



Forecast

NOVEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

NOVEMBER

Monday, November 1

Book Club Meeting
7 p.m., Town Hall

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

Wednesday, November 3

Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 4

Climate/Environment*, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 7

Coffee Meet Up
9 a.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, November 10

4-H Committee*, 5 p.m.

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Town Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 11

Veterans Day
Town Office Closed

Friday, November 12

Grown-Ups Movie Night
7:30 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, November 24

4-H Committee*, 5 p.m.

November 25-26

Thanksgiving Holiday
Town Office Closed

* Town Committee meeting

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

Parks Creation and Redevelopment

Creating Parks near the Farm Women's Market

At our October meeting, the Council took a preliminary vote for the Town to contribute to the creation of two new parks: one behind the Farm Women's Market and another between Leland and Walsh Streets. These new parks would largely replace the two existing surface parking lots next to the Town, and an underground garage would be built under the existing lot behind the Market to create the space for the parks. We proposed that the Town provide 25% of the cost that would be required from public sources (County and Town), up to a total of \$4 million. Funds from the developers also comprise a material portion of the total amount required. A more complete discussion of this proposal is included on page 2 of this issue, along with a list of the conditions that we propose to attach to our contribution.

We expect to take a final decision at our next Council meeting on November 10. We have been eager to hear from residents regarding this project and look forward to further comments before we meet. This would be a transformative project -- good for the Town and great for all of us in and near Bethesda; but it is also a large sum of money to be drawn from our \$10 million in unrestricted reserves. The Council wants to ensure that all residents who wish to voice their views have the opportunity to be heard.

Plans for Amenities at Zimmerman Park

At last! We finally have a concept plan for improvements at Zimmerman Park! We believe this responds to what residents have asked for, AND is realistic, considering the web of underground pipes that cannot be disturbed or built upon. The plan includes improved drainage, a small play area, picnic tables, and a lawn area with a fence that can be fully connected as a complete oval when, on an occasional basis, the grounds will be used as a dog exercise area. We will distribute the plan to residents soon and begin the process of taking comments. We would like to finalize a plan over the next few months and then begin the process of securing permits and preparing bid packages for contractors. We hope we can break ground before the end of next year.

Update on 4-H Property Development

The purchasers, Galerie Living and Community Three, have received and reviewed our letter, setting out the Town's key interests in the redevelopment. They have informed us that they intend to have some preliminary designs to show the Town in November. We wait to hear more.

– Mayor Barney Rush

TOWN NEWS

Public Hearings Scheduled for November Council Meeting

The following public hearings are scheduled for the November 10 Town Council meeting. If you are unable to attend the November Council meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. via Zoom video conference, you may submit comments to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. Additional information about these hearings is available on the Town website.

Contribution to Farm Women's Market Park Creation Project

At its November 10 meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on a proposed financial contribution to the parks creation project as part of the redevelopment of the Farm Women's Market site. In October, the Council unanimously agreed to propose contributing 25% of the public funds needed for the park project, up to a maximum of \$4 million, and discussed conditions related to this contribution. As of June 30, 2021, the Town had an unrestricted fund balance of over \$10 million.

The parks project includes the cost of constructing an underground garage behind the current market and the creation of parks above that garage and on the lot between Leland and Walsh streets. It does not include the refurbishment and expansion of the Farm Women's Market building or land, which is being financed separately by the developers and fees collected from other development in Bethesda.

At its October meeting, the Council discussed proposed conditions related to this contribution, including the **commitment of funds by all parties to build both parks in their entirety; establishment of the parks in perpetuity; a community engagement process by the developers and the Parks Department on park amenities; Town involvement in ongoing decisions regarding the regulations and programming of the parks; and County/Parks Department responsibility for ongoing maintenance of the parks.**

The Council agreed to communicate this proposal to Town residents, invite further public comment in October, and hold a public hearing on the proposal at the November meeting. In September and October, the Town held three listening sessions to hear from residents about this proposal and to answer questions.

ARPA Funds Request – Wonders Early Learning & Extended Day

On November 10, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on a request from Wonders Early Learning and Extended Day ("Wonders") for \$125,000 from the Town's \$2.4 million allotment of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Wonders is a nonprofit provider of accredited early childhood education, before/after school, and summer camps with eight locations in the metropolitan D.C. area. Wonders runs two programs in the Town of Chevy Chase -- one at CCES and the other at the Lawton Center -- and both programs are expected to realize a combined deficit in FY22 in the same amount as the requested allocation. Wonders applied for Town ARPA funds in September, and the Council heard a presentation and discussed the request at its October 13 meeting. Because the request meets federal eligibility guidelines and the Town's policy regarding allocating ARPA funds, the Council agreed to hold a public hearing on the request at its November 10 meeting.

Council to Continue Discussion of Lowering Town Voting Age

On October 25, the Council held a public forum to discuss lowering the voting age to 16 for residents who wish to participate in Town elections. The Council will continue this discussion at its November 10 meeting and will decide whether to advance this issue to a public hearing in December.

