



# Forecast

JUNE 2023

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



**Monday, June 5**  
Land Use \*, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 7**  
Community Relations\*, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, June 8**  
Discussion & Desserts, 7 p.m.  
*see page 3*

**Sunday, June 11**  
Rockville Concert Band, 5:30 p.m.  
*see page 3*

**Monday, June 12**  
Town Council, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, June 15**  
Climate & Environment\*, 6 p.m.  
Long-Range Planning\*, 6:45 p.m.

**Monday, June 19**  
Juneteenth Holiday  
*Town office closed*

**Tuesday, June 20**  
Public Services\*, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 21**  
Council Work Session  
*see page 2*

**Monday, June 26**  
Town Book Club, 7 p.m.  
*see page 3*

\* Town Committee meeting

## A New Council Year Begins

Our Town may be small, but it is filled with hard-working, dedicated individuals who are passionate about making a difference. Our Town Council, consisting of Barney Rush, Vice Mayor; Rich Brancato, Treasurer; Joy White, Community Liaison; Stephanie Martz, Secretary; and myself as Mayor, is no exception. I am honored that my colleagues have asked that I serve as Mayor for this upcoming year, and I am committed to ensuring that our Town continues to be a welcoming and lovely place to live.

There are several priorities that our Town will address this coming year, including:

- Bethesda Market Park amenities, site plan details, and a funding plan (see page 2 for the June 14 preliminary site plan presentation);
- Corso site plan and traffic and parking studies;
- Zimmerman Park redevelopment (see page 3 for updates);
- Purple Line construction impacts;
- Traffic and pedestrian safety initiatives;
- Community events, including programs to combat hate speech; and
- Potential residential rezoning to allow for multi-family housing in the Town.

For these and all other issues that may arise this year, this Council will continue to value your voices, address your questions and concerns, and partner with County and State leaders to resolve issues.

Finally, I want to emphasize the importance of community engagement. Our Town is special because residents give back, and projects get done; but, our Town is only as strong as those who get involved. I encourage each of you to attend Town Council meetings, join a standing committee or board, or simply participate in more Town events so that you can get to better know your neighbors and other residents. Being present makes all the difference.

– Mayor Irene Lane



## Independence Day Picnic and Parade

July 4, 11:45 a.m.-2 p.m., Lawton Center Grounds

*see page 3 for details*



## Bethesda Market Park: Preliminary Plan Presentation

On Wednesday, June 14 at 7 p.m. via Zoom, the Parks Department will present the preliminary plan for the Bethesda Market Park. In developing this plan, the Parks Department considered public comments from the March community meetings at which the park concept plans were presented, from the subsequent online community survey that ended April 30, and from the Town's resident survey that was conducted through April 15. Residents are encouraged to attend this meeting to review the plan and learn how the project will proceed. The Zoom link to the meeting is available at [bit.ly/bethesdapark](https://bit.ly/bethesdapark).

## Corso and Town Ratify Redevelopment Agreement

As announced in April, Corso Chevy Chase and the Town have ratified an agreement related to rezoning of the former 4-H property. The agreement allows the Town to permanently enforce, among other conditions, building setbacks and heights, maintenance of forest conservation areas, and provision of permanent garage space for the Town. More information, including the agreement, is available at [bit.ly/CorsoCC](https://bit.ly/CorsoCC). The County Hearing Examiner recently recommended approval of the rezoning to the County Council. If approved, Corso will proceed to prepare a preliminary site plan, develop stormwater management plans with Town involvement, and undertake requisite traffic and parking studies.

## Council to Discuss Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban

On Wednesday, June 21 at 7 p.m. by Zoom, the Council will hold a work session to discuss a proposal for a complete ban on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in Town. Since January 2021, the Town has banned the use of gas-powered leaf blowers except during leaf collection season from October 15 to December 31. The Town's Climate and Environment Committee has recommended a full year ban, and its report to the Council is available at [bit.ly/GPLBBan](https://bit.ly/GPLBBan). At the work session, the Council will decide how to proceed with obtaining resident feedback on the proposal as presented or as amended by the Council.

## Volunteers Needed for Town Committees & Boards

Are you a new resident who is interested in parks, cut-through traffic, or special events? Are you a long-time resident concerned about tree conservation, stormwater management, or potential housing changes? The Town Council encourages you to volunteer for a Town committee, board, or commission. No prior experience is necessary, just a willingness to spend one hour per week, on average, extending your talents, working with fellow residents, and improving our community.

