



Forecast

JUNE 2025

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Monday, June 2
Land Use*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 4
Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 5
Climate and Environment*, 6 p.m.

Monday, June 9
Book Club†, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 11
Town Council, 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 14
Park Social, 2 p.m.

Monday, June 16
Public Services*, 7:30 p.m.
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Council Work Session, 8 p.m.

Thursday, June 19
Juneteenth Holiday
Town office closed

Thursday, June 19
Long-Range Planning*, 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 21
Theatre Discussion†, 10 a.m.

Sunday, June 22
Mahjong Lesson†, 2 p.m.

Lawn Concert†, 7 p.m.

* Town Committee meeting
† see page 3

A New Council Year

I am honored to have been selected by my colleagues on the Town Council to serve as your Mayor for this coming year. I look forward to this service and hope that my colleagues and I will fulfill your expectations for what our Town government, and the Town as a whole, should achieve this coming year. I am grateful to be joined by fellow Councilmembers Irene Lane, serving as Vice Mayor; Carlo Collela as Treasurer, Rich Brancato as Secretary, and Tambra Leonard as Community Liaison.

We are fortunate to have Carlo and Tambra join us on the Council this year. Many of you know of Tambra's commitment to the Town, as evidenced by her years as co-chair of the Community Relations Committee. Her experience will serve us well. Carlo, an engineer and recently retired from serving as Chief Administrative Officer for the University of Maryland, has a strong background in management and project development.

I would like to add a special thank you to Irene, who has served our Town as mayor for the past two years with great energy, commitment, and success. Among other achievements, she was the leader of all the down-county municipalities in our campaign to obtain a new state law, just signed by Governor Moore, that clarifies our rights to set standards for set backs and heights of multifamily housing.

The Council looks forward to this coming year, which we know will be a busy one. Matters to be addressed include the need to curb speeding and improve safety along Bradley Lane; continue our push for the development of the Bethesda Market Park; monitor the continued construction of the Purple Line and the expected initiation of construction of the Corso development, and ensure that commitments made to the Town are kept; and monitor and seek to influence the probable Zoning Text Amendment that will permit multi-family housing along East West Highway and Connecticut Avenue. Let's get to work!

And let's have some fun too! The Community Relations Committee organizes numerous functions for the enjoyment of residents. Please come and enjoy them -- and get to know more of your good neighbors.

– Mayor Barney Rush



Independence Day Picnic and Parade

July 4, 11:45 a.m.-2 p.m., Lawton Center Grounds

see page 3 for details



Town Council Meets on June 11 & June 16

On June 11, the Town Council will hold its regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall and by Zoom. At 6:30 p.m., the Council will meet with officials from the County's Department of Transportation to discuss the latest plans for the Capital Crescent Surface Trail along 47th Street and Willow Lane. As part of the regular meeting that starts at 7 p.m. that evening, the Council will hold a public hearing on a request for a contribution towards an outdoor classroom at Rosemary Hills Elementary School. The Council also will discuss matters related to a Town-operated speed camera program; a proposed project to extend the Ridge Street sidewalk to West Avenue and to widen West Avenue; and a contribution request for playground improvements for Wonders Early Learning at the Lawton Center. The meeting agenda will be published on June 6.

On June 16 at 8 p.m. in the Town Hall, the Council will hold a work session to discuss the County's proposed workforce housing legislation. This summer, the County Council is expected to continue consideration of a proposal to 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. The June 16 work session will prepare the Council to respond quickly to developments on this matter.

Zimmerman Park Renovations Complete

In May, the Town completed renovations to Zimmerman Park, including drainage improvements to the large lawn; the Scott Fosler pathway from the Lee Dennison Sustainable Garden to the crosswalk on East West Highway; a new fence adjacent to East West Highway; new landscaping; and a picnic table, benches, trash receptacles, and a bike rack. Evergreen plantings will be added along the new fence this fall. The Town used Program Open Space funds from the state for these improvements, resulting in a net cost to the Town of \$112,500 for a project totaling \$425,000. We hope you enjoy the newly renovated park.

Volunteers Needed for Town Committees & Boards

Are you a new resident who is interested in parks, cut-through traffic, or special events? Are you a long-time resident concerned about tree conservation, stormwater management, or potential housing changes? The Town Council encourages you to volunteer for a Town committee, board, or commission. No prior experience is necessary, just a willingness to spend one hour per week, on average, extending your talents, working with fellow residents, and improving our community.

- **Climate and Environment:** Inspires and facilitates energy conservation and environmental stewardship by the Town and its residents.
- **Community Relations:** Encourages a strong sense of neighborliness through community activities, events, and communications.
- **Land Use:** Considers and recommends solutions to issues and concerns relating to land use and construction in the Town. Advises the Council on how to manage residential development and redevelopment.
- **Long-Range Planning:** Identifies emerging issues and trends. Monitors county and state activities likely to impact the Town.
- **Public Services:** Addresses traffic and pedestrian safety, parking, utilities, and infrastructure. Advocates for high-quality services and promotes a safe environment for residents.
- **Elections Board** (one vacancy): Oversees all Town elections, including making appropriate provisions for nominations, approving ballots, and supervising the polls.
- **Ethics Commission** (one vacancy): Receives, verifies, and maintains all financial disclosure forms required by the State of Maryland.
- **Water Board** (one vacancy): Hears requests from property owners who have had a water drainage plan denied by the Town.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org and include a few sentences about why you would like to serve on a particular body.

