



Forecast

FEBRUARY 2024

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Thursday, February 1
Climate/Environment*, 6 p.m.

Saturday, February 3
New Neighbor Meet Up, 3 p.m.
see page 3

Monday, February 5
Land Use*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 7
Town Council, 6 p.m.

Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Friday, February 9
Family Movie Night, 6 p.m.
see page 3

Thursday, February 15
Tiki Happy Hour, 5:30 p.m.
see page 3

Long Range Planning*, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, February 19
Presidents' Day
Town office closed

Tuesday, February 20
Public Services*, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 25
Chili Dinner, 5 p.m.
see page 3

* Town Committee meeting

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

Corso Public Hearing Set for February 8

After nearly three years of extensive efforts, including a resident survey, listening sessions, public forums, backyard tours, committee meetings, and thoughtful deliberations by the Town Council, the Corso Chevy Chase Senior Living Community is taking a significant step forward. On February 8, the Planning Board will likely approve the site plan for the development, thereby enabling the developer to commence construction by year's end.

Situated on a 12.28-acre property at 7100 Connecticut Avenue, the redevelopment is envisioned to unfold in two phases. It will feature a 507-unit facility offering independent living, assisted living, and memory care units. Additionally, the project includes a 3-acre forest conservation area and small retail establishments. Notably, residents of this community will become Town residents, actively participating in events and volunteering for Town committees.

Heartfelt Thanks to Staff & Volunteers

Many dedicated individuals have contributed their specific skills, diligence, and attention to detail throughout this process. Special acknowledgment goes to Town staff members Todd Hoffman, Dave Walton, and Dr. Tolbert Feather; the Corso Special Committee comprising Chris Bruch, Ken Rubin, Rod Henderer, Joe Rubin, and Sarah Smith; and Town Council Vice Mayor Barney Rush. Their tireless efforts have significantly benefited our community. By collaborating closely and amicably with the developer and the county, the Town ensured the inclusion of many important binding elements in the local map amendment that ultimately assured compatibility with the surrounding neighborhoods.

Next Steps in the Journey

Following potential approval of the site plan by the County Planning Board, the Town Council will continue collaborating with the developer as well as county and state agencies to address site access and stormwater drainage matters, uphold our urban forest ordinance, and finalize a construction management plan.

Additionally, the Town has negotiated a Declaration of Covenants that memorializes commitments related to perpetual use of the land and improvements. These commitments include restricting the primary use to a residential care facility, limiting vehicular access to Connecticut Avenue, establishing building setbacks and heights, maintaining setbacks along Thornapple Street, defining pathway locations, and outlining forest conservation areas and planting/screening zones.

This project exemplifies the impact of vision, resident input, and collaborative partnerships. We eagerly anticipate welcoming our new neighbors in the coming years. Stay tuned for more updates!

– Mayor Irene Lane

February 8 Planning Board Hearing on Corso Site Plan

On February 8, the County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on, and possibly approve, Corso's site plan application. The Town will testify at this hearing, and residents are encouraged to do the same. You may review the Planning staff report at bit.ly/CorsoReport and sign up to testify at bit.ly/CorsoHearing. The Town's testimony is available for review at bit.ly/CorsoTestimony.

Council Approves Full Year Ban on Gas Leaf Blowers

On January 10, the Town Council adopted an ordinance to enact a full year ban on gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLBs) beginning in 2024, a year earlier than the County's recently enacted ban. Effective February 9, 2024, no person shall be allowed to use gas leaf blowers in Town at any time of year. Over the last two years, gas-powered leaf blowers were allowed to be used only during the fall leaf collection season.

The Town Council adopted this ordinance in response to residents' interest in creating a quieter and healthier community. The Council also noted that the cost of electric or battery-powered equipment has become and continues to be more competitive compared to the cost of gas-powered equipment, and, therefore, compliance with the ban will not place an undue financial burden on residents or contractors. The Town's leaf collection contractor will be exempt from this ordinance during the 2024 leaf collection season but will be subject to the County-wide ban beginning in 2025.

Revised Election Regulations Adopted in January

On January 10, the Town Council adopted amendments to the Town Code and Charter to update Town election regulations. The amendments codify current election practices, provide flexibility for the form of future elections, and clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Town's Elections Board. These changes will be in effect for the Town's 2024 election, but they do not affect the current form of the election, the voter registration process, or the procedures for nominating candidates or voting in Town elections.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS TO AMEND CHARTER

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Constitution of Maryland, Article XI-E; the Maryland Code, Local Government Article, Section 4-301, et seq.; and the Charter of the Town of Chevy Chase (the "Charter"), the Town Council of the Town of Chevy Chase on January 10, 2024, duly adopted the following Charter amendments:

Charter Amendment Res. No. 2024-3 to amend Section 402 of the Charter to change "absentee" to "mail-in", given that absence is not required for mail-in voting, according to Maryland Law (Md. Code, Elections Art., Sec. 9-301).

Charter Amendment Res. No. 2024-4 to amend Section 403 of the Charter to delete the requirement for the Elections Board to maintain the voter registration list, given that municipal voter registration is primarily accomplished by the Statewide Voter Registration List according to Maryland Law (Md. Code, Elections Art., Sec. 3-403).

