

# Forecast

DECEMBER 2023

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



**Monday, December 4**  
Land Use\*, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 6**  
Climate/Environment\*, 6 p.m.  
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Community Relations\*, 7 p.m.

**Sunday, December 10**  
Holiday Bazaar, 2-4 p.m.  
see page 3

**Wednesday, December 13**  
Town Council, 7 p.m.

**Sunday, December 17**  
Holiday Sing Along, 5-7 p.m.  
see page 3

**Monday, December 18**  
TOCC Book Club, 7 p.m.  
see page 3

**Tuesday, December 19**  
Public Services\*, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 21**  
Long Range Planning\*, 7 p.m.

**December 22-26**  
Christmas Holiday  
Town Office Closed

**December 29-January 2**  
New Year's Holiday  
Town Office Closed

\* Town Committee meeting

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

## Gratitude for Each of You!

As we embrace this festive time of year, a time that unites us in celebration of diverse traditions such as Bodhi Day, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa, I am filled with gratitude for each of you who contributes to the tapestry of our Town. Your collective efforts, both grand and humble, show that the spirit of unity and goodwill is strong among us.

Your contributions, whether they take the form of serving on a Town committee or simply attending an event, have played a pivotal role in shaping the positive atmosphere that permeates every corner of our community. It is through these acts, both seen and unseen, that we build connections, foster understanding, and fortify the bonds that make our community a place we are all proud to call home.

As we begin to experience the joy of the season, let us not forget the paramount importance of prioritizing the safety and wellness of ourselves and our neighbors. I encourage each of you to be mindful of the well-being of others and take precautions to ensure a safe holiday season. Whether it's checking on a neighbor, using designated drivers, or practicing fire safety, let's make responsible choices that contribute to our community's health and happiness.

The season also provides an opportunity for us to strengthen our bonds through community involvement. As we celebrate, let us not lose sight of those who may be less fortunate. Consider volunteering your time or resources to local charities and initiatives, such as the *Holiday Gift Drive for Domestic Violence Victims* and the *Winter Clothing Drive*. Together, our actions can create a ripple effect of positive change, embodying the true spirit of generosity that defines the holiday season.

Finally, let's cherish and continue the festive traditions that make our town unique. From the *Holiday Bazaar* to the heartwarming melodies of the *Holiday Sing-Along Through Town*, these traditions bind us together and create lasting memories.

May each of you experience a season filled with joy, laughter, and safety. I wish you all a happy and harmonious holiday season.

– Mayor Irene Lane



**Winter Clothing Drive &  
Holiday Gift Drive for  
Domestic Violence Victims**  
see page 3

## December 13 Public Hearing on Town Code Applicability

At its December 13 meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on an ordinance to clarify the applicability of certain chapters of the Town code to properties zoned for institutional use in the Town. In consultation with the Town attorney, the Town Council has found that certain provisions of the Town's building regulations and all provisions of the Town's sign and water drainage regulations, when they were adopted or amended, were intended to apply to residential lots in the Town that are used for residential purposes and not to institutional uses such as Chevy Chase Elementary School, the Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center, or the property formerly known as the 4-H Center, which is now being redeveloped by Corso Chevy Chase as a senior housing community.

If the Council adopts this ordinance, the Town will not regulate buildings, signs, or water drainage on institutional properties that existed at the time of adoption or amendment of these regulations and that remain in institutional use; however, if applicable, the Town will continue to regulate trees on such properties and will require building permits for any proposed improvements to allow the Town to institute and enforce construction management regulations. Also, nothing prevents the Council from adopting new ordinances in the future to regulate lots not being used for residential purposes in the Town.

As the Town has publicized, in late April the Town Council ratified an agreement with Corso Chevy Chase related to redevelopment of the former 4-H property. The agreement obligates Corso to execute a Declaration of Covenants, which memorializes commitments related to perpetual use of the land and improvements that are enforceable by the Town. These commitments, which will become effective when Corso obtains all building permits for the project, include limiting primary use of the property to a residential care facility; limiting vehicular access to Connecticut Avenue; establishing minimum building setbacks and maximum building heights; maintaining the 81-foot setback along Thornapple Street; defining and restricting locations of pathways; defining forest conservation areas and planting/screening areas; and providing permanent garage space for Town vehicles.

The proposed ordinance is available on the Town website. Residents are encouraged to review the ordinance and provide comments at the hearing or by email to [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org).

## Leaf Collection Ends on December 22



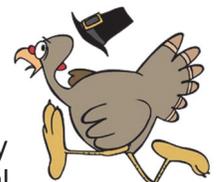
Leaf vacuuming will continue through December 22. Please rake leaves to the edge of the curb for collection and ensure that your leaves are not contaminated by cans, sticks, bottles, or rocks. After collection ends, leaves should be placed in paper bags or in reusable containers for yard trash recycling. If you or your landscape company plan to use gas-powered leaf blowers this fall (allowed from October 15 to December 31), please 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.

## Preparations for Winter Weather



The Town's Winter Weather Preparedness flyer is available on the homepage of the Town website. We would like to remind residents that, in the event or threat of a snowstorm or icy road conditions, cars must be parked either in driveways or on the even-numbered side of the street (unless otherwise posted) to ensure safe passage for the snow removal crews. Also, please note that the Town's contractor will remove snow from public sidewalks if accumulations total 6 inches or more. Otherwise, residents are responsible for clearing the sidewalks adjacent to their homes within 24 hours after precipitation has ended. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Thanksgiving Thanks!



