



Forecast

DECEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Tuesday, December 1
Council Work Session, 4 p.m.
see page 2

Wednesday, December 2
Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 3
Climate & Environment*, 7 p.m.

Monday, December 7
Long Range Planning*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 9
Town Council, 7 p.m.

Monday, December 14
Public Services*, 7 p.m.
Racial Justice*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 16
Land Use*, 7 p.m.

December 24 & 25
Christmas Holiday
Town Office Closed

December 31 & January 1
New Year's Holiday
Town Office Closed

* Town Committee meeting

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

Racial Justice Special Committee

Acknowledging that this year of social and health tragedies, economic upheavals, and heartfelt reflections has left many of us in the Town feeling powerless at times, we wanted to take a moment to talk about an outlet for action that is available to our residents. A group of Town residents has come together in 2020 to have frank discussions about racial injustice and its continuing impact on our country.

The Racial Justice Special Committee was formed this past summer in the aftermath of a nationwide reckoning with George Floyd's death, various calls for action, and Town dialogue around similar issues. The Town Council proposed the creation of a Special Committee that would design programs and initiatives to help Town residents understand the moment, explore the Town's own history, and guide the Town's potential role in addressing issues of racial injustice.

The Special Committee is currently made up of fifteen residents and co-chaired by Carlin Barmada and Mo Orbach. After initial discussions, all of which can be found on the Town website, the Special Committee developed nineteen project proposals and elected to focus on three initiatives, which are to:

- create an educational resource list and speaker discussion series,
- engage with the County Police Department in its ongoing effort to ensure that racial equity issues are incorporated into policy making and to identify critical areas of improvement, and
- empower Town youth by creating opportunities for interaction that honor the positive and equal contributions of people of color and support our shared goals of equal access and opportunity.

We encourage interested and curious residents of all backgrounds to get involved, whether it is attending an upcoming educational session or joining the Special Committee. We especially welcome people of color to reach out with any questions, concerns, or requests. Also, as the Special Committee is in the process of forming a Youth Empowerment Task Force, we ask that motivated teens or tweens in your household engage with us. Please contact the Town office for more information and to be connected with our co-chairs.

We wish you all a healthy and happy holiday season.

– Councilmembers Irene Lane and Joel Rubin



8th Annual Holiday Gift Drive
See page 3 for details



TOWN NEWS

Public Hearings Scheduled for December 9 Council Meeting

On December 9, the Town Council will hold two public hearings, one on proposed regulations of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and the other on proposed regulations of gas-powered blowers. The Council discussed and introduced ordinances to implement these regulations at its November 11 meeting. The ordinances are summarized below, and complete copies are available for review on the Town website. If you are unable to attend the December Council meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. on Zoom, you may submit comments on the proposed ordinances to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Regulations

An accessory dwelling unit (ADU) is a second dwelling unit located on a lot with a single-family house. The County adopted new rules for ADUs that went into effect on December 31, 2019. Under the County's new rules, one ADU may be located on every lot, either within the house (attached) or in the rear yard (detached). The Town is proposing stricter setback rules than the County for detached ADUs by requiring that they have the same side setbacks as the main house and rear setbacks of at least 15% of the lot depth. No changes are proposed for attached ADUs or for parking for ADUs. The ordinance also would require exterior lighting to be directed away from neighbors' windows.

Gas-Powered Blower Regulations

These proposed regulations are in response to resident concerns about noise and other impacts of gas-powered blowers. Specifically, they would 1) expand quiet hours during which the use of gas-powered blowers is prohibited; and 2) implement a ban on the use of gas-powered blowers from January 1 through October 14, effective in 2022. The regulations do not propose a total ban of gas-powered blowers at this time and would exempt gas-powered snow blowers and sprayers.

Work Session on Battery-Powered Blower Subsidy Program

On December 1 at 4 p.m. via videoconference, the Council will hold a work session to discuss a subsidy program for battery-powered blowers and related equipment that is intended to reduce the noise and other impacts of gas-powered equipment. At the work session, the Council will discuss options for and terms of a potential program as well as additional steps for consideration.

County Growth, Infrastructure and Development Plans

On November 19, the County Planning Board held a public hearing on [Thrive Montgomery 2050](#), a proposed plan to guide the County's growth and development for the next 30 years. The Town submitted written comments, prepared in collaboration with 26 other communities, and provided oral testimony. Starting in December, the Planning Board will hold work sessions before submitting the final draft to the County Council around March 2021. Please visit the Town website for more information.

