



Town Council Election & Annual Meeting

Important Information about the 2020 Election

Due to the ongoing public health crisis and Governor Hogan's stay-at-home order, the Town will hold a universal vote-by-mail election this year. The election will be held as scheduled, with a deadline for voting of May 5. There will not be in-person voting on that day. Instead, each registered Town voter will receive a ballot by mail and should mail back that ballot, once completed, in a stamped envelope that will be provided by the Town. All ballot envelopes must be properly completed and must be postmarked by May 5, 2020 and received by May 12, 2020 in order for the enclosed ballot to be counted. Please see detailed election procedures on page 5.

Both the Annual Meeting and the Candidates' Forum will be held by Zoom videoconference. If you would like to participate, you may join online at <https://zoom.us/j/3016547144> or by phone at 301-715-8592. The Town's meeting identification number is 301 654 7144.

The Town Council has five elected members. In the 2020 election, Town residents will elect three members, each to serve for a two-year term. The terms of Wicca Davidson, Kirk Renaud and Barney Rush will expire in May.

On May 5 at 7 p.m., the Town will hold its annual meeting by videoconference. Information on how to participate is provided above. During the annual meeting, Mayor Barney Rush will provide an overview of the Town's accomplishments over the past year, and Town Treasurer Kirk Renaud will present the proposed budget and tax rates for the 2021 fiscal year, followed by a public hearing.

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Candidates' Forum

The Election Board will host a "Candidates' Forum" by videoconference on **Tuesday, April 28 at 7 p.m.** Charles Duffy, former host of the Montgomery Municipal Cable TV show "Political Pulse," has agreed to serve as moderator for the eleventh year. As in the past, questions at the forum will be posed by the moderator based on questions submitted by residents prior to the forum. There will be no questions from the audience at the forum. If you have a question you would like posed to the candidates, please email it to the Town office at townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org by **Friday, April 24.** Information on how to join the forum is provided above.

Proposed FY21 Budget

A summary of the proposed FY21 budget can be reviewed in this issue of the FORECAST. Comprehensive budget documents are available for review on the Town website.

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 and the private **Town Neighbors** listserv. Both resources offer an important way to stay informed and in touch, especially during times like these.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Ellen Cornelius Ericson, 6804 Meadow Lane

My name is Ellen Cornelius Ericson, and I am seeking the opportunity to serve on the Town of Chevy Chase Town Council.

I enjoy volunteering for our wonderful community. Volunteering has given me the opportunity to meet new people and get to know existing friends in new ways. As a member of the 2018-2019 Centennial Committee, I helped organize activities at the Town's February Chili Supper, Spring Progressive Dinner, and 4th of July Picnic, bringing friends and neighbors of all ages together to celebrate and enjoy one another's company. Currently, I serve on the Long Range Planning Committee where I have been following Montgomery County's general plan for 2050 and providing recommendations on key priorities to the Town Council. As a committee member, I listen intently; I think through issues carefully; I offer creative solutions; and, above all else, I strive to be collegial. As a member of the Town Council, I would do the same.

Indeed, we are living in extraordinarily difficult times. It is not easy to distance ourselves from each other in order to be safe and healthy. But social distancing should not mean social isolation. To maintain a sense of community, I helped Wicca Davidson develop Neighbors Helping Neighbors. We connected interested residents with volunteer shoppers, including me, who make grocery store and drug store runs for their neighbors. If elected to the Town Council, I will continue to find safe ways to keep us connected and enhance our strong sense of community.

I grew up in Montgomery County, and I have had the pleasure of living on Meadow Lane for almost nine years. My husband, Dan Ericson, and I are very glad to be raising our young sons, Seth and Elijah, in our Town. Our newest family member is our beloved dog, Camille, whom we adopted with the help of another Town resident. We love our neighbors, and we intend for our family to live in Town for many years.

I am a lawyer by training and also bring a wealth of practical knowledge from my consulting work with states and local municipalities. I have written plans for emergency management agencies and health departments. Additionally, I am a professor and teach three classes (Law & Policy of Cybersecurity, Legal Analysis & Writing, and Legal Ethics) at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. I believe that the diversity of my experiences will provide useful perspectives and skills to the Town Council.

