



# Forecast

ELECTION ISSUE 2025

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

## 2025 Town Council Election & Annual Meeting

In the 2025 Town Council election, residents will elect two of five Council members, each to serve for a two-year term. The terms of Stephanie Martz and Joy White will expire in May, and neither is running for reelection. There are two candidates on the ballot in the 2025 election: Carlo Colella and Tambra Leonard. Candidates' statements are inside this newsletter.

**Voting will be undertaken by mail and drop box only.** There will be no in-person voting. Instead, each registered Town voter will receive a ballot by mail. For a resident's vote to be counted, ballot return envelopes must be mailed by May 6 or placed in the drop box outside the Town Office by 5 p.m. on May 6. Detailed election procedures are on the back page.

*Please note that the drop box for the Town election is next to the bulletin board by the Town Hall (see picture at right). The drop box is labeled "Town of Chevy Chase Official Town Election Ballot Box."*



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### Candidates' Forum, April 30

The Elections Board will host a moderated Candidates' Forum on **Wednesday, April 30 at 7 p.m.** This event will give residents an opportunity to learn more about the candidates' positions on the many issues facing the Town. Those who wish to talk with candidates in person may come to the Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. for informal discussion. Residents who wish to attend remotely can join the formal part of the program at 7 p.m. by Zoom ([bit.ly/CFTOCC](https://bit.ly/CFTOCC)). Please submit questions that you would like the candidates to address to [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org) no later than April 25.

### Annual Meeting, May 6

On May 6 at 7 p.m., the Town will hold its Annual Meeting both in person in the Town Hall and by Zoom videoconference. During this meeting, Mayor Irene Lane will provide an overview of the Town's accomplishments over the past year, and Vice Mayor Barney Rush will present the proposed budget for the 2026 fiscal year, followed by a public hearing and Council adoption.

### Proposed FY26 Budget

A summary of the proposed FY26 budget can be reviewed on the insert to this newsletter. Comprehensive budget documents are available for review on the Town website.

***The Town's Annual Meeting will be held in-person in the Town Hall and by Zoom videoconference. Visit the Town website for information on how to join by Zoom.***

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

## Carlo Colella, 4227 Oakridge Lane

Hello, neighbors. My name is Carlo Colella, and my wife Sally and I are proud to call the Town of Chevy Chase our home. For the past three years, we've truly embraced the wonderful sense of community here and all that it offers. I have enjoyed participating in and volunteering for various Town activities and more recently serving on the Town's Public Service Committee. I am impressed by and appreciative of the collective work done on our behalf by the current Council members, staff, and volunteers, and I am seeking your support to join the Council.

Having retired last Fall from my role as Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at the University of Maryland, a position I held for over 11 years, I now have the time and a strong desire to contribute my leadership and operational experience to our town. In this role, my responsibilities encompassed a broad portfolio including facilities management, real estate development, transportation infrastructure, public safety initiatives, environmental health and safety, and sustainability efforts – areas I believe are directly relevant to the effective functioning and advocacy for our town.

Prior to the VP/CAO role, I joined the university in 1988 and held progressively responsible positions in Facilities Management, including Chief Facilities Officer and Capital Projects Director. Before my career at Maryland, I worked as a consulting engineer for five years after earning a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Maryland and an M.S. degree in Structural Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

In addition to my professional background, I have served in director roles on several non-profit boards, including for a public charter middle and high school and for a city/university partnership in College Park. All of these experiences have prepared me to advance and protect TOCC interests in timely initiatives such as the responsible completion of the Purple Line and related transportation infrastructure, the Corso Development project, and the successful development of the Bethesda Market Park, while addressing ongoing drainage and traffic concerns and maintaining a walkable, safe, and sustainable environment. I'm eager to listen to your concerns and work collaboratively to ensure our community continues to thrive.

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

## Tambra Leonard, 7610 Lynn Drive

I am running for Town Council to continue and broaden my service to the Town. I have lived in the Town since July 2019, after moving from Capitol Hill with my family, which includes my husband (John Colwell), our son (a freshman at McDaniel College), two cats, and the newest addition to our family, our Golden Retriever. We have been very happy living in a neighborhood that provides many opportunities to participate in community life.

During the Pandemic, I volunteered to serve on the Town's Community Relations Committee (CRC) to meet other neighbors and to help create a sense of community even under challenging circumstances. For the past four years, I have served as Co-Chair on the CRC, during which I have worked with my Co-Chair and the rest of our committee to provide programs to serve the CRC's mission – creating a deep sense of community and neighborliness by organizing events and activities for residents of all ages and interests to provide them with occasions to meet and interact with one another. In addition to the Fourth of July Picnic and Annual Chili Dinner Fundraiser for Manna, we have planned a wide variety of events both fun and educational, such as informative discussions and desserts featuring the expertise of our fellow neighbors, book and theatre discussion groups, a book fair, playdates in the park, baking competitions, spring and fall festivals, concerts, and coffee and happy hour get-togethers. While I strove to keep our work organized and our meetings on-track, the accomplishments of our committee were possible thanks to a stellar Co-Chair and the inspiration and efforts of committee members. Through meeting neighbors at our events, I have grown to appreciate living in this community even more and feel lucky to be a part of it.