TOCC Book Club Meets June 9

The TOCC Book Club will discuss *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon on Monday, June 9 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. It is inspired by the diaries of Martha Ballard, a real-life midwife in Maine in 1789, and it is a real page-turner of a mystery. Be thinking about next books! All Town residents are welcome.

CC@H Speaker Series, June 11

The United States Capitol -- Temple of Democracy with Steve Livengood

Steve Livengood is the Public Historian and Chief Guide of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, a private not-for-profit organization chartered by the U.S. Congress to develop enhanced experiences related to the history of the Capitol Building and the institutions that have been housed there. His specialty is interpreting the building with historical background on the meaning of activities and artworks as the icons of representative democracy, seeing familiar things from a deeper perspective. Wednesday, June 11, 1 p.m., Zoom. Free to all. Please register at bit.ly/CCHJune11.

Rescheduled! Lemonade & Cookies in the Park, June 14

Join your neighbors for lemonade and cookies by the Lawton Center Playground on Saturday, June 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. These types of events help build community and have been popular over the years.

Round House Theatre Discussion Group, June 21

Join neighbors on Saturday, June 21, at 10 a.m. for a discussion of *King James*, Round House Theatre's final production for the season. The play is a comedy about friendship, fandom, and LeBron James. See the play at your convenience then join the conversation. Our discussion will take place either in a private home or the Town Hall, so RSVPs to bit.ly/RHTJune21 are required.



Mahjong Game Afternoon, June 22

Learn how to play Chinese Mahjong from Town neighbor Flora Tsui on Sunday, June 22, 2-4 p.m. in the Town Hall. Start with a beginner lesson and stay for friendly rounds of play while snacking on sweet and savory treats. No need to RSVP.

"Licorice Treats" Music in the Garden, June 22

The Community Relations Committee is pleased to sponsor a concert on the lawn adjacent to the Dennison Garden, located at the corner of Maple and Lynn, featuring "Licorice Treats" -- a local clarinet quartet including our own Julie Stanish of Elm Street. Bring out your blanket or lawn chairs and settle in for a musical treat of some lively tunes with a specialty in ragtime music. And, of course, there will be treats! Sunday, June 22, 7-8 p.m. No rain date.



Independence Day Picnic & Parade July 4, 11:45 a.m.-2 p.m., Lawton Center Grounds



11:45 a.m.: Come to the Lawton Center to decorate your bikes, scooters, wagons, and baby carriages. The Town will provide decorating supplies.

12 p.m.: Parade and Dixieland Band

The parade will begin at 12 p.m. and will be led by the Dixie Land Trio.

12:15-2 p.m.: Picnic

Town residents will be treated to barbeque from Rocklands Barbeque and the famous Ben and Jerry's ice cream truck. Vegetarian & vegan options will be available. Bring your appetite and a picnic blanket!

Please RSVP by June 20 at bit.ly/TOCCJuly4. Interested in volunteering for the 4th? Please indicate so when you RSVP.

Town of Chevy Chase

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Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

Barney Rush, Mayor

Irene Lane, Vice Mayor

Rich Brancato, Secretary

Carlo Colella, Treasurer

Tambra Leonard, Community Liaison



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How Climate Change Affects the Town's Urban Forest

A Message from the Town Arborist, Dr. Tolbert Feather

Climate change is posing growing challenges to trees across the Mid-Atlantic region, including in Maryland. Rising temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events are impacting the health, growth, and survival of both forest and urban trees.

Warmer winters and longer growing seasons may seem beneficial, but they disrupt natural cycles. Trees may leaf out earlier, only to be damaged by late frosts. Summer heatwaves increase drought stress, making trees more susceptible to pests and diseases.

Droughts and heavy rain events are becoming more common, both of which can damage root systems and reduce long-term health. Maryland received 30 inches more precipitation than the average in 2018, the wettest year on record. In the following years, we experienced deluges of rain in the summer, accompanied by lengthy periods of drought and heat. Experts believe this new climate led to the death of mature canopy trees in Maryland, particularly white oak trees. The Town lost large white oak trees on Ridgewood Avenue and Maple Avenue in the early 2020s.

Meanwhile, invasive pests such as the emerald ash borer, southern pine beetle, and southern scale insect species are thriving under milder winters, causing widespread tree mortality. Native species weakened by climate stress are less able to resist these threats.

For the immediate future, native trees can be planted to replace dead or dying trees. Young trees can adapt to the new climate conditions as they establish and develop. Urban forest managers should maintain diverse new plantings and be vigilant for tree species that may be more adaptable to the changing conditions. In the long term, the world needs to respond to the warming climate and reduce carbon emissions.