I am running for Town Council because our community is facing unique challenges which I am eager to help address. For example, the development around the Bethesda Farm Women's Market including green space, the changes to Zimmerman Park, and the traffic study will continue require serious deliberation and decision-making. Near us, there is construction along Wisconsin Avenue and continued work on the Purple Line. I have ideas about how we could improve our community, and I would love to hear from you about your suggestions and concerns.

I hope that I will earn your vote to serve on our Town Council!

Ellen Cornelius Ericson

www.ellencorneliusericson.com

ECCornie@yahoo.com

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Irene N. Lane, 4106 Aspen Street

My name is Irene Lane and I am asking for your vote to be a member of the Town Council. Together with my husband, teen son, and hound dog, our family crossed the “Potomac Ocean” three years ago from McLean to move to Aspen Street. We chose to live here because we were attracted to the Town’s services, lifestyle, community activities, and civic engagement that were well known in the larger community.

Shortly after moving here I got involved with the Town’s Climate & Environment Committee and have been honored to serve as its chair since 2018. It has been inspiring to work with my neighbors and see the solution-oriented approaches suggested by residents. It is in that spirit of community and cooperation that I am seeking to become a member of our Town Council.

Why I’m Running for Town Council

The past weeks have been difficult for many residents and I am proud that our Town Council and residents have been working together to deal with many challenges. The Town will need to continue to deal with these and other new challenges efficiently and creatively. I believe that we need to take the long view in decision making and “plant seeds knowing our children and grandchildren will enjoy the flowers.”

I would welcome the opportunity to work with residents to explore some of the following priorities for the Town.

- Address the cut-through traffic, speeding, parking, pedestrian and biking safety enforcement challenges,
- Provide meaningful opportunities for our teens to serve the Town,
- Expand cross-collaboration amongst standing committees, such as the recent collaboration with the Centennial & Dennison Garden teams,
- Improve the Town’s communication methods utilizing 21st-century tools,
- Build stronger partnerships with external service organizations, such as Chevy Chase at Home,
- Promote multipurpose public green space, and
- Actively monitor and engage with the Farm Women’s Market Plan, Downtown Bethesda Master Plan, and Purple Line Noise Mitigation teams and committees.

Town Climate & Environment Committee Achievements

Over the last two years while I’ve served as chair, I’ve gained insight and knowledge about the important role our Town committees and volunteers perform for our community. I am proud to report that our Committee’s accomplishments have included:

- Spearheading the Lee Wick Dennison Sustainable Garden in Zimmerman Park,
- Building ties with surrounding Chevy Chase communities on environmental issues,
- Presenting quality education and programming to our residents including the first Green Town Fair and Green New Deal & Carbon Pricing Climate Activism discussion, and
- Leading the Landscaping Noise Reduction, Recycling, and Composting Awareness teams.

Community & Business Leadership

As a member of the Town Council, I will draw upon my consulting experience at KPMG, software development experience at eBay, and business management experience at my own sustainable tourism company, Greenloons.

As a small business owner, I understand what it means to balance a budget, work within a small community, gain consensus amongst stakeholders, shepherd the right resources, make timely decisions, and move things forward.

Town Councilmember Commitment

If elected to serve as your Councilmember, I commit to listening, being prepared and working hard, providing timely responses to residents, and making transparent decisions on the many issues brought before the Town Council.

To find out more about my background and experience, please don’t hesitate to email me at irene.townelection@gmail.com, call me at 202.758.4584, and visit www.irenelane.info.

I would greatly appreciate your support and ask that you please vote by mail before May 5.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Barney Rush, 6917 Maple Avenue

I have had the honor of serving on the Town Council for four years: first as Treasurer, then as Vice Mayor, and for the past two years as your Mayor. I now ask for your support to serve another two-year term on the Council.

This is a strange and difficult time for all of us. But I am impressed with the social responsibility being shown by Town residents, and I want to thank all who have volunteered to shop for others or are sewing masks for hospital staff. I also appreciate the friendly waves we give each other on our walks and our ongoing exchanges of humor. Let us hope that this scourge will pass without taking any from among us or from our families.

