



Forecast

MARCH 2025

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Monday, March 3

Land Use*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5

Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 6

Climate/Environment*, 6 p.m.

Monday, March 10

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

Wednesday, March 12

Town Council, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 14

Tequila Tasting, 6 p.m.
see page 3

Monday, March 17

Public Services*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 20

Long Range Planning*, 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 30

Puzzle Palooza, 3 p.m.
see page 3



Saturday, April 5

Go Solar Eco-Fest, 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 27

Town Book Festival, 2 p.m.
see page 3

* Town Committee meeting

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

Shape Our Future: Step Up and Serve on the Town Council

Serving as a Town Councilmember and Mayor has been an incredibly fulfilling experience. Every day, I have the opportunity to work alongside our dedicated Town Staff and community members to improve the quality of life in our Town. From addressing pressing local issues to celebrating our community's successes, I find great satisfaction in being part of a team that is committed to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and progressive environment for all residents.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this role is the chance to connect with residents and hear firsthand about their hopes, concerns, and ideas. It is through these interactions that I gain a deeper understanding of our Town's needs and how we can work together to address them. Whether I'm collaborating with local elected leaders, attending community events, or engaging in policy discussions, every experience reinforces my belief in the power of collective action and the importance of transparent, responsive local government.

I encourage residents who are passionate about living in the Town and eager to make a meaningful impact to apply their professional experiences and skills by serving on the Town Council. This role not only empowers you to shape the future of our community, but it also offers an exceptional opportunity for both personal and professional growth. For more details, please refer to the Council Election 2025 insert. Nominating petitions are due Tuesday, April 15.

If you're ready to roll up your sleeves and work for the betterment of our community, I invite you to join us on this rewarding journey.

– Mayor Irene Lane

Trash & Treasures, April 26-27



Recycling and Donation Opportunities Available
Details in the April Forecast



Town Council Meets March 12

The Town Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on March 12 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall and by Zoom video conference. At this meeting, the Council will hold a public hearing on an ordinance to expressly prohibit charging cords and cables in Town rights-of-way (across sidewalks, etc.) to address tripping hazards and other public safety concerns. The draft ordinance will be available for review as part of the meeting agenda to be distributed via Town Crier on March 7. At the March 12 meeting, the Council also will discuss the Bethesda Market Park project, Zimmerman Park redevelopment progress, and legislative updates from the current Maryland General Assembly session. Residents are welcome to attend this meeting in person or by [Zoom](#).

FY26 Budget Development and Adoption

At its meeting on March 12, the Town Council will hold a special public comment period to hear from residents about next year's budget and which new or ongoing initiatives they would like to see funded. Following this meeting, the Council will hold a work session on March 27 at 5 p.m. by Zoom to review and approve the proposed budget that the staff and Treasurer have prepared. There will be a public hearing on, and adoption of, the final proposed budget at the Annual Meeting on May 6. Throughout the budget development process, the Council will consider suggestions from residents about what programs they would like funded in next year's budget. Please send suggestions to bit.ly/TOCCBudget.

Workforce Housing ZTA

On February 4, Councilmembers Andrew Friedson and Natali Fani-Gonzalez, joined by four co-sponsors, including Council President Kate Stewart, introduced ZTA 25-02, known as the More Housing N.O.W. (New Options for Workers) legislation. This proposal would allow the development of duplexes, triplexes, townhouses, and apartment buildings up to 40 feet in height through an optional development method along designated corridors. Within the Town, the designated corridors include Connecticut Avenue and East West Highway. Town residents are invited to join Councilmember Friedson for a discussion on the More Housing N.O.W. proposal on Monday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m. at **Kensington Town Hall** located at 3710 Mitchell Street in Kensington or [online via Zoom](#). Additionally, a County Council Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11.

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.

Clean Up After Your Pet, Obey Leash Laws, and Control Barking

The Town office receives ongoing complaints about the improper disposal of dog waste, unleashed dogs, and barking dogs. The Town has installed numerous dog waste stations around the Town, and a map can be found on the Town website. 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. Also, please note that a dog may not cause noise that is loud and persistent enough to disturb another person's quiet enjoyment. To report an animal creating a noise disturbance, please contact the Office of Animal Services via the police non-emergency number, 301-279-8000.



