Town office closed

Sunday, April 16
Coffee & Playdate, 3:30 p.m.
see page 3

Tuesday, April 18
Public Services*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 19
Town Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 20
Long-Range Planning*, 6:30 p.m.

April 22 & 23
Trash and Treasures Weekend
see page 3

April 22
Recycling & Repurposing Event
see page 3

April 26
Town Coffee, 10 a.m.
see page 3

Sunday, April 30
2023 Spring Festival, 12 p.m.
see page 3

* Town Committee meeting

Please visit the website calendar for more information on, and instructions to join, these meetings.

Corso Chevy Chase Rezoning Update

In March, Councilmember Joel Rubin testified before the Planning Board and Mayor Rush testified before the County Hearing Examiner on Corso Chevy Chase's final rezoning application for 7100 Connecticut Avenue. After the Hearing Examiner makes her findings and recommendation, the County Council will consider the application and render a final decision. While a County Council hearing date has not yet been set, we will publicize the date via Town Crier. The Town has prepared a Declaration of Covenants for execution by the developer that will memorialize commitments related to perpetual use of the land and improvements that are enforceable by the Town. We also have prepared a Letter of Agreement that obligates Corso to execute the Declaration and includes short-term requirements that we want the developer to commit to but that don't need to be conditions in perpetuity. Documents related to the rezoning are available on the Town website.

Bethesda Market Park Development

In mid-March, the County Parks Department hosted community meetings to review and discuss ideas for features and amenities in the new park to be created adjacent to the Farm Women's Market. The Parks Department is now conducting an online survey for area residents to share their ideas and feedback. We encourage Town residents to review the presentation from the community meetings at bit.ly/BethesdaParkPresentation and participate in the survey at bit.ly/BethesdaParkSurvey. The Town also welcomes residents' suggestions for park amenities. We ask residents to complete the Town survey, at bit.ly/TOCCPark, since the Parks Department survey will not indicate if a respondent is a Town resident, and the Town Council would like to know the views of our residents specifically.

East West Highway Crosswalk Improvements

On March 14, Town officials met with State Highway Administration (SHA) officials, state and county elected leaders, and County transportation (MCDOT) representatives to discuss pedestrian safety on East West Highway between Wisconsin and Connecticut avenues, including safety issues related to the crosswalk on East West Highway at Maple Avenue. At this meeting, the group discussed specific next steps for further improvements at the crosswalk, made even more urgent by the opening of the Sleaford pedestrian underpass on the north side of East West Highway. We are pleased to report that the SHA and the MCDOT agreed to work together to design and install some form of a red-light signal at this crossing and to study pedestrian safety along the entire corridor. Initial designs for the improved crosswalk should be completed by May, and we will provide updates as this effort proceeds.

Council Passes Antisemitism Awareness Resolution

At its March meeting, the Town Council approved a draft Antisemitism Awareness Resolution in response to the rise in antisemitic activities in the County and agreed to ask all County municipalities to endorse the resolution. The resolution, available at bit.ly/TOCCAntisemitism, recognizes and condemns anti-Jewish crimes, as well as all hate crimes, and calls upon local governments to engage in countering this trend through activities that educate our residents about the challenges we face.

2023 Council Election & Annual Meeting

The Town's Election and Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. Town residents will select two candidates in the 2023 election, each to serve on the Council for a 2-year term. Candidate nominating petitions are due by 5 p.m. on April 11. A nominating petition was included in the March newsletter and is available on the Town website.

Balloting will be undertaken by mail and drop box only. Balloting materials and information on the nominated candidates will be mailed to all residents approximately 2 weeks before the election. In order for a resident's vote to be counted, ballot return envelopes must either be mailed by May 2 and received by May 9 or placed in the drop box outside the Town Hall by 5 p.m. on May 2.

The Annual Meeting will be held on May 2 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall and via Zoom and will include a public hearing on the proposed FY24 budget. The budget will be available for review on the Town website by April 11. More information on the election and budget is available on the Town website.

