



Forecast

OCTOBER 2020

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Monday, October 5

Long Range Planning*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 7

Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 8

Climate & Environment*, 7 p.m.

Monday, October 12

Columbus Day
Town Office Closed

Tuesday, October 13

Regional Growth*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 14

Council Work Session, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 14

Town Council, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20

Racial Justice*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 22

Land Use*, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 27

Regional Growth*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 28

Public Services*, 7 p.m.

* Town Committee meeting

*Please visit the website calendar
for more information on, and
instructions to join, these meetings*

Civility, Community & Consideration

I recall learning in elementary school that “rugged individualism” has long been one of the hallmarks of the American character. As important as self-reliance can be, however, I like to hope that the character of the Town of Chevy Chase is defined more by three C’s: civility, community, and consideration.

We are now more than six months into the pandemic, and the inability to return to normalcy as we once knew it creates trying circumstances for all of us. Short tempers abound in my household, and unfortunately we see tensions and conflicts flaring up beyond the confines of our homes. As difficult as it may be, we must try to remain civil with each other despite having different, and often strongly held, opinions and despite the trials of our times.

Our civility can strengthen our sense of community, just as our sense of community can facilitate our civility. Despite limiting our in-person social gatherings, the pandemic has fostered community in new ways, including through the generous efforts of so many residents to help each other through the *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* program. We may have to be creative to identify even more formal and informal ways to come together as a community, but I have confidence that we will succeed.

Consideration of each other is an important component of community. All too often, the Town Council hears concerns that, as a local government, we lack the ability to resolve. A little more thoughtfulness can go a long way, however, to addressing many of those concerns. As you drive through the Town, please be mindful of the safety of your neighbors who are out on foot, bicycle, scooter, stroller, or leash. As you embark on home improvement projects, please be mindful of the increased noise and/or water run-off onto your neighbors’ properties. Especially as we enter the fall season, consider switching to battery-powered landscaping equipment. And as you relax on cool evenings around your firepit, please be mindful of the smoke that travels onto your neighbors’ properties.

With a little more consideration and civility, I am optimistic that our community will continue to grow stronger, despite -- and maybe even because of -- the challenges of the day. Happy October!

– Mayor Cecily Baskir



Leaf Collection to Begin in October

Leaf vacuuming will begin in late October. Please rake leaves to the edge of the curb for collection. Leaves must be free of debris such as sticks, bottles, and rocks. **This year, the Town’s contractor will use battery-powered leaf blowers to help reduce the noise associated with this service.** If you or your landscape company will be using gas-powered leaf blowers this fall, please follow the Town’s quiet hours schedule and refrain from using them before 9 a.m. or after 7 p.m. on weekdays.

TOWN NEWS

Subdivision Staging Policy -- Updates & Impacts

By County law, Montgomery County's Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP), to be renamed County Growth Policy, must be updated every four years, and an update is currently underway. In conjunction with County Master Plans, the SSP is used to determine whether public facilities, such as public schools and transportation systems, are sufficient to support new development. The SSP imposes taxes to fund the new development, and if public facilities are found to be insufficient, it outlines remedial actions.

The Town's key positions, outlined in a letter and testimony provided to the County Council, include: 1) continue residential housing moratoria (now triggered when schools are overcrowded) for one year while a task force consisting of residents, planning staff, and MCPS develops an effective replacement tool to control school overcrowding; 2) conduct a comprehensive fiscal study of the impacts of proposed policy changes on total revenues; 3) continue use of the motor vehicle adequacy test near Metrorail and Purple Line stations because traffic congestion still matters.

The County Executive and the Montgomery County Council of PTAs also have reviewed and commented on the Planning Board's draft and raised some of the same objections as those raised by the Town. In the coming weeks, further discussions with County Council members will be ongoing. The County Council will finalize a new policy by November 15. Residents are encouraged to review the SSP documents and submit comments to the County Council at county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov. All documents referenced in this article are posted on, or linked from, the Town website.

County General Plan Update -- Big Changes Envisioned

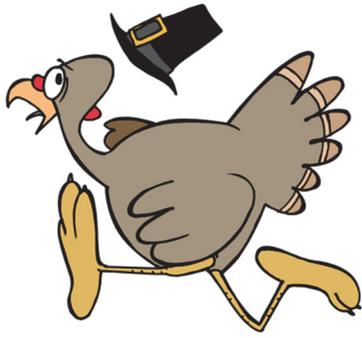
Thrive Montgomery 2050, the Planning Board's update of the County's General Plan, will guide the County's growth and development for the next 30 years. The working draft includes goals, policies, and actions for land use, housing, transportation, environment, equity, design, arts and culture, parks and open spaces, and the economy.

