



Forecast

OCTOBER 2023

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Monday, October 2
Land Use*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 4
Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 5
Climate/Environment*, 6 p.m.

Friday, October 6
TOCC Happy Hour, 5 p.m.
see page 2

Monday, October 9
Columbus Day
Town office closed

Wednesday, October 11
Town Council, 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 15
2023 Fall Festival, 12 p.m.
see page 2

Tuesday, October 17
Flu Clinic, 2 p.m.
see page 2

Public Services*, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 19
Long Range Planning*, 7 p.m.

Monday, October 30
TOCC Book Club, 7 p.m.
see page 2

* Town Committee meeting

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

Council Deliberates Gas Leaf Blower Ban

The use of gas-powered leaf blowers has been debated in this and many other communities across the country. While these machines are efficient at clearing debris, they come with environmental and health concerns. Gas blowers emit greenhouse gases and particulate matter, which contribute to air pollution. Moreover, their loud noise disrupts neighborhoods and can negatively impact the well-being of residents and wildlife. To address these concerns, the Town Council, along with its counterparts in D.C., Chevy Chase Village, and Somerset, have worked to transition their communities to battery or electric leaf blowers as a more sustainable and neighbor-friendly alternative.

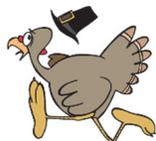
A full-year ban on gas blowers is in place in the three jurisdictions noted above, and the County Council will deliberate its own full-year ban this fall. Since 2020, the Town has had a partial-year ban (Jan 1 - Oct 14) on gas blowers and funded a successful rebate program that motivated 127 Town residents and 14 landscaping companies to invest in electric or battery-powered equipment. In addition, the Town Council called on the Climate & Environment Committee to undertake a public education campaign to raise awareness about the environmental and health impacts of gas blowers and highlight the benefits of cleaner, quieter alternatives.

The Town Council is now considering a full-year ban on gas blowers. While such a ban could create a more peaceful living environment, it is crucial that it be well-reasoned with input from all stakeholders, including residents and landscaping businesses, and implemented with practical enforcement methods.

We encourage all residents to engage in discussions with their neighbors and participate in public hearings to voice their questions, concerns, and preferences regarding gas-powered leaf blower use. This collaborative approach can lead to a well-balanced noise ordinance that considers the need for landscape maintenance and the desire for a healthier, quieter neighborhood.

As with all the work of the Town Council, it starts with listening to residents. It is our intent to foster a sense of ownership and cultivate increased compliance. We look forward to your thoughts.

– Mayor Irene Lane



**15th Annual Thanksgiving
Dinner Baskets**

see page 3

TOCC Happy Hour at Tacombi, October 6

The Town's Community Relations Committee is hosting a happy hour event on Friday, October 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Tacombi, 4749 Bethesda Avenue. Come by to meet other Town residents and enjoy a fun evening out. Complimentary appetizers while supplies last. The event is open to all. Cheers!



2023 Fall Festival, October 15

The Town is partnering with the Lawton Center to host the 2023 Fall Fest. The event will take place on Sunday, October 15 from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Lawton Center parking lot. Join us for pumpkin painting, moon bounces, music performance by the BCC Jazz Band, and so much more! All ages welcome!

Flu Clinic, October 17

- Adventist HealthCare will give flu shots on **Tuesday, October 17 from 2 to 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.**
- Shots will be administered to anyone nine years of age and up.
- The cost for the standard vaccine for those without Medicare Part B is \$35.
- There is no charge if Medicare Part B is your primary insurance.
- Cash and checks (payable to LifeWork Strategies) are accepted.
- A high dose vaccine (\$80) is available for persons 65 years of age and older.



Please sign up for a flu shot at <http://bit.ly/TOCCFluClinic> by Friday, October 13.

TOCC Book Club Meets October 30

Our Town of Chevy Chase Book Club will meet Monday, October 30 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall to discuss *Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese. A 3-generation saga of an Indian family plagued by drowning, this book explores what makes family and the impact of generational change. Looks long, but it reads really fast! Sponsored by the Community Relations Committee; all are welcome.

