

Forecast

DECEMBER 2024

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Monday, December 2

Book Club, 7 p.m.

see page 3

Land Use*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4

Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 5

Climate/Environment*, 6 p.m.

Sunday, December 8

Holiday Sing Along, 4:45 p.m.

see page 3

Wednesday, December 11

Town Council, 7 p.m.

see page 2

Monday, December 16

Public Services*, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 21

Theatre Discussion, 10 a.m.

see page 3

December 23-25

Christmas Holiday

Town Office Closed

December 30-January 1

New Year's Holiday

Town Office Closed

* Town Committee meeting. See website for more information.

**Holiday Gift Drive &
Winter Clothing Drive**

see page 3

Holiday Cheer & Park Updates!

As the holiday season approaches, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. Whether you celebrate Bodhi Day, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or simply cherish the joy of gathering with loved ones, this season reminds us of the strength, resilience, and beauty of our community. Your kindness, collaboration, and dedication to making our Town a better place embody the very spirit of the holidays.

As we reflect on the past year, I am excited to share updates on two transformative projects that will enhance our shared spaces in the coming years: **Bethesda Market Park and Zimmerman Park.**

Bethesda Market Park

The design planning for the new Bethesda Market Park and the reimagined Elm Street Park is progressing beautifully (please see page 2 for the latest visual concept). These spaces will include:

- A vibrant farmer's market area
- Shaded pavilions and outdoor seating
- Serene areas for quiet reflection
- Lush lawns, plantings, and multiple play spaces for young and older children
- An interactive water feature and a games area
- Separate dog runs for small and large dogs
- A multigenerational climbing area

These features will make Bethesda Market Park and Elm Street Park a hub for connection, creativity, and recreation.

Zimmerman Park

At Zimmerman Park, enhancements are nearing completion. Updates include:

- Improved drainage and leveling to enhance usability
- Expanded sidewalks with a direct connection to the red-light pedestrian crosswalk at East-West Highway
- Upgraded walking trails
- New picnic area and bike storage
- Beautiful native landscaping that promotes sustainability and serenity

These improvements will ensure that Zimmerman Park remains a haven for relaxation and outdoor enjoyment for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support and for making our Town such an extraordinary place to call home. Let's carry the joy, generosity, and hope of the holiday season into the New Year as we work together to create an even brighter future.

From my family to yours, I wish you a happy holiday season and a joyful, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

– Mayor Irene Lane



The latest concept plan for a renovated Elm Street Park (left) and the new Bethesda Market Park (center and right)

Town Council Meets on December 11

At its December 11 meeting, the Town Council expects to hold a public hearing on a supplemental appropriation to provide screening along the Capital Crescent Trail adjacent to the Town. This screening will provide privacy for the residents on Elm Street where the elevated trail will be adjacent to their properties. The full scope of the project includes a two-foot-tall opaque screen to be placed at eye level on the fence along the trail on either side of the bridge over the Purple Line tracks. It also includes a similar screen on the 10-foot-high clear protective barrier to be installed on the bridge itself. Depending on the extent of screening that the Town decides to pursue, the price range for the project is between \$212,000 and \$574,000. Renderings of the proposed improvements and a detailed cost estimate are available for review at bit.ly/CCTScreen. More details will be provided in the December meeting agenda, which will be published on December 6.

Other matters that the Council will discuss and consider at its December meeting include the Bethesda Market Park development project; the County's proposed Attainable Housing Strategies; and proposed clarifications to state law concerning municipal regulatory authority. If you are unable to attend the December meeting, you may provide comments by email to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Leaf Collection Ends on December 20

Leaf vacuuming will continue through December 20. Please rake leaves to the edge of the curb for collection and ensure that your leaves are not contaminated by cans, sticks, bottles, or rocks. After collection ends, leaves should be placed in paper bags or in reusable containers for yard trash recycling. Please remember and remind your contractors that gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLBs) are prohibited year-round in the Town.



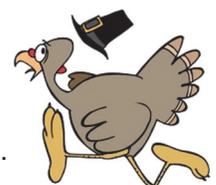
Preparations for Winter Weather

The Town's Winter Weather Preparedness flyer is available on the homepage of the Town website. We would like to remind residents that, in the event or threat of a snowstorm or icy road conditions, cars must be parked either in driveways or on the even-numbered side of the street (unless otherwise posted) to ensure sufficient passage for the snow removal trucks. Also, please note that the Town's contractor will remove snow from public sidewalks if accumulations total 6 inches or more. Otherwise, residents are responsible for clearing the sidewalks adjacent to their homes within 24 hours after precipitation has ended. Thank you for your cooperation.



Thanksgiving Thanks!

To all who contributed to this year's 16th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner effort, a heartfelt thanks. All 150 Montgomery County families will receive \$100 grocery gift cards to shop for a holiday dinner and have extra food over the Thanksgiving school break. Thank you for your incredible generosity and support!



