



Forecast

NOVEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Monday, November 2
Long Range Planning*, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 3
General Election Day

Wednesday, November 4
Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 5
Climate & Environment*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11
Council Work Session, 5:30 p.m.
see page 2

Wednesday, November 11
Town Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 12
Regional Growth*, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 17
Racial Justice*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving Day

Monday, November 30
Land Use*, 7 p.m.

* Town Committee meeting

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

An Update on the Purple Line

We are all concerned with the outlook for the Purple Line, given the collapse of the current agreement between the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) and the construction consortium. Councilmembers have recently had two conversations with Matt Pollack, the MTA's executive director for the project. We would like to pass on the following key points:

The State has made clear its determination to finish the project. Long-term, it would like to rebid the overall public-private partnership contract to bring in a new general contractor and carry the work to completion. However, there will be a period of at least six months before this can be accomplished, and, in the meantime, the MTA itself will undertake the following:

- Ensure the contractor demobilizes properly, emphasizing safety and subcontractor coordination and assignment of work.
- Continue with existing sub-contractors for design, construction, utility work, and safety and quality assurance. There are approximately 50 subcontractors currently active, and all who have been approached wish to keep on working.
- Determine a schedule for near-term work, such as completing walls, relocating utilities, and continuing off-site equipment manufacturing.
- Put in place the necessary additional staff at the MTA to manage this work directly.

We were told that the State realizes it will have to fund this near-term work directly, and the MTA has been assured that MARC will provide the resources. In addition, the MTA is in active discussion with Federal authorities regarding the funding that had been pledged for the project, both grant and loans. The State obviously wants and needs to keep these sources available, notwithstanding a likely change in the structure of project ownership.

The MTA promised continued and candid conversations with all stakeholders, and the community advisory meetings will continue. Overall, our sense is that the MTA is genuine in its commitment to complete the project and sincere in wanting to communicate with stakeholders. But it also still faces many issues that require further thought and review before decisions can be made. It seems clear that a material slowdown of project construction is in front of us.

– Councilmember Barney Rush



Winter Clothing Drive Begins November 1

see page 3 for details



TOWN NEWS

November Town Council Discussions

Accessory Dwelling Unit Regulations

At its regular November 11 Council meeting, the Town Council will continue to review and discuss the Land Use Committee's recommendations for additional regulations of accessory dwelling units (ADUs). An ADU is a second dwelling unit located on a lot with a single-family house, either within the house or 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. Any new regulations supported by the Town Council will be publicly advertised and subject to a future public hearing.

Gas-Powered Blower Regulations

The Town Council will continue to consider possible restrictions on the use of gas-powered blowers in response to requests from the Town's Climate and Environment Committee (CEC) to address noise, pollutants, and other negative impacts from this equipment. The District of Columbia and the Village of Chevy Chase have already banned the use of gas-powered leaf blowers beginning in January 2022, and other communities nearby are considering similar bans. This year, the Town's contractor will use battery-powered blowers to collect leaves, and we encourage residents and their contractors to do the same. For more information on the CEC's analysis of this issue, please visit the Town website.

Zimmerman Park Redevelopment

At a work session immediately prior to the regular November 11 Council meeting, the Council will discuss the latest plans for redevelopment of Zimmerman Park. This project proposes to create a new multi-use public recreation area in the park to include a nature play area, a picnic/seating area, a broad lawn area with improved drainage for sports and recreational activities, improved landscaping, and a perimeter fence. The Council will continue its review of the improvements this fall and will discuss when and how to present the concept plans to the public.

Subdivision Staging Policy

The Town Council continues its outreach to the County Council on updates to the County's Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP). 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 infrastructure needed to support new development and outlines remedial actions where public facilities are found to be insufficient. The County must enact an updated SSP every four years.

The Town has provided correspondence and testimony to the County Council on the current SSP update. These documents, which outline the Town's key positions, are available on the Town website. Residents are encouraged to review the documents and submit comments to the County Council at county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov. The County Council will adopt a new policy by Nov. 15.

Thrive Montgomery 2050

Thrive Montgomery 2050 is a proposed plan to guide the County's growth and development for the next 30 years. The draft plan includes goals, policies, and actions for land use, housing, transportation, environment, equity, design, arts and culture, parks and open spaces, and the economy.

