



# Forecast

ELECTION ISSUE 2023

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

## Town Council Election & Annual Meeting

The Town Council has five elected members. In the 2023 election, Town residents will elect two members, each to serve for a two-year term. The terms of Joel Rubin and Joy White will expire in May. **There are two candidates on the ballot in the 2023 election: Stephanie Martz and Joy White.** Candidates' statements are on pages 2 and 3 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 2. 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 2 and received by May 9 or placed in the drop box outside the Town Office by 5 p.m. on May 2. See election procedures on the back page.

On May 2 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 Irene Lane will present the proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year, followed by a public hearing and Council adoption.

### In This Issue

#### Meet the Candidates

Stephanie Martz  
Joy White  
- pages 2-3 -

#### Financial Position and FY24 Budget Overview

- insert -

#### FY24 Budget Summary

- insert -

#### 2023 Town Council Election Procedures

- back page -

### Candidates' "Meet & Greet"

The Election Board will host a Candidates' "Meet & Greet" on **Wednesday, April 26 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 2 Annual Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order (7 p.m.)
- II. Mayor's Report (Barney Rush, Mayor)
- III. Treasurer's Report (Irene Lane, Treasurer)
- IV. Public Hearing on Proposed FY24 Budget
- V. Adjournment (8 p.m.)

### Proposed FY24 Budget

A summary of the proposed FY24 budget can be reviewed on the insert to 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. Visit the Town website for information on how to join by Zoom.***

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

## Stephanie Martz, 4110 Leland Street

My name is Stephanie Martz, and I am running for my first term on the Chevy Chase Town Council.

I have lived at 4110 Leland Street since 2004 with my husband, Chris Davies. I've raised three children here. Two are currently in college, and one is still at home, in 9th grade. My husband grew up here on Bradley Lane, where my in-laws still live. I have always loved this area, ever since I attended Georgetown University, where I graduated in 1991. I worked as a newspaper reporter between college and law school, and after graduating from Stanford Law School, I returned to Washington, D.C., where I have worked ever since. I spent several years at two law firms and worked for two non-profits. I was hired by Senator Chuck Schumer, for whom I served as chief counsel for five years, followed by a stint in the office of White House Counsel for President Obama. Since 2017, I have worked for the National Retail Federation, where I am the Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel. I've also spent considerable time volunteering in national, state, and local campaigns, and doing voter protection work during several presidential elections.

I would be honored to have the opportunity to give back to the Town, which has provided such a wonderful, convenient, and safe home for me and my family as well as all of you. I never appreciated our beautiful neighborhood more than during COVID, when I spent more time than ever enjoying the sidewalks, trees, and varied architecture of Chevy Chase (also, we got a dog, which I still walk (gladly!) a couple of times a day). Smart growth, traffic management, ample parks and green space, respect for the unique character of our Town, and the availability of activities for residents of all ages are very important to me. This is a critical time for leadership in the Town, as we proceed with development to our east and begin the first development to our west in many decades -- and, as we work with Montgomery County on the county-wide plans to increase housing. These are complex matters that have a direct impact on our quality of life, the character of the neighborhood, our environmental priorities, and our views of diversity and equity. I hope to have the opportunity to engage with you on these and other issues.

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

## Joy White, 4222 Leland Street

After serving my first term as a Town Councilmember, I humbly seek the opportunity to serve my neighbors for a second term. I must admit that volunteering on the Council is a heavy lift, but also enormously rewarding. Protecting and enhancing our community presents challenges, and I am grateful for the energy and commitment to meet those challenges.

