



Forecast

MARCH 2024

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

Town Monitors State Legislation



Monday, March 4

Land Use*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6

Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 7

Climate/Environment*, 6 p.m.

Friday, March 8

Family Movie Night, 6 p.m.
see page 3

Monday, March 11

TOCC Book Club, 7 p.m.
see page 3

Sunday, March 17

Scavenger Hunt, 3:30 p.m.
see page 3

Tuesday, March 19

Public Services*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20

Town Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 21

Long Range Planning*, 7 p.m.

* Town Committee meeting

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

The 446th session of the Maryland General Assembly commenced on January 10. The Assembly faces a hefty load of over 2300 bills to sift through within the 90-day session. Councilmember Joy White, who is also our Town's Community Liaison, has been actively engaged with the Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Committee to monitor and propose amendments to bills most pertinent to our residents.

One key bill that we are following closely is the **Housing Expansion and Affordability Act of 2024** (bit.ly/SB484), spearheaded by Governor Moore and co-sponsored by our State Senator Jeff Waldstreicher and State Delegate Jared Solomon. This bill aims to allow multifamily housing in areas zoned exclusively for single-family residences if such housing is within one mile of a rail station and includes at least 25% affordable units (defined as households earning 60% or less of the area median income).

The Town is collaborating with our State Delegation and fellow municipalities to submit amendments that ensure that this bill, if it becomes law, does not compromise municipal authority to determine building codes that would apply equally to all types of residential housing in our communities. On February 20, the Town provided testimony to the House Environment and Transportation Committee, which is available at bit.ly/TOCCTestimony.

Another bill in the spotlight is House Bill 278 (bit.ly/HB0278), concerning **Urban State Highways' Speed Limits**. If passed, this bill would grant the State Highway Administration authority to lower speed limits by 5 mph on urban state highways like Wisconsin Avenue, Connecticut Avenue, Bradley Lane, and East West Highway without an engineering or traffic study. At present, the Town has not proposed amendments to this legislation.

House Bill 282 (bit.ly/HB0282) pertains to **Speed Monitoring Systems** and proposes to authorize trained technicians to issue citations recorded by speed cameras, potentially bypassing the need for law enforcement officer review. Should this bill pass, many factors would need to be considered by municipalities in determining whether to deploy speed cameras, including a documented speeding problem, costs, benefits, Public Services Committee review, and resident input. On a related matter, the Town recently supported an effort by residents to request a speed camera on Bradley Lane, and the County Police Department recently approved this request.

Residents are strongly encouraged to share their comments and questions about these legislative matters with the Town Council and our State delegation for informed deliberation and decision-making.

– Mayor Irene Lane and Councilmember Joy White

Town Council Meeting Scheduled for March 20

The Town Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on March 20 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall and by Zoom video conference. At this meeting, the Council will discuss and possibly introduce an ordinance to amend the Town Code to clarify language related to the applicability of County laws within the Town and make certain chapters of the County Code applicable in the Town. The draft ordinance will be available for review as part of the meeting agenda to be distributed via Town Crier on March 15. At the March 20 meeting, the Council also will discuss the Bethesda Market Park project, Zimmerman Park redevelopment, and legislative updates from the current Maryland General Assembly session. Residents are welcome to attend this meeting in person or by Zoom.

Planning Board Approves Corso Chevy Chase Site Plan

On February 8, the Planning Board conditionally approved the site plan for the Corso Chevy Chase development. As reported by Mayor Lane in the February Forecast, the Town Council will continue collaborating with the developer as well as county and state agencies to address site access and stormwater drainage issues, enforce our urban forest ordinance, and finalize a construction management plan. Construction of the senior living community is expected to commence by the end of this year. We will provide updates in subsequent editions of this newsletter.

FY25 Budget Development and Adoption

At its meeting on March 20, the Town Council will hold a special public comment period to hear from residents about next year's budget and which new or ongoing initiatives they would like to see funded. Following this meeting, the Council will hold a work session on March 27 at 5 p.m. by Zoom to review and approve the proposed budget that the staff and Treasurer have prepared. There will be a public hearing on, and adoption of, the final proposed budget at the Annual Meeting on May 7. Throughout the budget development process, the Council will consider suggestions from residents about what programs they would like funded in next year's budget. Please send suggestions to bit.ly/TOCCBudget.

RainScapes Supplemental Rebate Program

The Town offers a program that provides residents who complete a County RainScapes project with a supplemental rebate of up to 50% of the County rebate amount, with the total combined rebate limited to 85% of the total cost of the project. Residents who wish to take advantage of this



Town program should sign up to participate in County's RainScapes program at bit.ly/Rainscapes.

