



Forecast

JANUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



January 1

New Year's Day
Town office closed

Thursday, January 2

Climate/Environment*, 6 p.m.

Monday, January 6

Land Use*, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 7

Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 8

Town Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, January 9

Discussion & Desserts, 7 p.m.
see page 3

Monday, January 13

TOCC Book Club, 7 p.m.
see page 3

Thursday, January 16

Long Range Planning*, 7 p.m.

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Town office closed

Public Services*, 7 p.m.

Sunday, January 26

Discussion & Desserts, 4 p.m.
see page 3

Thursday, January 30

TOCC Happy Hour, 5:30 p.m.
see page 3

* Town Committee meeting

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

Priorities for the Year Ahead

January brings a sense of renewal and optimism, a time to embrace fresh beginnings and reflect on the opportunities ahead. As we welcome 2025, I want to share updates on key initiatives that will shape the future of our vibrant Town.

Addressing Attainable Housing Legislation

The County Council has yet to propose a Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) to update housing types permitted in single-family neighborhoods. The Planning Board's recommendations to the County Council include allowing duplexes and triplexes by right and permitting quadplexes by right within one mile of Metro or future Purple Line stations. They also suggested allowing administrative review of plans for apartment buildings with fewer than 19 units on lots within 500 feet of Growth Corridors such as Connecticut and Wisconsin avenues. The County Council may decide to pursue some or all of these recommendations. In the meantime, Town residents have voiced diverse perspectives, ranging from full support to opposition. While we await a ZTA, the Town Council is focusing on clarifying our municipal regulatory authority to ensure that our building regulations apply to any housing type.

Advancing the Bethesda Market Park Development

This transformative project encompasses a mixed-use residential and retail building, a revitalized Farm Women's Market, a 200-space underground parking garage, and the conversion of two surface parking lots into urban parks. A Public/Private Partnership, including Montgomery Parks, MCDOT, EYA/Bernstein Management, and the Town, is driving the development of the garage and parks. Site plan submission is expected this spring, with plan approval anticipated in the fall. Permitting would then follow.

Updating Water Drainage Regulations

With the increasing intensity and frequency of rainstorms, the Land Use Committee is examining the impact of backyard impervious surface coverage. The committee will recommend updates to Town regulations aimed at further reducing runoff onto neighboring properties, enhancing resilience, and protecting our community.

Enhancing Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

The Town Council will continue to address traffic and pedestrian safety at key intersections and will evaluate options for expanded permitted or zoned parking to address impacts from increased development on our borders.

Stay tuned for more updates in future Forecast newsletters and Town Crier messages, and please continue to share your ideas, questions, and feedback with us. Together, we can ensure these initiatives are thoughtful and aligned with our shared vision for the Town.

Here's to a productive and fulfilling year ahead!

– Mayor Irene Lane

Town Council Meets on January 8

At its January 8 meeting, the Town Council will discuss options for regulating electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the Town rights-of-way and, if EV charging stations are allowed by some means, conditions and standards for installation. The Council also will discuss the Planning Board's ongoing review of the Bethesda Downtown Plan Minor Master Plan Amendment (MMPA). In early 2025, the County Council is expected to review and approve the MMPA, which could remove the density cap in downtown Bethesda. Additionally, the Council will discuss Town permit parking regulations and data needed to assess changes to the current system. If you are unable to attend the January meeting, you may provide comments by email to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. The meeting agenda will be published on January 3.

Leaf Collection Has Ended

Leaves should now be placed in paper bags or in reusable containers for yard waste collection on Mondays.

Notes & Reminders

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

The Town offers curbside collection of Christmas trees. All wire, ornaments and tinsel must be removed. Please place the tree at the curb for yard waste collection on Mondays.

Preparations for Winter Weather

The Town's "Preparations for Winter Weather" flyer is available on the homepage of the Town website under *Quick Links*. 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. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please Shovel Your Sidewalk

Following inclement weather, it is important to ensure that the sidewalk adjacent to your home is cleared of snow and ice. The Town will clear public sidewalks when snow accumulates to 6 inches or more or when icy conditions warrant. If snow accumulation is less than 6 inches, you are responsible for clearing the sidewalk. If you are away from Town or unable to clear your walks, please arrange for the sidewalk adjacent to your home to be cleared. And please be sure to monitor and treat sidewalks for icy conditions caused by thawing/freezing precipitation in the days following winter storms. If you need assistance clearing snow from sidewalks and private property, please visit bit.ly/TOCCSnowRemoval.

