



Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness...for All

In a few days, we will celebrate the 244th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Even though we cannot enjoy our traditional parade and barbecue together this year, the Community Relations Committee has pulled together a great July 4th celebration for us to enjoy (see page 3).

Independence Day is also a time to reflect on this country's founding and what it means for all of us. As we read the Declaration of Independence, we are reminded of the magnitude of injustice and indignities the colonists faced. In response, they created a new country with the promise that we are all created equal and entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This year we also celebrate 100 years since the ratification of the 19th Amendment, enshrining women's suffrage in the Constitution.

But July 4, 2020 also will mark 40 days since George Floyd was murdered, 33 days since peaceful protestors were forcibly removed from Lafayette Square, and 5 years and 76 days since Freddie Gray died. Sadly, there are too many tragic anniversaries of violence and hate to list here.

In light of recent events, there has been an unprecedented call for a response at every level of government. We must continue to fight inequality and prejudice in all their nefarious forms, and we must find ways to heal and bring our community together, not just here in the Town, but more broadly. To do that, we will need open dialogue about both the assets and the flaws in our society. To further this effort, the Town Council unanimously agreed at our June 10 Council meeting to establish a Special Committee that will organize programs on social justice and consider other measures that we may want to pursue. I encourage interested residents, including teens and young adults, to volunteer for this new special committee.

Our civic engagement is one of our strengths, and I am grateful to all who have contributed their time and energy to making our Town a better place. I would particularly like to thank the chairs and members of our committees for all of their work. As noted above, the Community Relations Committee under the leadership of **Wicca Davidson** has refused to be stopped by a pandemic, finding ways to foster community and help others before and after COVID-19 arrived. Led by **Irene Lane**, the Climate & Environment Committee has worked to strengthen our recycling program, improve noise pollution and more. The Land Use Committee, chaired by **Lees Hartman**, continued efforts to streamline our building code while also guiding the Council through possible improvements to Zimmerman Park. With **Dedun Ingram** at the helm, the Long-Range Planning Committee has monitored development plans in Bethesda and pending policy changes at the County level. And the Public Services Committee, led by **Dave Eason**, analyzed options for improving permit parking and prepared us for the Town-wide traffic study that is currently underway. After years of service to the Town, Dave is now enjoying a well-earned retirement out of state, and we will miss him dearly.

As Independence Day approaches, please take a few minutes to think about how you as an individual, and we as a Town, can build on the promise from so long ago. Thank you, and happy 4th of July!

-- Mayor Cecily Baskir



Independence Day Celebration
July 4, 12- 2 p.m., Lawton Center & Vicinity
See page 3 for details

TOWN NEWS

July Public Hearing & Special Public Comment Period

Public Hearing on Phased-In Restrictions of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

At its July 8 meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on an ordinance to implement phased-in restrictions on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in Town.

In May, the Town's Climate and Environment Committee (CEC) presented a report to the Town Council requesting action to address noise, harmful pollutants, and other impacts from gas-powered leaf blowers on landscape workers and residents. In response to the Committee's specific request for a phased-in ban, the Council asked the Town attorney to draft an ordinance to prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers on Sundays, effective September 1, 2020, and to prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers on weekends and federal holidays, effective January 1, 2021. The Council amended and introduced the ordinance at its June 10 Council meeting. The amendment stipulates that no fines will be imposed by the Town for violations of the new regulations prior to January 1, 2022.

A complete copy of the ordinance and the CEC's report to the Town Council are available for review on the Town website. If you would like to participate in the July 8 meeting, which begins at 7 p.m., 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. If you are unable to participate in the July Council meeting, you may submit comments to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Special Public Comment Period on Total Ban of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

At its July 8 meeting, the Town Council will hold a special public comment period to solicit community feedback on the Climate and Environment Committee's proposal to implement a total ban of a gas-powered leaf blowers effective January 1, 2022. The Council will consider all public comments before deciding whether and how to proceed with a proposed ordinance, which would be subject to a future public hearing. If you are unable to participate in the July Council meeting, you may submit comments to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Committee Volunteer Deadline Extended Until July 31

The Town has extended until July 31 the deadline to submit requests to serve on a Town committee or board for the coming year. Information about the various committees and boards is posted on the Town website. If you are interested in volunteering, please submit a brief note expressing interest to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Seeking Volunteers to Serve on Two Special Committees

The Town is seeking volunteers to serve on a special subcommittee to address regional growth and a special committee to address social justice issues.

The regional growth subcommittee will address important issues about land use, development, and public infrastructure. It will help develop a coordinated response to the County's updates to its General Plan (now called Thrive Montgomery 2050) and its Subdivision Staging Policy (now called County Growth Policy 2020-2024). Members of the subcommittee will research and monitor the issues raised in the Growth Policy and General Plan and will advise the Council.