In due course, this crisis will pass. So, let us look back to work we've begun, and ahead to what is yet to be accomplished, working together.

- The vision we strove to memorialize in the Bethesda Downtown Plan – to create parks on the surface parking lots behind the Farm Women's Market and to the south – is now being converted into plans. Progress may well be delayed by the virus outbreak, but I want the Town to continue its vital role of working with the County and the developers to realize this transformative project.
- Purple Line construction is now making steady progress. We secured the state's agreement for a higher sound wall and, just last month, I was deeply engaged in obtaining a preliminary commitment to substantially reduce the use of a loud horn that otherwise would blast every time a train entered the underpass near Elm Street Park. Care and vigilance must continue to help those closest to the tracks.
- We welcome the addition of the Lee Dennison Sustainable Garden to Zimmerman Park, and I want to thank all the residents who have contributed to its creation. The Council is now working on a master plan encompassing the rest of Zimmerman Park - one that will permit many uses, including a play area for children, improved drainage for a broad lawn, better landscaping to shield East West Highway, and a fence that, periodically, can be closed to permit a dog exercise area. I want us to continue that work and see the realization of this integrated concept.
- Safety of our streets and parking regulations have become a key matter of resident concern. A Town wide traffic study is underway. The results should be turned quickly into recommendations that we can act upon, and the current Council has endorsed further expenditure on parking enforcement.
- We have clarified our building ordinances and provided more flexibility to residents. We also have supported the County's changes to ease development of accessory dwelling units, although I have concerns regarding the impact on neighboring residents that I wish to have considered.
- A revitalized Climate and Environment Committee is doing valuable work. We should continue encouraging the reduction in the use of gas-powered leaf blowers with a careful and graduated program.
- We have high quality municipal services while maintaining a stable operating budget. We are completing a Town wide utility upgrade and street repaving program. And we have seen a substantial increase in our reserves.
- We have all enjoyed the high caliber and varied series of Town events. We are eager to see these gatherings restart and continue to offer enjoyment and enhance our sense of community.

Finally, I want to maintain the tone of discourse that we've nurtured over the past four years: engagement, listening, responsiveness, respect, and civility.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve our Town. I hope I will earn your support to continue working on your behalf.

As I will not be able to see you at your door this election, please e-mail me at barneyrush@outlook.com with any questions or comments you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

2020 TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION

Voting will be undertaken by mail only. There will not be in-person voting.

The Town Council has five elected members. In the 2020 election, Town residents will elect three members, each to serve for a two-year term.

Write-In Candidates

- A Town resident seeking election to the Council as a write-in candidate shall submit a certificate of candidacy and a financial disclosure statement by 5 p.m. on April 28, 2020. These documents, which are available on the Town website, shall be delivered by e-mail to the Town at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. If this is not possible, the candidate should contact the Town Manager at thoffman@townofchevy Chase.org prior to the submittal deadline. The Town will notify residents of the names of any qualified write-in candidates on April 28, 2020. There will be appropriate blanks on the ballot for the purpose of adding write-in candidates.

Voting Registration & Eligibility

- To be eligible to vote, residents who are U.S. citizens must be at least 18 years of age; have resided in the Town for at least 30 days immediately preceding the election; and be a registered voter of the State of Maryland in Montgomery County. If you have recently moved to the Town or are uncertain whether your name is on the list of registered, qualified voters, you may visit the Maryland State Board of Elections website at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch> or call the Montgomery County Election Board at 240-777-VOTE.
- Residents who are not U.S. citizens must be legally authorized to reside in the U.S.; be at least 18 years of age; have resided in the Town for at least 30 days immediately preceding the election; and be registered to vote with the Town. Any non-U.S. citizen resident who wishes to vote in the election must submit a completed registration form, which is available on the Town website, to the Town at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org by 5 p.m. on April 28, 2020.