Charter Amendment Res. No. 2024-5 to amend Section 406 of the Charter to extend the deadline for the certification of election results in order to accommodate a mail-in election; and to provide flexibility for the Elections Board to determine an alternative deadline.

These amendments shall become and be considered a part of the Charter of the Town of Chevy Chase on February 29, 2024 (fifty (50) days after adoption), unless on or before February 19, 2024 (forty (40) days from adoption), there shall be presented to the Town Council, or mailed to it by registered mail, a petition signed by twenty percent (20%) or more of the persons who are qualified to vote in municipal elections of the Town of Chevy Chase, requesting any or all of the proposed amendments be submitted on referendum to the voters of the Town of Chevy Chase. A complete copy of the Resolutions and Charter can be obtained from Todd Hoffman, Town Manager, at 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

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

New Neighbor Meet Up, February 3

Have you moved to town in the past few years? Looking to meet other neighbors and learn more about the area? Or, are you a longtime neighbor who would like to meet new neighbors? Join us for a neighborhood meet and greet on Saturday, February 3 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Town Hall. Come chat with new (and not-as-new) neighbors, swap town tips, and pick up some helpful info about local services. Refreshments will be served. Kids are welcome! RSVP to bit.ly/TOCCMeetUp.



Family Movie Night, February 9

Join us as we watch *The Little Mermaid* (Disney, 2023) in the Town Hall on Friday, February 9 at 6 p.m. *The Little Mermaid* is a live-action adaptation of Disney's 1989 animated movie of the same name. It is rated PG and has a runtime of 2 hours and 15 minutes. The movie follows the mermaid Ariel (played by singer Halle Bailey), who is fascinated with the human world; after saving Prince Eric (Jonah Hauer-King) from a shipwreck, she makes a deal with the sea witch Ursula (Melissa McCarthy) to walk on land. Please come at 6 p.m. for pizza, snacks, and juice; the movie will start at 6:15 p.m. An adult must accompany children. Please RSVP by February 7 to bit.ly/TOCCMovie.

Tiki Time Happy Hour at Foong Lin, February 15

Join us for Happy Hour from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Foong Lin's Tiki Night with epic tiki style drinks including Mai Tais, Flaming Volcano Bowl, and more! All at Happy Hour pricing. Located just outside the Town at 4613 Willow Lane. They even have Hawaiian shirts for you to wear if you don't have one. Complimentary appetizers while supplies last.



RSVP for February 25 Chili Dinner & Sign Up to Help!



The Town will hold its popular Chili Dinner on Sunday, February 25 at 5 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Lawton Community Center. Dinner will include chili and hot dogs (including vegan options), sides, and desserts. Also, the Town will continue its support of the Manna Food Center, so please don't forget your checks or cash to help feed families in Montgomery County. As always, chili will be served by Community Relations Committee members, but we need additional volunteers. If you can help, please let us know when you RSVP by February 16 to bit.ly/tocccchili.

Round House Theater Discussion Group

If you enjoy Round House Theatre productions and would like to get together with neighbors to discuss the upcoming rock musical *Next to Normal*, running January 25 through February 24, then please join us! The conversation will be scheduled for either February 24 or 25, location TBD. For details about the play, see bit.ly/RHTPlay. To participate, email Dian Seidel by Wednesday, February 14 at dian.seidel@gmail.com.



Winter Clothing Drive Continues Thru February

Interfaith Works provides free clothing to thousands of Montgomery County families. Please donate clean, gently used or never used warm coats, gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, sweaters, pants, and socks to those in need. The clothing box is located on the front porch of Marjorie Shaw and Barney Rush, at 6917 Maple Avenue (between Maple and Pine Place).

Save the Date~~ TOCC Book Club, March 11

Our Town Book Club will read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett for our meeting on March 11 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. In COVID isolation, a mother shares with her adult daughters her story of youthful immersion in a theater troupe, revealing many different kinds of love. All Town residents welcome!

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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 This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Climate & Environment *Tips for Sustainable Eating*

What we choose to eat has consequences for the environment and climate because some food is produced through inefficient use of water, use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, and is transported over long distances. Cumulatively, these practices can add to greenhouse gas emissions and damage the environment.

Good news: You CAN take steps to make a difference while improving your health. Hydroponic growing, or the use of water flowing over roots rather than soil to provide nutrients, is an environmentally friendly approach that is becoming more common. You can grow foods such as lettuce, sprouts, and mushrooms at home using this method. Visit bit.ly/nosoil.



Hydroponics is part of the Controlled Environment Agriculture movement. Visit bit.ly/conenag.

Other steps you can take toward more sustainable eating include:

- Shop Local, Seasonal, and Organic: support sustainable agriculture in our community.
- Consider Eating Less Meat: plant-based diets have been shown to lower environmental impact.
- Minimize Food Waste: Plan meals, store food properly, and compost food scraps through the Town's subsidized composting program. Visit <https://compostcrew.com/chevychase/>.
- Try Home Gardening: Try growing herbs and vegetables using sustainable practices.
- Stay Informed: Learn about sustainable farming practices, food labels, and certifications to make informed choices as a consumer.

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