Coffee & Playdate at the Park, April 16

Meet old & new neighbors (with or without kids) for coffee & snacks while the kids burn off energy at the Lawton Center playground (4301 Willow Lane) on Sunday, April 16 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Trash & Treasures, April 22 & 23

The Town's spring Trash and Treasures is scheduled for the weekend of **April 22 & 23**. The Town offers this curbside bulk trash collection so that residents can dispose of items that are no longer usable. Please remember to bag, box, or contain all of your discards, and do not put items at the curb before noon on April 21 or after 7 a.m. on April 24. The following items will not be collected as bulk trash: construction debris; vehicle parts; loose glass; firewood or fencing; paint cans; flammable or hazardous materials; recyclable items; and yard waste. If you have items that can be recycled or repurposed, **we encourage you to come to the Lawton Center on April 22 for our Recycling & Repurposing event.**

Recycling & Repurposing Event, April 22

The following services will be provided on April 22, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Lawton Center Parking Lot

Shred Your Documents: *Shred Ace* will shred documents. Staples and paper clips are okay. No batteries, binders, or books.

Recycle Clothing and Home Goods: The *Interfaith Works* Clothing Center will collect clothing and home goods to donate to low-income County residents. Please put items in secured plastic bags.

Donate Furniture & Household Items:

A *Wider Circle* will collect gently used furniture and household items to donate to families in need. For large items, please email furnish@awidercircle.org or call 301-608-3504 to schedule a pick-up.

Recycle Electronic Equipment: *SAMR* will collect electronic equipment -- anything with a plug or a battery -- for recycling.

Donate Sports Equipment: *Leveling the Playing Field* (LPF) will collect used and excess sporting equipment to donate to programs and schools serving low-income communities.

Donate Books: The Town will collect books for *Friends of the Library, Montgomery County* (FOLMC). Please bring clean, gently used books in a box or bag. No magazines or encyclopedias.

Note: The County's light bulb exchange service will not be available at this event. Please visit bit.ly/RecycleBulbs to find out how to exchange inefficient light bulbs for energy efficient ones.

Town Coffee, April 26

A Town coffee will be held on Wednesday, April 26, from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Town Hall. Please join neighbors -- newcomers, longtime residents, and everyone in between -- for conversation and refreshments. Please RSVP to bit.ly/TOCCCoffee if possible, but not required.



2023 Spring Festival, April 30

The Town of Chevy Chase is partnering with the Jane E. Lawton Center to host the 2023 Spring Festival. The event will take place on April 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Lawton Center parking lot. Join us for live music, food, games, and art & crafts. All ages are welcome!

TOCC Book Club Meets May 8

Our Town of Chevy Chase Book Club will meet May 8 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall to discuss *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. A contemporary David Copperfield in Appalachia, surviving the perils of modern child poverty. Sponsored by the Community Relations committee; all are welcome.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Gaithersburg, MD
Permit No. 418

TOWN COUNCIL

Barney Rush, Mayor

Joel Rubin, Vice Mayor

Rich Brancato, Secretary

Irene Lane, Treasurer

Joy White, Community Liaison



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Safe Streets Community Project

“Slow Down and Stop”

The Public Services Committee, with approval of the Town Council, is launching a “Slow Down and Stop” Campaign. The campaign envisions a small-town ambience where all residents can safely enjoy walking, biking, chatting with neighbors, and benefitting from our beautiful tree-canopied neighborhood.

This campaign is intended to remind drivers to observe the Town's speed limit and come to a full stop at stop signs. We see the campaign as a supplement to the Town's existing tools to enforce traffic regulations.



We want your input! Please visit bit.ly/TOCCSafeStreets to:

- **Share your ideas** about how to encourage people, residents and nonresidents alike, to drive safely in the Town, especially around the public amenities -- Chevy Chase Elementary School, the Lawton Community Center, Wonders Early Learning, and Oneness School.
- **Give feedback** to the Committee about the campaign initiative.
- **Report observed incidents of unsafe driving.** Please include date, approximate time, location and description of the vehicle. Include the direction of travel and what was unsafe about the incident (speeding, near miss, failure to stop, etc.).

CELEBRATE THE DENNISON GARDEN

**TAKE HOME A POT OF POLLINATORS! TOUR THE SUSTAINABLE GARDEN!
CONSULT A GARDEN EXPERT! FUN, FOOD & LEARNING FOR ALL AGES!**

Celebrate the Lee Wick Dennison Sustainable Garden, located at the corner of Lynn Drive and Maple Avenue in Zimmerman Park, on **Saturday, May 13 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.**

- Explore Dennison Garden with its designer, Backyard Bounty; learn about its benefactor and understand the benefits of gardening with local native plants.
- Bring birds, butterflies, and bumble bees into your own garden by planting a potful of pollinator-friendly plants to bring home for Mother's Day! This activity will be led by Nature Forward.
- Learn from expert gardeners and the demonstration garden about how to make the best of your sunny, shady, hilly, or soggy home landscape with sustainable gardening practices.

