



# Forecast

MAY 2021

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



## May

**Sunday, May 2**  
Garden Tour, 12 p.m.  
*see page 2*

**Monday, May 3**  
Long Range Planning\*, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 4**  
Election & Annual Meeting, 7 p.m.  
*see page 3*

**Wednesday, May 5**  
Community Relations\*, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, May 6**  
Climate & Environment\*, 7 p.m.

**Friday, May 7**  
Cicadas Event, 5 p.m.  
*see page 2*

**Monday, May 10**  
Racial Justice\*, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 12**  
Town Council, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 26**  
Public Services\*, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, May 27**  
Land Use\*, 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*

## Looking Back and Moving On

Since I joined our Town Council in January 2017, it has been a roller coaster of a ride. I have made new friends, added more gray hair, and worked on both challenging and mundane municipal issues. Now, after over four years on the Council and the past year as mayor, I have decided it is time for me to take a break from Town governance.

As I write this last Forecast message, I reflect on some of the Town's recent achievements. Fortunately, the list is too long to fit in this space, so I will only highlight a few. First, the Town has successfully maintained continuity despite the pandemic, pivoting elections, community events, and other operations on short notice. We set an example for other communities by creating a special committee dedicated to racial justice issues, and we have mobilized to advocate for the Town's interests on regional growth and zoning issues. The Town undertook a comprehensive look at traffic and speeding, recently approving our first set of remedial measures (see page 2). Pre-pandemic, we expanded the franchise for Town elections, and we have consistently sought middle ground on issues from park redevelopment to gas-powered leaf blowers. And, just in the last several weeks, we quickly organized to advocate for the Town's interests in the sale and redevelopment of the 4-H Center property on Connecticut Avenue.

There have, of course, been bumps along the way, but throughout my time on the Council, we have prioritized civility and collegiality over ideology and grudges. I am grateful for that, and I think the Town is better for it.

I also believe our Town is better when we engage -- respectfully -- with all voices. From my own experience, it seems easier to speak up when we are concerned, easier to mobilize in opposition than in support. That said, I invite all of you to participate in Town conversations: please speak up at Town meetings and listening sessions, continue to volunteer on committees, share your complaints but also your encouragement. The Town's well-being depends on all of us.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the Town these past four years. I will miss it, but I look forward to seeing you, my neighbors, at our wonderful community events and around our Town (likely trying belatedly to teach my rescue dog not to pull). Be well, and thank you.

– Mayor Cecily Baskir

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# TOWN NEWS

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## Council Approves New Traffic Policies

At its April 14 meeting, the Town Council approved a new radar speed sign policy, a revised speed hump policy, and the reduction of the Town-wide speed limit to 20 mph. Together these changes reflect the first set of remedial measures resulting from the recently completed Town-wide traffic study. The Council intends to discuss additional traffic study recommendations and associated remedial measures in the coming months.

The speed hump and radar speed sign policies are intended to expand options for traffic-calming devices and to simplify the process for requesting them. We have seen a substantial reduction in speeds on East Avenue since the Town installed its first radar speed sign there, so the Council has adopted a new radar speed sign policy to permit residents to request their installation. A radar sign can be approved following a petition and public hearing, with no traffic analysis required. The revised speed hump policy simplifies the petition process for new speed hump requests, reduces the speed threshold to support installation of new speed humps, and streamlines the engineering standards to be reviewed in evaluating requests for new speed humps. Information on how to request both traffic-calming devices is available on the Town website.

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# SPECIAL EVENTS

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## 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)

## Cicadas! with Dr. Tolbert Feather, Town Arborist

Friday, May 7, 5 p.m. via Zoom

Tolbert Feather, Ph.D. is the Town's arborist who has been studying these charming, noisy insects and will share his knowledge with us, followed by a Question & Answer period. There is still time to prepare for what should be a remarkable, spectacular month of Cicada activity. Learn what to do and what you don't need to do. Mid-May is when the cicadas of brood X will emerge from their 17-year dormant hibernation. This event is brought to you by the Community Relations Committee. Please RSVP to [townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org) to receive the Zoom link.

## Chevy Chase @ Home Events in May

Tuesday, May 4, 1-2:30 p.m.: The Bias Meter: The Battle for Your Brain: An interactive class taught by an educator from the Freedom Forum (formerly the Newseum) to help you assess how objective or biased content in the media really is. Tune up your "fairness meter" -- win the battle for your brain!