The social justice committee will coordinate with the Community Relations Committee to organize programs and initiatives on race, racism and social justice; consider other measures that the Town may want to pursue to address these issues; and make recommendations to the Town Council.

More information about both opportunities is available on the Town website. If you are interested in volunteering, please submit a brief note to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. Your correspondence should include your name, address, telephone number, and the reason you would like to volunteer.

TOWN EVENTS

Independence Day Celebration -- July 4, 2020

12 p.m. to 2 p.m.: Ice Cream

Come to the Lawton Center where Ben & Jerry's will be serving 5 flavors of its namesake pre-packed ice cream. Servings will be placed on two tables for easy, non-contact retrieval.

12:30 to 2 p.m.: Scavenger Hunt

The Town's Scavenger Hunt for home holiday decorations will be focused on the area of Town within a 2-3 block radius of the Lawton Center, although all are welcome to decorate their homes. The list of items to hunt for will be provided via Town social media. There are beads, flags and other patriotic items for the children, and decorations for homeowners. Pick up spots will be announced soon.

12:30 & 1:30 p.m.: Rockville Concert Band Ensemble

An ensemble of the Rockville Concert Band will play celebratory music from 12:30 to 1 p.m. in Zimmerman Park and from 1:30 to 2 p.m. at the Lawton Center. Please use appropriate social distancing, wear masks, and stay in your family "pods." The County now allows outdoor gatherings of no more than 50, so no more than 40 people should be gathered near the 10 band members.

Commemorate the Day: Take Photos!

Please take photographs of you and your families, decorated homes, and the band while you are out enjoying the day, then drop them to www.dropbox.com/request/foeXDRcOLRmcw8uHaKiR. A photo essay will be created and distributed afterwards on various social media.

Declaration of Independence Video: Finally, we will be able to hear it clearly!

Scout Troop 255 has created a video of the recordings done by Town residents, aged 7-91, reading the Declaration of Independence. The video will be presented to the Town on July 4 via social media, including the Town website and Town Neighbors. Many thanks to the hard work done by the Scouts.

The rain date for these events is Sunday, July 5 from 12 pm. to 2 p.m.

Trash & Treasures Planned for September

Due to the ongoing public health crisis in Montgomery County, the Council has decided to delay the Trash & Treasures event until September. In the meantime, residents are reminded that **the County's Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station has resumed normal operations and will accept bulk waste from Town residents.** Visit montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/dropoff/ for more information. Town residents also may call the Town's household trash collection contractor at 240-278-2698 to request bulk pick-ups for a fee determined by the contractor.

Holiday Donations to Benefit Online Summer Camp

As part of last winter's annual Holiday Gift Drive, Town residents generously donated money to the Family Justice Center. This summer, the Center will use these donations to offer an online summer camp for a group of children exposed to domestic violence. The Center will mail each child a box of art supplies, games and toys, which they will be able to keep, and the children will participate in two camp sessions per week via teleconference. Thank you for providing this opportunity to help them.

County Reopening Plans & Information Resources

The Montgomery County website (montgomerycountymd.gov) provides resources and guidelines for County reopening plans as well as the latest updates on the COVID-19 pandemic and the number of confirmed cases in the County. Links to all of this information are available from the homepage. For more information on coronavirus preparedness and response, visit the Office of the Governor of Maryland (governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus/); the Centers for Disease Control (cdc.gov); and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (hhs.gov).

TOWN UPDATES

Have a Wonderful Summer!

The FORECAST is not published in August, and the Town Council does not meet in August. We encourage you to visit the Town website for current Town news and information. To receive news alerts from the Town, we encourage you to sign up to receive Town Crier emails (see below).

Sign Up for Town Crier & Town Neighbors

Residents are encouraged to connect with the Town through the Town Crier email alert system (www.townofchevy Chase.org/list.aspx) and with fellow residents through the private Town Neighbors listserv. To join the Town Neighbors listserv, please email townneighbors+owner@groups.io. Both resources offer an important way to stay informed and in touch.

Overgrown Vegetation

As a reminder, residents are asked to keep all streets and sidewalks clear of overgrown vegetation. Please prune vegetation to ensure unobstructed sight lines for pedestrians and motorists. The Town's vegetation maintenance standards are available for review on the Town website.

Chevy Chase at Home in July

As we navigate this difficult and uncertain time, CC@H has transitioned to virtual programs and activities on Zoom®. Visit CC@H's newly designed website at www.chevy Chaseathome.org to participate in these events and to learn more about the organization. Take a look at the *COVID-19 Boredom Busters* where you'll find everything from virtual museum tours and fitness programs to music and theatre -- all part of the CC@H mission to keep Chevy Chase seniors connected and active in the community with neighbors of all ages. CC@H will be back with more in-person programs as soon as it is safe.

Town of Chevy Chase

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