



# Forecast

ELECTION ISSUE 2021

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

## Town Council Election & Annual Meeting

The Town Council has five elected members. In the 2021 election, Town residents will elect two members, each to serve for a two-year term. The terms of Cecily Baskir and Joel Rubin expire in May. There are two candidates on the ballot in the 2021 election: Joel Rubin and Joy White. Candidates' statements are on pages 2 & 3 of this newsletter.

**Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Town will hold a universal vote-by-mail election again this year.** There will not be in-person voting on Election Day, Tuesday, May 4. Instead, each registered Town voter will receive a ballot by mail. All ballots and ballot envelopes must be properly completed, and the return envelope must be mailed by May 4, 2021 and received by May 11, 2021 in order for the enclosed ballot to be counted. Please see detailed election procedures on page 6.

On May 4 at 7 p.m. by Zoom videoconference, the Town will hold its Annual Meeting. Information on how to participate is provided below. During this meeting, Mayor Cecily Baskir will provide an overview of the Town's accomplishments over the past year, and Town Treasurer Barney Rush will present the proposed budget and tax rates for the 2022 fiscal year, followed by a public hearing and Council adoption.

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### Candidates' Forum

The Election Board will host a "Candidates' Forum" by Zoom videoconference on **Thursday, April 29 at 7 p.m.** Charles Duffy, former host of the Montgomery Municipal Cable TV show "Political Pulse," has agreed to serve as moderator for the twelfth year. As in the past, questions at the forum will be posed by the moderator based on questions submitted by residents prior to the forum. There will be no questions from the audience at the forum. If you have a question you would like posed to the candidates, please email it to the Town office at [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org) by **Friday, April 23.** Information on how to join the forum is provided below.

### Proposed FY22 Budget

A summary of the proposed FY22 budget can be reviewed on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. Comprehensive budget documents are available for review on the Town website.

### Connect with the Town & Neighbors

Residents are encouraged to connect with the Town and fellow residents by signing up on the Town website for the **Town Crier** email alert system and the private **Town Neighbors** listserv. Both resources offer an important way to stay informed and in touch.

***Both the Annual Meeting and the Candidates' Forum will be held by Zoom videoconference. If you would like to participate, you may join online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3016547144> or by phone at 301-715-8592. The meeting passcode is 6547144.***

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

## Joel Rubin, 4401 Walsh Street

I'm honored to seek your support for a third term on the Town Council. During this past term, I served as the town's Vice Mayor and was thrilled to have had the opportunity to lead on multiple critical town-related issues.

These efforts included advocating for our elections last year to be conducted by mail-in ballot to ensure safety for all of our residents; helping to protect our environment and reduce noise pollution by ensuring that we transition away from gas powered leaf blowers; and advocating for our town's interests in maintaining the Capital Crescent Trail tunnel into Bethesda and having effective development at the Farm Women's Market.

Yet as was the case for us all, this past year was the curve ball of curve ball years. Most of us have been at home, living through a pandemic that was worse than our worst nightmares. And now, thankfully, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. And just as we emerge from the pandemic, we are on the cusp of significant change to the town's development.

This is why, as an experienced Council Member, I'm asking for your support on Election Day to help ensure that our town effectively navigates these upcoming challenges. In my view, there are three core challenges facing our community: recovering from the pandemic, the National 4-H Conference Center property sale, and racial justice and social equity.

First, the impact of the coronavirus has been felt by all the town's residents. In my household, we have three daughters who attend the Montgomery County Public Schools, two working parents, a retired grandparent, and a cute little dog who loved all the attention! It was a stressful year, but thankfully, we made it through and are now in the process of recovering. If this past year has taught us anything, local government and getting to know one's community matters more than ever. We as a town have a responsibility to take care of all our residents in this period of recovery, and that is my highest priority.

Second, our town is on the cusp of major land use transformation, as the 12.2 acre 4-H Center property is about to be sold. That property is located completely within the town's boundaries and makes up nearly 4% of the town's land. Its sale has generated national interest and will become a major regional issue as well. As a Town Council, we are exploring our options on this sale and will continue to do so. My pledge to you is that as a Council Member, I will work to ensure that the town's residents' interests are both very well represented at the table and have a major impact on the future contours of the property.