To all who contributed to this year's Thanksgiving Dinner Basket effort, a heartfelt thanks. Your October donations made it possible for 100 of our MCPS families in neighboring schools to receive a \$100 grocery card to shop for a bountiful holiday dinner and have extra food over Thanksgiving school break. Your response to our final request at the end of the month helped us reach not only these families, but another 30 families with grocery cards of \$50 and \$100. From the YMCA's Linkages to Learning staff, "Wow! That's amazing. We are so grateful for the generosity and kindness of the Town!"

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

## Holiday Bazaar, December 10

Stop by and shop at this fun and festive holiday bazaar featuring artwork, jewelry, accessories, sweet treats, and much more on Sunday, December 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Lawton Center Social Hall! Complimentary gift wrapping will be available. The best part is that all of the vendors are young entrepreneurs (ages 6-14) who will dazzle you with their beautiful table displays and high-quality products. This event is supported by the Community Relations Committee and Acton Children's Business Fairs and organized by Town teen, Piya Scielzo. Admission to the Bazaar is free!

## Holiday Sing-Along through Town, December 17



On Sunday, December 17, from 5 to 7 pm, neighbors of all ages are invited to walk through Town singing the songs of the season. We will meet at the Lawton Center at 4:45 p.m., proceed on our route, and the final stop will be at the Dennison Garden followed by warm beverages and holiday treats at the home of a nearby neighbor. Details about the route and song list to come -- check the Weekly Town Updates and the listserv. No need to RSVP but remember to wear headlamps and reflective clothing (if possible).

## TOCC Book Club, December 18

The Town of Chevy Chase Book Club will discuss *In the Distance* by Hernan Diaz on Monday, December 18 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. This book was a Pulitzer finalist in 2018, it's in paperback, AND it's only 240 pages! A Swedish immigrant walks across 19th century America; his experiences explode many of the myths surrounding our settlement of the West. Hope to see you there!

## Holiday Gift Card Drive for Domestic Violence Victims

For over a decade, the Town's Community Relations Committee has conducted an annual holiday gift drive for survivors of domestic violence and their families. The generosity of Town residents has brightened the holidays for Montgomery County families who are struggling with the pernicious effects of domestic violence and trying to make ends meet. In previous years, Town donations have guaranteed that every child receiving counseling for exposure to domestic violence could receive holiday gifts. One hundred percent of the donations are applied to direct service. There are no administrative costs.

Here's what you can do: 1) Donate gift cards in denominations of \$10 to \$50 from stores such as Target, Marshalls, Kohl's, Safeway, Giant, or CVS; or 2) Write checks of any amount to "FJC Foundation" (Montgomery County Family Justice Center). Designate "Safe Start" in the memo line if you want the money to go to the children's counseling program. Donations can be dropped off at Cathy Wolf's house at 7624 Lynn Drive (please put in basket in carport) or Quynh Tran's house at 7203 Ridgewood Avenue. You can also take your donation to the Town Office at 4301 Willow Lane, Monday-Friday, 9-5. If you want to receive a tax-deductible receipt, please include your name and email.

The deadline for the holiday gift card drive is Friday, December 22 but donations will be accepted gratefully any time of year. Beneficiaries are clients of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center and Chesapeake Counseling (Safe Start). Questions? Email Cathy at [cathrynwolf2@gmail.com](mailto:cathrynwolf2@gmail.com) or Quynh at [vanstinger2205@gmail.com](mailto:vanstinger2205@gmail.com).

## Winter Clothing Drive Continues Thru February 28

It's time to sort out your winter clothes. Please help the men, women and children who depend on Interfaith Works Clothing Center to keep them warm. They provide free clothing to 13,000 income-qualified residents each year, including nearly 6,000 children. Please donate clean, gently used or never used warm coats, gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, sweaters, pants and socks to those in need. Also needed are waterproof warm winter wear, for those who are outside in the cold rain or snow. The clothing box is located on the front porch of Marjorie Shaw and Barney Rush, at **6917 Maple Avenue** (between Stanford and Pine Place); drop off any time.

**Save the Date:** Family Movie Night, January 5, 6 p.m.; New Neighbor Mixer, January 21, 3 p.m.

**TOWN COUNCIL**

*Irene Lane, Mayor*  
*Barney Rush, Vice Mayor*  
*Stephanie Martz, Secretary*  
*Rich Brancato, Treasurer*  
*Joy White, Community Liaison*

 This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

## Climate & Environment Tip of the Month

### *Why Should We Care About Road Salt?*

Road salt is everywhere during snowy and icy winter months. It keeps us safe on roads and sidewalks, but excess salt drains into our streams and rivers. Fish and bugs that live in freshwater can't survive in extra salty water. And many of us (more than 118 million Americans) depend on local waterways for drinking water. Water treatment plants are not equipped to filter out the extra salt, so it can end up in your tap water and even corrode your pipes. Salt can also seep into your yard's soil and harm plants. It's also a pet paw irritant!

### What Can We Do?

1. Use sand or kitty litter instead of salt on your walkways and driveways.
2. Shovel snow quickly to avoid or at least minimize use of salt.
3. Report large piles of salt on town, county, and state roads. They will pick it up.
  - a. Town roads – call 301-654-7144
  - b. County roads -- call 311
  - c. State roads -- call 1-800-543-2515
4. Visit The Izaak Walton League website to learn more:  
<https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/salt-watch>



For other Climate and Environment Tips, visit <https://bit.ly/CECTips>.