



# Forecast

MAY 2023

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



**Monday, May 1**  
Land Use\*, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 2**  
Annual Meeting, 7 p.m.  
*see page 2*

**Wednesday, May 3**  
Community Relations\*, 7 p.m.

**Monday, May 8**  
TOCC Book Club, 7 p.m.  
*see page 3*

**Wednesday, May 10**  
Town Council, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, May 11**  
Live Music "Round", 7 p.m.  
*see page 3*

**Saturday, May 13**  
Dennison Garden Event, 3:30 p.m.  
*see page 3*

**Tuesday, May 16**  
Public Services\*, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, May 18**  
Long-Range Planning\*, 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, May 21**  
The Great Zucchini, 10:30 a.m.  
*see page 3*

**Monday, May 29**  
Memorial Day  
Town office closed

\* Town Committee meeting

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

## A Farewell from Joel Rubin

Spring is the season for change and now, after six years of service on the Town Council, I must bid farewell.

It has been an amazing run, one where we've accomplished much for our community's natural environment and public safety; managed the multiple developments alongside our borders to the satisfaction of town residents; and stood up for our community's values in the face of external hate, racism, and antisemitism. We've also expanded and deepened our relationships with neighboring towns as well as county, state, and federal officials, and intensified the engagement of our nearly 3,000 residents on the core questions of what the future of our town will be. And we did this through a period of significant national upheaval that touched us directly here at the local level during the pandemic, which pushed us to engage you all virtually for more than two years. Your resilience was testament to the power of local governance, especially when confronted with the broader attacks on our democracy, that we withstood here through free, fair, and highly engaged elections.

I'm proud of our town, of all the amazing people who have served on the Council, of our wonderful Committee volunteers, and of course, of the brilliant Staff who serve us so well. Most importantly, I'm grateful to my wife, Nilmini, three daughters, and mother-in-law Mithra, all of whom backed me up as I spent many a day engaged on town business. It has been a thrill to serve you, and I look forward to being in touch.

– Vice Mayor Joel Rubin

## Council Election & Annual Meeting

In this year's election, Town residents will elect two members, each to serve for a two-year term. The terms of Joel Rubin and Joy White expire in May. There are two candidates on the ballot in the 2023 election: **Stephanie Martz and Joy White**.

Balloting is being undertaken by mail and drop box only. Balloting materials and information on the nominated candidates were mailed to residents in April. 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, and Council adoption of, the FY24 budget and tax rates. The proposed budget is available for review on the Town website, as is information on how to join the Annual Meeting.

# Bethesda Market Park Project Update

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 presentation from the meetings is at [bit.ly/BethesdaParkPresentation](http://bit.ly/BethesdaParkPresentation).

Following the community meetings, the Parks Department conducted an online survey, which closed on April 30, for area residents to share their ideas and feedback. The Town also conducted a survey requesting Town residents' suggestions for park amenities. Respondents to the Town survey wrote that the following amenities were most desirable: 1) a dog park or dog-friendly area; 2) trees and gardens; 3) an open lawn area for play and entertainment; 4) benches and tables; and 5) a playground and exercise equipment. Some respondents indicated opposition to some of these amenities. All resident comments, without attribution, have been submitted to the Parks Department.

The Parks Department will now review all public comments and incorporate desirable features into the next concept plan, which will be presented to and discussed with the community at a virtual meeting in June. Details of the June meeting will be provided in the next issue of this newsletter and by Town Crier.

## Crimewatch

The Montgomery County Police Department has reported an increase in car thefts and thefts from cars in our area. We want to remind residents to ensure that your cars are locked at all times. Also, please do not leave house or car keys, or any valuable items, in your vehicles.

## Notes & Reminders

If you observe any suspicious activity, please report it to the police immediately at 911. Report any crimes that have already occurred to the police at 301-279-8000 and to the Town office at [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org).

## Overgrown Vegetation

As a reminder, residents are asked to keep all streets and sidewalks clear of overgrown vegetation. Please prune vegetation to ensure unobstructed sight lines for pedestrians and motorists.

The Town's vegetation maintenance standards are available for review on the Town website. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep Town streets and sidewalks safe.



## Please Clean Up After Your Pet and Obey County Leash Laws

The Town office receives ongoing complaints about the improper disposal of dog waste and unleashed dogs. The Town has installed numerous dog waste stations around the Town, and a map can be found on the Town website.

Also, please remember that your dog should always be on a leash being held by a person when not in a fenced portion of your yard.

## Host a Block Party

The Town encourages residents to organize block parties with their neighbors. Block party petitions are available on the Town website and must be signed by at least 60% of the households on the block.

The Town offers a subsidy of up to \$150 to cover non-alcohol related expenses incurred by the party organizer(s). More information is available on the Town website.

