

Spotlight on Community Volunteers

Volunteering plays a pivotal role in strengthening the social fabric of our Town. When residents come together and work toward a common cause, they are creating a sense of belonging, building meaningful connections, establishing friendships, and forming a supportive network. The volunteers that comprise the Town's five standing committees selflessly offer their time and talents, and we are all the better for their involvement. But we need more volunteers as there is always more to address and accomplish.

Since this is the season when we seek residents to serve on our Town's committees, I want to discuss the value that our committees bring to the Town in the hopes of encouraging more of you to volunteer.

- **Community Relations Committee (CRC)** – In the last year, have you attended a family movie night, playdate in the park, Spring Fest, concert, Chili Dinner, theatre night, book club discussion, or CPR training? Those events and others were masterfully organized by the members of the CRC. If you enjoy planning gatherings or have ideas about how to welcome new residents or publicize Town events, this committee is for you.
- **Climate & Environment Committee (CEC)** – Have you enjoyed hearing more songbirds than leaf blowers when walking through our Town or taken advantage of the Town's *RainScapes* supplemental rebate? These climate friendly initiatives and others are due to the CEC's diligent efforts based on hard data, science, and common sense. If you are constantly reading articles about climate resiliency, this is the committee for you.
- **Land Use Committee (LUC)** – Do you appreciate that our building code protects the charm of our community and accounts for water drainage impacts on neighboring properties? These initiatives are brought to you by residents with expertise in areas of law, residential and commercial development, and transportation. If you appreciate details and want to learn more about our State-granted rights to build a welcoming community, the LUC is for you.
- **Long Range Planning Committee (LRP)** – Do you want to be more engaged in conversations about the Bethesda Market Park (to be developed on the parking lots next to the Farm Women's Market), the Purple Line light rail project, or prospective changes to the County's zoning ordinance to allow multi-family housing in Town? If so, the LRP offers an opportunity for thoughtful deliberations on the impacts of many projects on and within our borders.
- **Public Services Committee (PSC)** – Whether it's responding to ideas for improving traffic flow or pedestrian/bicyclist safety through the *Slow Down & Stop Campaign*, the PSC is focused on making our Town safer for all. If you have ideas or experience in how to address public safety in a rapidly urbanizing area, the PSC invites you to join.

Some of these committees also collaborate on important projects, such as the redevelopment of the former 4-H property as a senior living facility. Whether it is through small acts of kindness or involvement in large-scale projects, our Town volunteers have the capacity to make a significant impact on all of our lives. As Mahatma Gandhi said, *"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."* So, whether you're a long-time resident or a newcomer, I hope you will consider emailing the Town Office with your interest in volunteering for one of our Town committees this year.

-- 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



State Delegation to Attend July 12 Council Meeting

The Town's District 18 delegation in the Maryland General Assembly -- Senator Jeff Waldstreicher and Delegates Aaron Kaufman, Emily Shetty, and Jared Solomon -- will meet with the Town Council at 6 p.m. on July 12, immediately prior to the monthly Council meeting, to discuss how the delegation can best support the Town's priorities and our shared constituents. Residents are encouraged to attend this meeting. If there is an issue that you would like the Council to discuss with the delegation, please email the Town Office at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Bethesda Market Park Project Update

As announced by Town Crier in June, Montgomery Parks postponed the Bethesda Market Park virtual community meeting that was scheduled for June 14 while the partnership team continues to work on the concept plan and budget for the future park. The Town will notify residents when a new date for the virtual meeting is scheduled. More information on the park project is available at bit.ly/bethesdapark.

Red Light Signal to be Installed at East-West Crosswalk



The Town is pleased to report that the Maryland State Highway Administration has agreed to install a red-light signal at the crosswalk on East-West Highway near Maple Avenue. In addition to the new traffic signal, other improvements will include marked crosswalks at Maple Avenue and Edgevale Street, countdown pedestrian signals, and pedestrian signals activated by push buttons.