The draft plan promotes the following overarching concepts: • encourage compact development (i.e., "complete communities" which have needed amenities within a 15-minute walk or bike ride for residents); • retrofit existing neighborhoods near transit to be complete communities by increasing density, adding housing types, and adding accessible retail and services; • restrict new growth to transportation corridors; • stop planning for cars: shrink and repurpose roads, remove/reduce parking, expand mass transit; • eradicate greenhouse gas emissions; • build attainable housing for all income levels; • employ regional solutions and strategies; • promote and support diversity.

The Town's Subcommittee on Regional Growth and Development is reviewing the *Thrive Montgomery* draft and will submit recommendations for Town Council action. The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the working draft on November 19, after which it will have work sessions before submitting the final draft to the County Council around March 2021. Residents are encouraged to review the *Thrive Montgomery* draft, which is linked from the Town website, and send comments to the Town by October 9 and to the Planning Board. Please visit the Town website for more information.

Let's Talk About *Thrive Montgomery 2050*

Councilmember Irene Lane, who serves as Council Co-Liaison to the Town's Subcommittee on Regional Growth and Development, will host two virtual "talks" about *Thrive Montgomery*, the first on Tuesday, October 6 at 12 p.m., and the second on Thursday, October 15 at 7 p.m. To attend a session, please RSVP to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org, and you will be provided instructions on how to join. If you cannot attend a session and have questions about *Thrive Montgomery*, please email your questions to the Town office by October 9. We look forward to a productive dialogue!



12th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets

Organized by
Town of Chevy Chase
Lawton Community Center

*Serving families in need through the
YMCA Linkages to Learning of Montgomery County*

Though we cannot gather in person at the Town Hall to fill and decorate boxes of food, we still can help 100 MCPS families this Thanksgiving holiday. Instead of our traditional dinner baskets, families will receive at a minimum a \$75 Giant or Aldi food card. Our timetable for donations is the month of October so families will have the cards by mid-November for holiday food shopping.

With the COVID-19 crisis creating great hardship for so many families throughout the county, our community effort this year is even more important than ever. Thank you for your generous support!

Here's how you can help! October 1 – October 30

- **Drop off/mail a check payable to YMCA-YFS or Aldi/Giant gift cards** to Georgia Guhin (4006 Rosemary Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815) October 1 - 30. If you would like us to pick up your donation, please contact one of us below. Your donation will help us purchase a \$75 food card for each of the 100 families. Additional funds raised will go toward extra gift cards. 100% of your donation will support MCPS families in need. The YMCA is not able to accept online donations for this special project. You will receive an acknowledgement of your donation from the YMCA.
- **Decorate small boxes for the food gift cards** by picking up the containers and googly eyes starting October 1 on the porch of Katie Vita (6905 Maple Avenue) or by contacting one of us below for delivery. Return the decorated boxes to Katie's porch by October 30, or contact one of us for pick up.
- **Have questions?** Send an email to Georgia Guhin (gbguhin@gmail.com); Bridget Hartman (bridget@hartmanjr.net); Katie Vita (katie.vita@gmail.com); or, the Town Office (townoffice@townofchevychase.org).

Town of Chevy Chase
4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

Cecily Baskir, Mayor

Joel Rubin, Vice Mayor

Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Secretary

Barney Rush, Treasurer

Irene Lane, Community Liaison

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TOWN NOTES

Work Session on Accessory Dwelling Unit Regulations

On October 14 at 5:30 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 has 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 continue to 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. 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. Any new regulations supported by the Town Council will be publicly advertised and subject to a future public hearing.

Parking Permits Extended for One Year

Due to the ongoing pandemic, **the Town is extending all parking permits and guest passes until September 31, 2021.** All vehicles within a permit parking area must display a purple permit parking decal or guest pass with an expiration date of September 30, 2020. Any resident who lives in a permit parking area and acquires a new vehicle during the next year should contact the Town office to request a permit parking sticker and guest pass. Vehicles that do not display the most recent decals or guest passes will continue to be ticketed. Please call 301-654-7144 for more information.