



# Forecast

JANUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



## January 1 & 2

New Year's Holiday  
*Town office closed*

## Monday, January 5

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

## Wednesday, January 7

Community Relations\*, 7 p.m.

## Thursday, January 8

Climate/Environment\*, 7 p.m.

## Saturday, January 10

Plastic Waste Event, 4 p.m.  
*see page 3*

## Sunday, January 11

Theatre Discussion, 11 a.m.  
*see page 3*

## Monday, January 12

Land Use\*, 6:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, January 14

Town Council, 7 p.m.

## Thursday, January 15

Long Range Planning\*, 7 p.m.

## Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
*Town office closed*

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Puzzle Palooza, 2 p.m.  
*see page 3*

## Tuesday, January 20

Public Services,\* 7:30 p.m.

## Saturday, January 24

Liquor Tasting Event, 6 p.m.  
*see page 3*

\* Town Committee meeting

## Bethesda Market Park: Renewed Momentum

It has been a long time since we've had any news about plans for the Bethesda Market Park and Farm Women's Market. The developers, EYA and Bernstein Management Corporation, halted design activity on the project in June.

We now know why. Bernstein has just purchased the large office building at 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, (known as the Donahoe, or Ford, building at the northeast corner of Wisconsin and Leland). The developers intend to demolish this structure and erect a new residential building that will be integrated with the other buildings planned for the project. We see this as an exciting development. The acquisition signals the developers' commitment to the overall mixed-use redevelopment and expands opportunities to optimize the site and enhance the project's economic viability.

The effort to acquire the new building took many months, and the developers were understandably reluctant to proceed with the design work required to submit a Site Plan until they knew if they would have this expanded opportunity. A renewed start to the design and engineering work, including reviewing existing plans for the Bethesda Market Park, is expected in the first quarter of 2026. When this work recommences, we will explore the possibility of obtaining enhancements that will benefit the public, such as widening the park where it abuts Leland Street.

No timeline has yet been set for submitting a Site Plan to the Planning Department, but given the now enlarged scope of work, it would be unlikely for the Plan to be filed with the Planning Department before the fall of next year, with Planning Board review and approval then expected in early 2027. With another year then required to obtain permits and arrange financing, major construction would begin in 2028 and continue into 2031.

The \$7.5 million in Town funds dedicated to the project will remain as part of our reserves and continue to earn interest until disbursed. We will remain actively involved throughout the planning process to ensure community priorities are reflected in the final designs for the Market, the park, parking, and traffic flow. Binding legal agreements between the Town and the Developers, and between the Town and the Parks Department, must also be negotiated.

So, there is a lot of work to be done, and it will take a long time. But the acquisition of 7101 Wisconsin represents the renewed commitment to this project by the developers. And that is good news, indeed.

– Mayor Barney Rush

# Town Council Meets on January 14

At its January 14 meeting, the Town Council will hold public hearings on a speed hump request for the 6700/6800 blocks of East Avenue and a proposed crosswalk across West Avenue at Ridge Street. At this meeting, the Council will also discuss the status of procuring a speed camera system as well as WSSC's planned water main replacement/relocation project in and around Zimmerman Park. If you are unable to attend the January meeting, you may submit comments to [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org). The meeting agenda will be published on the Town website and sent by Town Crier on January 9.



## Leaf Collection Has Ended

Leaves should now be placed in paper bags or in reusable containers for yard waste collection on Mondays.

## Notes & Reminders

## Recycle Your Christmas Tree

The Town offers curbside collection of Christmas trees. All wire, ornaments, and tinsel must be removed. Please place the tree at the curb for yard waste collection on Mondays.

## Preparations for Winter Weather

The Town's "Preparations for Winter Weather" flyer is available on the homepage of the Town website under *Quick Links* ([bit.ly/TOCCWinter](http://bit.ly/TOCCWinter)). We would like to remind residents that, in the event or threat of a snowstorm or icy road conditions, cars must be parked either in driveways or on the even-numbered side of the street (unless otherwise posted) to ensure sufficient passage for the snow removal trucks.

## Please Shovel Your Sidewalk

Following inclement weather, it is important to ensure that the sidewalk adjacent to your home is cleared of snow and ice. The Town will clear public sidewalks when snow accumulates to 6 inches or more or when icy conditions warrant. If snow accumulation is less than 6 inches, you are responsible for clearing the sidewalk. If you are away from Town or unable to clear your walks, please arrange for the sidewalk adjacent to your home to be cleared. And please be sure to monitor and treat sidewalks for icy conditions caused by thawing/freezing precipitation in the days following winter storms. If you need assistance clearing snow from sidewalks and private property, please visit [bit.ly/TOCCSnowRemoval](http://bit.ly/TOCCSnowRemoval).

## Fall Tree Plantings

In November, the Town planted 36 trees on private property as part of the Town's Private Native Tree Planting Program. The Town provides a water bag to assist residents with the care needed in the critical first year after planting. Residents are responsible for the long-term care of the tree(s). The Town also planted 48 trees in the public rights-of-way. The Town will care for the trees for the first year by ensuring they are watered; the Town is responsible for their long-term care.

