



## How Can We Make a Difference?

**“Well, Doctor, what have we got? A republic or a monarchy?”  
“A republic, if we can keep it.”**

**-- Exchange between Elizabeth Powel and Benjamin Franklin, 1787, following the Constitutional Convention**

**“The strength of free nations resides in the township. Town institutions are to freedom what primary schools are to knowledge: they bring it within people’s reach and give [people] the enjoyment and habit of using it for peaceful ends... In America, not only do institutions belong to the community but they are kept alive and supported by a community spirit.”**

**-- Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, 1835**

I am sure that Franklin’s answer, telling in its challenge across generations, is known to many of you. I quoted the statement from de Tocqueville in my message for this month four years ago. It continues to resonate today.

At a national level, we find our politics highly polarized, with our two political parties unable to find common ground. Our leaders and media commentators relentlessly use labels that identify all who are on one side of an issue as extremists, even with malicious intent. Matters are presented as being black and white, without the shades of grey that must be understood to find workable and broadly acceptable solutions. Former NY Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan’s aphorism, “Everyone is entitled to their own opinion; but not their own facts,” appears quaint -- and seemingly disproved daily by the presentation of news from so many angles. And while many in our Country sees the strong actions of the President as undertaking the work he was elected to do, other Americans see actions that weaken our traditional checks and balances on government authority and the rule of law.

I’m sure that we have all had discussions of these matters with friends and family; and, all too frequently, have heard voiced at the end of such discussions, “What can we do?” Expressing our views on national issues in public forums and demonstrations remains vital, as does exercising our right to vote. But is this all? In addressing this question, my thoughts turn back to de Tocqueville’s wisdom.

What also counts is sustained engagement at the local level. Our Town offers many ways for residents to participate in Town sponsored committees and activities (see p. 2). But I also suggest that we broaden de Tocqueville’s meaning: The “town” of today is a broader community in which we can participate and includes organizations across our county and region that offer us the opportunity to serve and help others. Our participation adds strength to the sinews of this broad community; adds meaning to our day; allows us to meet others with different views -- and with whom we must find common ground. In sum, we can take local action for the greater common good. This activity makes clear to ourselves and for the benefit of our children and grandchildren, the truth of de Tocqueville’s observation: That local democracy and local institutions bring our freedoms within our reach, strengthen our commitment to democracy, and give us confidence to say yes, Dr. Franklin, we still have a republic, and we will keep it.

**-- 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 July 9

On July 9, the Town Council will meet at 6 p.m. to discuss the County's proposed Workforce Housing legislation -- Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 25-02, which proposes 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. On June 23, the County's Planning, Housing, and Parks Committee voted out the ZTA to the full Council for consideration. The work session will allow the Council to discuss how to respond to this proposed legislation.

During the July 9 regular meeting, beginning at 7 p.m., the Council will hold a public hearing on a contribution request from Wonders Early Learning at the Lawton Center for improvements to the Center's playground and teachers' lounge. At this same meeting, the Council will discuss, among other matters, proposed improvements to Ridge Street and West Avenue; speed cameras on Bradley Lane; and plans for the Capital Crescent Surface Trail along 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Willow Lane. The agenda for the Council meeting will be available and circulated on July 3.

## Zimmerman Park Screening Planned for Fall

This fall, evergreen trees will be planted along the new fence in Zimmerman Park. The Town arborist has recommended that the Town plant eleven American holly trees along the north side of the fence to screen park users from East West Highway. When planted, these trees will be 8 to 10 feet tall and will grow to a height of 20 to 30 feet with a spread of 15 to 20 feet. The Town will prune them annually to keep them off the new fence and manage the spread. These new trees will complete the Zimmerman park redevelopment project. We hope everyone enjoys the new and improved space.

## 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](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org) and include a few sentences about why you would like to serve on a particular body.