In my first year on the Council, I served as Treasurer, and the largest step I took in that role was to propose that the Town commit several million dollars of our financial reserves to the Bethesda Farm Women's Market parks project. I believe the creation of green space on our western border enhances the beauty of our Town and will make a rapidly urbanizing Bethesda a more pleasant place in which to work and thrive. My next big challenge as Treasurer was to guide the Town's disposition of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant, a federal stimulus package Congress passed to provide COVID-19 pandemic relief to local state and local governments. We fielded strong, impassioned resident opinions about the use of those funds. With resident and community input, the Council settled on a plan to use the funds to make a grant to Wonders Childcare, and to use the balance of the funds to support Town infrastructure projects permitted under the ARPA law. The Coquelin Run stabilization project and RainScapes Rebate program are examples of projects that can be supported by the Town's ARPA grant.

In my second year on the Council, I served as Community Liaison, and continued as Council Liaison to the Climate and Environment Committee (CEC), which works tirelessly to preserve and protect our quality of life in the Town. To be sure, we owe kudos to our hardworking Town staff who do double and triple duty to maintain our community to the standards residents demand. In addition, we owe the CEC much gratitude for insisting on high standards. At the behest of the CEC, the Council updated the Town's Urban Forest ordinance, which now features a consistent approach to planting (mostly) native trees on private property and public rights-of-way. After months of advocacy, door-to-door canvassing, and research, the CEC also prompted the Council to pass the Quiet Landscaping ordinance, which included a partial-year ban on gas-powered leaf blowers, and a subsidy program to help residents and landscapers switch to electric-powered blowers. As a result, our neighborhoods are much quieter, and less polluted. I support a full-year ban on gas-powered blowers and look forward to the CEC's recommendation in this regard.

We have other reasons to thank the CEC, most notably for their support of solutions to residents experiencing excessive stormwater runoff over the past several years. I worked with CEC members and Town Staff to add funding to the consulting water management program to support more residents with stormwater management problems, and to reinstate the Town's RainScapes Rebate program. The Town's RainScapes rebate program provides additional subsidies to residents who receive support under Montgomery County's RainScapes program for stormwater management projects on private property.

I can't say more about my service on the Council without complimenting the other Councilmembers with whom I have served. What a pleasure it is to work with the outstanding Councilmembers who devote their time and expertise to our local government. I appreciate and support their leadership on the Town's approach to the Corso Chevy Chase project, measures enhancing public safety, the improvement of Zimmerman Park, and the development of the parks on the Farm Women's Market site. I have learned so much from them and it has been a privilege to debate, disagree, and collaborate with them on the people's business.

The Town of Chevy Chase is an outstanding place to live because we make it so. Our ongoing commitment to the well-being of our community shows up in the efforts we make as residents, committee members, and Councilmembers to share views, feedback, expertise, and time. I would be honored to serve again as your Councilmember and am committed to share my time and expertise for the betterment of our community.

## Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

### Council Election and Annual Meeting Issue

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#### 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.

## 2023 TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION

The Town Council has five elected members. Town residents will select two candidates in the 2023 election, each to serve on the Council for a two-year term. **There are two balloted candidates in the 2023 election: Stephanie Martz and Joy White.**

- **Voting will be undertaken by mail and drop box only. There will not be in-person voting on Election Day, May 2.** 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 May 2 and received no later than May 9, or placed in the drop box outside the Town Office no later than 5 p.m. on May 2 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 ballot is lost or missing, or to request a ballot be sent to a different mailing address, a voter may email [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org) to request a replacement ballot. Any such request shall be made no later than 5 p.m. on April 25. Upon receipt of such a 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@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org) to request a provisional ballot. Any such request shall be made no later than 5 p.m. on April 25. In order for the provisional ballot to be counted, the voter's registration must be reflected on the precinct register no later than May 2.
- Election results will be announced after 5 p.m. on May 9.

## Financial Position

For FY23, the Town expects to realize a budget surplus of over \$2.2 million due primarily to a larger than anticipated state distribution of local income taxes; the use of \$700,000 of our \$2.4 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant to cover the cost of providing certain Town services (discussed below); substantially more interest income generated by Town reserves; reduced need for land use, planning, and development consultants; nominal snow removal costs; and a delay in the expenditure of funds for roadway repairs and Zimmerman Park improvements, which are planned to be undertaken in FY24.

