



Forecast

JUNE 2021

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

A Busy New Council Year

It is my honor to serve you as Mayor. In undertaking this role, for a third time, I am grateful to have colleagues who join me in our deep commitment to serve the Town: Joel Rubin, Secretary, just re-elected to a new term; Irene Lane, Vice Mayor and Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Community Liaison, who, like me, are in the middle of current two-year terms. And we warmly welcome our new councilmember, Joy White, Treasurer. We miss the presence of Cecily Baskir, who so admirably served us as Mayor this past year, with her commitment to civility, inclusion, and fairness.

A Council that works well and makes good decisions on behalf of the Town is successful because each Councilmember listens to our residents and to each other, is thoughtful and fair minded, and is ready to modify or change his or her mind, if warranted. Meetings held in this spirit allow the Council, collectively, to develop better ideas and solutions than any one of the five of us may have initially had. The Mayor's role is to nurture this spirit, so that we truly arrive at the best decisions we can make, together.

As we head into this summer, we have a great deal to be thankful for: the pandemic appears, finally, to be waning. We all hope that by fall, our lives will have substantially returned to normal and that we can be comfortable having our meetings in person and re-starting many of the activities that are organized so well by the Community Relations Committee.

But regardless of whether via Zoom or in-person, the work of the Council will continue to be substantial. Key issues include:

- The sale of the 4-H property, and how we may secure added amenities of access to a preserved woodland and additional open space, all with compatible development;
- The impact of County initiatives to permit multi-family housing in single-family residential communities, and how we respond;
- Additional measures to improve road and pedestrian safety;
- Further design and public engagement for the re-development of Zimmerman Park;
- Re-engagement on development of parks behind the Farm Women's Market; and
- Re-start of Purple Line construction.

As we take a deep breath and work on these tasks, let us also stop to marvel at the cicadas in our midst, and as we emerge from the pandemic, be inspired. To quote a meme my daughter sent my wife and me: "Cast off the shell of your old self and spend all summer outside screaming!"

– Mayor Barney Rush



Wednesday, June 2
4-H Committee*, 5 p.m.
Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 3
Climate & Environment*, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Friday, June 11
Discussion & Desserts, 5 p.m.
see page 3

June 11 & 12
Virtual Party Games
see page 3

Monday, June 14
Racial Justice*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 16
4-H Committee*, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, June 23
4-H Committee*, 5 p.m.
Public Services*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 24
Land Use*, 7 p.m.

* Town Committee meeting

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

Independence Day Event
see page 3

TOWN NEWS

4-H Center Sale Update

The Town continues its work as 4-H goes through the process of selling the conference center at 7100 Connecticut Avenue, and here are three updates. First, thank you for providing the Town Council with feedback through the 4-H Development Survey! 464 people completed the survey (including providing their name and address as required by the rules). It closed at 5 p.m. on Monday, May 24, but please continue to send us emails with your comments. The Town will present the survey results at the Town Council meeting on June 9 at 7 p.m. and in a Town Crier on June 10. Additionally, the Town is likely to send another survey after 4-H selects a buyer. Second, our land use counsel continues to advise the Town about the development of the 4-H property and has provided briefings on zoning laws and building ordinances. Third, our real estate advisor continues to work with the Town as the bidding process unfolds. So far, the 4-H Special Committee and the Town Council have had the opportunity to hear from several bidders. 4-H's timeline includes selection of a winning bidder in June.

Volunteer for Town Committees & Boards

Each year in June, the Town Council begins the process of seeking volunteers for the Town's committees and filling vacancies on the Town's boards and commission. We encourage you to consider volunteering for one of these bodies so we can involve as many residents as possible in Town affairs.

- **Climate and Environment:** Inspires and facilitates energy conservation and environmental stewardship by the Town and its residents.
- **Community Relations:** Encourages a strong sense of neighborliness through community activities and communications.
- **Land Use:** Guides building and redevelopment within the Town using available planning tools.
- **Long-Range Planning:** Identifies emerging issues that require longer-term planning and analysis and monitors activities in county and state government likely to impact our Town.
- **Public Services:** Advocates for high-quality Town services for our residents.
- **Racial Justice Special Committee:** Creates programs and initiatives to help residents understand and explore the Town's history on racial justice issues and to guide the Town's future role in addressing these issues.
- **Elections Board** (one vacancy): Oversees all Town elections, including making appropriate provisions for nominations, printing ballots, appointing tellers and/or judges and supervising the polls.
- **Ethics Commission** (one vacancy): Receives, verifies, and maintains all financial disclosure forms required by the State of Maryland.
- **Water Board** (one vacancy): Hears requests by property owners who have had a water drainage plan denied by the Town.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on any of the Town's committees, boards, or commission, please submit a brief note to the Town Office by June 25, 2021. Your correspondence may be submitted by e-mail to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org and should include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and a few sentences about why you would like to serve on that particular body.

The Town Council extends a special thanks to all of you who have served on one of these bodies over the past year. The dedication of your time and talents provides an invaluable resource to the Town and continues to strengthen and improve our community.

