



Forecast

OCTOBER 2024

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Wednesday, October 2
Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 6
Theatre Discussion, 11 a.m.
see page 3

Monday, October 7
Land Use*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 9
Town Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 10
Climate/Environment*, 6 p.m.

Monday, October 14
Columbus Day
Town office closed

Tuesday, October 15
Flu Clinic, 2 p.m.
see page 2

Thursday, October 17
Long Range Planning*, 7 p.m.

October 19 & 20
Trash & Treasures
see page 3 and insert

Monday, October 21
Public Services*, 7:30 p.m.

TOCC Book Club, 7 p.m.
see page 2

Saturday, October 26
Halloween Party, 3 p.m.
see page 3

* Town Committee meeting

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

County Recommends Significant Increase in High-Rise Buildings in Bethesda

It is difficult to find a Town resident who doesn't have an opinion about the sharp rise in high-rise development in Bethesda since the Bethesda Downtown Plan was adopted in 2017. A key component of the master plan was to ensure that development would not exceed 32.4 million square feet, a limit known as the density cap. In exchange for this increase in density, neighborhood residents were promised public infrastructure projects such as the Purple Line, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and bike lanes as well as public amenities including more than a dozen new parks and a recreation center.

However, while many residents, commuters, and visitors have endured the ongoing construction, the delivery of public infrastructure upgrades -- aside from bike lanes -- has fallen behind.

Over 27 million square feet of office and residential space is "on the ground," and an additional 3 million square feet of development has been approved but not yet constructed. With only 2.4 million square feet remaining to be awarded, the County is now exploring options to raise the density cap by an additional 11 to 21 million square feet. This recommendation is aimed at addressing developers' concerns about the existing density cap and generating sufficient funding through impact taxes to deliver the infrastructure and public amenities promised in the original plan.

In response to these preliminary recommendations, my written testimony to the County Planning Board on September 19, on behalf of our Town Council, included the following recommendations:

- The new Bethesda Overlay Zone (BOZ) development cap should be based on comprehensive data analysis that accounts for current capacity of public infrastructure (i.e., water, sewer, electricity, stormwater drainage).
- Any increase in BOZ density must be directly tied to a detailed plan for the delivery of public infrastructure (i.e., schools, public transit) and public amenities (i.e., parks, recreational center).
- The tallest buildings should remain concentrated in Bethesda's downtown core and not encroach on surrounding residential neighborhoods.

The Town Council recognizes that robust infrastructure and public good amenities are essential to maintaining Bethesda's appeal for residents, businesses, and employees. We will continue to ask the tough questions to ensure that any proposed density increase aligns with responsible economic growth and smart development.

We encourage all residents to share their feedback with the Town Council by emailing townoffice@townofchevychase.org. Additionally, we will keep you informed about upcoming public meetings with County Planning officials as more details become available.

– Mayor Irene Lane

Town Council Meets on October 9

The Town Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 9 in the Town Hall and by Zoom video conference. The agenda for this meeting will be published on October 4. At this meeting, the Council will hold a **public hearing on Corso Chevy Chase's tree removal appeal**. More information on the appeal will be available on October 4 at bit.ly/CorsoCC. The Council also will discuss the status of the Bethesda Market Park project; the County's multifamily housing proposals; the effort to clarify State law related to municipal regulatory authority; and the latest developments in the County's consideration of increasing density in downtown Bethesda (see *Mayor's Message on page 1*).

Sidewalk Overgrown Vegetation Enforcement Has Begun

The Town is undertaking a Town-wide, street by street, effort to improve the usability and accessibility of Town sidewalks. The Town's extensive sidewalk network helps to make the Town pedestrian friendly, and, when it is usable, is a great asset of the Town. When sidewalks become obstructed by overhanging vegetation, pedestrians, including those pushing strollers or using walkers or wheelchairs, are forced into the street or onto the grass medians, and this is both dangerous and unacceptable.

The Town Council recently adopted a new standard for sidewalk clearance that does not require sidewalks to be unobstructed from edge to edge. Rather, the Council adopted a more reasonable and realistic policy that requires a clear travel path on sidewalks that meets the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Under the ADA, a clear travel path on a sidewalk must be at least 3 feet wide and at least 6.7 feet tall. Town staff has observed that in many places, vegetation violates either the required width or height requirement. The obstructing vegetation is comprised of private plantings and trees that project into the public right-of-way.

