



Forecast

FEBRUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Wednesday, February 5
Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 6
Climate/Environment*, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, February 12
Town Council, 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 16
Theatre Discussion, 11 a.m.
see page 3

Monday, February 17
Presidents' Day
Town office closed

Land Use*, 7 p.m.
Public Services*, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 20
Long Range Planning*, 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 23
Chili Dinner, 5 p.m.
see page 3

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

Save the Date

Monday, March 10, 7 p.m.
TOCC Book Club
see page 3

Saturday, April 5, 1 p.m.
TOCC Solar Fest
see page 3

Town Committee Priorities and Opportunities for Engagement

While Town Council decisions often take center stage, our Town committee members are driving impactful initiatives that deserve recognition too. I want to spotlight the priorities for each committee for the rest of the fiscal year and invite residents to engage with these important efforts by attending the committees' monthly meetings.

Climate & Environment Committee

- Launch the "Beautifying with Nature" program to promote sustainable landscaping practices on private property.
- Survey residents on sustainable practices, including electrification, solar energy, sustainable landscaping, recycling, and composting.
- Organize a "Solar Awareness" event to share information on available options and incentives.

Community Relations Committee

- Enhance and personalize the information shared with new Town residents by creating a modern, engaging welcome package. This should inspire them to get involved, explore Town government programs, and subscribe to the Town Crier for the latest updates and events.

Land Use Committee

- Submit a comprehensive report on water drainage ordinance revisions to the Town Council that aims to address the increased frequency and severity of storm events.
- Develop actionable recommendations to limit hardscape.
- Update building codes to address challenges identified by staff.

Long Range Planning Committee

- Review and refine the Bethesda Market design plans by incorporating resident feedback and ensuring Town Council input is accurately represented.
- Assess the impact of new housing projects under the State Housing Expansion Law (effective January 1, 2025) and consider the implications of lifting the Bethesda Overlay Zone development cap.

Public Services Committee

- Evaluate traffic and pedestrian safety concerns related to the Corso development and Bethesda Market Park redevelopment and provide actionable recommendations to the Town Council.
- Address resident concerns about traffic safety, focusing on vehicular safety at the hill on Stanford Street, safety improvements along Bradley Lane, and enforcement of stop sign compliance.
- Consider updates to the Town's permit parking policy.

Your participation and feedback are critical to our community's success. Join us at our monthly committee meetings to share your insights and help shape the future of our Town.

– Mayor Irene Lane

Town Council Meets February 12

At its February 12 meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on an ordinance to amend the Town building code. The proposed amendments clarify applicability of Town building regulations and make technical corrections. A copy of the proposed ordinance will be included in the meeting agenda, which will be published on February 7.

At this meeting, the Council also will discuss and possibly introduce an ordinance to prevent charging cords and cables in Town rights-of-way. This applies to all charging cords and cables that pose a trip hazard or other public safety concern; and while the Code could be read to currently prohibit cords and cables, the proposed amendment expressly prohibits them. Additionally, the Council will consider and possibly adopt a resolution to establish permit standards and conditions for EV charging stations in the rights-of-way if a variance is approved by the Council for the same.

If you are unable to attend the February Council meeting, you may provide comments on any subject by emailing the Town office at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Please Help Clear Town Sidewalks of Snow & Ice

This season, we have already experienced more precipitation and freezing temperatures than in the past two winters combined. While the Town's contractor clears snow from public sidewalks only when accumulations reach **6 inches or more**, it is critical that all residents do their part to support the Town's efforts by promptly clearing and treating sidewalks adjacent to their properties. Timely action not only ensures faster snow and ice removal but also reduces the need for excessive ice-melting salt, benefiting both safety and the environment.



Residents are required to clear sidewalks bordering their property within **24 hours** of the precipitation ending. Additionally, homeowners are **always responsible** for clearing snow and ice from private walkways and driveways. For assistance, the Town website lists several companies that offer snow removal services (bit.ly/TOCCSnowRemoval). By acting quickly and responsibly, residents help keep our community safe and accessible for everyone. Thank you for doing your part!

