

Forecast

APRIL 2024

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

Bethesda Market Park: Progress & Next Steps

Following a prolonged delay, plans for revitalizing and expanding the Farm Woman's Market and Bethesda Market Park, located on adjacent parking lots, are advancing. Substantial progress has been made on the General Development Agreement between the County and developers, securing the funds for constructing a new underground public parking garage behind the Market. In addition, an agreement is nearly finalized for the Parks Department to reimburse the developers for the park architects' expenses. The goal is to make sufficient headway on the legal agreements and park planning in the coming months so that the developers can submit a Site Plan to the Planning Board this fall.

Regarding the Bethesda Market Park design, collaboration among the Parks Department, developers, and the Town has been ongoing. Through these discussions, it's become evident that a park designed to stay within the current \$9.4 million budget would have lawns, plantings and only one significant amenity: dog runs for small and large dogs. A comprehensive park with other desired features -- such as a water feature and stage area near the Market, "game room" activities, and play and exercise equipment on the lot between Leland and Walsh Streets -- will require several million dollars more than the current budget could cover.

The Town Council is actively exploring options to provide additional funding for a comprehensive park that incorporates these popular features. While the Town has already allocated \$4.5 million to this project, there are additional funding sources available, including \$500,000 from the State and \$2.3 million from Federal ARPA grant money received in 2021 and 2022, along with substantial reserves.

We believe that now is the time -- over the next few months -- for the Town to decide on further contributions, ensuring the developers can progress with their planning work and submit the Site Plan on time. We've made clear to our partners that any additional funding from the Town will be contingent upon several principles:

- Prudent budget review, avoiding expenditures on items of questionable value such as undergrounding utility wires on 46th Street;
- Comprehensive funding to cover the full scope of desired amenities;
- Contributions from other stakeholders;
- Holding a new charette, based on the current design, to gather timely resident feedback during Council deliberations.

The Council plans to review a more specific proposal, regarding a potential funding amount and conditions, during its meeting on April 10. Initial comments from residents on additional park funding is welcomed, with further engagement with residents planned to follow the charette.

– Vice Mayor Barney Rush



Trash & Treasures, April 13 & 14
Recycling & Donation Opportunities Available



Go-Electric EcoFest, April 28
12-3 p.m., Town Hall

See pages 2 & 3 for details

2024 Council Election & Annual Meeting

The Town's Election and Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Town residents will select three candidates in the 2024 election, each to serve on the Council for a 2-year term. Candidate nominating petitions are due by 5 p.m. on April 16. A nominating petition was included in the March newsletter and is available at bit.ly/TOCCNnominate.

Balloting will be undertaken by mail and drop box only. Balloting materials and information on the nominated candidates will be mailed to all residents approximately 2 weeks before the election. In order for a resident's vote to be counted, ballot 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.

The Annual Meeting will be held on May 7 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall and via Zoom and will include a public hearing on the proposed FY25 budget. The budget will be available for review on the Town website by April 16. More information on the election and budget is available on the Town website.

Public Hearing Scheduled for April 10 Council Meeting

At its April 10 meeting, the Council will hold a public hearing on amendments to Chapter 1 of the Town Code related to the applicability of County laws within the Town. State law empowers the Town to determine by ordinance which County laws apply in the Town, except for zoning, taxation, and certain public health laws which always must apply. The list of County laws that apply in the Town had not been updated for several years, so the Council asked the Land Use Committee to review the list and make recommendations for any needed changes. The ordinance implements the recommendations of the Committee. A complete copy of the ordinance is available at bit.ly/Ordinance24-06.



Trash & Treasures, April 13 & 14

The Town's spring Trash and Treasures is scheduled for the weekend of **April 13 & 14**. The Town offers this curbside bulk trash collection so that residents can dispose of items that are no longer usable. Please remember to bag, box, or contain all of your discards, and do not put items at the curb before noon on April 12 or after 7 a.m. on April 15. If you have items that can be recycled or repurposed, **we encourage you to come to the Lawton Center on Saturday, April 13 for our Community Recycling & Shredding event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Community Recycling & Shredding Event, April 13

The following services will be provided on April 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Lawton Center Parking Lot

Shred Your Documents: *Shred Ace* will shred documents. Staples and paper clips are okay. No batteries, binders, or books.

Recycle Clothing and Home Goods: The *Interfaith Works* Clothing Center will collect clothing and home goods to donate to low-income County residents. Please put items in secured plastic bags.

Recycle Electronic Equipment: *SAMR* will collect electronic equipment -- anything with a plug or a battery -- for recycling.

Donate Sports Equipment: *Leveling the Playing Field* (LPF) will collect used and excess sporting equipment to donate to programs and schools serving low-income communities.

Donate Books: The Town will collect books for *Friends of the Library, Montgomery County* (FOLMC). Please bring clean, gently used books in a box or bag. No magazines or encyclopedias.

Exchange Light Bulbs: Montgomery County will exchange light bulbs of any type for 3 new LED bulbs.

Note: *A Wider Circle's* furniture and household items collection will not be available at this event.

Town Bake Off! Batter Up!, April 7

Attention bakers and tasters! Join the Community Relations Committee for the 2024 Town of Chevy Chase Bake-Off on Sunday, April 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Town Hall. This bake-off will be for COOKIES AND DESSERT BARS. Judges will be Jose Molina, the owner of Breads Unlimited (breadsunlimited.com), and Jaime Mertz the owner of Red Bandana Bakery (theredbandanabakery.com).