Gather with neighbors, friends, and family and nosh on some spring delights! **Please RSVP by May 5** to bit.ly/TOCCGarden. *The rain date is Saturday, May 20 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.*

Lee Wick Dennison

Lee was a Town resident whose life reflected a belief that wellness in all of its dimensions and the arts enriched one's body and mind. Her work helped to create healthy communities.

- As a director at the National Endowment of the Arts, she helped bring arts programming to communities across the United States.
- As a graduate, then trustee of Interlochen Center for the Arts, a vibrant arts education institution in Michigan, her significant gift to Interlochen created a year-round recreation and wellness center.
- As a generous supporter of the Capital Crescent Trail, Lee is honored on the Neal Potter Plaza at the trail crossing at River Road in Bethesda.
- As a member of various Town committees, she championed both walking and pedestrian safety initiatives within the Town while understanding the need for sustainable growth.
- For the Town's early garden tours, Lee gladly opened the joyful gardens of her Victorian cottage on Leland Street.
- As an avid walker, Lee often could be seen on our streets and in our parks with her dog, Quantum.

Her extraordinarily generous \$100,000 bequest to our Town to "support the beautification and/or maintenance of public space within the Town" has given our community a new garden at Zimmerman Park. The garden celebrates the diversity and beauty of plants of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Residents will be able to enjoy and learn from the garden for years to come.

The Dennison Garden at Zimmerman Park

Designed to mirror the array of planting conditions encountered by many residents on their own properties, the Dennison Garden features a series of outdoor spaces offering more than 70 different native plantings for a variety of growing conditions – from full sun to full shade, from dry areas to damp depression, from hillside erosion to flat open lawns.

With solutions for storm-water management and erosion control, an accessible path, and a large oval area with benches allowing for community gatherings and individual enjoyment and reflection, this sustainable demonstration garden will eventually extend and link to an improved Zimmerman Park.

SUSTAINABLE GARDENING PRACTICES

A sustainable garden thrives in harmony with the natural ecosystem of a local area. It requires fewer interventions to maintain and avoids the negative environmental impacts of conventional landscaping practices. Sustainable gardening practices include:

- Choosing native plants and trees that provide food for local wildlife and grow well in local climate conditions without supplementary watering,
- Reducing lawn areas, which require mowing with power tools, by planting native groundcovers,
- Re-channeling rainwater from downspouts to benefit garden beds,
- Managing stormwater through rain gardens where feasible, and
- Avoiding pesticides and herbicides by using natural means of insect control and hand-pulling weeds.

While growing plants and maintaining a garden are inherently “green” activities, sustainable gardens are about **growing a greener future**.

Benefits of Planting Native Trees, Shrubs and Plants

The top reasons to choose native plants for your garden or yard are to:

- Preserve Maryland's wild plant, seed, and berry biodiversity, which in turn increase soil health,
- Support pollinators like native bees and butterflies as well as beneficial insects,
- Support songbirds as native plants are indirectly responsible for providing the insect food that baby songbirds require,
- Save on maintenance costs as native plants do not require fertilizers, pesticides, and supplemental water, and
- Create a landscape that is either naturalistic or more formal in style.

Ideas for Your Home Landscape

More than 70 native species of trees, shrubs and plants are found in the Dennison Garden and can be identified by placing a smartphone camera's feature over the QR codes or by visiting <https://www.dennisongarden.org/plant-list> to learn what plantings thrive in a shady garden, a sunny pollinator habitat, a formal patio garden or a difficult wet or sloped spot.

The Dennison Garden not only creates a new green space in Town, but also provides an opportunity for residents to learn how to create a healthy home landscape in harmony with our local ecosystem. The www.dennisongarden.org website offers additional inspiration, information, and advice.

Invasive Plants

You can learn more about identifying, controlling, and disposing of invasive plants that are found in our area by visiting <https://www.dennisongarden.org/invasive-plants> and reading tips such as:

- **English Ivy:** If you don't want to pull it up, at least keep it from climbing trees and bearing fruit (which birds spread to our forests). Clip the vine at the base of the tree and let it die. Do not try to pull it off which can harm the bark.
- **Garlic Mustard:** Blooms with clusters of tiny white blossoms; has the unique ability to inject toxins into the soil to keep other plants from growing and is all over our local forests. Control it before it gets the chance to spread seeds. It's edible!