The Town's enforcement program has begun and will proceed in phases from the west side of Town. Initial letters will be sent to residents within a targeted area describing the need for sidewalk clearance and asking those residents whose vegetation obstructs sidewalks to clear such vegetation to the ADA standard within 30 days. After 15 days, the Town will review compliance in the targeted area and send letters to those whose vegetation continues to not meet the ADA clearance standard. If clearance is not achieved within 15 more days, the Town's contractor will be directed to trim any private plantings that do not meet the ADA accessibility requirement. At the same time, the Town will prune any public trees with low hanging branches that obstruct sidewalks and streets.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation. Please contact the Town Office at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org if you have any questions.

County RainScapes Program Now Accepting Applications

The County's RainScapes Rewards application portal (bit.ly/CountyRainScapes) reopened in mid-September. 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. For more information on the Town's program, visit bit.ly/TOCCRainScapes.

Leaf Collection to Begin in October



Leaf vacuuming will begin in late October. Vacuum trucks pick up continuously, street by street. A collection map is available at bit.ly/TOCCLeafMap. Leaves should be raked to the edge of the curb. Please make sure that your leaves are not contaminated by cans, sticks, bottles, or rocks.

Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Prohibited in Town

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

Round House Theatre Discussion Group, October 6



Theatre lovers, join the conversation! The Community Relations Committee, in cooperation with Round House Theatre (RHT), will sponsor discussions of each production in Round House's 2024-25 season (visit bit.ly/RHTStage). The theatre is at 4545 East West Highway, an easy walk from Town. Our conversations will be the final weekend of each run, so participants can see the show whenever they like. Depending on our numbers, we will meet either at the Town Hall or in a private home, with one meeting at the theatre. Mark your calendars, get your tickets, RSVP, enjoy the shows, and come share your reactions with neighbors.

The first RHT production is *Sojourners*, and the discussion group will meet on Sunday, October 6 at 11 a.m. Artistic Director Ryan Rillette will join us! RSVP at bit.ly/RHTOctober6 by October 2.

Town Flu Clinic, October 15

- Adventist HealthCare will give flu shots on **Tuesday, October 15 from 2 to 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.**
- Shots will be administered to anyone nine years of age and up.
- The cost for the standard vaccine for those without Medicare Part B is \$35.
- There is no charge if Medicare Part B is your primary insurance.
- Cash and checks (payable to LifeWork Strategies) are accepted.
- A high dose vaccine (\$80) is available for persons 65 years of age and older.



Please sign up for a flu shot at bit.ly/TOCCFluClinic by Friday, October 11.

CC@H Speaker Series with Michael Kazin, October 16

As we experience one of the most tumultuous election years in American history, join us for a talk with Michael Kazin who will provide us a broader historical context of how the Democratic Party -- the oldest mass party in the world -- has contended for power over the past two centuries. Michael is one the leading historians of the American political system. Michael's talk will be drawn from his recent book, *What It Took to Win: A History of the Democratic Party*. Visit bit.ly/CCHKazin for more information.

Trash & Treasures, October 19-20

The Town's fall Trash and Treasures is scheduled for the weekend of October 19-20. 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 October 18 or after 7 a.m. on October 21.

If you have items that can be recycled or repurposed, we encourage you to come to the Lawton Center on Saturday, October 19 for our **Community Recycling & Shredding event** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See *insert for details*.

TOCC Book Club Meets October 21

Our Town of Chevy Chase Book Club will meet Monday, October 21 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall to discuss *James* by Percival Everett. The book is retelling of Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn from the point of view of the enslaved Jim that is provocative, humorous, and enlightening. Sponsored by the Community Relations committee; all are welcome.

Halloween Party at the Park, October 26

Put on a costume and join the Community Relations Committee at the Lawton Center playground on Saturday, October 26 from 3 to 5 p.m. for a Halloween party! These parties are always exciting and fun, as well as a bit messy! We will provide candy and pumpkins for painting. All ages welcome! This event will be held rain or shine -- if raining, we will move to the Town Hall.



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



16th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets

see insert

 This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Climate & Environment Tip of the Month *Sustainable Fall Gardening*

What you plant and how you maintain your yard in the fall can make a great difference in how healthy it is and how it supports all the creatures and organisms that live in it, above it, and in the soil.