Bakers should bring two dozen cookies or bars -- tasting size will be determined by the number of RSVPs received. First and second prizes will be awarded for the best cookies and the best bars. Tasters should be ready to sample the delicious entries and vote for the People's Choice Award.



If you are a baker or taster, you must RSVP! Bakers need to contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevychase.org. Eaters, please RSVP at bit.ly/TOCCBakeOff.

World of Beer Happy Hour, April 19

The Town's Community Relations Committee is hosting a happy hour event on Friday, April 19 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at World of Beer. 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!

Go-Electric EcoFest, April 28

Join the Climate and Environment Committee on Sunday, April 28 from 12 to 3 p.m. in the Town Hall for its first Go-Electric EcoFest, designed to help residents learn about options for electrifying their home to reduce their use of fossil fuel...and about government subsidies to make those changes more affordable. The program will have three elements:

- **Listen** to an "electrifying" and informative overview of residential electrification options: solar energy, heat pump HVAC and water heaters, electric clothes dryers, induction cooking, electric vehicles and chargers -- plus how to take advantage of subsidies.
- **Learn** more about these electrification opportunities at information tables where you can "**Ask an Expert.**"
- **Visit** homes of Town residents to see climate-friendly technologies such as rooftop solar, geothermal energy, heat pumps, and more.



*** **Enjoy climate-friendly food!**

*** **Kids' activities will be available in the Lawton Center during the presentation so parents can actually pay attention!**

To find out more, to RSVP for the event (optional but helpful for planners), and to sign up for the home visits, go to bit.ly/TOCC EcoFest or scan the QR code on this page.

TOCC Book Club Meets April 29

Join us to discuss *Ministry for the Future* by Kim Stanley Robinson on Monday, April 29 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. It is a "cli-fi" story, about how climate change will affect us all. Its setting is not a desolate, post-apocalyptic world, but a future that is almost upon us, treated with humor and optimism. Chosen by Barack Obama as one of his favorite books of the year. All residents are welcome to this Community Relations Committee event.

Please Prune Vegetation from Town Sidewalks and Streets

As a reminder, residents are asked to keep all streets and sidewalks clear of overgrown vegetation. Please prune vegetation to ensure unobstructed pathways and sight lines for pedestrians and motorists. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep Town streets and sidewalks safe.

Town of Chevy Chase

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Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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A Message from the Public Services Committee *Help Control Speeding on Town Streets*

The Public Services Committee (PSC) is highlighting two ways for Town residents to support our efforts to control speeding on our streets:

1. Residents of a block may request the installation of a speed hump, LED enhanced "Stop" sign, Radar Speed Board, or other traffic control installations. Each measure has its own policy and restrictions which are outlined at bit.ly/TOCCStreets.
2. The Town has purchased a mobile radar speed trailer that can be placed around Town. The trailer is relocated frequently. Please contact the Town Office to have the trailer placed on your street. Staff will evaluate the feasibility of placement.



Additionally, a speed camera has been installed on Bradley Lane (between Connecticut Ave and Wisconsin Ave). The decision to install a speed camera generally starts with residents requesting a mobile radar to gather data on speeding followed by a request to the PSC to review the data. The PSC sends its recommendation to the Town Council that can then engage with the appropriate county authorities.

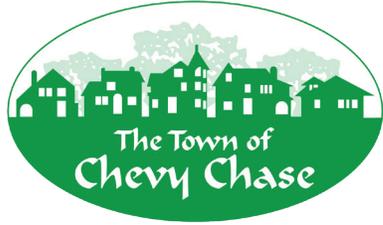


Leaf Blower Regulations for Landscaping

- **The use of gas-powered leaf blowers for landscaping activities is now prohibited year-round in the Town of Chevy Chase.**
- **Permitted Hours** – Electric leaf blowers may only be used in the Town between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. weekdays, and between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. on weekends and holidays.
- **Town residents are encouraged to report violations** of the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers or permitted hours to the Town Office via email or phone (301-654-7144).
- **Violations of the ban** - Violators of the noise ordinance, including both residents and landscapers, are subject to enforcement actions including warnings, work stoppage, and citations (for repeat violators).



[As of July 1, 2024, it will be illegal to buy a gas-powered leaf blower in Montgomery County and as of July 1, 2025, it will be illegal to use a gas-powered leaf blower in Montgomery County.]



Reglamento Sobre Sopladoras de Hojas en Jardinería

- **Las sopladoras de hojas con motor a gasolina en jardinería están prohibidas en Town of Chevy Chase.**
- **Horas permitidas** – Solo se pueden usar sopladoras eléctricas entre las 8 a.m. y las 8 p.m. los días de semana, y entre las 9 a.m. y las 8 p.m. los fines de semana y días festivos.
- **Se anima a los residentes a denunciar violaciones del reglamento** (prohibición de usar sopladoras a gasolina un horas permitidas) enviando un correo electrónico o llamando al 301-654-7144 (oficina de Town of Chevy Chase).
- **Violaciones a la regla** - A las personas que violen la ordenanza sobre el ruido, tanto residentes como jardineros, se les avisa que las medidas se harán cumplir mediante advertencias, obligación de parar el trabajo o un emplazamiento judicial (para personas que repitan la transgresión).



[A partir del 1 de julio de 2024, en el Condado de Montgomery será ilegal comprar una sopladora a motor de gasolina, y a partir del 1 de julio de 2025 será ilegal usar una sopladora con motor de gasolina.]