Theatre Night, November 4

The Community Relations Committee has secured 20 tickets for a center section orchestra performance of *The Mountaintop* at the Round House Theatre on Saturday, November 4 at 8 p.m. at a reduced price of \$41.25 per ticket. A pre-show talk with Ryan Rillette, Artistic Director of Round House Theatre, is included at no additional cost. Details about this play are available at <https://bit.ly/RHTTheMountaintop>. Tickets are available on a first come, first-served basis, with payment via check or Stripe. For payment details, email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org with your name and desired number of tickets.

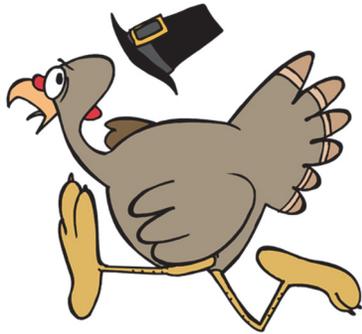
LEGO Fair, November 12

Join us for the inaugural TOCC LEGO fair at the Town Hall on Sunday, November 12 from 2 to 4 p.m.! Prizes will be awarded across three age groups (8 & under, 9-15, and 16 & over) in categories of best structure, vehicle, landscape (coloring), still scene, and most creative! You may submit a custom build for display or, for a larger build/multiple items, entrants may reserve half of a 6-foot table. To register by November 9, please email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org with entrant's name, age, address, and a brief description of the submission. All ages welcome! Sponsored by the Community Relations Committee. Questions, contact Howard Berkof at hberkof@yahoo.com.

Leaf Collection to Begin in October



Leaf vacuuming will begin in late October. If you or your landscape company plan to use gas-powered leaf blowers this fall (allowed from October 15 to December 31), please follow the Town's quiet hours schedule and refrain from using them before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m. on weekdays and before 12 p.m. or after 6 p.m. on weekends.



15th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets

Organized by
Town of Chevy Chase
Lawton Community Center

*Serving families in need through
YMCA Linkages to Learning of Montgomery County*

Once again, this Thanksgiving we can help 100 of our neighbors in need with \$100 food gift cards from Giant and Aldi. Our timetable for donations is the month of October so MCPS families will have the cards by mid-November for holiday food shopping.

The Montgomery County Food Council estimates that 14% of children in the county do not have sufficient access to food. That's at least 33,840 kids! In a small but very immediate way, we can help make a difference. Our neighborhood effort brings holiday groceries to 100 MCPS children and their families this upcoming Thanksgiving weekend.

Thank you for your generous support in making this happen!

Here's how you can help! October 1 - October 31

- **Drop off/mail a check payable to YMCA-YFS or Giant or Aldi gift cards** to Georgia Guhin (4006 Rosemary Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815) or to the Town Office October 1 - 31. If you would like us to pick up your donation, please contact one of us below. **Your donation of any amount will help purchase a \$100 food card for each of the 100 families.** 100% of your donation will support MCPS families in need. Additional funds raised will purchase extra gift cards. Last year, the generosity of Town residents helped another 80 families with food gift cards of various denominations. The YMCA is not able to accept online donations for this special project. You will receive an acknowledgement of your donation from the YMCA.
- **Have questions?** Send an email to Georgia Guhin (gbguhin@gmail.com); Bridget Hartman (bridget@hartmanjr.net); or the Town Office (townoffice@townofchevychase.org).



Town of Chevy Chase

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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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Climate & Environment Tip of the Month

Electrification: A Win for You and the Planet

As both homes and internal combustion engine vehicles emit greenhouse gases, transitioning to electrified appliances and vehicles may help to combat climate change. Further, with increased tax credits and available rebates, you may be able to plan, upgrade, and save money on:

- Heat pump water heaters
- Heat pump heating and cooling systems
- Electrical panel upgrades
- New and used electric vehicles
- Induction/electric stoves
- Solar energy panels
- Weatherization upgrades



To learn more about:

- The County's residential energy programs, visit <https://mygreenmontgomery.org/energy/> or contact the MoCo Electrification Help Desk at 301.830.5767
- Maryland's electrification incentives, visit <https://marylandev.org/maryland-ev-tax-credit/>

Note that some subsidies have income limits or sliding scale benefits and that Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) rebates will start to be administered by Maryland in 2024.