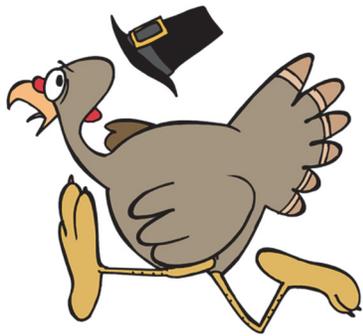


- Leaving fallen leaves on your beds along with spent perennials and some discrete piles of dead branches gives winter protection for insects and animals and provides nature's free fertilizer.
- Mowing leaves with a mulching mower improves the soil for a healthier lawn.
- Fall-blooming native plants such as Goldenrods or New England asters beautify while their nectar strengthens pollinators for the winter ahead.
- Fall planting of native shrubs and trees with berries such as Serviceberry or Winterberry will feed birds and other wildlife for years.
- Fall is a great time to deal with invasive and damaging English Ivy climbing up trees. It's easy to spot on barren branches. Clip at the base and in time it will die off and fall away.



Trash & Treasures, October 19-20
Recycling & Donation Opportunities Available
see insert





16th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Donations

Organized by
Town of Chevy Chase
Lawton Community Center

***Helping MCPS families in need through
YMCA Youth & Family Services Programs of Montgomery County***

This Thanksgiving, we can help 150 nearby Montgomery County Public School families in need with \$100 food gift cards from Giant and Aldi. The timetable for donations is the month of October, so school families will have the cards by mid-November for holiday food shopping.

The YMCA's youth and family services programs are helping more families than ever in our neighboring down-county schools. With food insecurity on the rise in Montgomery County, the holidays are especially challenging for many more MCPS families this year. In a small but very immediate way, we can help make a difference. Our neighborhood effort will bring holiday groceries to 150 MCPS children and their families this upcoming Thanksgiving weekend.

Thank you for your generous support in making this happen!

Here's how you can help! October 1 - October 31

- **Drop off/mail a check payable to YMCA-YFS or gift cards from Giant or Aldi** to Georgia Guhin (4006 Rosemary Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815) or to the Town Office during the month of October. If you would like us to pick up your donation, please contact one of us below. **Your donation of any amount will help purchase a \$100 food card for each of the 150 families.** 100% of your donation will support MCPS families in need. Additional funds contributed to this Town effort will purchase extra food cards. The YMCA is not able to accept online donations for this special project. You will receive an acknowledgement of your donation from the YMCA.
- **Have questions?** Send an email to Georgia Guhin (gbguhin@gmail.com); Bridget Hartman (bridget@hartmanjr.net); or the Town Office (townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org).



TRASH & TREASURES

The Town's fall Trash and Treasures is scheduled for the weekend of **October 19-20**. The Town offers this curbside bulk trash collection so that residents can dispose of items that are no longer usable. If the items are usable, **we encourage you to come to the Lawton Center on October 19 for our Community Recycling and Shredding event (see below)**.

- Please remember to bag, box, or contain all of your discards.
- Please do not put items at the curb before noon on Fri., October 18 or after 7 a.m. on Mon., October 21.
- The following items will not be collected as bulk trash: **construction debris; parts of automobiles, boats, or trailers; loose glass; firewood or fencing; paint cans; flammable or hazardous liquids or solids; recyclable items, including newspapers, mixed paper, cardboard, books, magazines, or plastic bins; shrubbery cuttings, yard clippings, leaves, or grass.**

At 7 a.m., Monday, October 21, a crew will begin clearing streets. Once a street has been cleared, the contractor will *not* return to that street. Residents who discard items after the street has been cleared will need to arrange for a special pickup. For more information, please email townoffice@townofchevychase.org.

COMMUNITY RECYCLING & SHREDDING EVENT

The following services will be provided on October 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lawton Center

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

Repurpose 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 sports 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.

Recycle Plastic Film: The Garden Club of Chevy Chase will collect plastic film, including grocery bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, plastic shopping envelopes, Ziploc and other reclosable food storage bags, cereal bags, case overwrap, salt bags, pellet wrap and stretch film, wood pellet bags, produce bags.

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

Other Repurposing Opportunities

Donate Furniture and Household Items

A Wider Circle collects gently used furniture and household items to donate to families in need. Accepted items include beds, clean mattresses, dressers, tables, chairs, living room furniture, bedding, dish sets, baby items, professional clothing, and children's clothing up to size 4T. Please email furnish@awidercircle.org or call 301-608-3504 to schedule a pick-up.

New Homes for Old Bikes

Bikes for the World collects bicycles and related material (parts, tools, and accessories) and delivers them at low cost to community development programs assisting the poor in developing countries. For more information and a list of drop off locations, visit www.bikesfortheworld.org.

Donate Building Supplies

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland (www.habitatmm.org; 301-990-0014) and *Community Forklift* (www.communityforklift.org; 301-985-5180) accept donations of building materials.