- **Climate and Environment:** Inspires and facilitates energy conservation and environmental stewardship by the Town and its residents.
- **Community Relations:** Encourages a strong sense of neighborliness through community activities, events, and communications.
- **Land Use:** Considers and recommends solutions to issues and concerns relating to land use and construction in the Town. Advises the Council on how to manage residential development and redevelopment.
- **Long-Range Planning:** Identifies emerging issues and trends. Monitors county and state activities likely to impact the Town.
- **Public Services:** Addresses traffic and pedestrian safety, parking, utilities, and infrastructure. Advocates for high-quality services and promotes a safe environment for residents.
- **Election Board** (one vacancy): Oversees all Town elections, including making appropriate provisions for nominations, approving ballots, and supervising the polls.
- **Ethics Commission** (one vacancy): Receives, verifies, and maintains all financial disclosure forms required by the State of Maryland.
- **Water Board** (one vacancy): Hears requests from property owners who have had a water drainage plan denied by the Town.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) and include a few sentences about why you would like to serve on a particular body. The Council extends a special thanks to those who have volunteered over the past year. The dedication of your time and talents continues to strengthen and improve our community.

## Zimmerman Park Redevelopment Update

At the May 10 Council meeting, Town staff updated the Council on the status of renovating Zimmerman Park. Staff noted that the project has been delayed due to the need to obtain a variance from WSSC for the proposed improvements, many of which are being constructed over the utility's water and sewer lines. In addition, WSSC's approved variance does not allow the Town to construct park improvements until WSSC has repaired the water and sewer lines under the park. Council asked staff to follow up with WSSC to obtain more information on the scope and timeline of its proposed work and to determine whether the Town may proceed with some park improvements prior to WSSC's work.

The final redevelopment plan for Zimmerman Park, which was approved by the Town Council following extensive community engagement and is posted on the Town website, includes grading and drainage improvements, landscaping, fencing, and amenities such as benches and bike racks. We will continue to keep the community informed as we determine when and how this project will proceed.

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

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

On Thursday, June 8 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall, 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 U.S., 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 D.C. Area Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Network. Please RSVP by June 1 to [bit.ly/TOCCDiscussion](http://bit.ly/TOCCDiscussion).

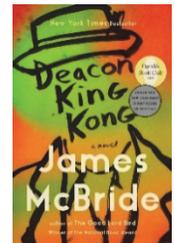


## Rockville Concert Band, June 11

The Rockville Concert Band presents "Chevy Chase Pops" on Sunday, June 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lawton Center basketball court/lawn. Under the direction of Dr. Juan Gallastegui, this full-sized concert band will present tunes for the whole family to enjoy. The venue is next to the playground of the Lawton Center, so kids can play while you listen to the music. Please bring your own lawn chairs; or bring a blanket and a dinner basket and make it an outdoor meal with entertainment!

## TOCC Book Club Meets June 26

The Town of Chevy Chase Book Club will meet on Monday, June 26 in the Town Hall at 7 p.m. We will be discussing *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride. A love letter to NYC, exploring the ripples in diverse communities when a drunk deacon shoots the project's drug dealer. Hilarious, moving, vivid storytelling. All are welcome.



## Independence Day Picnic & Parade

July 4, 11:45 a.m.-2 p.m., Lawton Center Grounds



**11:45 a.m.:** Come to the Lawton Center to decorate your bikes, scooters, wagons, and baby carriages. The Town will provide decorating supplies.

### **12 p.m.: Parade and Dixieland Band**

The parade will begin at 12 p.m. and will be led by the Dixie Land Trio.

### **12:15-2 p.m.: Picnic**

Town residents will be treated to barbeque catered by Red, Hot & Blue and the famous Ben and Jerry's ice cream truck. Vegetarian & vegan options are available upon request. Bring your appetite and picnic blanket!

Please RSVP by June 23 at [bit.ly/TOCCJuly4](http://bit.ly/TOCCJuly4). Interested in volunteering for the 4<sup>th</sup>? Please indicate so when you RSVP.

## Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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### TOWN COUNCIL

*Irene Lane, Mayor*

*Barney Rush, Vice Mayor*

*Stephanie Martz, Secretary*

*Rich Brancato, Treasurer*

*Joy White, Community Liaison*



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## Safe Streets Community Project

### *“Slow Down and Stop” -- Did You Know?*

The Public Services Committee wants to make sure residents know all the techniques that the Town has implemented to enforce traffic regulations. We have heard many residents request more enforcement, and, within the limits of the Town’s authority, these are some of the methods that have been employed:

- **Police coverage.** The Town employs 16 off-duty Montgomery County police officers, for an average of 17 hours of coverage each day, to provide traffic and parking enforcement, respond to crimes and other incidents, and identify and report safety issues, including streetlight outages. Coverage is increased during rush hours and around schools.
- **Radar speed boards.** The Town has 4 radar speed boards (3 stationary and 1 mobile). The data show that the boards do cause drivers to slow down. With the mobile version, the Town can locate the board in different places where speeding has been observed.
- **LED Stop signs.** The Town has 9 LED Stop signs as a more visible reminder to STOP.
- **Speed humps, Stop signs, One-way streets, Rush hour entry restrictions.** These methods also contribute to traffic safety, and residents may request them by petition to the Town. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/TOCCTraffic>.



Based on State law and other factors, the Town cannot implement speed cameras or photo-enforcement of Stop signs.

Please continue to share your comments about the Safe Streets project on the Town website at [bit.ly/TOCCSafeStreets](https://bit.ly/TOCCSafeStreets). The Committee is reviewing the input received!