Lastly, this past year has witnessed a long overdue national discussion on critical social issues that have too often been pushed to the side. We have responded in the town by bringing these issues, particularly those focused on racial injustice, into the local discussion by forming a Racial Justice Special Committee; both Council Member Irene Lane and I are the Town Council's Co-Liaisons to it. As both our town and region continue to evolve, become more inclusive, and deal with the very real issues of systemic racial injustice that the national conversation has prompted, I vow to continue to provide strong support to our town's efforts to get this right.

In closing, our town has weathered the storm of the past year and we now have much on our plate looking forward. We are in a strong position, with a cash reserve of more than \$10 million and another \$2.5 million in federal COVID-related aid about to be provided. I hope that you will support me once again for Town Council, so that as a community, we together will handle the challenges in front of us, just as we have this past year.

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

## Joy White, 4222 Leland Street

I have lived on Leland Street since 1999 with my husband and children, and we have truly enjoyed being a part of this community. We love this gracious neighborhood, with beautiful old trees, abundant green spaces, and traditional architectural style. In addition to being a great place to live, Chevy Chase boasts a civically engaged population, kind neighbors, and a broad mix of families from singles, to parents with young children, retirees, and multigenerational households. Having observed the evolution of our community over the past 20 years and experienced various stages of family transition, I think I have some perspective to offer the Town, and for this reason announce my candidacy for election to the Town Council in May 2021.

In addition to personal experience, I have relevant volunteer experience working with community members to shape and deliver on long-term goals. Last year, I joined the Town's Long Range Planning committee. When my children were Montgomery County school students, I held various Board positions on the Rosemary Hills, Chevy Chase Elementary and Westland PTAs. From 2014-2017 I was a Cluster Coordinator for the B-CC Cluster schools, serving as a PTA advocate before the Board of Education, County Council and County Planning Board. Among many projects, I was involved in PTA advocacy efforts that influenced the delivery of new school buildings at Rock Creek Forest Elementary School and Silver Creek Middle School, and supported community dialog during the middle school boundary studies in the B-CC cluster.

Two decades ago, as a new parent of young children, I joined a group of parents to advocate before the council to mitigate cut-through traffic on Leland Street. Then and now, traffic remains a chronic issue that requires our attention. In addition, long- term strategic issues will affect our quality of life in the Town, such as the sale of the 4-H Center, development in downtown Bethesda, climate change and environmental impacts, changes to County housing policy, and racial and social justice across the County. As a committed long-term resident, I want to help the Town navigate these issues, not just for our own benefit, but for the good of broader community beyond our borders. My prior PTA advocacy experience, long-term perspective, and capacity for collaboration through conflict will serve the Town council and residents well.

In my professional life, I embarked on my first career as a foreign service officer, and for the past 20 years, have led a rewarding career at DAI, a Bethesda-based global development company that is a leading implementing partner for the US Agency for International Development. Since 2001, I have held a variety of leadership roles in project management, strategy and marketing, human resources, and the office of general counsel. In my current capacity as Director of Global Employee Ownership, I manage employee share plans that enable employees in 40 countries around the world to buy and sell company shares. In October 2020, I was appointed to serve as an internal Board member of my employer. I hold a Master of Business Administration from the George Washington University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

## FY22 Budget Public Hearing and Adoption

At the May 4 Annual Meeting, to be held via Zoom videoconference, the Town Council will conduct a public hearing on and adopt the proposed **\$3.26 million combined operating and capital budgets** as well as the proposed **real estate tax rate of \$0.0098 per \$100 of assessed value**. The proposed budget is expected to be in balance. Instructions on how to join the meeting are available on the front page of this newsletter. If you are unable to participate, you may submit comments to [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org).

## Financial Position

The Town continues to enjoy sound financial health. We expect to realize a **budget surplus of approximately \$731,800** in the current fiscal year due primarily to a larger than anticipated state distribution of local income tax revenue to the Town. As a result, the Town's unassigned **general fund balance** is projected to grow from \$9.56 million on June 30, 2020 to \$10.28 million on June 30, 2021.

Looking ahead to FY22, we are mindful of the potential impact on income tax reimbursements arising from the public health crisis. We have assumed tax revenues will be \$370,000 less than estimated to be received in FY21 and are in line with the state's forecast for income tax receipts.