If you need help identifying a suitable RainScapes project for your property, you may sign up on the Town website to participate in the Town's free Consulting Water Management Program, which allows the Town's consulting engineer to visit your property and provide a written report with recommendations on improving water drainage and runoff, including recommendations for RainScapes-eligible projects. After completing a RainScapes project, a homeowner should submit copies of project receipts and a copy of the paid County rebate receipt to the Town to receive the supplemental rebate.

Spring is Coming to the Lee Wick Dennison Sustainable Garden!

Nestled at the intersection of Lynn Drive and Maple Avenue within Zimmerman Park, the tranquil Dennison Garden beckons for inclusion in your daily stroll around town, a chance to commune with friends, and as an educational hub for sustainable gardening techniques. Explore this haven today!

Ensuring our Community Stays Safe is a Shared Responsibility

While we understand that cleaning up after your dog might not be the most pleasant task, it's crucial for the well-being of our neighborhood. Children often play in our front yards, and our neighbors regularly walk past our homes. Leftover dog waste poses a slipping hazard and can lead to illnesses. We strongly encourage you, and anyone walking your dog, to diligently clean up after them and utilize the conveniently located Dogipot stations across Town to dispose of the waste. A map of the Dogipot stations is available at bit.ly/TOCCDogiPots. Let's all do our part in keeping our community pristine and safe for everyone.



Gas-Powered Blowers Banned in Town

Effective February 9, 2024, no person shall be allowed to use gas blowers for landscaping purposes in Town at any time of year. Residents are encouraged to inform their landscaping companies about this full-year ban, which the Town Council adopted in the interest of creating a quieter and healthier community. Snow blowers and sprayers, if sold as such, are exempt from this ordinance. 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.

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

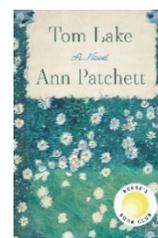


Family Movie Night, March 8

Join us as we watch *Ratatouille* (Pixar/Disney, 2007) in the Town Hall on Friday, March 8 at 6 p.m. The plot, set in Paris, follows a young rat named Remy who dreams of becoming a chef at Auguste Gusteau's restaurant. *Ratatouille* is rated G and has a runtime of 111 minutes. Please come at 6 PM for pizza, snacks, and juice. The movie will start at 6:15 PM. An adult must accompany children. Please RSVP by March 7 to bit.ly/TOCCMovieNight.

TOCC Book Club, March 11

Our Town Book Club will read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett for our meeting on Monday, 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!



Kids' St. Patrick's Day Outdoor Scavenger Hunt, March 17



Join us for a free kids' St. Patrick's Day scavenger hunt at the Lawton Center playground on Sunday, March 17 at 3:30 pm. The scavenger hunt will be geared towards wee ones ages 1-6, but all ages are welcome. There will be snacks and prizes! Shamrocks, leprechauns, pots of gold, shenanigans!



Spring Baking Competition, April 7

The Community Relations Committee will host a Cookie & Bar Baking Competition on Sunday, April 7, 2-4 p.m. in the Town Hall. Grown-up and kids categories, prizes! Batter up!

Go Electric Eco-Fest, April 28

The Climate and Environment Committee will host a "Go Electric EcoFest" on April 28 at 12 p.m. Learn more about residential electrification options and incentives including solar panels, electric appliances, and electric vehicles. Save money while fighting climate change! More info to come.

More information about all of these events will be in subsequent newsletters and on Town Crier.

Town of Chevy Chase

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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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Climate & Environment Committee Message

Say Goodbye to Gas-Powered Blowers!

The Town Climate and Environment Committee is thrilled about the Town Council's approval of a year-round ban on gas-powered blowers for landscaping purposes. This decision ensures that a ban will be in place for fall leaf cleanup and reflects the collective desire of the Town's residents for reduced noise, cleaner air, and, crucially, a healthier environment for our landscape workers. If you employ a landscaping company, we urge you to inform them about this ban.



Electric leaf blower alternatives offer efficiency and convenience, with many small and medium-sized landscapers utilizing commercial-grade models costing approximately \$500 or less including two batteries. Furthermore, electric leaf blowers require less maintenance. Alternatively, rakes provide another quieter, cheaper, and environmentally friendly option.

We encourage residents to report any violations of the Town's year-round ban on gas-powered blower use for landscaping purposes to the Town office. You can do so by emailing townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or calling 301-654-7144. Together, we can ensure the success of this important initiative for the benefit of our community and the environment.

COUNCIL ELECTION 2024

TOWN ELECTION

The Town's 2024 election is Tuesday, May 7. Town residents will select three candidates in the 2024 election, each to serve on the Council for a 2-year term. The terms of Rich Brancato, Irene Lane, and Barney Rush expire in May.

