



Forecast

MARCH 2021

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Monday, March 1
Long Range Planning*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3
Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 4
Climate & Environment*, 7 p.m.

Monday, March 8
Racial Justice*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10
Town Council, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 17
Budget Work Session, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 20
The Great Zucchini, 5-5:30 p.m.
see page 2

Sunday, March 21
Book Club Meeting, 5-6 p.m.
see page 2

Wednesday, March 24
Public Services*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 25
Bird Watching Event, 7 p.m.
see page 2

Thursday, March 25
Land Use*, 7 p.m.

* Town Committee meeting

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

**2021 Town
Council Election**
see page 3

An Update on the Town Traffic Study

Safety on our streets is always an important concern. To address recurring complaints related to speeding and traffic, the Town Council commissioned the first Town-wide traffic study in over 15 years. Last month, the Town Council hosted a public forum and held a worksession on the findings and recommendations from that traffic study as well as the Public Services Committee's response to it. We appreciate the number of residents who have engaged with us over the last several weeks, including at the forum.

Through the traffic study, we collected a substantial amount of pre-pandemic data that we did not previously have about where, when, and how many cars enter and exit our Town and how fast they tend to go when they are here. For that data alone, it has been a valuable exercise, because we are better informed now to assess conditions and consider mitigation measures than we have been for a long time.

At the same time, we recognize that the pandemic has affected traffic patterns and volumes, and uncertainty exists about how they may continue to change going forward. The Council is therefore proceeding with care and deliberation.

To begin with, we will introduce an ordinance this month to lower the Town-wide speed limit to 20mph (except where it is already lower) and hold a public hearing on that proposed change in April. We are optimistic that this change alone will trigger some improvements. In conjunction with that effort, the Council, with the help of the PSC, will undertake expedited review of our speed hump policy to update the criteria for installing speed humps. And we will consider appropriate locations for adding new radar boards to deter speeding as well as other measures to improve safety on our roads.

The traffic study recommended several changes to the Town's current entry restrictions to mitigate the volume of cut-through traffic. For the most part, the Council has agreed to continue discussion of those recommendations while also exploring the feasibility of some alternative options with the help of the PSC and our consulting traffic engineer.

We will not make any changes without first having a public hearing, and we continue to welcome your comments about the traffic situation and mitigation proposals. In the meantime, please walk, drive, and bicycle safely, and stay well.

– Mayor Cecily Baskir

NEWS & EVENTS

FY22 Budget Planning & Project Updates

FY22 Budget: At its monthly meeting on March 10, the Town Council will hold a special public comment period to hear from residents about next year's budget and which new or ongoing initiatives they would like to see funded. Following this meeting, the Council will hold a work session on March 17 to review the proposed budget that the staff and Treasurer have prepared. There will be a public hearing on, and adoption of, the final proposed budget at the Annual Meeting on May 4. Throughout the budget development process, the Town Council will consider suggestions from residents about what programs they would like to see funded in next year's budget. Please email townoffice@townofchevchase.org.

Zimmerman Park Redevelopment: At its February meeting, the Town Council discussed the proposed redevelopment of Zimmerman Park. The Council asked the Land Use Committee to organize and host community meetings to review and solicit feedback on the park design concept plans, proposed park amenities and preliminary cost estimates. These meetings, which will likely take place in May, will be advertised in this newsletter and via Town Crier email alerts.

County Land Use Regulations & General Plan Update: In February, Mayor Cecily Baskir testified at a County Council public hearing on Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 20-07, a proposal that would allow duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, townhouses, and small apartment buildings to be built by right on R-60 residential properties within a mile of Metro. The Town continues to monitor developments on the ZTA and will provide updates as they become available. At its February meeting, the Council asked the Town's Subcommittee on Regional Growth and Development to host community meetings about Thrive Montgomery 2050 (the County's general plan update) and the concept of "Missing Middle Housing." These meetings will be advertised in this newsletter and via Town Crier email alerts.

The Great Zucchini

Saturday, March 20, 5-5:30 p.m. Via Zoom

The Great Zucchini has been entertaining preschool and kindergarten age children for more than 25 years, bringing laughter to countless youngsters! He has appeared at hundreds of schools and thousands of birthday parties throughout the DMV. Your children won't want to miss this event! Please RSVP to townoffice@townofchevchase.org or 301-654-7144 to receive the Zoom link.

Town Book Club Meeting

Sunday, March 21, 5-6 p.m. Via Zoom

Mark your calendar, start reading and join fellow book lovers to discuss **Calypso** by David Sedaris at the inaugural meeting of the Town book club! Nancy Lemann, our neighbor, has generously agreed to moderate the session. Nancy is the author of five books and has written for numerous publications. Politics & Prose is offering a 10% discount for online purchases of the paperback edition of the book. The discount code is "SPECIAL10" and the site is politics-prose.com. Please RSVP to townoffice@townofchevchase.org or 301-654-7144 to receive the Zoom link. This event is limited to 25 participants.