In addition, the Town **continues to owe \$762,228 to the state** due to the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decision that requires a state to provide a local income tax credit to those residents who pay taxes to another state (the "Wynne" decision). The quarterly repayments, amounting to \$38,111 per year, will be made over twenty years beginning in May 2021 and will be deducted from the Town's general fund balance.

While the Town's operating expenditures have been relatively stable from year to year, our capital expenditures have fluctuated at relatively high levels due to the substantial costs for infrastructure improvements over the past 6 years. Now that the utility upgrades are complete, we expect road related capital expenditures will decline materially. This leaves room for funding improvements to Town parks, as discussed below.

## FY22 Budget Overview

### General Revenue

- Total operating revenue is budgeted at \$3.28 million, of which **\$2.7 million is projected income tax revenue**, \$170,500 is County tax duplication reimbursement, and \$124,500 is real property tax revenue.
- The Town Council proposes to maintain a **real property tax rate of \$0.0098 per \$100 of assessed value**. This reflects the constant yield property tax rate that, when applied to new real estate assessments, will produce the same revenue in the coming taxable year that was produced in the prior taxable year. The Town's proposed rate is equal to \$98 for each \$1 million in a home's assessed value.

### Operating Expenditures

- Total operating expenditures are budgeted at \$2,728,000, compared to \$2,445,000 for the current fiscal year.
- The FY22 budget includes funds to continue the Town's **high-quality programs and services**. The Council proposes to increase funding for **community programs** that may be approved in the next fiscal year; for **off-duty police** to expand enforcement of Town traffic laws; and for **professional services** to address major issues facing the Town. The Council also proposes to maintain funding for the **battery-powered equipment rebate program, permit parking enforcement, and senior support services**.

### Capital Expenditures

- Total capital expenditures are budgeted at \$537,500, compared to \$1,185,000 for the current fiscal year due primarily to the anticipated completion of the final round of street and road repairs this fiscal year.
- The budget includes funds for **new street trees** and **maintenance of the Town's street and sidewalks**. It also includes **\$750,000 to fund improvements to Town parks**; however, this amount is substantially offset by a state grant of \$337,500 to renovate and upgrade Zimmerman Park.

### General Fund Balance

- The Town's unassigned **general fund balance is projected to be \$10,259,094** on June 30, 2022.

### Restricted Funds

- The Town will use restricted cable TV grants to provide for **virtual participation in Council meetings**.