To ease the administration and use of the Town's ARPA grant, and as permitted by the final ruling from the U.S. Treasury Department, the Council agreed to expend grant funds for the provision of government services (as designated in the budget) rather than identify and implement special projects to be funded directly by the grant. The Council has approved a plan to spend a portion of ARPA funds on government services each fiscal year from 2022 through 2026 until such funds are fully expended. Since the amount of the grant will offset Town operating expenditures, an equal amount will remain available in the Town reserves to support future special projects, including social, infrastructure, and environmental programs, as well as the new parks adjacent to the Farm Women's Market, which were contemplated to be funded with the grant.

Looking ahead to FY24, we have assumed reduced income tax revenue due to the economic downturn in 2022, which impacts the amount the Town will receive in FY24. Despite this projection, we expect to realize a budget surplus of \$934,500 in FY24, due primarily to using \$739,000 in ARPA funds to cover the cost of certain government services. As a result, the Town's gross general fund balance is expected to increase from \$14.8 million on June 30, 2023 to \$15.8 million on June 30, 2024. Offsetting this balance is the Council's commitment to contribute \$4.5 million to the Bethesda Market Park development project, resulting in a net fund balance of \$11.3 million on June 30, 2024. Separately, the balance of restricted ARPA funds will decrease from \$1.6 million at the end of FY23 to \$865,908 at the end of FY24.

The Town's capital expenditures will increase in FY24 due to planned infrastructure improvements, as detailed below.

## FY24 Budget Overview

### General Revenue

- Operating revenue is budgeted at \$5.5 million, of which \$3.4 million is projected income tax revenue, \$739,000 is ARPA grant funds; \$586,000 is interest income on reserve funds; \$265,000 is County tax duplication reimbursement, and \$131,000 is real property tax revenue.
- The Town Council proposes a real property tax rate of \$0.009 per \$100 of assessed value. This reflects the constant yield tax rate and is equal to \$90 for each \$1 million in a home's assessed value.

### Operating Expenditures

- Operating expenditures are budgeted at \$3.6 million, approximately the same amount as was budgeted for FY23. The FY24 budget includes funds to continue the Town's high-quality programs and services.
- The Council proposes to increase funding for off-duty police coverage to allow for additional traffic control during rush hours and around schools within the Town. The Council also has increased funding for the Town's consulting water management program, due to increased demand.

### Capital Expenditures

- Capital expenditures are budgeted at \$920,500, compared to \$342,500 budgeted for FY23, due primarily to anticipated costs for street and sidewalk repairs, Zimmerman Park redevelopment, stormwater infrastructure improvements, and LED traffic signs. The cost to redevelop Zimmerman Park (\$450,000) is substantially offset by a state grant (\$337,500), resulting in a net cost of \$112,500.

### General Fund Balance

- The budget projects a gross general fund balance of \$15.8 million and a net general fund balance of \$11.3 million at the end of FY24. The net fund balance reflects the Council's commitment of \$4.5 million to the Bethesda Market Parks project.

### Restricted Funds

- The budget anticipates the expenditure of \$739,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the provision of government services. It also funds additional cable-related capital improvements.