Universal Vote-by-Mail Procedures

- At least 14 days prior to the election, the Town will mail a ballot and a stamped return envelope to each registered Town voter.
- Ballot return envelopes must be post-marked no later than Election Day, May 5, 2020 and must be received by May 12, 2020 in order for the enclosed ballots to be counted.
- Ballots enclosed in an incomplete, illegible, or unsigned return envelope, or in an envelope whose control number does not correspond to the control number issued to that voter, shall not be counted. The Town will not accept copies of ballots or ballot envelopes.
- If a voter desires their ballot to be mailed to an address that is different than the address in the precinct register, the voter should email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org to inform the Town of the address to which the ballot should be mailed. In order to allow sufficient time for a replacement ballot to be issued and voted, any such request shall be made no later than 5 p.m. on April 28, 2020. Upon receipt of such request, any previously issued ballot and return envelope for that voter will be voided.
- In the event an issued ballot is lost or missing, a voter may email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org to request a new ballot and return envelope. In order to allow sufficient time for a replacement ballot to be issued and voted, any such request shall be made no later than 5 p.m. on April 28, 2020. Upon receipt of such request, any previously issued ballot and return envelope for that voter will be voided.
- If a resident did not receive a ballot because the resident's name did not appear on the precinct register, the resident may email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org to request a provisional ballot. In order to allow sufficient time for a provisional ballot to be issued and voted, any such request shall be made no later than 5 p.m. on April 28, 2020. In order for the provisional ballot to be counted, the voter's registration must be reflected on the precinct register no later than Election Day, May 5, 2020.
- Ballots will be processed and counted in the same manner as absentee ballots in past elections.
- Election results will be announced on May 13, 2020.

The complete plan for the Town's 2020 election is available on the Town website.

FY21 Budget Public Hearing and Adoption

At the May 5 annual meeting, to be held by videoconference, the Town Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed **\$3.6 million combined operating and capital budgets** as well as a proposed **real estate tax rate of \$0.0098 per \$100 of assessed value**. Instructions on how to join the videoconference are available on the front page of this newsletter. If you are unable to participate in the hearing, you may submit comments to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. The Council will adopt the final budget in May.

Financial Position

The Town continues to enjoy sound financial health. The Town's unassigned **general fund balance** is projected to grow from \$7.96 million last year to \$8.92 million as of June 30, 2020.

Looking ahead, we cannot anticipate the effect on Town revenues as a result of the ongoing public health crisis. However, we know that the impact will not be fully felt until 2022 due to a lag in cash flow from tax revenues processed by the state. We will closely monitor developments and plan accordingly.

In addition, the Town **continues to owe \$762,228 to the state** due to the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decision that requires a state to provide a local income tax credit to those residents who pay taxes to another state (the "Wynne" decision). The repayments will be made over five years beginning in May 2021 and will be deducted from the Town's general fund balance so as not to affect annual operating revenue.

While the Town's operating expenditures have been relatively stable from year to year, our **capital expenditures have fluctuated** due to varying levels of expenditures for infrastructure improvements over the past 6 years. Now that the utility upgrades are substantially complete, and following the final round of road repairs, future capital expenditures should decline and stabilize. The FY21 capital budget includes **\$400,000 to fund improvements to Town parks**, including those being considered for Zimmerman Park.

We expect to realize a **budget surplus of approximately \$959,000** in the current fiscal year due primarily to a larger than anticipated state distribution of local income tax revenue to the Town. We do not believe a similar revenue boost will be repeated next year. Some of this year's budget surplus will be used to cover an anticipated deficit of approximately \$260,000 for the combined operating and capital budgets for 2021.

FY21 Budget Overview

General Revenue

- Total operating revenue is budgeted at \$3,340,000, of which **\$2.7 million** is **projected income tax** revenue and \$124,500 is proposed real property tax revenue.
- The Town Council is proposing to adopt a **real property tax rate of \$0.0098** per \$100 of assessed value. This reflects the constant yield property tax rate that, when applied to new real estate assessments, will produce the same revenue in the coming taxable year that was produced in the prior taxable year. The Town's proposed rate is equal to \$98 for each \$1 million in a home's assessed value.

Operating Expenditures

- Total operating expenditures are budgeted at \$2,415,000, compared to \$2,334,877 for the current fiscal year.
- The FY21 budget includes funds to continue all the Town's **high-quality programs and services** at similar levels to this year. The Council increased funding for **parking enforcement** and for **senior support services**. The latter funding increase is in response to the ongoing public health crisis.