I have also served on the Long-Range Planning Committee to contribute to that Committee's work in recommending appropriate actions to the Town Council regarding emerging trends and activities outside the Town that could affect the Town's quality of life, such as Thrive Montgomery 2050 and the various zoning amendments proposed by County Councilmembers.

Over the years, I have gotten to know members of the Town Council and have become familiar with the Council's work. When I have attended the Council's meetings, I have appreciated the chance to ask questions and provide comments. I have also admired the Council's thoughtful discussions and consideration of residents' opinions. Further, I have seen that the Council has been able to make itself heard on issues that matter to us on the county and state level. If elected, I hope that my prior service to the Town will allow me to make a valuable contribution on the Town Council.

My professional background is in public service. Since 1991, I have been an attorney for the federal government. I am a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law, the London School of Economics, and St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I grew up mainly in Columbia, Maryland, as well as in Annapolis and Washington, DC. During my free time, I enjoy going to movies, traveling, book group discussions, and baking.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to engaging with you on the issues that are important to our Town.

## Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

### *Council Election and Annual Meeting Issue*

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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.

## 2025 TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION

The Town Council has five elected members. Town residents will select two candidates in the 2025 election, each to serve on the Council for a two-year term. **There are two balloted candidates in the 2025 election: Carlo Colella and Tandra Leonard.**

- **Voting will be undertaken by mail and drop box only. There will not be in-person voting.** Approximately two weeks prior to the election, the Town will mail a ballot, a ballot envelope, and a stamped return envelope to each registered Town voter.
- Return envelopes must be mailed no later than May 6 or placed in the drop box outside the Town Office no later than 5 p.m. on May 6 in order for the enclosed ballots to be counted.
- Ballots enclosed in an incomplete, illegible, or unsigned ballot envelope, or in a return envelope whose control number does not correspond to the control number issued to that voter, shall not be counted. The Town will not accept copies of ballots or envelopes.
- If a ballot is lost or missing, or to request a ballot be sent to a different mailing address, a voter may contact the Town office to request a replacement ballot. Upon receipt of such a request, any previously issued balloting material for that voter will be voided.
- If a resident did not receive a ballot because the resident's name did not appear on the voter list, the resident may contact the Town office to request a provisional ballot. In order for the provisional ballot to be counted, the voter's registration must be reflected on the Maryland State Board of Elections voter list no later than May 6, 2025.
- Election results will be announced after 5 p.m. on May 13, 2025.

## Financial Position

For this fiscal year (FY25), the Town projects a budget surplus of \$1.7 million, substantially larger than forecasted. Somewhat lower than expected income tax revenue was offset by additional interest on our reserves. In addition, expenditures were lower than expected due to reduced need for professional consultants, decreased expenditures for stormwater management improvements, and delayed expenditures for roadway repairs, which are planned for FY26. The surplus includes the use of \$739,000 of the Town's \$2.4 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant to cover the cost of providing certain Town services.

Looking ahead to the next fiscal year (FY26), we have assumed stable income tax revenue compared to estimated actual receipts for FY25. We expect to realize a budget surplus of \$222,000 in FY26, due in part to reduced capital expenditures, inclusive of the deferred work from FY25, and in part to supplementing revenue with \$127,000 in ARPA funds to cover the cost of providing certain government services. As a result, the Town's gross general fund balance is expected to increase from \$18.9 million on June 30, 2025 to \$19.1 million on June 30, 2026. Offsetting this balance is the Council's commitment to contribute \$7.5 million to the Bethesda Market Park project, resulting in a net fund balance of \$11.6 million on June 30, 2026. Separately, the balance of restricted ARPA funds will be fully drawn down at the end of FY26.

As mentioned above, the Town's capital expenditures will decrease slightly in FY26 due to the completion of significant infrastructure improvements over the past several years.

## FY26 Budget Overview

### General Revenue

- Operating revenue is budgeted at \$5 million, of which \$3.4 million is projected income tax revenue; \$750,000 is interest income on reserve funds; \$275,000 is County tax duplication reimbursement, \$201,000 is Highway User Revenue; \$131,000 is real property tax revenue; and \$127,000 is ARPA grant funds.
- The Town Council proposes a real property tax rate of \$0.0079 per \$100 of assessed value. This reflects the constant yield tax rate (the tax rate that will generate the same amount of revenue in FY26 as in FY25) and is approximately equal to \$79 for each \$1 million in a home's assessed value.

### Operating Expenditures

- Operating expenditures are budgeted at \$3.9 million. The FY26 budget includes funds to continue the Town's high-quality programs and services.
- The Council proposes to provide a wage increase for off-duty police officers to remain competitive and to assist in officer retention and recruitment.

### Capital Expenditures

- Capital expenditures are budgeted at \$853,000. These funds will be used for street and sidewalk maintenance, park improvements, and public and private tree plantings.

### General Fund Balance

- The budget projects a gross general fund balance of \$19.1 million and a net general fund balance of \$11.6 million at the end of FY26. The net fund balance reflects the Council's commitment of \$7.5 million to the Bethesda Market Park project.