Friday, May 21, 1-2 p.m.: Ambassador Mark Pekala on "Eastern Europe and Russia: Past and Present." Ambassador Pekala, a Town of Chevy Chase resident, will present a brief look at Russia over the last 30 years and what to expect from the Biden-Putin relationship. Ambassador Pekala retired in October 2020 after serving 30 years in the U.S. Department of State.

Please visit [www.chevyCHASEathome.org](http://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."*

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# NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Increased Permit Parking Enforcement Throughout the Town

Now that traffic is beginning to return to pre-pandemic levels, and in response to increased parking-related complaints, the Town has asked police to step up enforcement and issue citations to vehicles not displaying a valid parking permit. All vehicles within a permit parking area must display a purple permit parking decal or guest pass with an expiration date of September 30, 2020. Any resident who lives in a permit parking area and acquires a new vehicle should contact the Town office to request a permit parking sticker and guest pass. For more information, call the Town Office at 301-654-7144.

## Battery-Powered Blower Rebate Program

The Town Council has extended the rebate program for the purchase of battery-powered blowers and related equipment. The program, which was approved by the Town Council in December 2020, is intended to reduce the noise from landscaping activities. Residents may request a rebate for half the cost of the purchase of a battery-powered blower, batteries, and chargers, up to a maximum rebate of \$200 per household. The equipment may be purchased by a resident or by a contractor for use in landscaping activities on the resident's property. More information about the program and an application form can be found on the Town website.

## Host a Block Party

The Town has resumed support for community block parties that comply with all applicable public health regulations. If residents wish to organize a party with their neighbors, the Town offers a subsidy to cover non-alcohol expenses. More information and the block party application are available on the Town website.

## Spring Tree Plantings

In May, the Town will complete its spring tree planting. In addition to planting 24 public trees in the Town rights-of-way, the Town will plant 15 canopy trees on private property. The Town Council recently approved changes to the private tree planting program, and these changes will be implemented for the fall tree planting. More details will be provided in a subsequent edition of this newsletter and on the Town website.

## Overgrown Vegetation

As a reminder, residents are asked to keep all streets and sidewalks clear of overgrown vegetation. Please prune vegetation to ensure unobstructed sight lines for pedestrians and motorists. The Town's vegetation maintenance standards are available for review on the Town website. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep Town streets and sidewalks safe.

## Please Clean Up After Your Pet and Obey County Leash Laws

The Town office has received complaints about the improper disposal of dog waste and unleashed dogs. The Town has installed numerous dog waste stations in Town, and a map can be found on the Town website. Also, please remember that your dog should always be on a leash being held by a person when not in a fenced portion of your yard. Please observe this law so that everyone can enjoy walks through the Town with or without their dogs. Thank you for your cooperation.

## 2021 Council 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 is available in the Election issue of the Forecast and on the Town website. The annual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on May 4 and will include a public hearing on, and Council adoption of, the proposed FY22 budget, which is available for review on the Town website. Information on how to join the annual meeting is available on the Town website.

## Town of Chevy Chase

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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.

## Climate & Environment Tip of the Month:

### *What's the BUZZ on Mosquitoes?*

Nobody likes being bitten, and we fear mosquito-borne disease. But mosquitos feed wildlife and even “natural” methods of killing them (yard sprays, bug zappers) also kill beneficial pollinators. Try thinking LARGE (yard), MEDIUM (patio/deck) & SMALL (personal) scale.

**LARGE:** Limit breeding opportunities and welcome natural predators:

- Remove standing water -- even small amounts.
- Treat a pond, bird bath or rain garden with a form of bacterial insecticide that kills larvae without harming other creatures. (A popular brand is Mosquito Dunks or Bits.)
- Add movement to water: a fountain or “wiggler” attracts birds but keeps mosquitoes from breeding. Some are solar or battery operated!
- Invite mosquito predators with native plants and welcoming habitat: birds (especially swallows), bats, & dragonflies. Add fish and frogs to your pond.

**MEDIUM:** make your porch or patio less attractive to mosquitoes

- Scented plants like Citronella, Marigold, Catnip, and Lemongrass deter mosquitoes.
- Burn citronella in the form of lamp oil, incense, or candles and add atmosphere, too!
- Blow them away! Air movement not only cools you, and makes it difficult for mosquitoes to fly, but disperses CO<sub>2</sub>, body fragrances & heat that attract them.

**SMALL:** Protect your body

- Time your outside activity, avoiding dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Treat your skin. If you are concerned about DEET, try botanicals.
- Wear long sleeves and pants and spray clothing with a repellent.