



Forecast

OCTOBER 2021

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Saturday, October 2
Trash and Treasures, 10 a.m.

Sunday, October 3
Kids Music Event, 3:30 p.m.
Oktoberfest Event, 4 p.m.

Monday, October 4
Land Use/Long-Range
Planning *, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 6
4-H Committee*, 5 p.m.
Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 7
Climate/Environment*, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 12
Farm Women's Market
Listening Session, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 13
4-H Committee*, 5 p.m.
Town Council, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 20
4-H Committee*, 5 p.m.

Monday, October 25
Discussion and Desserts, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 27
4-H Committee*, 5 p.m.
Public Services*, 7 p.m.

Monday, November 1
Book Club Meeting, 7 p.m.

* Town Committee meeting

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

Community Engagement Bears Fruit

As we enter the fourth quarter of 2021, the Town is poised to act on significant ordinance and policy changes that will shape the future of our local environment. We actively seek your input on the development of new parks near the [Farm Women's Market](#), which will be discussed at the next Council meeting. The agenda also includes efforts that have come together thanks to consistent engagement by concerned residents, volunteers, committee members, and Town staff. Please join the October Council meeting to learn more and share your views. [More information on these efforts is available on page 2.](#)

Urban Forest Ordinance: The Council will hold a hearing on an amendment to the Urban Forest Ordinance to add 11 species to the list of trees protected under the ordinance. Arguably, the Town's mature urban forest is the most distinctive characteristic of our neighborhood and serves as a carbon sink, absorbs water, and cools and filters our air. The ordinance change seeks to maintain our most visible and vulnerable resource for the long-term health of our local environment.

Healthy Lawns Act: The Climate and Environment Committee recommended that the Town adopt Montgomery County's Healthy Lawns Ordinance, which prohibits the use of certain pesticides for cosmetic use on lawns. This month, the Council will hold a hearing on the Town's adoption of this ordinance. If approved, the Climate and Environment Committee plans several activities to publicize the ban, and the Committee has already begun to educate Town residents on alternative ways to maintain and beautify their lawns (see back page).

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): In September the Town Council decided to accept its grant of Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds appropriated under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). We made this decision because the funds offer the Town an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors both within and outside our borders that we might not otherwise be able to do without the funds. We also heard a wide range of thoughtful and constructive input on the use of the ARPA funds. The feedback we received prompted the Council to adopt a formal, transparent policy to inform decisions about funding ARPA-eligible activities. The policy guides the Council to direct ARPA funds toward activities that provide long term benefits to Town residents and the broader community.

We encourage all residents, committee members, and volunteers to continue to share their opinions, energies, and talents as we work together to sustain the long-term health of our beautiful community.

– Councilmember Joy White

TOWN NEWS

Public Hearings Scheduled for October Council Meeting

The following public hearings are scheduled for the October 13 Town Council meeting. If you are unable to attend the October Council meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. via Zoom, you may submit comments to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. The proposed ordinances are posted on the Town website.

Amending the Town's Urban Forest Ordinance

The Town Council will hold a public hearing on an ordinance to amend the Town's Urban Forest Ordinance by adding 11 trees to the protected tree list. The Town's Climate and Environment Committee recommended expanding the protected tree list for several reasons, including broad community interest in maintaining a healthy tree canopy and protecting additional native trees.

To remove a tree on the protected tree list, a resident must apply for a tree removal permit, which is then reviewed by the Town Arborist. If a tree is dead, dying, or hazardous, the tree removal permit will be approved. If the Arborist finds that the tree does not meet any of those criteria, the permit may be denied. However, this is a rare occurrence, and a resident can appeal to the Town Manager and then to the Town Council.

Adopting the County's Healthy Lawns Act

The Town Council will hold a public hearing on an ordinance to adopt the County's Healthy Lawns Act and making it applicable in the Town. Most notably, the County requirements prohibit homeowners and contractors from using synthetic pesticides for cosmetic purposes on lawns. The Town's Climate and Environment Committee recommended that the Town adopt the County law because restricting the use of pesticides protects local waterways and promotes a healthier environment for ourselves, our pets, and pollinators.

Speed Hump Request -- 7500 Block of Maple Avenue

The Town Council will hold a public hearing on a request from three households for a speed hump on the 7500 block of Maple Avenue (near 7504 Maple Avenue). The Town performed a traffic speed and volume study, and the results meet the Town's qualifying thresholds for a speed hump in that location.