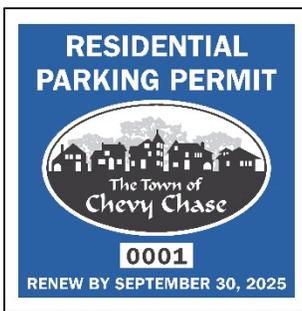
This improved signalization responds to a long-standing request of the Town to increase pedestrian safety along the corridor, especially given the recent opening of the Sleaford pedestrian underpass on the north side of East-West Highway. Construction of the improvements is expected to take place in the second half of 2024 following completion of design and engineering. The Town will provide updates as plans progress.

Town Launches Redesigned Website

The Town recently launched a redesigned website at www.townofchevy Chase.org. The functionality and navigation of the site haven't changed, so residents can easily find their favorite pages. The redesign features photos of Town open spaces and residential properties that have been taken over the years. We hope you enjoy using the new site and find it a refreshing update.



2023-2025 Parking Permit Renewals



Current parking permits will expire on September 30, 2023. Parking permits are issued only for vehicles belonging to residents who live on a street within a designated permit parking area (see map at bit.ly/TOCCPermitParking).

To renew permits or request new permits, simply complete the form at bit.ly/TOCCParkingPermit. If requesting a new permit, and the car is not registered at a Town address, you must upload proof of residency in the form of a lease, utility bill, or similar document. In addition to parking permits, one guest permit will be issued per household. Residents may request a second guest pass. **Decals and guest passes will be issued after August 1.**

The parking permit should be permanently affixed to the left rear (driver's side) bumper of the vehicle to facilitate the frequent checks made by the Town's parking enforcement officers. The guest permit should be placed on the dashboard of the visitor's car and retrieved after the visit. Vehicles that do not display current decals or guest passes will be ticketed.



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 a picnic blanket!



Have a Wonderful Summer!

The FORECAST is not published in August, and the Town Council does not meet in August. Please visit the Town website for current news and information. To receive Town news alerts, please sign up to receive Town Crier emails (see below).

Sign Up for Town Crier & Town Neighbors

Residents are encouraged to connect with the Town through the Town Crier email alert system (www.townofchevy Chase.org/list.aspx) and with fellow residents through the private Town Neighbors listserv. To join the Town Neighbors listserv, email townneighbors+owner@groups.io. Both resources offer an important way to stay informed and in touch.

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.



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.

Summer Vacation Home Safety Tips

Before you leave, please remember these home safety tips:

- Make sure your doors and windows are locked and secure
- Stop your mail and newspapers or have someone retrieve them for you
- Set a light on a timer inside of your home to create the appearance of activity inside
- Exterior motion sensor lighting can aid in deterring crime
- Keep valuables away from public view through a window, etc.
- Do not discuss vacation plans in public or on social media



Plastics Recycling

The Town's recycling contractor accepts many plastics that other recycling companies may not. You may recycle most plastics labeled #3 through #7, with some exceptions. Please **do not recycle** plastic grocery bags (take them to your nearest grocery store) and **do not recycle** hinged clamshell containers that are often found at salad bars. Sturdy plastic containers that have separate lids may be recycled. A detailed single stream recycling guide can be found at bit.ly/TOCCRecyclingGuide.

Town of Chevy Chase

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Climate and Environment Tip of the Month *Reduce Your Food Waste!*

It is estimated that more than 1/3 of the food produced in the U.S. is never eaten, wasting the resources used in producing it and contributing to many environmental problems including climate change, water scarcity and pollution, pesticides, species extinction, and more. Food waste is estimated to account for about 8% of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, from the combination mostly of carbon dioxide produced as the food that does not get eaten is grown, processed, and transported and from the methane emitted as food waste is disposed in landfills and decomposes.

A Montgomery County study estimated that approximately 124,000 tons of food scraps are disposed of in our trash each year -- mostly from homes -- amounting to about 240 pounds per person per year. Food waste is something each of us can help to reduce. Here's how:

Eating at home:

- Make a list and buy only what you will prepare or can store
- Consume perishable foods first
- Cook only what you need/freeze extras
- Store leftovers in reusable glass containers with content and date attached
- Use the free weekly Compost Crew pickup service or compost at home

Eating in restaurants:

- Order only what you will eat -- Share a salad or a main dish
- Take a reusable glass container with you to retrieve all leftovers (leave no scraps behind); or
- Ask for a carry out container that can be recycled
- Ask what the restaurant does to reduce food waste and encourage them to do more