Zimmerman Park Improvements Update

The Town is nearing completion of initial improvements to Zimmerman Park; however, the work has been delayed due to recent winter weather. The improvements include drainage enhancements to the large lawn; a pathway from the Lee Dennison Sustainable Garden to the crosswalk at East West Highway; and a picnic table, benches, trash receptacles, and a bike rack. Following completion of this work, new landscape plantings will be installed. In the spring, the Council will consider additional amenities, including a fence in the large lawn. The Town has used a state Program Open Space grant to fund 75% of this project, totaling \$337,500. The Town expects to spend approximately \$112,500 in Town funds for this project.



RainScapes Supplemental Rebate Program

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. Residents who wish to take advantage of this Town program should **sign up to participate in County's RainScapes program** by visiting bit.ly/CountyRainScapes.



If you need assistance identifying a suitable RainScapes project for your property, you may sign up on the Town website to participate in the Town's Consulting Water Management Program, wherein the Town's consulting engineer will visit your property and provide a written report with recommendations on improving water drainage and runoff, including recommendations for RainScapes-eligible projects. After completing a RainScapes project, a homeowner should submit copies of project receipts and a copy of the paid County rebate receipt to the Town to receive the supplemental rebate.

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

Round House Theater Discussion, February 16

The Town's next theatre discussion group meeting will be Sunday, February 16 at 11 a.m. We'll talk about Round House Theatre's presentation of *What the Constitution Means to Me*. The meeting location will be sent to all who RSVP by February 12 to bit.ly/RHTFebruary16.

Mark your calendars, get your tickets for a performance of your choice, RSVP, enjoy the show, and come share your reactions with neighbors.



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 (@TOCCFriends) 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/toccchili.

Winter Clothing Drive Continues Thru February

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. Collection boxes are located in the Town Hall and on the front porch of Marjorie Shaw and Barney Rush, at **6917 Maple Avenue** (between Maple and Pine Place).

Holiday Gift Card Drive Sets a Record Thanks to You!

The Family Justice Center extends heartfelt gratitude to Town residents for their incredible generosity during the holiday gift drive, supporting survivors of domestic violence and their families.

This year, residents contributed over \$8,800 -- a remarkable 27% increase from last year. For those who still wish to contribute, you may: 1) Donate online (bit.ly/MCFJCF) and by Venmo (@MCFJCF); 2) Write checks of any amount to "FJC Foundation"; and 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 regular business hours.

A special thank you to Cathy Wolf and Quynh Tran for their outstanding efforts in organizing this initiative on behalf of the Town. Your kindness and support truly make a difference!

Save the Date

TOCC Book Club, March 10

The Book Club will meet on March 10 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. Our book selection is *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. It explores a woman's experience in the depression era Oklahoma dust bowl and was selected as Best Book of the Year (2021) by a number of critics. All residents are welcome.

TOCC Solar Fest, April 5

Learn how rooftop and community solar can help you save on your electric bill and protect the climate. Begins at 1 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Town of Chevy Chase

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This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Compost for Your Garden

A Message from the Climate and Environment Committee

Though snow still blankets the ground, spring is just around the corner, and your garden will soon be bursting to life. Now is the perfect time to prepare your soil for a thriving season of growth. An easy and effective way to enrich your soil is by taking advantage of the Town's composting service through Compost Crew.

Instead of tossing food scraps, simply place them in a free compost bin provided by the service. These bins are collected weekly, making composting hassle-free. Even better, between February and October, you can request **FREE compost** through your Compost Crew account to mix into your garden soil -- effortlessly nourishing your plants throughout spring, summer, and fall.



Composting offers more than just healthier plants. It's a powerful way to reduce food waste in landfills, where it produces methane -- a major contributor to global warming. Plus, it's a simple, hands-on opportunity to teach kids about sustainability and caring for the planet. Get started today! Scan the QR code or visit <https://compostcrew.com/chevychase/> for more information and to sign up for the Town's composting program.