Council Adopts Laws to Further Protect Climate & Environment

The Council recently approved two ordinances to further protect our climate and environment. The Council amended the Town's Urban Forest Ordinance to add 11 species to the list of protected trees. The Council also approved an ordinance to adopt the County's Pesticides Law, which prohibits the use of synthetic pesticides for cosmetic purposes. The Town's Climate and Environment Committee recommended these new laws to maintain a robust tree canopy and promote a healthier environment.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Winter Clothing Drive Begins November 1

Every year, from November to February, the Town's Community Relations Committee sponsors a Winter Clothing Drive for those in need. We donate to Interfaith Works who distribute to 13,000 income-qualified county residents, including nearly 6,000 children. Please donate clean, gently used, or never worn items: coats, gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, sweaters, pants, and socks. Also needed is waterproof warm winter wear for those who are outside in the cold rain or snow. Since the Town Hall is still open only part time, the clothing box will be located on the front porch of Marjorie Shaw and Barney Rush, at **6917 Maple Avenue** (between Stanford and Pine Place).

Holiday Gift Drive for Domestic Violence Victims

It's time for the 9th annual Holiday Gift Card Drive! Town residents purchase gift cards to be given to Montgomery County families who are victims of domestic violence. The adult beneficiaries are clients of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center, and the children are clients of Chesapeake Counseling. There are two donation options: 1) gift cards in denominations from \$10 to \$50 for stores such as Target, Marshalls, Kohl's, Ross, and Giant or 2) checks made out to MCFJC Foundation. Please deliver your donation to the Town Office or mail it to 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. To receive an acknowledgment for tax purposes, be sure to include your name and e-mail address.) Gift cards and checks for the Holiday Gift Drive will be collected through Monday, December 20 but will be accepted gratefully at any time of year. If you have any questions, contact Cathy Wolf at cathrynwolf2@gmail.com or Quynh Tran at vanstinger2205@gmail.com. As in past years, we ask you to be generous and extend a helping hand to these needy families. Thanks in advance!

TOCC Book Club Meets November 1

Hurray! The Town of Chevy Chase Book Club is meeting IN PERSON on **Monday, November 1 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall** to discuss *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies* by Deesha Philyaw. Wine and snacks will facilitate the discussion. COVID protocols observed. *Save the Date* for our next meeting on December 6 when we will discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.

Coffee Meet Up

Turn back your clocks and come join your neighbors for coffee and sweets (to be provided) on **Sunday, November 7, 9-10 a.m. in the Town Hall** (Feel free to bring your own coffee mug!). If you are a baker and would like to contribute home-made baked goods, let us know at townoffice@townofchevychase.org. COVID protocols observed.

Movies for Grown-Ups Is Back!

Missed seeing the Academy Award winning movies of 2020? Here's your chance to catch up! Join us on **Friday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall** to watch *Minari*, which follows a Korean-American family that moves to an Arkansas farm in search of their own American Dream. It received six Academy Award nominations and won for Best Supporting Actor. Seating is limited, so please RSVP soon to townoffice@townofchevychase.org. COVID protocols observed.

Calling All Artists & Creatives -- Artistic Expression in the Face of the Pandemic

Whether 5 years old or 95 years old, the pandemic has affected us all in big and small ways. If you (or your child) created or wishes to create a painting, poem, sculpture, musical composition, or other artistic expression that reflects how you have shown resiliency or faced the pandemic, the Community Relations Committee would be interested in learning more about your creation. Depending on the interest, the Town may hold an exhibition. Please describe your creation or take a photo and send it to townoffice@townofchevychase.org. Responses appreciated by December 1.

Town events are sponsored by the Community Relations Committee. All residents are welcome.

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



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Climate & Environment Tip of the Month: *Renewable Electricity Options*

Reducing unnecessary electricity use is one of the best ways to reduce your home's environmental footprint. For example, at our Fall 2021 Trash & Treasures, Montgomery County hosted a "Lighten Up" booth to encourage the use of energy-efficient LED bulbs. Next on your list could be switching your household to renewable electricity supply. This will reduce harmful emissions, support the conversion away from fossil fuel-produced electricity and help the County achieve its goal of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2027 and 100% by 2035. Here are some quick tips for making the change:

- Easiest Option: Switching to a Renewable Electricity supplier is a fairly simple paperwork transaction. Use our Renewable Electricity Guide on the homepage of the Town website for step-by-step instructions to replace your PEPCO-supplied electricity with 100% wind- and/or solar-generated electricity.
- This State of Maryland website (www.mdelectricchoice.com/) allows you to easily compare renewable energy supplier options available in our Town. (Hint: AEP and Groundswell are County-recommended suppliers because they are Green-E certified.)
- For more impact: Our Renewable Electricity Guide also discusses Solar Panels, Solar Co-ops, and Geothermal Energy for reducing fossil fuel-generated electricity use.
- This Montgomery County website (<https://montgomeryenergyconnection.org/switch-to-clean-energy/>) provides options for residential energy switching and related clean energy topics.