*Comprehensive budget documents are available for review on the Town website.*

## FY22 Proposed Budget

Budget Summary	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budget	FY21 Est. Actual	FY22 Budget
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>				
Taxes				
Income Taxes	3,399,161	2,700,000	3,070,000	2,700,000
Real Property Tax (\$0.0098/\$100 for FY22)	125,670	124,500	124,500	124,500
Highway User Revenue	107,739	121,000	107,000	113,000
Utility Property Tax (\$0.66/\$100 for FY22) <sup>1</sup>	31,096	29,000	31,000	31,000
<b>Subtotal - Taxes</b>	<b>3,663,666</b>	<b>2,974,500</b>	<b>3,332,500</b>	<b>2,968,500</b>
Reimbursements and Bank Shares	132,179	132,500	132,500	170,500
Permit Fees and Cable TV Revenue	61,322	69,000	62,000	62,000
Other Revenue	167,804	164,000	79,000	79,000
<b>TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>4,024,971</b>	<b>3,340,000</b>	<b>3,606,000</b>	<b>3,280,000</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>General Government</b>				
Salaries & Benefits	572,828	579,500	589,500	613,500
Professional Services	183,930	256,000	181,000	392,000
Civic Affairs & Community Programs	91,990	160,000	89,500	165,000
Other Services & Supplies	108,609	104,000	92,000	100,500
<b>Subtotal - General Government</b>	<b>957,357</b>	<b>1,099,500</b>	<b>952,000</b>	<b>1,271,000</b>
<b>Public Works</b>				
Sanitation and Waste Removal	378,137	454,500	414,000	439,500
Streets and Roads	112,733	209,500	181,700	217,500
Parks, Grounds and Trees	313,424	280,000	261,500	375,000
<b>Subtotal - Public Works</b>	<b>804,294</b>	<b>944,000</b>	<b>857,200</b>	<b>1,032,000</b>
<b>Public Safety (Police)</b>	<b>371,134</b>	<b>401,500</b>	<b>401,500</b>	<b>425,000</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,132,785</b>	<b>2,445,000</b>	<b>2,210,700</b>	<b>2,728,000</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>				
Streets and Sidewalks	315,245	1,200,000	1,500,000	100,000
Reimbursements for Utility Repairs	0	(475,000)	(900,000)	0
<b>Net Expenditures for Infrastructure</b>	<b>315,245</b>	<b>725,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
Street Lights	0	5,000	0	5,000
Facilities and Equipment	87,610	40,000	35,000	5,000
Park Improvements	14,722	400,000	13,500	750,000
Reimbursements for Park Improvements	0	0	0	(337,500)
<b>Net Expenditures for Park Improvements</b>	<b>14,722</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>412,500</b>
New Trees/Reforestation	16,218	15,000	15,000	15,000
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>433,795</b>	<b>1,185,000</b>	<b>663,500</b>	<b>537,500</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,566,580</b>	<b>3,630,000</b>	<b>2,874,200</b>	<b>3,265,500</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>1,458,391</b>	<b>(290,000)</b>	<b>731,800</b>	<b>14,500</b>
<b>WYNNE CREDIT REPAYMENT FROM RESERVE<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(9,528)</b>	<b>(38,111)</b>
<b>ENDING GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>9,560,433</b>	<b>9,270,433</b>	<b>10,282,705</b>	<b>10,259,094</b>
		<b>FY22 Contingent Reserve<sup>3</sup></b>		<b>1,312,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> this tax is paid by utility companies, not by Town residents.

<sup>2</sup> Wynne credit repayments are deducted from the general fund balance so as not to affect the annual operating budget.

<sup>3</sup> this figure represents 40 percent of the Town's annual operating revenues. It is included in the Town's general fund balance.

RESTRICTED FUNDS	Est. Balance 6/30/2021	FY22 Est. Revenue	FY22 Est. Expenses	Est. Balance 6/30/2022
CABLE TV IMPROVEMENTS -- PEG GRANTS	329,819	82,000	(25,000)	386,819

# 2021 TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION

***Voting will be undertaken by mail only. There will not be in-person voting.***

The Town Council has five elected members. In the 2021 election, Town residents will elect two members, each to serve for a two-year term.

## Write-In Candidates

- A Town resident seeking election to the Council as a write-in candidate shall submit a certificate of candidacy and a financial disclosure statement by 5 p.m. on April 27, 2021. These documents, which are available on the Town website, shall be delivered by e-mail to the Town at [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org). If this is not possible, the candidate should contact the Town Manager at [thoffman@townofchevychase.org](mailto:thoffman@townofchevychase.org) prior to the submittal deadline. The Town will notify residents of the names of any qualified write-in candidates on April 27, 2021. There will be appropriate blanks on the ballot for the purpose of adding write-in candidates.

## Voting Registration & 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. If you have recently moved to the Town or are uncertain whether your name is on the list of registered, qualified voters, you may visit the Maryland State Board of Elections website at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch> or call the Montgomery County Election Board at 240-777-VOTE.
- Residents who are not U.S. citizens must be legally authorized to reside in the U.S.; be at least 18 years of age; have resided in the Town for at least 30 days immediately preceding the election; and be registered to vote with the Town. Any non-U.S. citizen resident who wishes to vote in the election must submit a completed registration form, which is available on the Town website, to the Town at [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org) by 5 p.m. on April 27, 2021.