**See reverse for budget summary. Visit the Town website for comprehensive budget documents.**

## FY24 Proposed Budget

Budget Summary	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budget	FY23 Est. Actual	FY24 Budget
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>				
<b>Taxes</b>				
Income Tax	3,971,507	3,182,000	3,753,000	3,450,000
Highway User Revenue	128,585	127,000	122,500	153,000
Real Property Tax (\$0.009/\$100 for FY24)	129,512	128,500	131,000	131,000
Utility Property Tax (\$0.66/\$100 for FY24) <sup>1</sup>	34,154	31,000	34,000	34,000
<b>Subtotal - Taxes</b>	<b>4,263,758</b>	<b>3,468,500</b>	<b>4,040,500</b>	<b>3,768,000</b>
<b>Grants, Reimbursements &amp; Bank Shares</b>	<b>314,377</b>	<b>287,500</b>	<b>984,426</b>	<b>1,051,500</b>
<b>Interest, Fines &amp; Collections</b>	<b>48,935</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>610,000</b>
<b>Permit Fees &amp; Cable TV Revenue</b>	<b>50,874</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>65,500</b>	<b>65,500</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>4,677,944</b>	<b>3,846,000</b>	<b>5,460,426</b>	<b>5,495,000</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>General Government</b>				
Salaries & Benefits	673,301	796,000	818,000	945,000
Professional Services	439,875	563,000	318,000	385,000
Civic Affairs & Community Programs	186,433	246,000	224,500	291,000
Other Services & Supplies	155,038	167,100	182,111	158,000
<b>Subtotal - General Government</b>	<b>1,454,647</b>	<b>1,772,100</b>	<b>1,542,611</b>	<b>1,779,000</b>
<b>Public Works</b>				
Sanitation & Waste Removal	430,681	788,500	786,000	796,500
Parks, Grounds & Trees	320,317	368,000	279,500	368,000
Streets & Roads	147,546	220,000	64,000	220,000
<b>Subtotal - Public Works</b>	<b>898,544</b>	<b>1,376,500</b>	<b>1,129,500</b>	<b>1,384,500</b>
<b>Public Safety (Police)</b>	<b>397,396</b>	<b>419,000</b>	<b>419,000</b>	<b>476,500</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,750,587</b>	<b>3,567,600</b>	<b>3,091,111</b>	<b>3,640,000</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>Streets, Sidewalks &amp; Stormwater</b>				
Asphalt & Concrete (Net of Reimbursements)	59,213	150,000	45,000	415,000
Stormwater Management	0	0	0	283,000
Street Signs & Street Lights	18,644	25,000	17,000	55,000
<b>Subtotal - Streets, Sidewalks &amp; Stormwater</b>	<b>77,857</b>	<b>175,000</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>753,000</b>
<b>Parks, Grounds &amp; Trees</b>				
Park Improvements (Net of Reimbursements)	0	112,500	0	112,500
New Trees/Reforestation	16,662	25,000	20,000	25,000
<b>Subtotal - Parks, Grounds &amp; Trees</b>	<b>16,662</b>	<b>137,500</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>137,500</b>
<b>Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>				
Town Office Improvements	0	25,000	25,000	25,000
Information Technology	3,950	5,000	4,000	5,000
<b>Subtotal - Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>29,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>98,469</b>	<b>342,500</b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>920,500</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING &amp; CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,849,056</b>	<b>3,910,100</b>	<b>3,202,111</b>	<b>4,560,500</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>1,828,888</b>	<b>(64,100)</b>	<b>2,258,315</b>	<b>934,500</b>
<i>-- the estimated surplus for FY23 and the projected surplus for FY24 are due, in part, from applying ARPA funds towards certain service contracts.</i>				
<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>12,599,226</b>	<b>12,535,126</b>	<b>14,857,541</b>	<b>15,792,041</b>
<b>RESERVED FOR BETHESDA MARKET PARK <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(4,500,000)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(4,500,000)</b>
<b>NET GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>12,599,226</b>	<b>8,035,126</b>	<b>14,857,541</b>	<b>11,292,041</b>
		<b>FY24 Contingent Reserve <sup>3</sup></b>		<b>2,198,000</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> The Town Council has committed \$4.5 million to the Bethesda Market Park project.

<sup>3</sup> this figure represents 40 percent of the Town's annual general revenue. It is included in the Town's general fund balance.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS	Balance 6/30/2022	FY23 Est. Actual	FY24 Budget
Revenue		1,214,954	0
Expenditures		(700,000)	(739,000)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>1,089,954</b>	<b>1,604,908</b>	<b>865,908</b>