The County Council recently approved the [2020-2024 Growth and Infrastructure Policy](#) (formerly known as the Subdivision Staging Policy). Significant changes in the updated policy are the elimination of residential building moratoria if schools become overcrowded (instead, developers who want to build new housing in an area with overcrowded schools will be charged an additional fee) and the elimination of the motor vehicle adequacy test in urban areas like Bethesda. Under the new policy, the County will lose revenue because developer taxes and fees were reduced; the County Council intends to raise recordation taxes to recoup this lost revenue. The Town provided correspondence and testimony outlining the Town's key positions on the policy update. Please visit the Town website for more information.

Council Begins Planning for 2021 Town Election

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Town Council has discussed continuing a universal vote-by mail system for the 2021 Town election with some changes to protect voter privacy. At its December meeting, the Council is scheduled to discuss and possibly introduce an ordinance to implement this system for next year. More information will be provided in the January Forecast.

TOWN EVENTS

Brighten the Holidays for Domestic Violence Victims



It's time for the 8th annual Holiday Gift Drive when we collect donations for families of domestic violence, who are clients of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center (FJC) and Chesapeake Counseling. We ask you to be generous this year and extend a helping hand to these needy families who are struggling even more in the midst of a pandemic. This drive is coordinated by the Community Relations Committee.

Gift cards in denominations of \$10 to \$50 for Amazon, Target, Marshalls, Kohl's, Safeway, or Giant would be greatly appreciated. You may also write a check to the FJC Foundation. Please drop off your donations to Cathy's Wolf's house at 7624 Lynn Drive (please use basket in carport) or Quynh Tran's house at 7203 Ridgewood Avenue, or mail your donation to the Town office at 4301 Willow Lane (to receive a tax deductible receipt, please include your name and e-mail). The deadline for collecting gift cards and checks is Monday, December 14, but they are accepted gratefully at any time of the year. Questions? Email Cathy (cathrynwolf2@gmail.com) or Quynh (vanstinger2205@gmail.com).

Small Group Audubon Tours in December

Did you know the Audubon Naturalist Society is just a 10-minute drive from our Town? Join Town resident Frank Sanford for a small-group tour of this local gem. Enjoy the fresh air, spot some wildlife and learn about the site's history and vision for a sustainable habitat, right in our backyard. Tickets cost \$10. Tour dates are December 13 at 1 p.m.; December 14 at 3 p.m.; and December 19 at 1 p.m. To register for one of these tours, please email Frank Sanford at fsanford44@gmail.com.

Winter Clothing Drive Continues Thru February 28

Can you help? Many of our neighbors can't afford to buy the warm clothes they need, and each year our Town donates winter 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 clothing, such as coats, gloves, hats, and socks, as well as waterproof winter wear. The donation box is on the front porch of Marjorie Shaw and Barney Rush at 6917 Maple Avenue. Please drop off items any time!

Thanksgiving Thanks!

A grateful thanks to all who contributed to this year's Thanksgiving Dinner Basket effort. Whether you lent your artistic talents to decorate boxes or dropped off food cards and checks, your donation helped more than 200 MCPS families with their grocery shopping this Thanksgiving holiday. We purchased or received 226 grocery gift cards that the YMCA's Youth and Family Services gave to families facing unexpected and unprecedented hard times. Thank you for your extraordinary generosity!

TOWN UPDATES

Leaf Vacuuming to End in Mid-December



Vacuum trucks will collect leaves continually, street by street, through mid-December. All leaves should be raked to the curb, not into the street. After collection has ended, please place leaves in reusable containers or paper yard waste bags and place them at the curb by 7 a.m. for Monday yard waste collection. The final leaf collection date will be announced via Town Crier.

Holiday Office Closures & Household Trash Collection Schedule

The Town office will be closed on December 24 & 25 and on December 31 & January 1. Household trash will not be collected on Christmas Day, Friday, December 25 or New Year's Day, Friday, January 1, but will be collected on your next regularly scheduled trash day.

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

Happy Holidays from Chevy Chase at Home

Our December calendar is overflowing with interesting virtual programs, many of them open to the community at large. On Tuesday, December 8, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., we are offering a fascinating Interactive Class, "Media Ethics: Make the Tough Calls. Think Like a Journalist." Please RSVP to info@chevyCHASEathome.org for the link. The session, delivered by educators from the Freedom Forum, will consider the ethical issues journalists face as they strive to be accurate, fair, and clear -- certainly an important topic in today's world.

Please visit the events page on our website (www.chevyCHASEathome.org) to see the many other December offerings from our community. Interested in "A Conversation with Deborah Tannen," about her new memoir, or perhaps a program on "Edison, Einstein, Ellington, and Ernst: The Many Face of Genius" with Dr. Michael Geselowitz, or even a virtual Chanukah Meal cooking demonstration with Chef Michael Solomonov?? There could be something for everyone. A large part of the mission of CC@H is to keep our Chevy Chase seniors involved with the community, and in this difficult time we also hope to keep the community involved with us. HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all!

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.