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

TOCC Book Club, March 10

Our Town 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.



Tequila Tasting, March 14



Sip, savor, and explore at another evening tasting brought to you by the Community Relations Committee. This time we will be learning about Tequila, produced from the blue agave. Join us Friday, March 14, at 6 PM for a guided journey through the three main styles of Mexico's iconic spirit. An expert from Calvert Woodley will lead the tasting while you enjoy delicious snacks. Space (and Tequila) is limited, so don't wait to RSVP to bit.ly/TOCCTequilaTasting before March 10th!

Puzzle Palooza, March 30

Calling all puzzle enthusiasts! Join us for a Puzzle Palooza at the Town Hall on March 30 from 3–5 PM. Bring a puzzle to swap, enjoy some tasty snacks, and connect with fellow puzzle lovers in the neighborhood. You'll also have a chance to work on a jigsaw puzzle at the event—whether you prefer edge pieces first or diving right into the middle, all puzzling styles are welcome!

This is a great opportunity to refresh your puzzle collection, make new friends, and enjoy a relaxed afternoon of fun. All ages and skill levels are welcome. We hope to see you there! Please RSVP to bit.ly/TOCCPuzzlePalooza by Friday, March 28 with names, specifying ages (for kids 12 and younger) so we can plan accordingly.



Go Solar EcoFest – April 5



Been thinking about solar energy for your home, but need more info?

Join the Climate and Environment Committee on Saturday, April 5 from 1-3 PM in the Town Hall for its second annual EcoFest. This year's EcoFest will focus on solar energy and help Town residents learn about two options, both of which can save you money and fight climate change by reducing your use of fossil fuels:

- **Rooftop solar** utilizing [Switch Together](#), a program sponsored by Montgomery County which provides group buying discounts and pre-vetted installers.
- **Community solar** for those who can't or don't want to install rooftop solar. Customers subscribe to the green energy produced by a local solar farm with permanent savings over Pepco rates.

The EcoFest will have 3 elements:

- **1:00 PM Listen** to an “electrifying” and informative overview of both the rooftop solar and community solar options and how you'll save money.
- **1:30 PM Ask** questions of a panel consisting of a solar professional, a solar installer, a community solar company rep and Town neighbors who are already utilizing the solar options.
- **2:00 PM Visit tables** to pick up helpful literature and have conversations with panel members.

Climate-friendly refreshments will be served!

To RSVP for the event (optional but helpful for planning), visit bit.ly/GoSolarEcoFest.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Town Book Festival, April 27

The Town of Chevy Chase is chock full of authors! The Town Book Festival on Sunday April 27, 2-5 pm, is your opportunity to meet more than a dozen neighbors who have published works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry and to learn about their books and writing journeys. The afternoon is sponsored by the Community Relations Committee and will include moderated panel discussions, book sales and signings, time to schmooze, and light refreshments. RSVP by April 20 at bit.ly/TOCCBookFestival.

More information about all of these events will be in subsequent newsletters and on Town Crier.

Town of Chevy Chase

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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.

Traffic Enforcement Update by the Public Services Committee



Below is a list of the traffic enforcement methods the Town Council has implemented to enforce traffic regulations. Many residents have urged more strict enforcement, however, within the limits of the Town's authority, these are the remedies that currently exist:

- **Police coverage.** The Town employs off-duty Montgomery County police officers, for an average of 17 hours each day, to provide traffic and parking enforcement, respond to crimes and other incidents, and identify and report safety issues, including streetlight outages. Coverage is increased during the afternoons and around schools within the Town.
- **Radar speed boards.** The Town has deployed 2 radar sign boards (1 stationary and 1 mobile). The data show that the boards do cause drivers to slow down. The Town can locate the mobile board in different places where speeding has been observed.
- **LED stop signs.** The Town has deployed 9 LED Stop signs as a more visible reminder to STOP.
- **Speed humps, stop signs, one way streets, restrictions during rush hour.** These methods also contribute to traffic safety. Residents may request LED Stop signs, radar speed signs, speed humps, and traffic control signs by petition to the Town. More information is at <https://www.townofchevy Chase.org/143/Streets-Sidewalks>

State and county law currently prohibit the Town from implementing speed cameras or photo-enforcement of Stop signs.