The County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the draft plan on November 19, after which it will have work sessions before submitting the final draft to the County Council around March 2021. The Town intends to submit written comments and provide oral testimony. Residents are encouraged to review the Thrive Montgomery draft, which is linked from the Town website, and send comments to the Planning Board at MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org. Please visit the Town website for more information.

TOWN EVENTS

Winter Clothing Drive Begins November 1

This winter, more than ever before, our neighbors need warm winter clothing. Every year our Town donates clothing to Interfaith Works, which distributes it to 13,000 income-qualified residents, including nearly 6,000 children. Please donate clean, gently used or never worn items: coats, gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, sweaters, pants and socks. Donations will be accepted through February 28.

Since the Lawton Center is closed, the clothing box will be located on the front porch of Marjorie Shaw and Barney Rush, at 6917 Maple Avenue (between Stanford Street and Pine Place). Feel free to drop off your donations any time! This drive is coordinated by the Community Relations Committee.

Bring Us Your Ideas – and Help – for Virtual Events

As we continue following strict protocols in our efforts to contain the coronavirus, the Town Council and the Community Relations Committee are eager to find new ways to build community in our Town. To that end, we welcome help from residents in proposing and planning interesting and fun virtual events.

Some ideas have already surfaced, including online “Discussion and Desserts,” with speakers from the Town or invited by Town residents; wine-tasting, where participants have the bottle in hand for a sommelier’s talk; presentations of art, music, or dance from students seeking an audience; a virtual Yappy Hour, perhaps with dogs dressed for a holiday occasion; a Town-themed bingo and trivia night; a cooking class; and a children’s puppet show.

We seek volunteers who are interested in helping to organize virtual events like these, as well as general and specific suggestions for speakers, performers, and instructors who you believe would be good candidates to participate. If you are willing to assist with organizing and/or have ideas to share, please contact the Town Office at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

TOWN UPDATES

Holiday Trash Collection

Household trash will not be collected on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, but will be collected on your next regularly scheduled trash day.

Leaf Collection

Leaf vacuuming has begun and will continue through mid-December. Please rake leaves to the edge of the curb for collection. Leaves must be free of debris such as sticks, bottles, and rocks. 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 Dog Resources & Directory

We’d like to remind residents of a wonderful website for Town dogs and owners developed by Town resident Bren Lizzio -- www.Town-DOG.org. The website is a one-stop-shop that has lots of helpful information, including a list of local dog parks, dog regulations, a map of dog waste stations, and what to do if your dog goes missing or you come across a lost dog. It also has a great directory of Town dogs where your four-footed friends can be added, if you like. It is fun scrolling through to meet some of the Town dogs, all from a socially safe distance, of course.

Please Clean Up After Your Pet

The Town office has received complaints about dog waste being left on public areas in Town. The Town has installed numerous dog waste stations in Town. A map can be found on the Town website. We appreciate your cooperation in addressing this issue.

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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AROUND CHEVY CHASE

November Offerings from Chevy Chase at Home

Chevy Chase at Home continues to offer a variety of virtual programs on Zoom, some in collaboration with local municipalities. On **Monday, November 9**, Michael Sharnoff, Associate Professor at the National Defense University's Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, will discuss "Shifting Dynamics of the Middle East, Israel and Its Neighbors." On **Wednesday, November 11**, author Paul Dickson will speak about his book, "The Rise of the G.I. Army 1940-1941." Also, there is a program on "What You Should Know About Medicare" on **Thursday, November 12**.

Please visit our website at www.chevychaseathome.com, which is updated daily, for details on these and other Chevy Chase at Home offerings, including a wealth of "Boredom Busters."

Chevy Chase At Home (CC@H) is a non-profit organization that helps local seniors "age in place." Full members have access to many exciting cultural, educational, social, and health & wellness events. They also enjoy a broad array of volunteer-provided services, including home safety visits, rides to medical and other appointments, and computer assistance. All adults (60+) may join as Members, and adults of any age may become Associates and Volunteers.

JOIN CC@H NOW by calling 301-657-3115 or visiting www.chevychaseathome.org.