

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Vicky Taplin
4120 Leland Street

I feel fortunate to have lived in the Town for the past 15 years. My husband, Ben Delancy, and I moved to Leland St. in 1998, and raised our two sons here. From the start, we found it to be a very friendly and engaged community. Almost immediately, my neighbor asked me to join the Town's Traffic Committee. I said yes, and found it to be a great way to learn about local issues and meet new friends.

We were also very impressed by all the traditions on our block – a weekly newsletter, a Halloween block party, and a back-to-school banana split party. All this, and a leafy, quiet, and safe neighborhood close to all the amenities of downtown Bethesda - what could be a better place to raise our family?

Eventually, I joined the Environment Committee, serving as Chair from 2007-2010. I am proud to say that under my leadership, we initiated the Native Canopy Tree giveaway program, the "Shades of Green" column in the Forecast, the Town's noise controls, and the Land Conservation Program for protecting open spaces.

I have an A.B. from Mount Holyoke College and a J.D. from the University of California. I have spent the majority of my legal career representing non-profit organizations and creative professionals. I have served on numerous non-profit boards, and collaborated with many community groups and government agencies. I have held volunteer positions in my sons' schools, our church, and legal service organizations. Currently, I serve as a pro-bono lawyer for children from low-income families in custody cases in the DC Superior Court.

I want to use my experience to take on an even more direct role in preserving the Town's special characteristics for our young families now and in the future. I think it is vital to push to mitigate the negative effects of the Purple Line, but I also have new ideas for strengthening our community: more open spaces in the Town for public uses, like pocket parks and a community garden; better sidewalks and lighting and more benches for our walking pleasure and safety; babysitting services and other offerings to make it easier for younger people to participate in Town affairs and events; and financial incentives to encourage sustainable and quieter landscaping practices.

I promise that if elected, I will be a strong, fair, and independent voice for our community.