

# September

**Monday, September 2**  
 Labor Day  
 Town office closed

**Wednesday, September 4**  
 Community Relations\*, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, September 5**  
 Climate & Environment\*, 6 p.m.  
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 Housing Symposium, 7 p.m.  
 see page 2

**Monday, September 9**  
 TOCC Book Club, 7 p.m.  
 see page 3

**Wednesday, September 11**  
 Town Council, 7 p.m.

**Friday, September 13**  
 TOCC Happy Hour, 5 p.m.  
 see page 3

**Monday, September 16**  
 Land Use\*, 7 p.m.  
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 Public Services\*, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 17**  
 Long-Range Planning\*, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, September 19**  
 Housing Speaker Series, 5:30 p.m.  
 see page 2

**Wednesday, September 25**  
 Housing Listening Session, 7 p.m.  
 see page 3

\*Town Committee Meeting



## The Critical Role of Resident Engagement in Shaping Our Town

As the cooling winds of September signal new beginnings -- from the start of a new school year to the excitement of a new football and election season -- there's a palpable sense of opportunity in the air.

In our Town, this spirit of renewal is shared by our Committees, Commissions, and Boards, which are eager to address the issues and concerns that impact our community. With over seventy-five dedicated volunteers offering their time, expertise, and passion, these groups form the backbone of our Town's governance, ensuring the needs and aspirations of all residents are met and preparing for future challenges and opportunities.

- The **Climate & Environment Committee**, co-chaired by Jessica Langerman and Maria Pekala, champions energy conservation and environmental stewardship.
- The **Community Relations Committee**, led by Tambra Leonard and Quynh Tran, fosters a strong sense of community through hosting various activities and events.
- The **Land Use Committee**, headed by Dedun Ingram, tackles residential development and redevelopment issues, providing thoughtful solutions.
- The **Long-Range Planning Committee**, under Ellen Cornelius Ericson, tracks emerging issues and monitors significant developments at both county and state levels.
- The **Public Services Committee**, chaired by Howard Berkof, focuses on addressing traffic and pedestrian safety as well as parking concerns.

Supported by the invaluable efforts of the **Elections Board**, chaired by Kirk Renaud; **Ethics Commission**, led by Chris White; **Water Board**, headed by Ken Rubin; and the **Chevy Chase Fire Board**, supported by Barbara Bryniarksi and Julie Trocchio, these volunteers ensure our Town remains a resilient, adaptable, and wonderful place to live.

Above all, community engagement is crucial for the success of our Town's initiatives. I encourage all residents to bring forward their ideas, participate in meetings, and contribute to policy development. Your insights help ensure our committees reflect the diverse perspectives and needs of our community. Feedback may influence decision-making and enhance the quality of life for everyone.

Here's to a fantastic start to the fall season!

– Mayor Irene Lane

## Town Council Meeting Scheduled for September 11

The Town Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 11 in the Town Hall and by Zoom video conference. The agenda for this meeting will be published on September 6. At this meeting, the Council will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance to amend Town regulations related to managing private vegetation that extends into the public rights-of-way. This ordinance would adopt a more relaxed clearance standard that allows minor encroachments over sidewalks to remain, as has been the Town's enforcement practice. The Town's accompanying vegetation management policy, which was approved by the Council in July, establishes the Town's new clearance standard as the Americans with Disabilities standard, which requires a minimum clear width of 3 feet to a height of 6.7 feet (80 inches). The Town intends to undertake a Town-wide enforcement campaign beginning in mid-September to ensure that Town sidewalks remain passable to the ADA standard.

## Opportunities to Engage on Attainable Housing Strategies

In September, there will be numerous opportunities to engage in discussions about the County's Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative (AHSI), which will rezone single family neighborhoods in the County to allow for the development of multifamily housing. We encourage residents to attend these meetings and presentations, review the presentation from the Town's June 13 Public Forum on AHSI ([bit.ly/AHSIPresentation](http://bit.ly/AHSIPresentation)), and to share their feedback with the County Council at [bit.ly/AHSIFeedback](http://bit.ly/AHSIFeedback).

## Attainable Housing Symposium with Marc Elrich, September 5

On September 5 at 7 p.m. by Zoom, the Montgomery County Civic Federation will host a symposium on the Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative (AHSI), now before the County Council. AHSI would eliminate single-family zoning in most of the county and allow multi-family homes to be built on single-family lots in most neighborhoods to increase housing supply.

Speakers for the symposium include County Executive Marc Elrich; Michele Rosenfeld, Land Use Attorney and former lead attorney for MNCPPC and Montgomery County Planning Board; and Dr. Glenn Orlin, experienced planner and engineer and former Deputy Staff Director for the Montgomery County Council. Please visit [www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org) for the Zoom link (under "Upcoming Events").

## Speaker Series on Attainable Housing, September 19

The second part of the Montgomery County Planning Board's three-part Speaker Series, "Housing Conversation: From Research to Reality," will be held on September 19. This session, entitled "A Tale from our Partners: Lessons Learned from the Trenches" will examine lessons learned from agencies that have already implemented attainable housing strategies. Hear from representatives from Oregon, St. Paul, MN, and Arlington, VA on their initiatives over the past five years to encourage more housing development. They'll talk about what worked, what didn't work, what they would do differently, and what advice they have to offer.