Please Clean Up After Your Pet and Obey County Leash Laws

The Town office receives ongoing complaints about the improper disposal of dog waste and unleashed dogs. The Town has installed numerous dog waste stations around the Town, and a map can be found on the Town website. Also, 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.



Connect with the Town & Neighbors

Residents are encouraged to connect with the Town and fellow residents by signing up on the Town website for the Town Crier email alert system (bit.ly/Crier) and the private Town Neighbors listserv (bit.ly/TNeighbors). Both resources offer an important way to stay informed and in touch.

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. CC@H is part of the nationwide "village" movement built on a model of neighbors helping neighbors. You can learn more at www.chevy Chaseathome.org.

Correspondence with the Town is Public Information

The Town wants to remind residents that any correspondence with the Town is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Please be mindful of any sensitive comments or information you include in emails or letters to the Town.

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

Discussion and Desserts – Cyber Scams, January 9

Just because the holiday season is over doesn't mean cyberattacks will go down! Please join the Community Relations Committee on Thursday, January 9 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall for a talk by Town resident Brian Geffert on "New Year, New Threats: How to Stay Ahead of Cyber Scams in 2025." Brian is 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. Desserts and wine will be served. Please RSVP to bit.ly/DDCyberScams by January 7.

TOCC Book Club, January 13

Our Town of Chevy Chase Book Club will meet Monday, January 13 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall to discuss *Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson. A woman born in 1910 England dies and is born again, through many lives, highlighting the huge effects of tiny causes in the course of two world wars. All are welcome.

Discussion and Desserts – Winter Birds, January 26

Join your neighbors on Sunday, January 26 at 4 p.m. in the Town Hall for a talk by Town resident Chris Wright on "Frenzy at the Feeder, Winter Birds of Chevy Chase." Chris has birded throughout the United States and is a long-time participant in local and national bird organizations. He rose to local birding fame in 2021 with his Zoom presentation "Yard Birds of Chevy Chase." In this program, Chris will tell the stories of birds that choose to spend the winter with us rather than migrate to warmer places. This program is in-person, but we will try to add a Zoom option. Please RSVP to bit.ly/DDBirds by Friday January 24 so we know how many desserts to have available!



Tiki Time Happy Hour, January 30



Beat the winter blues with Tiki Time in Town! It's the perfect time to think of Polynesian sunsets, warm breezes, island music, and especially tiki drinks. Tiki is America's hottest cocktail trend -- and Chevy Chase is where it's at! Join us for Happy Hour from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 30 at The House of Foong Lin's Tiki Night with epic tiki style drinks, including Mai Tais and Flaming Volcano Bowl -- all at Happy Hour pricing. Complimentary appetizers while supplies last. Located just outside the Town at 4613 Willow Lane. Don't worry if you don't have your own Hawaiian shirt as they have them on site -- plus, fun music and decor!

RSVP for February 23 Chili Dinner & Sign Up to Help!

The Town will hold its popular Chili Dinner on Sunday, February 23 at 5 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Lawton Community Center. Dinner will include chili and hot dogs (including vegetarian and vegan options), sides, and desserts. Also, the Town will continue its support of the Manna Food Center, so please don't forget your checks, cash, or Venmo app to help feed families in the County. As always, chili will be served by Community Relations Committee members, but we need additional volunteers. If you can help, please let us know when you RSVP by February 16 to bit.ly/tocccchili.



Winter Clothing Drive Continues Thru February



Did you get a nice warm coat or sweater as a holiday gift? There are people who could use your last year's clothes. Interfaith Works provides free clothing to thousands of Montgomery County families. 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. Collection boxes are located in the Town Hall and on the front porch of Marjorie Shaw and Barney Rush at 6917 Maple Avenue (between Stanford Street and Pine Place).

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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Stay Car Smart This Winter A Tip from the Public Services Committee

Winter driving comes with its own set of challenges, so here are some quick and easy tips to help you stay car smart:

- **Avoid Sideswipes:** Push in your driver's side mirror when parked on the street.
- **Prevent Vehicle Theft:** Always close and lock windows and doors when you park, choose well-lit areas, or consider installing a motion-sensor light for your driveway. Never leave your car running unattended, and keep keys or fobs out of sight and away from your vehicle.
- **Protect Your Valuables:** Stow away any items of value before leaving your car.
- **Know What to Do:** If you experience a hit-and-run or theft, file a police report and consult your insurance agent about coverage.



Taking these simple precautions can help keep you and your car safe this winter!