



Forecast

MAY 2024

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Wednesday, May 1

Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Candidates' Forum, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 2

Climate/Environment*, 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 4

Theatre Discussion, 10 a.m.

see page 3

Sunday, May 5

Gin Tasting, 5 p.m.

see page 3

Monday, May 6

Land Use*, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7

Annual Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 15

Town Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 16

Long Range Planning*, 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 19

Spring Festival, 12 p.m.

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Tuesday, May 21

Public Services*, 7 p.m.

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day

Town office closed

* Town Committee meeting

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

2024 Council Election & Annual Meeting

In this year's Town Council election, residents will elect three of five Council members, each to serve for a two-year term. The terms of Rich Brancato, Irene N. Lane, and Barney Rush will expire in May, and all incumbents are running for reelection.

Voting will be undertaken by mail and drop box only. Balloting materials and information on the nominated candidates were mailed to residents in April. For a resident's vote to be counted, ballot return envelopes must either be mailed by May 7 or placed in the drop box outside the Town Hall by 5 p.m. on May 7.

Please note that the drop box for the Town election is next to the bulletin board by the Town Hall. Montgomery County will hold a presidential primary election at the same time as the Town Council election, so please use the correct drop box labeled "Town of Chevy Chase Official Town Election Ballot Box."

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, and Council adoption of, the FY25 budget and tax rates. The proposed budget is available for review on the Town website, as is information on how to join the Annual Meeting.

New Council Meets on May 15

On May 15, the Town Council will hold its organizational meeting to swear in newly elected Councilmembers and choose Council officers and committee liaisons. At this meeting, the Council will discuss a financial request from Wonders Early Learning, which is located in the Lawton Center. The non-profit daycare is running a projected deficit for its current fiscal year, and the Town's support would allow for needed capital improvements to its facility.

The Council also will hold a [public hearing on an ordinance to require a real property sale disclosure of Town regulations](#). The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure buyers of real property in the Town are aware of, and comply with, the Town's building, water drainage, urban forest, and noise regulations. The disclosure also informs buyers that the Town is an independent municipality within the County, has its own elected body and professional staff, and provides services to its residents beyond those provided by the County. If you cannot attend the public hearing, send comments to townoffice@townofchevychase.org.

Separately, the Town Council wants to take this opportunity to thank [Ann Wild](#), who is leaving the Town after 33 years. Please join us in the Town Hall on June 9 from 4 to 6 p.m. as the Town honors Ann for her many years of service, including 7 years as a leader of the Town's Community Relations Committee and 16 years as a moderator of the Town Neighbors listserv.

Council Proposes Additional Funding for Bethesda Market Park

At its April 10 meeting, the Town Council endorsed a draft plan to provide additional funding for the Bethesda Market Park. This is an important matter for the Town, and the Council would like to explain to residents the details of the proposal and its conditions. Below is a summary of the proposal. A full presentation of the funding plan, including background and factors that the Council has considered, is available at bit.ly/BMPFunding.

- The Town Council proposes to provide additional funds to the Bethesda Market Park project to maintain the quality and standard for the park that conforms to the initial vision and plans.
- This additional funding will allow for additional park amenities, including a stage, a playground, and an interactive water feature, which will not be provided within the initial budget.
- The Council recommends a financing plan that would potentially provide \$5 million in additional funding, with contributions from the Town, the State, and other sources, including the Parks Department.
- If this plan is realized, the Town will provide an additional \$3 million in direct funds to the project, which would raise the amount provided directly by the Town to \$7.5 million.
- This proposal includes conditions that will ensure full funding and completion of both parks and meet other Town objectives.
- The Town has ample reserve funds to address contingencies the Town may face or other special expenditures the Council may choose to make.

Notes & Reminders

Crimewatch -- Lock Your Cars

We want to remind residents to ensure that your cars are locked at all times. Also, please do not leave house or car keys, or any valuable items, in your vehicles. If you observe any suspicious activity, please report it to the police immediately at 911. Report any crimes that have already occurred to the police at 301-279-8000 and to the Town office at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Overgrown Vegetation

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.



Clean Up After Your Pet, Obey Leash Laws, and Control Barking

The Town office receives ongoing complaints about the improper disposal of dog waste, unleashed dogs, and barking dogs. The Town has installed numerous dog waste stations around the Town, and a map can be found on the Town website. Please remember that your dog should always be on a leash being held by a person when not in a fenced portion of your yard. Also, please note that a dog may not cause noise that is loud and persistent enough to disturb another person's quiet enjoyment. To report an animal creating a noise disturbance, please contact the Office of Animal Services via the police non-emergency number, 301-279-8000.