ARPA Relief Funds Discussion

At its October 13 meeting, the Town Council will continue a discussion about the distribution and use of American Relief Plan Act (ARPA) funds. In September, the Council agreed to retain the funds and discussed the process for determining how to allocate them. The Council also discussed a request for ARPA funds from Wonders Early Learning at Leland and agreed to schedule a discussion about this request at the October Council meeting. Any allocation of ARPA funds will be subject to a public hearing.

Farm Women's Market Presentation & Listening Session

In September, the developers of the Farm Women's Market site, EYA and Bernstein Management Corporation, presented the current design for the project to Town residents. Montgomery County DOT officials also reviewed financing for the project, including potential financial support from the Town. Materials from this meeting are available on the Town website (www.townofchevy Chase.org).

The Council will take up the County's request for financial support for this project at its next meeting on October 13. This will be a time for discussion and exploring preliminary views. There will be a further process, when the Town Council will request more resident input, before a decision is made. However, we ask all residents to submit their initial views in advance of the October 13 Council meeting. We want to hear from as many residents as possible. You can also take advantage of the second listening session that Councilmember Ellen Cornelius Ericson will host on October 12 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. To RSVP for this session, email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or call 301-654-7144.

COMMITTEES 2021-2022

The Town's standing and special committees have been reorganized and are ready to begin their work this fall. We have a good roster of volunteers, with both returning and new members.

Dedun Ingram will chair the combined Land Use and Long-Range Planning Committees, with Ellen Cornelius Ericson and Irene Lane serving as council co-liaisons; **Rich Brancato** will lead the Public Services Committee, with Barney Rush serving as liaison; **Tambra Leonard and Quynh Tran** will serve as co-chairs of the Community Relations Committee, with Irene Lane as liaison; **Dan Clohossey** will chair the Climate & Environment Committee, with Joy White as liaison; and **Chris Bruch and Ken Rubin** will continue as co-chairs of the Special Committee on the 4-H Property, with Councilmembers rotating as liaison. A special thanks to those who chair these committees and lead their important work.

Below is a snapshot of the major goals and initiatives of each committee over the next 12 months.

Climate and Environment:

- Enhance the Town's Urban Forest Ordinance to protect and maintain more of our trees that will benefit local and regional health and environment.
- Adopt Montgomery County's Healthy Lawns Act in order to reduce the use of harmful synthetic chemicals on lawns in Town, purely for cosmetic purposes, and thereby improve the health of residents and the environment.
- Develop a Town Green Infrastructure Program to improve storm drainage and reduce flooding in Town and to contribute to improved regional water and waterway quality.

Community Relations:

- Welcome new neighbors by providing opportunities to connect with Town residents through shared interests.
- Increase engagement of all Town residents across the age and life-stage spectrum, including Town teens.
- Capture feedback from Town residents to inform improvements for future events and activities.
- Foster caring for our community beyond the Town through the tradition of civic service with holiday food and gift drives.

Land Use and Long-Range Planning:

- Monitor and respond to Thrive Montgomery 2050, the County's General Plan update, and the County's Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative, the Planning Department's recommendations for residential zoning changes that would allow multi-family housing by right within the Town and other incorporated municipalities.
- Engage in the Farm Women's Market redevelopment project and the conversion of surface parking lots to parks.
- Consider changes to the Town's building regulations to address climate change and changes to County building regulations.

Public Services:

- Continue review of the Town's traffic study and research traffic patterns and possible additional traffic calming devices.
- Consider updated traffic management devices to improve pedestrian safety at intersections and enhanced parking enforcement.
- Review of 5G communications implementation considering the recent ordinance passed by the Montgomery County Council.

Special Committee on the 4-H Property:

- Continue to advise the Town Council on issues related to the redevelopment of the 4-H property.

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: *Healthy Lawns Without Synthetic Chemical Pesticides*

- Mow your lawn or have your contractor mow your lawn with the mower set as high as possible, thus allowing your grass to grow high and shade out weeds.
- Use a mulching mower, returning the resulting finely chopped grass clippings to your lawn, where they will greatly reduce any need to apply fertilizers.
- Consider aerating and overseeding your lawn in late summer/early fall. Now!
- Apply any fertilizer consistent with the MD State fertilizer law (e.g., no application between November 15 and March 1).
- If you want to use a pesticide for cosmetic purposes, use an approved and appropriately labeled organic substance.
- For the future, consider reducing the size of your lawn, converting some or all to more ecologically diverse and productive vegetation.

More information on organic lawn care and approved organic pesticides is available on the County's website at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns/law/>. The Climate and Environment Committee also is planning an event to inform and assist with organic lawn care.