Tip of the Month: As we put winter into the rearview mirror, we'd like to remind residents to walk on the sidewalks and not in the streets. For everyone's safety, leave the streets to vehicles and bicycles and stroll along the 20 miles of sidewalks in the Town!

COUNCIL ELECTION 2025

TOWN ELECTION

The Town's 2025 election is Tuesday, May 6. Town residents will select two candidates in the 2025 election, each to serve on the Council for a 2-year term. The terms of Stephanie Martz and Joy White expire in May.

Balloting will be undertaken by mail and drop box only. At least 2 weeks before the election, the Town's election service provider will mail a ballot, a ballot envelope, and a return envelope to each eligible voter. In order for a resident's vote to be counted, return envelopes must either be mailed by May 6 and received by May 13 or placed in the drop box outside the Town Hall by 5 p.m. on May 6.

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for office, a candidate must be a citizen of the United States; be at least 16 years old; have resided in the Town for at least one year immediately preceding the election; and be a registered voter of the State of Maryland in Montgomery County. (Prospective voters who are at least 16 years old may register to vote with the state although they may not vote in state or federal elections until age 18.)

CANDIDATE NOMINATING PROCEDURES

To be designated as a candidate on the printed ballot, a resident must submit a nominating petition to the Town office before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, the 3rd Tuesday preceding the election. A nominating petition is available on the reverse side of this insert and on the Town website. A candidate for office is not required to use this form but must submit a petition containing the same information on the Town's form in order for the individual's name to be placed on the ballot. The nominating petition must show the consent of the individual to become a candidate and hold office, and it must be supported by five qualified voters of the Town other than the candidate.

Nominators may indicate their support by sending an email to the Town office. The email should state, "I hereby nominate (name) of (address) as a candidate for the Town Council of the Town of Chevy Chase." All nominating emails must contain the name and address of the nominator. The Election Board shall verify the qualifications of the nominees and the documentation submitted to support nominating petitions after 5 p.m. on April 15. Nominating petitions are public documents and are subject to public inspection.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

To be qualified for election, a write-in candidate must submit a certificate of candidacy to the Town office before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, the 7th calendar day preceding the election. A Town resident seeking election to the Town Council as a write-in candidate must use the Town's official certificate of candidacy, which is available on the Town website. The printed ballot will include blank spaces to add write-in candidates.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

A candidate for office is required to submit a financial disclosure statement to the Town office at the time the candidate submits either a nominating petition or a certificate of candidacy. The financial disclosure form is available on the Town website. Financial disclosure statements are public documents and are subject to public inspection.

CANDIDATES' EVENT

The candidates will be invited to participate in an event with the community prior to the election. Details on the event will be included in the Election issue of the Forecast newsletter, which will be mailed to all residents at least 2 weeks before the election.

NOTICE OF CANDIDATES

Information about the nominated candidates will be mailed to all households at least 2 weeks before the election. Notice of the filing of a certificate of candidacy for a write-in candidate will be publicly announced within 24 hours of the filing.

VOTING ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to vote, residents who are U.S. citizens must be at least 16 years of age; have resided in the Town for at least 30 days immediately preceding the election; and be a registered voter of the State of Maryland in Montgomery County. Residents who are not U.S. citizens must be legally authorized to reside in the United States; be at least 16 years old; have resided in the Town for at least 30 days immediately preceding the election; and be registered to vote with the Town. A voter registration form for non-U.S. citizen residents is available on the Town website.

ELECTION RESULTS & ELECTIONS BOARD

Election results will be announced after 5 p.m. on May 13, and the new Council will meet on May 14. Current Elections Board members are Kirk Renaud, Chair; Grant Davies; and Karen Elkins. Please email questions to townoffice@townofchevchase.org.