## MCPS Boundary Study: Provide Your Feedback

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is currently studying options to change down county school boundaries beginning in 2027 once the new Woodward High School opens. MCPS has presented four options for community feedback. Town students' elementary school assignments remain the same in all four options, but middle school assignments change, and, in one of the options, there would be a shift in high school assignment for the entire Town.

Visit [bit.ly/MCPSOptions](http://bit.ly/MCPSOptions) to see the four options in more detail. The last column to the right for each option presents the maps of the districts. Interested residents are encouraged to review the boundary study materials and share feedback to MCPS through the Woodward Initial Options Survey ([bit.ly/WBOSurvey](http://bit.ly/WBOSurvey)). The Town Council discussed these proposed school boundaries at its meeting on June 11 and agreed to submit comments to the Montgomery County Board of Education. The Town's comments are available for review at [bit.ly/TOCCLetter](http://bit.ly/TOCCLetter).

## Corso Chevy Chase Construction Update

In early June, Corso provided an updated notice of forthcoming construction activities related to the development of the senior living facility at 7100 Connecticut Avenue. Corso has completed asbestos abatement in the buildings and installed Forest Conservation Area signage around the property. In early July, Corso will begin demolition of the buildings and construction of the Town's temporary garage. All demolition activities are anticipated to be completed by early October of this year.

Construction of the new buildings is expected to begin in November of this year, if permits are timely secured, with Phase 1 reaching substantial completion within 24 months, or by November 2027. The temporary cell tower that was constructed on the site will be relocated to the top of a newly constructed building. All construction activities must abide by the Town's construction management and permit conditions, which can be found at [bit.ly/CorsoCMA](http://bit.ly/CorsoCMA). More information, including construction notices and project updates can be found at [bit.ly/CorsoUpdates](http://bit.ly/CorsoUpdates).



### 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 Barbecue and the famous Ben and Jerry's ice cream truck. Vegetarian & vegan options will be available. Bring your appetite and a picnic blanket!

## TOCC Book Club, July 28

The Town of Chevy Chase Book Club will meet in the Town Hall on July 28 at 7 p.m. to discuss *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. What would you do if you knew the date of your own death? All town residents are welcome. The next book after that will be *Time of the Child* by Niall Williams, sometime in September; a hot seller, so order your copy now!

### Have a Wonderful Summer!

The FORECAST is not published in August, and the Town Council does not meet in August. Please visit the Town website for current news and information. To receive Town news alerts, please sign up to receive Town Crier emails at [bit.ly/Crier](http://bit.ly/Crier).



## Town of Chevy Chase

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Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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### TOWN COUNCIL

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*Irene Lane, Vice Mayor*

*Rich Brancato, Secretary*

*Carlo Colella, Treasurer*

*Tambra Leonard, Community Liaison*

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## Public Services Committee Reminders

*Have a Safe Summer and Respect Town's Permit Parking Rules*

### Summer Vacation Home Safety Tips

Before you leave, please remember these home safety tips:

- Make sure your doors and windows are locked and secure -- and activate your alarm.
- Stop your mail and newspapers or have them retrieved for you.
- Halt your e-commerce purchases to reduce or eliminate packages sitting in front of your home.
- Set lights on timers to create the appearance of inside activity.
- Exterior motion-sensor lighting aids in deterring crime.
- Keep valuables out of public view.
- Avoid discussing vacation plans in public or on social media.
- Consider informing neighbors of vacation plans so they can keep an eye on your home and vehicles.

In case of an emergency, always call 911. And please remember to report all crimes, incidents, or suspicious activity to MCPD's non-emergency line at 301-279-8000 and to the Town.



### Please Respect Town's Permit Parking Rules

The Public Services Committee wishes to remind Town residents and their guests to adhere to the Town's permit parking rules. In recent months, The Town office has received complaints from residents regarding the availability of street parking in close proximity to their respective homes, particularly near Elm Street Park. As a result, the Town has agreed to increase enforcement of the Town's permit parking rules. For more details on the Town's permit parking rules, please visit [bit.ly/TOCCParking](http://bit.ly/TOCCParking).