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

Trash & Treasures -- October 2-3

The Town's fall Trash and Treasures is scheduled for the weekend of **October 2-3**. The Town offers this curbside bulk trash pickup so that residents can dispose of items that are no longer usable. If any items are usable, we encourage you to recycle/repurpose them at the *Alternatives to Trash & Treasures* event on Saturday, October 2. More information is available on the Town website.

Kids Music Class Outside

Live Event: Sunday, October 3, 3:30 p.m., Lawton Center Playground

Join a free class with music teacher John Sygar. This event is geared for ages 0-4, but all ages are welcome. Bring a picnic blanket and/or folding chairs and instruments for your kids to play. No RSVP is needed. Just arrive on time to put down your blanket and/or folding chairs and get ready to have fun.

Oktoberfest Beer Tasting

Live Event: Sunday, October 3, 4-6 p.m. Town Hall

Join fellow beer lovers for a presentation and tasting of seasonal beers -- from Germany, Belgium, and the U.S. Sausage and cheeses will be served. Lederhosen optional, yodeling encouraged.

RSVP to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or 301-654-7144. The number of attendees will be capped at 40. Montgomery County regulations require masks to be worn when not eating or drinking.

Discussion & Desserts with Jeffrey Selingo

Live and Virtual Event: Monday, October 25, 7:30 p.m. Town Hall & Zoom

Journalist and higher education expert Jeffrey Selingo will discuss his newest book, *Who Gets In and Why: a Year Inside College Admissions*. From the author's website: "Published in September 2020, it was named among the 100 Notable Books of the year by the New York Times. It takes readers on a journey through the selection process from inside three admissions offices (Emory, Davidson, and the University of Washington), revealing what really matters to the gatekeepers and how the ultimate decision is often based on a college's priorities." The book will be available for purchase.

RSVP to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or 301-654-7144 and indicate whether you want to attend the event in person or obtain a Zoom link. Montgomery County regulations require masks to be worn when not eating or drinking.

Fall Book Club Meetings

We are making some changes to the Town of Chevy Chase Book Club. We will meet on Mondays rather than on Sundays and schedule about 6 weeks in between meetings. Join us on **Monday, November 1 at 7 p.m.** to discuss *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies* by Deesha Philyaw. These prize-winning short stories explore the secrets of nine black women navigating the mess of real life within the strictures of the church. Funny but poignant. We are hoping to meet in person in November, with location to be announced. If you want to join in, email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org to receive the event information (or the Zoom link). This event is sponsored by the Community Relations Committee.

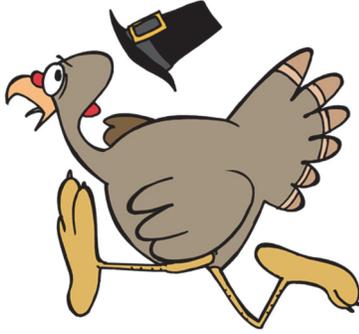
Save the date for the Town of Chevy Chase Book Club's next meeting **on Monday, December 6 at 7 p.m.** We will be reading *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.



13th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets

see reverse





13th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets

Organized by
Town of Chevy Chase
Lawton Community Center

***Serving families in need through the
YMCA Linkages to Learning of Montgomery County***

Although once again we are not able to create food baskets together in the Town Hall, we still can help 100 MCPS families this Thanksgiving. Instead of our traditional dinner baskets, families will receive at a minimum a \$75 Giant or Aldi food card. Our timetable for donations is the month of October so families will have the cards by mid-November for holiday food shopping.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create great hardship for many families throughout the county. According to Manna Food Center, food insecurity has nearly doubled since the onset of the coronavirus. Our community effort this year is more important than ever. Thank you for your generous support!

Here's how you can help! October 1 – October 30

- **Drop off/mail a check payable to YMCA-YFS or Giant or Aldi gift cards** to Georgia Guhin (4006 Rosemary Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815) October 1 - 30. If you would like us to pick up your donation, please contact one of us below. Your donation will help purchase a \$75 food card for each of the 100 families. Additional funds raised will go toward extra gift cards. 100% of your donation will support MCPS families in need. The YMCA is not able to accept online donations for this special project. You will receive an acknowledgement of your donation from the YMCA.
- **Have questions?** Send an email to Georgia Guhin (gbguhin@gmail.com); Bridget Hartman (bridget@hartmanjr.net); Katie Vita (katie.vita@gmail.com); or the Town Office (townoffice@townofchevychase.org).

