



Forecast

FEBRUARY 2020

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Monday, February 3

Long Range Planning*
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 5

Community Relations*
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Friday, February 7

Family Movie Night
Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.
see page 3

Sunday, February 9

26th Annual Chili Dinner
Lawton Center, 5:30 p.m.
see page 3

Thursday, February 13

Public Services*
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Monday, February 17

Presidents' Day
Town Office Closed

Wednesday, February 19

Town Council Work Session
Town Hall, 6 p.m.
see page 3

Wednesday, February 19

Town Council
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Friday, February 21

Tiki Time in Town
Town Hall, 8 p.m.
see page 3

Thursday, February 27

Land Use*
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

* Town committee meeting

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety on Our Radar

When I moved here, I looked forward to raising a family in a tree-lined, residential neighborhood where my children could safely walk to school or bike to their friends' houses, just as I had done decades before. But a lot has changed since my childhood, including the advent of cell phones (and their inherent driver distractions) as well as more cars in a hurry to get somewhere. As a result, we have had some unfortunate accidents and even more close calls involving cars, pedestrians, and/or cyclists in the Town.

The Town Council is acutely aware of serious traffic safety concerns within and around the Town, and we are engaged in several initiatives to address those concerns. First, with the help of a traffic engineering firm, we embarked this fall on the first Town-wide traffic study in over 15 years, with the goal of reducing cut-through traffic and lowering travel speeds. We look forward to completion of the final report later this spring. While it is too early to know what specific recommendations the traffic study will yield, we anticipate they may include changes to entry restrictions, lower speed limits, and additional traffic calming measures.

In addition to this study, the Council has been working with the State Highway Administration to address traffic and pedestrian safety issues along our borders. Specifically, we have encouraged the SHA to improve the safety of crosswalks along East West Highway and to identify better traffic management alternatives than flexible lane dividers on Bradley Lane near Wisconsin Avenue.

Seeing smiling young faces headed to and from the two elementary schools in our neighborhood brightens many of our days. But it also means additional safety challenges. At our February Council meeting, we will hold a public hearing on proposed parking modifications along West Avenue to facilitate safer access to the school and church there (see page 2 for details). In addition, as downtown Bethesda undergoes significant development, we anticipate more parking challenges. The Public Services Committee is therefore developing several forward-looking options for our permit parking system, which we hope to consider this year.

But there is only so much that we can do to regulate or engineer away these various challenges without adequate enforcement capabilities. As the Council begins to prepare next year's budget, we will consider our enforcement options as well as their costs.

We welcome your engagement on these critical issues: come to our Public Services Committee and Council meetings to learn more and share your ideas. And most importantly, as you travel through Town, be attentive and be considerate. Let's all work to keep our streets and sidewalks safe for all who use them.

-- Cecily Baskir, Vice Mayor

NEWS & NOTES

Public Hearing on West Avenue Traffic & Parking Plan

At its meeting on February 19, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on a proposed traffic and parking management plan for West Avenue. This plan was originally developed in 2015, but consideration was deferred pending anticipated redevelopment of adjacent commercial properties. Since that redevelopment is not imminent, the Town Council has decided to reconsider the plan due to continued complaints about vehicular traffic and parking on West Avenue, including blocked travel lanes during drop-off and pick-up at the Oneness Family School and excessive vehicle speeds.

The plan, which was developed by the Town's traffic engineer in consultation with affected residents and school and church officials, provides for improved traffic flow and control. Highlights include creation of a parking queue area on the west side of West Avenue; better delineation of "No Parking" areas on the east side of West Avenue; and creation of a new permit parking area (currently "No Parking") on the west side of the 6800 block of West Avenue. The plan also includes creation of a 15 mile per hour school zone speed limit. Unlike the parking changes, the speed limit change will require introduction of an ordinance at the February Council meeting and a public hearing at the March Council meeting, but we welcome your comments on this proposed change at the February Council meeting as well.

A complete copy of the proposed resolution to implement the plan, as well as a map of the proposed traffic and parking plan, are available for review on the Town website and in the Town office.

Council to Discuss Accessory Dwelling Unit Regulations

On February 19 at 6 p.m., prior to the regular Council meeting, the Town Council will hold a work session to discuss regulating accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in Town. An ADU is a second dwelling unit located on a lot with a single-family house. An attached ADU is one that is located inside the house, while a detached ADU is one that is in an accessory building in a rear yard.

The County recently made substantial changes to the rules governing ADUs, and the Town has the authority to adopt additional rules for ADUs located within the Town. At the work session, the Town Council will review and discuss the Land Use Committee's recommendations for additional regulations.

Residents are welcome to attend the work session but will not be able to participate in the discussion. Any new regulations supported by the Town Council will be publicly advertised and subject to a future public hearing.

