



Forecast

APRIL 2021

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



April

Monday, April 5

Long Range Planning*, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 6

Climate & Environment*, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 7

Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 8

Missing Middle Forum, 7 p.m.
see page 2

Monday, April 12

Racial Justice*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 14

Town Council, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 15

Sustainable Landscapes, 7 p.m.
see page 3

Monday, April 19

Bulk Trash Collection
see page 3

Thursday, April 22

Land Use*, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 25

Virtual Party Games, 11 a.m.
see page 3

Wednesday, April 28

Public Services*, 7 p.m.

* Town Committee meeting

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

2021 Council Election & Annual Meeting

see page 3

Welcome Spring!

Happy April! Outside, the flowers are blooming, and our spirits lift as we sense that we may be turning a corner with the coronavirus that has left its indelible mark on the past year. Many of us have also had our spirits lifted as we participated in a variety of special events that the Community Relations Committee has organized in the past several months. While we miss our favorite in-person gatherings, the Committee deserves a shout-out for its resilience and creativity in bringing opportunities to sustain our sense of community despite pandemic restrictions. I am also pleased to have expanded my own chili repertoire, even if it doesn't taste as good without the company of friends and neighbors.

In addition to enjoying these special events, the Council remains busy working on several initiatives. Some of the most important issues before us relate to land use and planning. The County Council and Planning Board have embraced the idea of increasing housing choices, particularly in areas like ours near transit, and they are developing multiple proposals for incorporating what they call "Missing Middle Housing" into single-family residential neighborhoods. With last month's unexpected announcement that 4-H is selling its 12-acre property in our Town, we anticipate that the pressure to bring more housing variety and density to our community will further increase.

Discussions with our residents about the potential advantages and disadvantages of Missing Middle Housing in its different varieties are critical so that the Town Council can develop positions that will guide our advocacy and the exercise of our regulatory authority. Please see page 2 to learn more about our April events on Missing Middle Housing, and please participate in those important discussions.

With respect to the future of the 4-H Center property, events are moving so quickly that the situation at press time for this newsletter will likely be outdated by the time you receive it. I can only promise that the Town Council will do its best to protect the Town's interests, and we anticipate more conversations with you to clarify those interests and determine viable options for proceeding. Thank you to everyone who has already shared thoughts or volunteered to help on our new 4-H Center Task Force.

This April also brings us budget, election, and cicada season. Please see page 3 and the Town's website for more information and consider participating as a candidate or voter. Thank you, and happy spring.

– Mayor Cecily Baskir

TOWN NEWS

Public Hearings Scheduled for April Council Meeting

The following public hearings are scheduled for the April 14 Town Council meeting. If you are unable to attend the April Council meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. via Zoom, you may submit comments to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. More information, along with copies of the proposed ordinances, are available on the Town website.

Reduction of Town-Wide Speed Limit

The Town Council will hold a public hearing on an ordinance to reduce the Town-wide speed limit from 25 MPH to 20 MPH, except on those roads that currently have lower posted speed limits. This proposed speed limit reduction is recommended in the 2020 *Cut-Through and Traffic Calming/Reduction Study*, which found that the prevailing speed on Town streets is closer to 20 MPH than 25 MPH.

Speed Hump and Radar Speed Sign Policies

The Town Council will hold a public hearing on a revised speed hump policy and a proposed radar speed sign policy. The revised speed hump policy would reduce the speed threshold needed to support speed hump installation and would ease the standards for installation. The new radar speed sign policy would allow residents to request these signs, and the proposed policy outlines the procedures for such requests.

Notification Requirements for 5G/Small Cell Tower Applicants

The Town Council will hold a public hearing on an ordinance to clarify language related to wireless telecommunication equipment installations. The proposed amendment would provide that a Town permit application must be filed within 7 days of the filing of a County siting, modification, permit, or other application. The purpose of the ordinance change is to ensure that the Town is aware of applications for all proposed work related to the installation of 5G “small cell” towers and equipment in Town.

Missing Middle Housing Forum and Listening Sessions

To enable the Town’s continued advocacy with the Planning Board and the County Council on proposed zoning changes that would affect the Town and potentially the sale of the 4-H property, the Town Council hopes to develop a position on Missing Middle Housing based on resident feedback and other information. Missing Middle Housing is market-rate, house-scale buildings with multiple units in walkable neighborhoods. It can include duplexes, triplexes, townhouses, and small apartment buildings built on aggregated lots. These units are meant to be compatible in scale and form with single-family homes, but people have differing views on whether such structures are compatible.