Spring Tree Plantings

In May, the Town will plant 63 trees on private property as part of the Town's Private Native Tree Planting Program. The Town provides a water bag to assist residents with the care needed in the critical first year after planting. Residents are responsible for the long-term care of the tree(s). The Town also will plant 25 trees in the public rights-of-way. Once the trees are planted, the Town will care for the trees for the first year by ensuring that they are watered; the Town is responsible for their long-term care.



Host a Block Party

The Town encourages residents to organize block parties with their neighbors. Block party petitions are available on the Town website and must be signed by at least 60% of the households on the block. The Town offers a subsidy of up to \$150 to cover non-alcohol related expenses incurred by the party organizer(s). More information is available on the Town website.

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

Round House Theatre Discussion Group, May 4 & June 23

Theatre-goers, mark your calendars and join the conversations! The Community Relations Committee is sponsoring two more discussions of upcoming plays at Round House Theatre, located just north of town on East West Highway. Join us in the Town Hall on Saturday, May 4 at 10 a.m. to discuss *A Jumping Off Point* and on Sunday, June 23 at 11 a.m. to discuss *Topdog/Underdog*. These discussions are scheduled near the end of the runs, so you can see the play(s) whenever you like. Breakfast pastries provided -- bring your own drink. RSVP at bit.ly/RHTMay4 for *A Jumping Off Point* and at bit.ly/RHTJune23 for *Topdog/Underdog*.

Gin Tasting, May 5

Gin originated as a medicinal liquor made by monks and alchemists across Europe, and as the national drink of England during the so-called Gin Craze of 1695–1735. Who knew? The gin expert from Calvert-Woodley knows -- and will share both wisdom about, and tastes of, various gins. Join the Community Relations Committee for an evening of gin appreciation and light hors d'oeuvres on Sunday, May 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. Please RSVP to townoffice@townofchevychase.org as space is limited to 25 participants. Leave the children at home, of course.

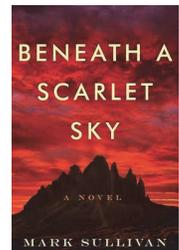
2024 Spring Fest, May 19



The Community Relations Committee and the Town are partnering with the Lawton Center to host the 2024 Spring Fest. The event will take place on May 19 from 12 to 2:30 p.m. at the Lawton Center parking lot. Join us for flowerpot and rock painting, moon bounces, music performance by the BCC Jazz Band, and Clayboy's Shave Ice cart will be there...and so much more! All ages are welcome, so please join us and bring the whole family for a festive time!

TOCC Book Club Will Meet in June

The Town of Chevy Chase Book Club has selected *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan for our next read. It's based on a true story of espionage, suspense and love in WWII Italy. A date has not yet been set (TBD at our 4/29 meeting) but will be sometime in June; watch the listserv! Our meetings take place in the Town Hall and all residents are welcome. Sponsored by the Committee on Community Relations.



Chevy Chase at Home (CC@H)

CC@H is a member organization providing social and educational programs to neighbors of all ages and support services to older adults. You can learn more at www.chevychaseathome.org.

Upcoming Events -- Free to All

- *Aging Well with Chris Palmer*, Wednesday, May 15, 1-2 p.m. on Zoom. Please register in advance at (301) 657-3115 or info@chevychaseathome.org.
- *Internet Fraud: How to Keep Yourself Safe In The Digital World*, presented by Chief John Nesky, Chevy Chase Village Police; Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 1 p.m., Chevy Chase Village Hall. Please RSVP at 301-657-3115 or info@chevychaseathome.org.

Do You Want To Assist Older Adults in Your Neighborhood?

Have you considered volunteering with Chevy Chase At Home? Would you like to spend an hour or two each month assisting a local neighbor? We invite you to learn more about providing services to older adults in your neighborhood including friendly visits, rides to the grocery store or medical appointments, running an errand, tech help, minor repairs, and household tasks depending on your interests. Please contact us at info@chevychaseathome.org or (301) 657-3115 to learn more about volunteer opportunities with Chevy Chase At Home.

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

 This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Climate & Environment Committee Tip of the Month *Reduce, Reuse, RECYCLE*

Next time to you use your mixed-use recycling bin, leave the plastic bag behind: Just put your recycling directly into the bin. If you want to use a bag, put your recyclables in a paper bag and place that in the bin. Plastic bags are a major hinderance to recycling -- they can slow down or contaminate the process, or even jam the machinery at the recycling center. And some recycling places may just dump your whole bag of recycling right into a trash bin, undoing all your hard work! When it's time to recycle -- go bagless.



Reminder: Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Prohibited in Town

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).