## Spring Tree Plantings

In May, the Town will plant 40 trees on private property as part of the Town's Private Native Tree Planting Program. The Town provides a water bag to assist residents with the care needed in the critical first year after planting. Residents are responsible for the long-term care of the tree(s).



The Town also will plant 34 trees in the public rights-of-way. Once the trees are planted, the Town will care for the trees for the first year by ensuring that they are watered; and the Town is responsible for the long-term care of these trees.

The following events are sponsored by the Town's Community Relations Committee.

## TOCC Book Club, May 8

Our Town of Chevy Chase Book Club will meet Monday, 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 and addiction. All are welcome.

## Live Music 'Round' by Award-Winning Singers, May 11

The Community Relations Committee is pleased to present an evening with three regional and national multi-award-winning singer/songwriters who will trade stories and share songs in a traditional "round" at our Town Hall on Thursday, May 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. Join your neighbors for an intimate gathering featuring superb talent with wine, beer, snacks, and other refreshments.



Wes Collins hails from North Carolina and tours extensively nationwide. He offers a songbook dense with ideas, haunting melodies, intricate fingerpicking, and deep literary intelligence. ([www.wescollins.com](http://www.wescollins.com)) Annette Wasilik is a lifelong DMV native, performing regionally since her teenage years. Marked by her compelling alto, her moving songs "touch you to the bone" in the rich tradition of the poet songwriter, weaving a spell of intimacy and expansive vision. ([www.annetwasilik.com](http://www.annetwasilik.com)) Tom Prasada Rao's voice belies his musicianship and his extraordinary songs. From headlining major festivals to producing in the obscurity of recording studios, Tom also created the songwriting curriculum and taught at The University of Virginia's Young Writer's Workshop. ([www.tomprasadarao.com](http://www.tomprasadarao.com))

This is a Town sponsored event, but guests will be encouraged to donate \$10 or more with all proceeds going entirely to the performers. Please RSVP at [bit.ly/TOCCMusic](http://bit.ly/TOCCMusic) by May 1.

## Lee Dennison Sustainable Garden Celebration, May 13

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. Please RSVP to [bit.ly/TOCCGarden](http://bit.ly/TOCCGarden) by May 5. More information about this event, Lee Dennison, the sustainable garden, and sustainable gardening practices is available at [bit.ly/DennisonGarden](http://bit.ly/DennisonGarden).



## The Great Zucchini, May 21

Join us on Sunday, May 21 at 10:30 a.m. in the Lawton Center Social Hall for The Great Zucchini, Washington's funniest and most magical preschool and kindergarten entertainer. The Great Zucchini will perform a colorful magic show where every child is a star and guaranteed to laugh! Please RSVP to [bit.ly/TOCCZucchini](http://bit.ly/TOCCZucchini).

## Discussion & Desserts: The State of Gun Violence, June 8

On Thursday, June 8, join Town resident Chris Files as she discusses how our nation can address the epidemic of gun violence and enact common sense gun laws. The conversation will include an overview of gun violence and gun laws in the US, the threat of gun violence in our schools, and an update on recently passed gun laws by the Maryland State Legislature. Chris has worked on gun violence issues for the last seven years at the national, state, and local levels. She serves as Co-Chair of the DC Area Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Network. Please RSVP by June 1 to [bit.ly/TOCCDiscussion](http://bit.ly/TOCCDiscussion).

## Garden Club of Chevy Chase Garden Tour, May 7

Peek behind the lovely facades and fences of some of Chevy Chase Village's most exquisitely landscaped gardens at the Garden Club of Chevy Chase Garden Tour on Sunday, May 7, from 12 to 4 p.m. This year's tour will highlight seven distinctive Chevy Chase Village gardens, and visitors can tour the renovated Chevy Chase Circle. Tickets are available at [gardenclubofchevychase.org](http://gardenclubofchevychase.org).

## Town of Chevy Chase

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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.

## Climate & Environment Tip of the Month

### *Leaf Blowers*

The Climate and Environment Committee reminds residents that the Town's **ban on use of gas-powered leaf blowers is in effect between January 1 and October 14.**

If a resident or a landscaper wants to use a leaf blower during this period, this means the blower must be battery-powered or plug-in electric. Violations can be reported to the Town office at 301-654-7144 or [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org).



In addition, Montgomery County noise regulations prohibit daytime noise that exceeds 65 decibels at the boundary of any residential property. The simultaneous use of multiple leaf blowers -- even battery-powered ones -- can exceed this level, especially on the generally small yards of our Town. More information can be found at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/contact/noise.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/contact/noise.html).

These regulations help improve health and quality of life for both residents and our landscape workers. If your yard is serviced by a lawn maintenance company, please make sure they are aware of both laws and that you want these laws to be observed. We all will appreciate that!

Good news: Rakes are legal all year round! 😊