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

TOCC Book Club Meets December 2

Our Town of Chevy Chase Book Club will meet December 2 at 7 p.m. to discuss *Table for Two*, by Amor Towles. The tone of these stories is reminiscent of *Gentleman in Moscow*! We will meet at the home of Marjorie Shaw on 6917 Maple Avenue. Join us for discussion, wine, and snacks.

Holiday Sing-Along Through Town, December 8



On Sunday, December 8 from 4:45 to 7 p.m., neighbors of all ages are invited to walk through the Town singing the songs of the season. Starting point: the Lawton Center. Details about the route and song list to come -- check the Weekly Town Updates and the listserv. No need to RSVP but remember to wear headlamps and reflective clothing (if possible). Rain date: December 15.

Round House Theatre Discussion, December 21

The Town's next theatre discussion group meeting will be Saturday December 21 at 10 a.m. We'll talk about Round House Theatre's world premier presentation of *A Hanukkah Carol, or Gelt Trip! The Musical*. The meeting location will be sent to all who RSVP by December 18 to bit.ly/RHTDecember21. Mark your calendars, get your tickets for a performance of your choice, RSVP, enjoy the show, and come share your reactions with neighbors.

Discussion & Dessert: Cybersecurity, January 9

Just because the holiday season is over doesn't mean cyberattacks will go down! On Thursday, January 9 from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Town Hall, hear from one of our own -- Town resident Brian Geffert, former Global Chief Information Security Officer at KPMG, and current leader of 3M's Cyber Defense team. Learn how to protect against cyber scams, identify red flags, and combat these threats.

Holiday Gift Card Drive for Domestic Violence Victims

For over a decade the Town's Community Relations Committee has conducted a holiday gift drive for survivors of domestic violence and their families. Generous neighbors have helped families struggling with the pernicious effects of domestic violence and trying to make ends meet. The deadline for the holiday gift drive is Wednesday, December 18, but donations will be accepted gratefully any time.

Here's what you can do: 1) **Donate online** (bit.ly/MCFJC) and by **Venmo** (@MCFJCF); 2) **Write checks** of any amount to "FJC Foundation"; 3) **Donate gift cards** in denominations of \$10 to \$50 from stores such as Target, Marshalls, Kohl's, Safeway, Giant or CVS. Checks and gift cards can be dropped off at the Town office during normal business hours. Thank you for your generosity!

Winter Clothing Drive Continues Thru February 28

Please donate clean, gently used or never used warm coats, gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, sweaters, pants and socks to those in need. Also needed are waterproof warm winter wear, for those who are outside in the cold rain or snow. Clothing donation boxes are located in the Town Hall and on the front porch of Marjorie Shaw and Barney Rush at **6917 Maple Avenue** (between Stanford and Pine Place).

Calling Town Authors!

Have you published a novel, short story collection, memoir, poetry collection, or nonfiction book? The Community Relations Committee is considering organizing a *Town of Chevy Chase Book Festival* sometime in 2025, and we are now trying to gauge potential interest. The goal is to bring together writers and readers and to celebrate the local writing community.

We envision a 2-4-hour event on a weekend afternoon or evening in the Town Hall. Possible activities: panel discussions, short readings, book signings and sales, and refreshments. If you're an author interested in participating, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Dian Seidel by December 15 at dian.seidel@gmail.com. Send your name and the title, genre, and publication date of your book.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Gaithersburg, MD
Permit No. 418

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.

Tips from the Climate & Environment Committee

Has our unusually warm fall (and the devastating storms elsewhere in the US) got you thinking about climate change? We all can take steps to reduce the adverse impact of fossil fuels by going electric. Here are some actions anyone can take NOW to make a real difference:

1. Visit bit.ly/IRA-Calc to find out about financial incentives available through the federal Inflation Reduction Act for electrifying your home.
2. Visit bit.ly/Electrify-MC for information about electric appliances and credits available (or call 301-830-5767 or email ElectrifyMC@ElsianEnergy.com) and Montgomery Energy Connection (montgomeryenergyconnection.org) for incentives.
3. Consider buying an electric car or hybrid (plug in) electric car.
4. Request from Pepco a "Quick Home Energy Assessment" for free, or, for \$100, a more comprehensive "Home Energy Audit." Visit bit.ly/PEPCOESP.
5. Get an estimate to install solar panels on your roof (free estimates available from most providers, including Tesla Solar).
6. Join a community solar project -- for information, visit bit.ly/PEPCOCSP.
7. Install a smart thermostat.
8. Consider getting an estimate for an all-electric home, with Tesla shingles that will power an entire house and a car.
9. Don't overlook simple things such as improving your home insulation to reduce electricity usage.