A reminder that gas-powered leaf blowers may not be used before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m. on weekdays and before noon or after 6 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Virtual Party Games with Labyrinth Games & Puzzles

Popular demand brings back 2 games for kids -- and adds on a game for adults.

Friday, June 11: Grownup's game session of Wits & Wagers, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This is a team game for up to 20 players. Wits & Wagers is a trivia game that lets you bet on anyone's answer, so you can win by making educated guesses, by playing the odds, or by knowing the interests of your friends. It can be taught in 2 minutes, played in 25 minutes, and accommodates up to 20 people in teams.

Saturday, June 12: Session 1: Spyfall, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Session 2: Code Names, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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@townofchevy Chase.org to receive the Zoom link. Please let us know if you are signing up your child (give your child's preferred game and age) or yourself.

Discussion & Desserts: Roses and Rosés

Friday, June 11, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Have you decided against growing roses because you thought they would be too much work and/or you didn't want to use chemical sprays? Have you avoided rosé wines because you associated them with the Mateus Rosé you drank years ago? Good news: you can grow stress and chemical-free roses, and you can drink exceptionally good rosé wine. Here's information on these two informative and fun talks:

Growing Healthy Roses: 5-5:45 p.m.: Master Gardener Carol Edwards will describe favorite, easy-care roses grown without using synthetic chemicals. She will share tips for keeping them healthy without the fuss and bother that so many gardeners assume roses require. Carol, First Vice President of the Potomac Rose Society, has been growing roses in Washington for over 20 years.

Rosés: 5:45-6:30 p.m.: Join Amanda Page, DWS (Diploma in Wine and Spirits), for a virtual tasting and discussion about this style of wine. We are fortunate to bring back Amanda for the 3rd time. Learn production methods and variety of styles that make these wines a refreshing delight. You can order two rosés online from Magruder's for pickup and receive a 10% discount by using "TCC" as the code. The wines are Chateau L'Escarelle June 21st Rosé (\$15.99) and Pala Chiaro di Stelle Rosé (\$14.99).

RSVP for the Zoom link to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or call 301-654-7144.



Independence Day -- Not Quite Back to Normal Yet!

Sunday, July 4, Lawton Center Grounds



Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream truck will be in the Lawton Center parking lot from 12 to 2 p.m. The 'not quite back to full size' Rockville Concert Band will begin playing at 1 p.m. Bring your blankets, folding chairs, a picnic basket if you wish, your water bottles -- and settle down for a small, but happy 4th of July celebration. The wonderful video of the reading of the Declaration of Independence created last year with lots of help from Scout Troop 255, Town residents and the Community Relations Committee can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42X42B_yHFw&feature=youtu.be.

Chevy Chase @ Home June Event

In case you missed the sold-out exhibit "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors" when it was at the Hirshhorn in 2017, CC@H's June program, "The Polka Dot and Mirrored World of Yayoi Kusama" will discuss her work, including painting, sculpture, performance, fashion, and the realization of her utopian vision in the Infinity Rooms. Tues., June 15, 1-2 p.m. Register in advance at www.chevy Chaseathome.org.

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

Town of Chevy Chase

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Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

Barney Rush, Mayor

Irene Lane, Vice Mayor

Joel Rubin, Secretary

Joy White, Treasurer

Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Community Liaison



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Climate & Environment Tip of the Month: *Compost to Reduce Greenhouse Gases!*

Only 1 in 5 Town residents is using the free weekly compost service (curbside pickup). The Town uses our tax dollars to pay for it. There's no direct cost to you if you use the service, and no additional cost to the Town if more residents participate. Why not take advantage?

The EPA estimates that in 2018, only 4 percent of wasted food was composted (2.6 million tons). Food waste in our landfills is a major source of methane gas that contributes strongly to global warming. Composting is easy and a great lesson for kids in how to care for our earth.

Visit <https://customers.compostcrew.com/create-account/> to sign up for the free weekly compost service (see Town website Services/Trash and Recycling). You can compost almost anything that is 100% from plants and animals, including food scraps, coffee grounds and filters, used paper towels and napkins, other paper (though newspaper, cardboard and other relatively clean paper is probably best recycled), cut flowers and small amounts of yard and garden waste, and even wool and cotton fabric. For specific questions about what to compost and how to participate, visit www.compostcrew.com. For further questions, contact Christina Files at anglofiles1@gmail.com.

THRIVE MONTGOMERY 2050

Draft County General Plan Calls for Increased Density in Town *Residents Encouraged to Submit Comments to County Council by June 29*

Thrive Montgomery 2050 Summarized

Thrive Montgomery 2050 (or “Thrive” for short) is Montgomery County’s general plan update. It is the blueprint for how and where the County will grow over the next 30+ years. On its own, Thrive does not modify any laws, but it sets the policy agendas for the County Council and County Planning Department, and will impact all future Master & Sector Plans.