Yard Birds of Chevy Chase

Thursday, March 25, 7 p.m. Via Zoom

Join your neighbors for a talk by Town resident Chris Wright on "The Yard Birds of Chevy Chase: Thirty Birds You Can See Without Leaving Home." Chris has birded throughout the United States and is a long-time participant in local and national bird clubs. Chris noticed that being cloistered in our Town due to COVID gave us time to appreciate nature around us. In this program, he hopes to take this appreciation to a new level by showing the beauty of birds we see every day. Please RSVP to townoffice@townofchevchase.org or 301-654-7144 to receive the Zoom link.

COUNCIL ELECTION 2021

TOWN ELECTION

The Town's 2021 election will be held on Tuesday, May 4. Town residents will select two candidates in the 2021 election, each to serve on the Council for a 2-year term. The terms of Cecily Baskir and Joel Rubin expire in May.

Balloting will be undertaken by mail only. Polling stations will not be used, and no in-person voting will be available. At least 14 days prior to the election, the Town's election service provider will mail a ballot and a stamped return envelope to each qualified voter on the County precinct register and to each non-U.S. citizen resident who has registered with the Town. Ballot envelopes must be post-marked no later than Election Day, May 4, 2021 and must be received by May 11, 2021 in order for the ballots to be counted.

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for office, a candidate must be a citizen of the United States; be at least 18 years old; have resided in the Town for at least one year immediately preceding the election; and be a registered voter of the State of Maryland in Montgomery County.

CANDIDATE NOMINATING PROCEDURES

To be designated as a candidate on the printed ballot, a resident must submit a nominating petition by email to the Town office before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, the 3rd Tuesday preceding the election. The Town will make available a nominating petition to any Town resident seeking election to the Town Council. A candidate for office is not required to use this form, which is available on the Town website, but must submit a petition containing the same information on the Town's form in order for the individual's name to be placed on the ballot. The nominating petition must show the consent of the individual to become a candidate and hold office, and it must be supported by five qualified voters of the Town other than the candidate. Nominators may indicate their support by sending an email to the Town office. The email should state, "I hereby nominate (name) of (address) as a candidate for the Town Council of the Town of Chevy Chase." All nominating emails must contain the name and address of the nominator. The Election Board shall verify the qualifications of the nominees and verify the emails submitted to support nominating petitions after 5 p.m. on April 13, 2021. Nominating petitions are public documents and are subject to public inspection.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

To be qualified for election, a write-in candidate must submit a certificate of candidacy by email to the Town office before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, the 7th calendar day preceding the election. A Town resident seeking election to the Town Council as a write-in candidate must use the Town's official certificate of candidacy, which is available on the Town website. The printed ballot will include blank spaces to add write-in candidates.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

A candidate for office is required to submit a financial disclosure statement by email to the Town office at the time the candidate submits a nominating petition or certificate of candidacy, as applicable. The financial disclosure form is available on the Town website. Financial disclosure statements are public documents and are subject to public inspection.

CANDIDATES' FORUM

The candidates will be invited to participate in a virtual forum with the community prior to the election. The Election Board will accept questions in advance from Town residents. Please email questions to the Town office.

NOTICE OF CANDIDATES

Information about the nominated candidates will be mailed to all residents 2 weeks before the election. Notice of the filing of a certificate of candidacy for a write-in candidate will be provided to Town residents within 24 hours of the filing.

VOTING 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. Residents who are not U.S. citizens must be legally authorized to reside in the United States; be at least 18 years old; have resided in the Town for at least 30 days immediately preceding the election; and be registered to vote with the Town. Voter registration forms for non-U.S. citizen residents are available on the Town website.

ELECTION BOARD

Residents with questions on any aspect of the election are encouraged to contact the Election Board by emailing the Town office. Current Election Board members are Chris Wright, Chair; Rob Enelow; and Chris White.

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



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

AROUND CHEVY CHASE

March Offerings from Chevy Chase At Home

March 2, 1-2:30 p.m.: **Escape Junk News: Your Media Literacy Toolkit**

March 9, 1-2 p.m.: **Scams, Frauds & Cons: How to Keep You & Your Money Safe**

March 16, 1-2:30 p.m.: **Virtual Tour of the National Cryptologic Museum**

March 19, 1:30-2:30 p.m.: **Guest Speaker David Michaelis, best-selling author of “Eleanor”**

March 23, 1-2 p.m.: **U.S. Army Women’s Museum -- An Island of Integration**

Please visit www.chevychaseathome.org to register and receive the Zoom link.

Chevy Chase At Home (CC@H) is a non-profit organization that helps local seniors “age in place.”

Climate Tip of the Month: *Recycling...Made Easy!*

Did you know...