Capital Expenditures

- Total capital expenditures are budgeted at \$1,185,000, compared to \$905,000 for the current fiscal year.
- The budget includes funds for **anticipated street and sidewalk repairs**, including funds for regular annual maintenance as well as for repairs needed due to the ongoing infrastructure work. Funds also are included for **Town park improvements** and **new street trees**.

General Fund Balance

- The Town's unassigned **general fund balance is projected to be \$8,586,750** on June 30, 2021.

Restricted Funds

- The Town will use restricted cable TV grants to acquire **audio/visual equipment**.

Comprehensive budget documents are available for review on the Town website.

FY21 Proposed Budget

Budget Summary	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budget	FY20 Est. Actual	FY21 Budget
GENERAL REVENUE				
Taxes				
Income Taxes	2,751,018	2,400,000	3,166,000	2,700,000
Real Property Tax (\$0.0098/\$100 for FY21)	124,426	122,000	124,500	124,500
Highway User Revenue	92,517	117,500	119,000	121,000
Utility Property Tax (\$0.66/\$100 for FY21) ¹	28,967	30,000	29,000	29,000
Subtotal - Taxes	2,996,928	2,669,500	3,438,500	2,974,500
Reimbursements and Bank Shares	132,178	132,500	132,500	132,500
Permit Fees and Cable TV Revenue	71,358	75,000	68,000	69,000
Other Revenue	190,170	175,000	175,500	164,000
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE	3,390,634	3,052,000	3,814,500	3,340,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES				
General Government				
Salaries & Benefits	543,612	641,200	554,200	579,500
Professional Services	214,821	256,877	182,000	256,000
Civic Affairs and Community Programs	166,589	120,000	95,000	130,000
Other Services & Supplies	101,118	87,000	102,500	104,000
Subtotal - General Government	1,026,140	1,105,077	933,700	1,069,500
Public Works				
Sanitation and Waste Removal	368,862	386,800	375,750	454,500
Streets and Roads	131,497	252,500	138,000	209,500
Parks, Grounds and Trees	293,266	213,000	274,000	280,000
Subtotal - Public Works	793,625	852,300	787,750	944,000
Public Safety (Police)	347,119	377,500	377,500	401,500
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2,166,884	2,334,877	2,098,950	2,415,000
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES				
Infrastructure				
Streets and Roads	1,428,716	650,000	650,000	1,200,000
Reimbursements for Utility Repairs	(147,449)	0	0	(475,000)
Net Expenditures for Infrastructure	1,281,267	650,000	650,000	725,000
Other Capital Projects				
Street Lights	1,387	5,000	1,500	5,000
Facilities and Equipment	1,829	100,000	90,000	40,000
Parks, Grounds & Trees	45,734	150,000	15,000	415,000
Subtotal - Other Capital Projects	48,950	255,000	106,500	460,000
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	1,330,217	905,000	756,500	1,185,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,497,101	3,239,877	2,855,450	3,600,000
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(106,467)	(187,877)	959,050	(260,000)
WYNNE CREDIT REPAYMENT FROM RESERVE²	0	0	0	(76,223)
ENDING GENERAL FUND BALANCE	7,963,923	7,776,046	8,922,973	8,586,750
		FY21 Contingent Reserve³		1,336,000

¹ this tax is paid by utility companies, not by Town residents.

² Wynne credit repayments are deducted from the general fund balance so as not to affect the annual operating budget.

³ this figure represents 40 percent of the Town's annual operating revenues. It is included in the Town's general fund balance.

RESTRICTED FUNDS	Est. Balance 6/30/2020	FY21 Est. Revenue	FY21 Est. Expenses	Est. Balance 6/30/2021
Cable TV Improvements -- PEG Grants	246,334	82,000	25,000	303,334
TOTAL - RESTRICTED FUNDS	246,334	82,000	25,000	303,334

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



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Council Election and Annual Meeting Issue

2020 Election and FY21 Budget Information Enclosed

Information also may be found on the Town website

www.townofchevychase.org