In particular, the Town Council would like to hear residents’ opinions about three different scenarios for the Town (or other variations that residents would like to see):

1. Construction of duplexes and triplexes only on single lots within the current Town building code envelope (i.e., using the same height and setback requirements that apply to a single-family house);
2. Construction of townhouses on combined lots; or
3. No Missing Middle Housing development within the Town.

Please join the Town Council for an educational session and public forum on April 8, 2021 from 7 to 9 p.m. to discuss feasible types of Missing Middle Housing and share your opinions. Following the forum, Councilmember Irene Lane will hold a series of recorded listening sessions for residents to provide feedback. The listening sessions are currently scheduled for Tuesday, April 13 at 7 p.m.; Sunday, April 18 at 4 p.m.; Wednesday, April 21 at 1 p.m.; and Monday, April 26 at 7 p.m. Please send comments, questions, and RSVPs for the listening sessions to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Bulk Trash Collection Scheduled for April 19

In lieu of a regular Trash & Treasures event in April, the Town will offer curbside bulk trash collection on April 19. We ask that residents discard only items that are not able to be recycled or repurposed. Please do not place items on the curb before Sunday, April 18. If you have items that are recyclable or re-usable, please take advantage of several alternatives to bulk trash collection that are publicized on the Town website.

Sustainable Landscapes 101: Local Solutions for a Global Crisis

Thursday, April 15, 7-8 p.m. via Zoom

Learn the beginning steps of how your yard can change the world. Edamarie Mattei, owner and founder of Backyard Bounty, will inform us about 10 things we can do to help restore diversity in our gardens. Her special focus will be on great native plants that will restore habitat and improve the health of our waterways. This talk is part of the Community Relations Committee's "Discussions & Desserts" series, so grab your dessert and join your neighbors virtually. RSVP to townoffice@townofchevychase.org.

Virtual Party Games with Labyrinth Games & Puzzles

Sunday, April 25, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. via Zoom

Did you know that you can play the spy games *Codenames* and *Spyfall* virtually? Labyrinth Games & Puzzles is a family-friendly store in D.C. that features a wide selection of board games and puzzles. They now run virtual game rooms over Zoom, and we have arranged for two game rooms for the age range of 8-13 years old. Each session will last one hour, and more information about the games is available on the Town website. RSVP to townoffice@townofchevychase.org to receive the Zoom link. Please include your child's preferred game and age.

Garden Tour in Chevy Chase Village

On Sunday, May 2 from 12 to 4 p.m., discover treasured gardens during the Chevy Chase Garden Tour, which will highlight six private gardens in Chevy Chase Village. This rain or shine event will feature the work of renowned landscape architects and designers. Visit www.gardenclubofchevychase.org

April Offerings from Chevy Chase At Home

April 6, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.: Home Sharing 101 (the new Montgomery County Home Sharing Program)

April 7, 1-2 p.m.: Smithsonian American Art Museum Virtual Tour: "Man and Nature"

April 16, 1-2 p.m.: Travels with Jan Augustine: A Tour of the Silk Road in Central Asia

April 30, 1-2 p.m.: Round House Theatre's Artistic Director Ryan Rilette

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

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

2021 Election & Annual Meeting

The Town's election and annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Town residents will select two candidates in the 2021 election, each to serve on the Council for a 2-year term. Information about the nominated candidates will be mailed to all residents approximately 2 weeks before the election, and the Town's Election Board will host a Candidates' Forum on April 29 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The annual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on May 4 and will include a public hearing on the proposed FY22 budget, which will be available for review on the Town website after April 14.

Town of Chevy Chase

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TOWN COUNCIL

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Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Secretary

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Irene Lane, Community Liaison



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Climate & Environment Tip of the Month: *Healthy Lawns*

Cutting your grass short and using chemical pesticides and fertilizers can create an unhealthy "lawn desert." Here are some tips to avoid that:

- Mow high - never cut your grass shorter than 3 or 4 inches. This helps your grass tolerate heat and dry weather and suppresses weeds.
- Sharpen your mower blades often or ensure that your landscape contractor does.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn to decompose. They quickly break down and return 50-100% of the nitrogen your lawn needs and release valuable nutrients -- free fertilizer!
- Overseed your lawn each year to have a healthy, thick lawn and crowd out weeds.
- Water infrequently, but deeply.
- Use only organic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Chemical pesticides and herbicides kill bees and other pollinators and have been banned for lawns by Montgomery County. And don't over-fertilize! Synthetic (chemical) fertilizers can easily leach out of the soil or wash off in the rain, heading directly to ground and surface waters.
- Avoid mosquito spraying which often isn't effective and kills beneficial insects.
- Reduce the size of your lawn and replace some grass with native plants and shrubs.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

County Healthy Lawns website: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns/>

Town Healthy Lawns webinar: <https://youtu.be/ugxAbyCaZEO>