## Universal Vote-by-Mail Procedures

- At least 14 days prior to the election, the Town will mail a ballot, a ballot envelope, and a stamped return envelope to each registered Town voter.
- Return envelopes must be mailed no later than Election Day, May 4, 2021 and must be received by May 11, 2021 in order for the enclosed ballots to be counted.
- Ballots enclosed in an incomplete, illegible, or unsigned ballot envelope, or in a return envelope whose control number does not correspond to the control number issued to that voter, shall not be counted. The Town will not accept copies of ballots or envelopes.
- If a voter desires their ballot to be mailed to an address that is different than the address in the precinct register, the voter should email [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org) to inform the Town of the address to which the ballot should be mailed. In order to allow sufficient time for a replacement ballot to be issued and voted, any such request shall be made no later than 5 p.m. on April 27, 2021. Upon receipt of such request, any previously issued balloting material for that voter will be voided.
- In the event an issued ballot is lost or missing, a voter may email [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org) to request a new ballot. In order to allow sufficient time for a replacement ballot to be issued and voted, any such request shall be made no later than 5 p.m. on April 27, 2021. Upon receipt of such request, any previously issued balloting material for that voter will be voided.
- If a resident did not receive a ballot because the resident's name did not appear on the precinct register, the resident may email [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org) to request a provisional ballot. In order to allow sufficient time for a provisional ballot to be issued and voted, any such request shall be made no later than 5 p.m. on April 27, 2021. In order for the provisional ballot to be counted, the voter's registration must be reflected on the precinct register no later than Election Day, May 4, 2021.
- Ballots will be processed and counted in the same manner as absentee ballots in past elections.
- Election results will be announced on May 12, 2021.

***The complete plan for the Town's 2021 election is available on the Town website.***

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# SPECIAL EVENTS

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## Sake and Sushi

**Friday, April 23, 7-8 p.m. via Zoom**

The National Cherry Blossom Festival will have ended, and the blossoms will have fallen, but the Town's participation in the festival will continue with an exploration of sake, Japan's traditional rice wine. Join Amanda Page, Certified Sake Professional, for this unique presentation. Amanda will discuss sake production, rice milling and terminology. She will feature two sakes, both of which will be available at Magruder's with a 10% discount for Town residents with a promo code. The wines with their retail prices are Junsui Junmai Ginjo (\$11.99) and Hakusho Junmai Extra Dry (\$8.99). We suggest pairing your sake with sushi to round out your Japanese experience! There are several sushi restaurants in the area, such as Maki Bar ([www.makibarbethesda.com](http://www.makibarbethesda.com)), Hanaro ([www.hanarosushi.com](http://www.hanarosushi.com)), Maki Maki ([www.makimakisushiresort.com](http://www.makimakisushiresort.com)), Hinata Sushi Carryout ([www.zmenu.com/hinata-sushi-carry-out-bethesda-online-menu/](http://www.zmenu.com/hinata-sushi-carry-out-bethesda-online-menu/)), and Yuzu ([www.yuzubethesda.com](http://www.yuzubethesda.com)). RSVP for Zoom link and promo code to [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org) or 301-654-7144.

## 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](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org) to receive the Zoom link. Please include your child's preferred game and age.

## Book Club Meeting

**Sunday, April 25, 7 p.m. via Zoom**

The Community Relations Committee's first Town book club meeting was a success, with a lively zoom discussion of *Calypso* by David Sedaris. Many thanks to author and Town resident, Nancy Lemann, who moderated and expertly led us through an exploration of Sedaris's dark humor and themes of family and mortality. The next book club meeting will be held on Sunday, April 25 at 7 p.m., and we will be discussing *Infinite Country* by Patricia Engel. The novel follows a Colombian and American family as they struggle to survive and reunite after a father's deportation from the United States. The meeting is open to all Town residents. RSVP to [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org).

## Green Town Series: May Day/Arbor Day Celebration

**Saturday, May 1, 11 a.m., Zimmerman Park**

The Climate & Environment Committee (CEC) will be hosting a short, socially-distanced Green Town Series event (pandemic conditions permitting -- 50 attendees or less) to celebrate Arbor Day with an Oak tree planting at 11 a.m. on May Day (Saturday, May 1). The event will be held at Lee Dennison Garden/Zimmerman Park and will include some brief announcements and a celebration of the importance of oak trees. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to [townoffice@townofchevychase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevychase.org), so we can track the number of attendees.

## Garden Tour in Chevy Chase Village

**Sunday, May 2, 12-4 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](http://www.gardenclubofchevychase.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*

 This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

## Council Election and Annual Meeting Issue

2021 Election and FY22 Budget Information Enclosed

Information also may be found on the Town website

[www.townofchevychase.org](http://www.townofchevychase.org)