Balloting will be undertaken by mail and drop box only. At least 2 weeks before the election, the Town's election service provider will mail a ballot, a ballot envelope, and a return envelope to each eligible voter. In order for a resident's vote to be counted, return envelopes must either be mailed by May 7 and received by May 14 or placed in the drop box outside the Town Hall by 5 p.m. on May 7.

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for office, a candidate must be a citizen of the United States; be at least 16 years old; have resided in the Town for at least one year immediately preceding the election; and be a registered voter of the State of Maryland in Montgomery County. (Prospective voters who are at least 16 years old may register to vote with the state although they may not vote in state or federal elections until age 18.)

CANDIDATE NOMINATING PROCEDURES

To be designated as a candidate on the printed ballot, a resident must submit a nominating petition to the Town office before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, the 3rd Tuesday preceding the election. A nominating petition is available on the reverse side of this insert and on the Town website. A candidate for office is not required to use this form but must submit a petition containing the same information on the Town's form in order for the individual's name to be placed on the ballot. The nominating petition must show the consent of the individual to become a candidate and hold office, and it must be supported by five qualified voters of the Town other than the candidate.

Nominators may indicate their support by sending an email to the Town office. The email should state, "I hereby nominate (name) of (address) as a candidate for the Town Council of the Town of Chevy Chase." All nominating emails must contain the name and address of the nominator. The Election Board shall verify the qualifications of the nominees and the documentation submitted to support nominating petitions after 5 p.m. on April 16. Nominating petitions are public documents and are subject to public inspection.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

To be qualified for election, a write-in candidate must submit a certificate of candidacy to the Town office before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, the 7th calendar day preceding the election. A Town resident seeking election to the Town Council as a write-in candidate must use the Town's official certificate of candidacy, which is available on the Town website. The printed ballot will include blank spaces to add write-in candidates.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

A candidate for office is required to submit a financial disclosure statement to the Town office at the time the candidate submits either a nominating petition or a certificate of candidacy. The financial disclosure form is available on the Town website. Financial disclosure statements are public documents and are subject to public inspection.

CANDIDATES' EVENT

The candidates will be invited to participate in an event with the community prior to the election. Details on the event will be included in the Election issue of the Forecast newsletter, which will be mailed to all residents at least 2 weeks before the election.

NOTICE OF CANDIDATES

Information about the nominated candidates will be mailed to all households at least 2 weeks before the election. Notice of the filing of a certificate of candidacy for a write-in candidate will be publicly announced within 24 hours of the filing.

VOTING ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to vote, residents who are U.S. citizens must be at least 16 years of age; have resided in the Town for at least 30 days immediately preceding the election; and be a registered voter of the State of Maryland in Montgomery County. Residents who are not U.S. citizens must be legally authorized to reside in the United States; be at least 16 years old; have resided in the Town for at least 30 days immediately preceding the election; and be registered to vote with the Town. A voter registration form for non-U.S. citizen residents is available on the Town website.

ELECTION RESULTS & ELECTIONS BOARD

Election results will be announced after 5 p.m. on May 14, and the new Council will meet on May 15. Current Elections Board members are Kirk Renaud, Chair; Grant Davies; and Karen Elkins. Please email questions to townoffice@townofchevchase.org.



Town of Chevy Chase
4301 Willow Lane
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301-654-7144 (phone)
301-718-9631 (fax)
townoffice@townofchevychase.org

2024 TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION NOMINATING PETITION

To be designated as a candidate on the printed ballot, a resident must submit a nominating petition to the Town office **before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024**. A candidate for office is not required to use this form but must submit a petition containing the same information on this form.

A petition must be supported by five qualified voters of the Town other than the candidate. Nominators may indicate their support by signing this petition or sending an email to the Town office. The email should state, "I hereby nominate (name) of (address) as a candidate for the Town Council of the Town of Chevy Chase." All nominating emails must contain the name and address of the nominator.

The Election Board shall verify the qualifications of the nominees and the nominators after 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. Nominating petitions are public documents and are subject to public inspection.

We, the undersigned, hereby nominate _____ of
(name)
_____ as a candidate for the Town Council of the Town of Chevy Chase.
(address)

<u>Printed Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Signature</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____

Candidate's Consent: I hereby consent to be a candidate for election to the Town Council of the Town of Chevy Chase and to serve if elected. I meet all candidate eligibility requirements.

Candidate's Signature

Date

Phone

Email

A Nominating Petition and a completed Financial Disclosure Statement must be received by the Town Office before 5 p.m. on April 16, 2024 in order for the individual's name to be placed on the ballot.

Candidate's Statement: In the Election issue of the Forecast newsletter, the Town will print a short statement introducing yourself to the community and explaining the reasons you are seeking election to the Town Council. Your submission must not exceed 650 words and must be received by the Town Office before 5 p.m. on April 16, 2024. Please email a copy to townoffice@townofchevychase.org.