### Restricted Funds

- The budget anticipates the expenditure of the remaining \$127,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the provision of government services. It also funds additional cable-related capital improvements with grants provided by cable operators in the Town.

**See reverse for budget summary. Visit the Town website for comprehensive budget documents.**

## FY26 Proposed Budget

Budget Summary	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY25 Est. Actual	FY26 Budget
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>				
<b>Taxes</b>				
Income Tax <sup>1</sup>	3,703,582	3,650,000	3,432,000	3,400,000
Highway User Revenue	152,994	152,000	177,000	201,000
Real Property Tax (\$0.0079/\$100 for FY26)	131,535	131,000	131,000	131,000
Utility Property Tax (\$0.66/\$100 for FY26) <sup>2</sup>	35,688	33,000	36,000	36,000
<b>Subtotal - Taxes</b>	<b>4,023,799</b>	<b>3,966,000</b>	<b>3,776,000</b>	<b>3,768,000</b>
<b>Interest, Fines &amp; Collections</b>	<b>867,919</b>	<b>621,000</b>	<b>817,400</b>	<b>764,500</b>
<b>Grants, Reimbursements &amp; Bank Shares</b>	<b>1,042,166</b>	<b>1,078,500</b>	<b>1,026,500</b>	<b>422,500</b>
<b>Permit Fees &amp; Cable TV Revenue</b>	<b>57,099</b>	<b>56,000</b>	<b>64,400</b>	<b>59,500</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>5,990,983</b>	<b>5,721,500</b>	<b>5,684,300</b>	<b>5,014,500</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>General Government</b>				
Salaries & Benefits	959,592	1,035,000	1,033,600	1,095,000
Professional Services	259,280	370,000	281,500	310,000
Civic Affairs & Community Programs	202,937	210,000	183,500	195,000
Other Services & Supplies	155,493	174,000	169,000	175,000
<b>Subtotal - General Government</b>	<b>1,577,302</b>	<b>1,789,000</b>	<b>1,667,600</b>	<b>1,775,000</b>
<b>Public Works</b>				
Sanitation & Waste Removal	813,403	827,500	818,000	889,500
Parks, Grounds & Trees	283,396	348,000	303,000	318,000
Streets & Roads	133,364	260,000	228,500	252,000
<b>Subtotal - Public Works</b>	<b>1,230,163</b>	<b>1,435,500</b>	<b>1,349,500</b>	<b>1,459,500</b>
<b>Public Safety (Police)</b>	<b>493,869</b>	<b>485,500</b>	<b>478,500</b>	<b>705,000</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,301,334</b>	<b>3,710,000</b>	<b>3,495,600</b>	<b>3,939,500</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>Streets, Sidewalks &amp; Stormwater</b>				
Asphalt & Concrete	453,759	425,000	100,000	725,000
Stormwater Management	0	205,000	125,000	0
Special Infrastructure Projects	0	150,000	20,000	0
Street Signs & Street Lights	0	55,000	20,000	25,000
<b>Subtotal - Streets, Sidewalks &amp; Stormwater</b>	<b>453,759</b>	<b>835,000</b>	<b>265,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>
<b>Parks, Grounds &amp; Trees</b>				
Park Improvements (Net of Reimbursements)	4,284	112,500	112,500	50,000
New Trees/Reforestation	27,352	25,000	36,000	35,000
<b>Subtotal - Parks, Grounds &amp; Trees</b>	<b>31,636</b>	<b>137,500</b>	<b>148,500</b>	<b>85,000</b>
<b>Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>				
Town Office Improvements	17,203	10,000	10,000	10,000
Information Technology	7,576	5,000	5,000	8,000
<b>Subtotal - Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>24,779</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>510,174</b>	<b>987,500</b>	<b>428,500</b>	<b>853,000</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING &amp; CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,811,508</b>	<b>4,697,500</b>	<b>3,924,100</b>	<b>4,792,500</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>2,179,475</b>	<b>1,024,000</b>	<b>1,760,200</b>	<b>222,000</b>
<i>-- the estimated surplus for FY25 and the projected surplus for FY26 are due, in part, from applying ARPA funds towards certain service contracts.</i>				
<b>TOTAL RESERVE</b>	<b>17,186,905</b>	<b>18,210,905</b>	<b>18,947,105</b>	<b>19,169,105</b>
<b>RESERVED FOR BETHESDA MARKET PARK<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(4,500,000)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(7,500,000)</b>
<b>NET RESERVE</b>	<b>17,186,905</b>	<b>13,710,905</b>	<b>18,947,105</b>	<b>11,669,105</b>
		<b>FY26 Contingent Reserve<sup>4</sup></b>		<b>2,005,800</b>

<sup>1</sup> the income tax rate is set by state law and applies to all municipalities.

<sup>2</sup> this tax is paid by utility companies, not by Town residents.

<sup>3</sup> The Town Council has committed \$7.5 million to the Bethesda Market Park project.

<sup>4</sup> this figure represents 40 percent of the Town's annual general revenue. It is included in the Town's general fund balance.