## Please Clean Up After Your Pet and Obey County Leash Laws

The Town office receives ongoing complaints about the improper disposal of dog waste and unleashed dogs. The Town has installed numerous dog waste stations around the Town, and a map can be found at [bit.ly/TOCCDogj](http://bit.ly/TOCCDogj). Also, 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.



## Connect with the Town & Neighbors

Residents are encouraged to connect with the Town and fellow residents by signing up on the Town website for the Town Crier email alert system ([bit.ly/Crier](http://bit.ly/Crier)) and the private Town Neighbors listserv ([bit.ly/TNeighbors](http://bit.ly/TNeighbors)). Both resources offer an important way to stay informed and in touch.

## Chevy Chase at Home (CC@H)

CC@H is a member organization providing social and educational programs to neighbors of all ages and support services to older adults. CC@H is part of the nationwide "village" movement built on a model of neighbors helping neighbors. You can learn more at [www.chevy Chaseathome.org](http://www.chevy Chaseathome.org).

## TOCC Book Club Meets January 5

The next meeting of the TOCC Book Club will be Monday, January 5 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. We will discuss ***The Correspondent*** by Virginia Evans, an ode to the lost art of letter writing, sent or unsent.

## How to Address the Plastics Crisis, January 10



Do you feel helpless when you see the amount of plastic (much of it non-recyclable) in our grocery stores, delivery take-out containers, online-shopping deliveries, and elsewhere? You can make a difference in addressing this problem. On Saturday, January 10, at 4 p.m. in the Town Hall, speakers from MoCo Beyond Plastic will tell us what efforts are underway at the county and state level to confront the plastic waste crisis and how, together, we can make change. Bring questions and ideas!

## Round House Theatre Discussion, January 11

The Community Relations Committee will host a discussion of Round House Theatre's production ***Rules for Living*** on Sunday, January 11 at 11 a.m. See the play at your convenience then come share your impressions with neighbors. Location will be sent to all who RSVP ([bit.ly/RHTJan11](http://bit.ly/RHTJan11)) by January 6.

## Puzzle Palooza, January 19

Work on jigsaw puzzles and enjoy light snacks on Monday, January 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Town Hall. Whether you like to start with the edge pieces or jump straight into the middle, all puzzling styles are welcome. A fun, relaxed afternoon for all ages. Bring a puzzle to swap!

## A Quarter Millennium Liquor Tasting Event, January 24

Expert Schuyler Jones of Calvert-Woodley returns for another liquor tasting event. On Saturday, January 24 at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall, we will raise our tasting glasses in celebration of the 1776 founding of the United States of America. Additional details forthcoming via Town Crier.

## RSVP for February 22 Chili Dinner & Sign Up to Help!

The Town will hold its popular Chili Dinner on Sunday, February 22 at 5 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Lawton 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 to help feed families in the County. If you are able to volunteer, please let us know when you RSVP by February 16 to [bit.ly/TOCCchili](http://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. Also needed are waterproof warm winter wear for those who are outside in the cold rain or snow. Collection boxes are located in the Town Hall and on the front porch of Marjorie Shaw and Barney Rush at 6917 Maple Avenue (between Stanford Street and Pine Place).

## Community Relations Committee Plans Events for 2026

2026 is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our nation. As Chevy Chase residents, we are privileged to live and work in the Washington, D.C. area's rich and unique blend of cultural, historical, educational, and political resources. The Community Relations Committee has decided to spend 2026 fostering fun and thought-provoking events around the founding of the United States of America, the importance of civic engagement, and what it means to be an American, 250 years in. Keep an eye out for events that explore local and national history, mine the diverse expertise and experiences of our neighbors, and help to remind us of how we can find our way through challenging times as a community. We'll also have all of your favorite marquee events! We can't wait to see you there.

## Town of Chevy Chase

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Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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### TOWN COUNCIL

*Barney Rush, Mayor*

*Rich Brancato, Vice Mayor*

*Carlo Colella, Treasurer*

*Tambra Leonard, Secretary*

*Quynh Tran, Community Liaison*



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## A Message from the Public Services Committee

The Public Services Committee (PSC) would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful New Year and to share some of the key agenda items our committee expects to cover during the current term:

- **Support** Town and State Highway Administration efforts to improve traffic and pedestrian safety on Bradley Lane
- **Improve** Rosemary Street traffic and safety concerns, including significant congestion during Chevy Chase Elementary School drop off and pick up times
- **Re-assess** the Leland and East intersection and Thornapple path crosswalk area and provide any recommendations for traffic and pedestrian safety improvement
- **Re-assess** Town's speed hump policy and provide recommendations for improvement
- **Support** the development and implementation of a speed camera policy for the Town
- **Remain** engaged in any public safety implications of the Bethesda Farm Market redevelopment and the Purple Line projects, including the redevelopment of Elm Street Urban Park
- **Address** West Avenue parking around the Ridge Avenue intersection and Oneness School
- **Listen** to all input from residents on things that are going well and things that can be improved upon in the Town, from a public safety perspective.

If you have any feedback or areas of concern you would like the PSC to discuss, please let us know through the Town office at [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org).