This session is open to the public and will be held in the M-NCPPC Wheaton Headquarters (2425 Reedie Drive, Second Floor Auditorium, Wheaton, MD) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. It will also be livestreamed on the Planning Board website and made available on-demand (visit [bit.ly/AHSISessions](http://bit.ly/AHSISessions)). The session includes a presentation and discussion as well as a time for questions and answers.

## County Council Listening Session on Multifamily Housing, September 25

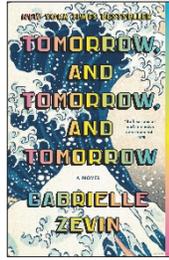
During September and October, Montgomery Planning staff and Montgomery County Planning Board members will host six community meetings across the county. County Council President Andrew Friedson and district Councilmembers aim to gather feedback on Attainable Housing Strategies.

There will be five in-person listening sessions held in each of the county's five regional service areas, **including at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center on September 25 at 7 p.m.**, followed by a virtual meeting. Visit [bit.ly/AHSIListening](http://bit.ly/AHSIListening) to sign up to attend a listening session. If you cannot attend any of them, you can give the Council your feedback online at [bit.ly/AHSIFeedback](http://bit.ly/AHSIFeedback).

These community meetings are part of the County Council's review of potential zoning modifications the Planning Board recommended to the Council in June that would allow property owners to have the option to build a wider range of housing types in areas of the county that for decades have only allowed one single-family detached home per lot.

## Book Club Meets Sept. 9

Our Town of Chevy Chase Book Club will meet Monday, September 9 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall to discuss *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin. Two friends become partners in designing video games, but it's not just about that. It explores love, identity, disability, failure, and premature fame. Sponsored by the Town's Community Relations Committee; all are welcome to attend the discussion.



## TOCC Happy Hour, Sept. 13

The Town's Community Relations Committee is hosting a happy hour event on Friday, September 13 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at World of Beer, 7200 Wisconsin Avenue, to kick off the fall season. Come by to meet other Town residents and enjoy a fun evening out. Complimentary appetizers while supplies last. The event is open to all.

## Enhanced Crosswalk Safety

In late July, the Maryland State Highway Administration completed installation of a new red-light signal at the crosswalk on East West Highway near Maple Avenue. In addition to the new traffic signal, other improvements include marked crosswalks, countdown pedestrian signals, and pedestrian signals activated by push buttons.



This improved signalization responds to the long-standing request of the Town of Chevy Chase and Edgevale communities to increase pedestrian safety along the corridor, especially given the opening of the Sleaford pedestrian underpass on the north side of East West Highway. We hope residents find this new crosswalk a much safer means to cross this busy state road. We have already received positive feedback!

## Fall Tree Planting Program

The Town is preparing its fall tree planting list. If you have a spot in your yard suitable for a tree, you might want to take advantage of the Town's Private Tree Planting Program.

Under this program, the Town will purchase and plant a tree on your property at no cost to you. The offerings under this program include understory and evergreen trees in addition to numerous canopy trees. Residents are responsible for the long-term care of the trees once installed. Request a private tree at [bit.ly/TOCCPrivateTree](http://bit.ly/TOCCPrivateTree).



You also may request a tree to be planted along the street in front of your home. Residents always will be consulted before a public tree is planted in front of their home. Once the trees are planted, the Town will care for them for the first year by ensuring that they are watered. Request a public tree at [bit.ly/TOCCPublicTree](http://bit.ly/TOCCPublicTree).

## Gas Leaf Blowers Prohibited

Gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLBs) are prohibited year-round in the Town. Residents can report violations of the ban to the Town at [townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org) or 301-654-7144.

## Do You Need a Permit?

As a reminder, many home improvement projects need a permit from the Town based on ordinances that have been established to promote safety, aesthetics, and the preservation of our community's character. Among other improvements, a Town permit is required if you plan to construct a building or addition, remove a tree, install a fence or retaining wall, address water drainage, install a pool, replace a driveway, or place a dumpster or storage unit. If in doubt, please contact the Town at [townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org) or 301-654-7144. Information about the Town's building and permitting regulations is on the Town's website ([www.townofchevyCHASE.org](http://www.townofchevyCHASE.org)).



**Trash & Treasures, October 19-20**  
*Recycling and Donation Opportunities Available*  
*Details in the October Forecast*



# A Message from the Public Services Committee

## *Back to School*

As we come back from summer vacations and families gear up for the start of school, the Public Services Committee wanted to remind all of us to be extra careful when driving in the Town as more children will be walking and biking to our local schools.

- **Students in Town.** We have nearly 900 children under the age of 19 living in the Town. Many of these students walk or bike to school or walk to a school bus stop. There are more than 450 students attending Chevy Chase Elementary School and more than 150 students attending the Oneness-Family Montessori School. Please observe all traffic rules, especially full stops at all STOP signs, look for pedestrians at all crosswalks, and adhere to the Town's speed limits and one-way streets.
- **Student Injuries.** Nationwide, more than 67,000 child pedestrians are injured and over 700 die each year. Let's not add to these appalling numbers!
- **Town Safety Measures.** Town safety officers direct more attention to the areas around Chevy Chase Elementary School and the Oneness-Family Montessori School during the hours when students are arriving and leaving. The Town also has installed two flashing Stop signs adjacent to CCES. We are all responsible for the safety of all residents. Please "Slow Down and Stop!"



## Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane  
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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