Town Considers Moving Sculpture to Sustainable Garden

The Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC) has given the Town preliminary approval to relocate the *Girl with Hoop* sculpture in Elm Street Park to the new sustainable garden in Zimmerman Park. The Town Council believes that this artwork, sculpted by late Town resident Jenny Read, could make a nice addition to the garden and would serve as a fitting tribute to late Town resident Lee Dennison, whose bequest funded the garden. However, before making a final decision, the Council would like to hear from the community about the proposed relocation. If the relocation occurs, the sculpture would be on loan to the Town for automatically renewable one-year periods.

If you would like to comment on the proposed relocation, please contact the Town of Chevy Chase at 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevychase.org by April 15. The Town Council will review all public comments and determine whether to proceed with the relocation. The Town also will provide all comments to both the AHCMC and the Montgomery County Parks Department for review.

The **MVA on Wheels** bus will park on Friendship Boulevard adjacent to the Village Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on February 25, March 24, April 21, May 19, and June 23.

TOWN EVENTS

Family Movie Night -- *Paddington*

Friday, February 7, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall



After a deadly earthquake destroys his home in a Peruvian rainforest, a young bear makes his way to England in search of a new home. The bear, dubbed "Paddington" for the London train station, finds shelter with the family of Henry and Mary Brown. Although Paddington's amazement at urban living soon endears him to the Browns, someone else has her eye on him: Taxidermist Millicent Clyde has designs on the rare bear and his hide. *Paddington* brings a beloved children's character into the 21st century delivering a family-friendly adventure as irresistibly cuddly as its star.

The movie run time is 95 minutes, and it is rated PG. It has 97% fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes. Come at 5:30 p.m. for pizza, snacks, and juice. The movie will start at 6 p.m. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. RSVP to 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

26th Annual Chili Dinner

Sunday, February 9, 5:30 – 7 p.m., Jane E. Lawton Center

Beat the winter blues with chili, hot dogs, sides, and desserts. There will be vegan chili too! The Annual Chili Dinner will be held at a new location this year, the [Social Hall of the Jane E. Lawton Center](#). To continue the Town's support of Manna Food Center, please do not forget your checks or cash to help feed families in Montgomery County. As always, chili will be served by your Community Relations Committee. Please RSVP to 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Tiki Time in Town

Friday, February 21, 8 p.m., Town Hall

Beat the mid-winter blues with Tiki Time in Town! It's the perfect time to think of Polynesian sunsets, warm breezes, island music, and especially tiki drinks. Tiki is America's hottest cocktail trend -- and Chevy Chase is where it's at! Come out to the Chevy Chase Town Hall for all things Tiki. Wear your favorite island shirt (under your coat!!), get in some warm vibes and libations with your community during this short leap year month. Reserve your adult-only spot (limited space) by contacting the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.



Winter Outerwear Clothing Drive

Continues until February 29

Feeling the cold? So are the men, women and children who depend on Interfaith Works to keep them warm. Please donate clean, gently used or never used warm coats, gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, sweaters, pants and socks to those in need. Clothing boxes for your donations are located in the Town Hall (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and in the Lawton Community Center (Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.). This drive is coordinated by the Town's Community Relations Committee.

RECYCLING TIP OF THE MONTH

How to Properly Recycle Metal -- All containers must be clean. You can recycle clean metal cans; aluminum foil; disposable aluminum pans and pie plates; and wire coat hangers. You cannot recycle pots and pans, scrap metal or paint cans.



Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

Barney Rush, Mayor

Cecily Baskir, Vice Mayor

Wicca Davidson, Secretary

Kirk Renaud, Treasurer

Joel Rubin, Intergovernmental and Public Liaison



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AROUND CHEVY CHASE

Medicare Now, Ethiopia, and More in February with CC@H

On **Tuesday, February 4 from 2 to 4 p.m.** at the Chevy Chase Village Hall join Sherill Mason, R.N. for What You Need to Know about Medicare... Now. Mason, an experienced analyst of federal health care policy, will discuss and answer questions about known and possible changes to Medicare.

On **Tuesday, February 25 from 2 to 4 p.m.** our intrepid world traveler and expert photographer Jan Augustine will transport us from the CC Village Hall to Ethiopia, with perhaps a stop or two at one of her other recently visited spots. This program promises to be informative and entertaining, and a great antidote to Cabin Fever!

Brunch Bunch will meet at the Olympia Cafe on Brookville Road on **Thursday, February 13, 10 to 11:30 a.m.** Drop in, buy a cup of coffee, and join the CC@H table for some stimulating conversation.

On **Sunday, February 23 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.**, all interested prospective members are cordially invited to a Wine and Cheese Open House to learn more about Chevy Chase At Home and its benefits. Please call the office at 301-657-3115 for directions. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our excellent exercise programs begin their winter sessions in February. The schedule has not been finalized yet, so contact the CC@H office at 301-675-3115 or info@chevychaseathome.org for exact dates.