- Labels do NOT have to be removed from glass jars -- make it simple: rinse and recycle!
- Plastic wrappers do NOT have to be removed off of plastic container: rinse and recycle!
- Metal seals around wine bottle necks to NOT have to be removed -- imbibe, rinse, and recycle!
- Letters with plastic viewing windows can be recycled!
- Plastics 1-7 can ALL be recycled, but our current recycling program does not accept clamshells containers of ANY kind.



Let's have a Quieter and Greener Town This Year!

The Town seeks to dramatically reduce the use of gas-powered leaf blowers this year.

To achieve this goal, the Town has taken the following actions:

- **Subsidies are available now through May 31, 2021** to support the purchase of battery-powered and electric leaf blowers, and related accessories. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://bit.ly/3qKX1gh>.
- **Effective January 1, 2021**, gas-powered leaf blowers may be used only between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. weekdays, and between noon and 6:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays.
- **Effective January 1, 2022**, it will be unlawful to operate gas-powered leaf blowers at any time from January 1-October 14 (allowed October 15-December 31 during designated hours). Battery-powered and electric leaf blowers may be used all year.

Since use of gas-powered leaf blowers will be prohibited most of the year starting in 2022, in parallel with restrictions in surrounding neighborhoods and Washington, DC, why wait? Switch now. The subsidy will help speed this transition. Let's work together to have a quieter and greener Town beginning this spring.

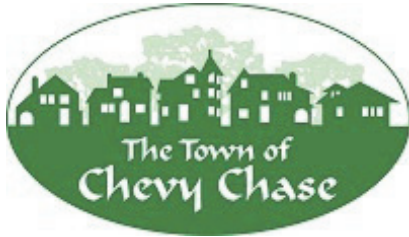


Please also note existing County restrictions:

- **Montgomery County currently prohibits use of any leaf blower that has an average sound level exceeding 70 dBA** (decibels)- check the rating sticker on the blower.
- **Montgomery County currently prohibits any daytime noise at the property line exceeding 65 dBA** - smartphone apps can monitor property-line noise levels; use of multiple 'legal' leaf blowers often violates this limit.

To help ensure compliance:

- **Residents may call the Town Office** during work hours at (301) 654-7144 or submit a noise complaint on the Town website to report suspected violations: <http://bit.ly/3jRm12r>.
- **Residents may also contact Montgomery County** regarding noise issues: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/contact/noise.html>.
- **Please help notify landscape companies** of these restrictions.



¡Para un año más tranquilo y más verde!

Este año, Town of Chevy Chase se propone reducir radicalmente el uso de sopladores de hojas con motor a gasolina.

Para alcanzar este objetivo, la municipalidad ha tomado las siguientes medidas:

- **Habrán subsidios a disposición hasta el 31 de mayo de 2021** para ayudar en la compra de sopladores de hojas eléctricos y a batería, y accesorios afines. Para más información y presentar una solicitud, vaya a <http://bit.ly/3qKX1gh>.
- **A partir del 1 de enero de 2021**, los sopladores de hojas a gasolina solo podrán usarse entre las 10:00 a.m. y las 6:00 p.m. los días de semana, y entre mediodía y las 6:00 p.m. los fines de semana y días festivos.
- **A partir del 1 de enero de 2022**, quedará prohibido el uso de sopladores de hojas a gasolina entre el 1 de enero y el 14 de octubre (se los podrá usar entre el 15 de octubre y el 31 de diciembre). Los sopladores eléctricos y a batería podrán usarse todo el año.

Puesto que el uso de sopladores quedará prohibido la mayor parte del año a partir de 2022, en paralelo con barrios vecinos y Washington, DC, ¿por qué esperar? Haga el cambio ya. El subsidio ayudará a acelerar la transición. Cooperemos para tener un barrio más tranquilo y más verde a partir de esta primavera.

Tome nota de las restricciones actuales en el Condado:

- **En la actualidad el Condado de Montgomery prohíbe el uso de sopladores de hojas cuyo nivel promedio de ruido exceda los 70 dBA** (decibeles)- fíjese en la etiqueta del soplador.
- **En la actualidad el Condado de Montgomery prohíbe todo ruido que exceda los 65 dBA en las orillas de la propiedad en horas del día**- hay aplicativos de teléfonos inteligentes que monitorean los niveles de ruido en las orillas de las propiedades; a menudo este límite se excede cuando se usan varios sopladores 'legales' al mismo tiempo.

Para asegurar el acatamiento:

- **Los residentes pueden llamar a la oficina de Town of Chevy Chase** durante horas laborales al (301) 654-7144 o presentar una queja en la hoja electrónica para notificar sospechas de violaciones a la regla: <http://bit.ly/3jRm12r>.
- **Los residentes también pueden comunicarse con el Condado de Montgomery** sobre cuestiones de ruido: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/contact/noise.html>.
- **Haga el favor de notificar estas restricciones a las compañías de jardinería.**