There are two County Council Public Hearings scheduled for June 17 and June 29 and the **Town Council encourages residents to voice their opinions on Thrive directly to the County Council.**

Six Components of This Transformational Plan

There are six, interrelated components of Thrive: Compact Growth Corridor Focused Development; Complete Communities; Design, Arts & Culture; Transportation & Communication Networks; Affordable & Attainable Housing; Parks & Recreation for Urban and Diverse Communities.

In brief, Thrive promotes compact growth, which means increased residential housing in 32 designated “activity centers” and along designated “growth corridors”. The intent is to redevelop these 32 activity centers into “complete communities” that would be walkable, contain varied retail and housing options, public facilities, and open spaces. These 32 activity centers would be connected along corridors with more public transit options.

One of the driving principles of Thrive is the presumption that the County must build 63,000 new housing units by 2040 and that they must be in existing neighborhoods to avoid sprawl, minimize environmental impacts, and support healthy social interaction. If successfully implemented, Thrive will be transformational for Montgomery County and the Town.

Thrive Calls for Increased Density in Town

Thrive’s call to allow multi-family housing to be built in existing single-family neighborhoods could result in one of the most significant impacts of Thrive on the Town. Thrive proposes to meet the demand for more housing (and more housing types) by adding multi-family housing to existing single-family neighborhoods. This Thrive goal has already spawned two proposals by County Councilmembers Jawando and Riemer for zoning changes that would facilitate the construction of multi-family housing in single-family neighborhoods by right (i.e., by just filing for a permit). It has also led to a County Council request for comprehensive Planning Board recommendations on zoning changes to permit multi-family housing in single-family neighborhoods.

The County Planning Department initially referred to the multi-family housing types that are being considered for single-family neighborhoods (e.g., duplexes, triplexes, small apartment buildings) as “Missing Middle Housing” (or MMH for short). But because MMH emphasizes the concept of constructing house-scale buildings that are compatible with existing homes, the County Planning Board has opted to expand beyond those concepts so that different multi-family housing types can be offered at different price points. The term now being used is “Attainable Housing”.

County officials acknowledge that these new housing units will not be “affordable housing”, but instead will sell or rent at prevailing market rates. For the Town of Chevy Chase, the current estimated market rate for a triplex is \$875,000+ and for a duplex \$1,237,000+. Please refer to the Town website to listen to our April 8 Town Forum for more details. For the past two months, the County

(over)

Planning Department has been developing its recommendations on the types of multi-family housing that should be allowed in existing single-family neighborhoods.

According to their recently released preliminary recommendations, the Planning Staff is proposing that duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes be allowed by right on all Town lots and could be built on a single lot or two lots combined. The final Planning Staff recommendations for updating residential zoning will be released June 17, and the County Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on June 24 on them. Residents are encouraged to submit comments and listen to all the Public Hearings.

Town Council Preparing for Thrive Public Hearings

The Town's Sub-Committee on Regional Growth and Development has followed Thrive for the past 9 months and has kept the Town Council informed about its developments. Mayor Barney Rush will testify on June 17 and Vice Mayor Irene Lane will testify on June 29.

In addition, the Town Council has joined a coalition with 25 other communities across the County to communicate questions and concerns about Thrive. The Coalition has issued two statements: one about the proposed policies and another about the process. These statements are available for review on the Town website.

Please Use Your Voice!

We encourage residents to provide comments on Thrive by June 29, either directly to the County Council (email addresses listed below) or during one of the "Emails with Ellen" sessions. Also, below is a list of issues and concerns raised by the Coalition for your consideration.

- Focus on job creation and attracting new industries to increase the County's tax base
- Municipalities should continue to maintain regulatory authority over residential buildings
- Major zoning changes should be implemented through a Master or Sector Plan, with meaningful input from local neighborhood residents
- Include information about whether infrastructure (e.g., schools, stormwater management structures, and other public facilities) will be built to address current needs and accommodate expected impacts of increased density, and more about funding mechanisms for this infrastructure
- Address how to limit loss of naturally occurring affordable housing, including the replacement of affordable single-family housing by multi-family housing
- Explain how to implement affordable housing in high land-value areas
- Acknowledge the continued need for cars by County residents and especially the disabled, aging, and young families

Councilmember Ericson will host various *Emails with Ellen* social events where residents can come together to connect, discuss questions, share opinions, and write emails to the County Council about Thrive. *Emails with Ellen* will be held on Sunday, June 6 at 3 p.m.; Monday, June 14 at 5 p.m.; Tuesday, June 22 at 5 p.m.; and Sunday, June 27 at 3 p.m. Please RSVP to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org for a Zoom link.

If you can't make one of the *Emails with Ellen* sessions, email County Councilmembers about Thrive by June 29.

Andrew Friedson	District 1 - Town's district!	councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov
Tom Hucker	Council President	councilmember.hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov
Gabe Albornoz	Council Vice President	councilmember.albornoz@montgomerycountymd.gov
Evan Glass	At Large	councilmember.glass@montgomerycountymd.gov
Will Jawando	At Large	councilmember.jawando@montgomerycountymd.gov
Hans Riemer	At Large	councilmember.riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov
General Email		county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov