



Forecast

DECEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Wednesday, December 1
4-H Committee*, 5 p.m.

Community Relations*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 2
Climate/Environment*, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 6
Book Club Meeting, 7 p.m.
see page 3

Land Use/ Planning*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8
Voting Forum, 5 :30 p.m.
see page 3

Town Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 9
Discussion & Desserts, 7 p.m.
see page 3

Monday, December 13
Racial Justice*, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 15
4-H Committee*, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 19
Holiday Sing-Along, 5 p.m.
see page 3

Wednesday, December 22
Public Services*, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 24
Christmas Holiday
Town Office Closed

Wednesday, December 29
4-H Committee*, 5 p.m.

Friday, December 31
New Year's Holiday
Town Office Closed

* Town Committee meeting

Generosity & Gratitude for the Holidays

We hope that everyone had a joyous Thanksgiving celebration filled with friends, family, feasting, frivolity, and to continue the alliteration, maybe even some football. As I reflect upon the challenges we've all faced over the last 20 months, I am proud of the way our Town has exhibited resilience and generosity toward one another as well as toward local communities. Countless times, whether someone had a question, concern, or needed assistance, a resident stepped in to help.

As an example, thanks to the community spirit of our residents and volunteers last year, we raised more than \$9,000 for the Family Justice Center and collected over 1,000 winter clothing items for Interfaith Works. This year, we are encouraging more contributions toward both worthy causes as explained on page 3 of this Forecast. As Winston Churchill said, "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give".

These fundraising activities are just some of the events that have been coordinated over the past year by the Community Relations Committee. The committee's hard work, whether organizing virtual community discussions, magic shows, party games, wine tastings, or book clubs, have kept us connected during this period of social distancing. And while there are many to thank, I'd like to extend the Town's gratitude to the former committee chair, Wicca Davidson, whose committed leadership helped to bring forth our collective compassion. Thank you, Wicca, for your six years of service!

The Community Relations Committee is now chaired by Quynh Tran and Tandra Leonard. Building on Wicca's leadership, they are joined this year by a talented and enthusiastic group dedicated to expanding events, especially as we can begin to offer in-person occasions once again. For example, in the coming year, the committee plans to offer more activities for pre-school, elementary-school, and teen aged residents in addition to working with other committees on education and awareness events. The goal is inclusiveness, and they are off to a great start.

Some spotlighted events to look out for this month and into 2022 include: Discussion & Desserts with Rachel Vogelstein (global impact of the #MeToo movement); a Holiday Sing-Along Walkabout; Cyber Safety Classes; Children's Art Activities; County Council/County Executive Candidates' Forums; and a Cherry Blossom Fest.

I look forward to seeing you all at these events, whether virtual or in-person, and wish you a restful, safe, and healthy holiday season in addition to a cheerful start to 2022.

– Councilmember Irene Lane

NEWS & NOTES

Public Hearings Scheduled for December Council Meeting

The following public hearings are scheduled for the December 8 Town Council meeting. If you are unable to attend the Council meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. via Zoom video conference, you may submit comments to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org. See the Town website for more information.

Zimmerman Park Redevelopment

On December 8, the Council will hold a public hearing on redevelopment plans for Zimmerman Park. In November, the Town held a walking tour of the park for Town residents to understand and discuss the extent and location of the proposed improvements, and the Town held a public forum on November 29 to answer residents' questions and receive resident feedback about the planned improvements. Another walking tour will be held on December 4 at 1 p.m. before the Council holds a public hearing and decides how to proceed with the redevelopment plans at its December 8 meeting. To RSVP for the December 4 walking tour, please email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Speed Hump on Maple Avenue Between Aspen Street & Blackthorn Street

On December 8, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the installation of a speed hump on Maple Avenue between Aspen Street and Blackthorn Street. At the request of the Town Council, the Town performed a traffic speed and volume study on this block of Maple Avenue, and the results meet the Town's qualifying thresholds for a speed hump. The Town's traffic engineer has reviewed the road alignment and found that there is an appropriate location for a hump to be installed in that block.

Public Forum on Lowering Town Voting Age

On December 8 at 5:30 p.m., the Town Council will hold a public forum to discuss and hear from residents about a proposal to lower the voting age to 16 for residents who wish to participate in Town elections. The Council held a public forum on this proposal on October 25 and discussed the proposal at its November 10 meeting. Following the December 8 public forum, the Council will decide at its regular meeting that same evening whether to introduce a resolution to implement this change. If the Council introduces the resolution, a public hearing will be scheduled at the January 12 Council meeting.

Public Services Committee Notes

Traffic & Safety -- Be a good neighbor and follow the Town's motor vehicle, traffic, and parking laws. They are there to protect motorist and pedestrians. In addition to the Town's ordinances, all motor vehicle laws, ordinances and regulations of the state and county are in effect in the Town. Now that traffic is beginning to return to pre-pandemic levels, the Town has asked police to step up traffic and parking enforcement. Please be aware of the following:

- The Town speed limit is 20 mph, unless otherwise posted.
- Stop for pedestrians in crosswalks and intersections.
- Stop at stop signs and for school buses.
- Expect bicyclists on the road and allow at least three feet when passing.
- Do not block sidewalks, driveways, or fire hydrants.
- It is unlawful to park on the opposite side of the street with left wheels to curb unless it's a one-way street.
- All vehicles within a permit parking area must display a valid permit parking decal or guest pass. Contact the Town office at 301-654-7144 to request a permit parking sticker if you live in a designated area.

5G Working Group -- The Committee has established a 5G Working Group to follow the implementation by service providers of 5G cellular service in the Town and to advise the Town Council on any changes that may be needed to the Town's ordinance on small telecommunications wireless facilities. We are looking for volunteers with technical telecommunications or spectrum management expertise to help the Working Group. If you can help, please email the Town at townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

TOCC Book Club Meets December 6

The Town of Chevy Chase Book Club is meeting IN PERSON on **Monday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall** to discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. Wine and snacks will be on offer. Save the date for our next meeting on January 24 when we will discuss *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro. Covid protocols observed.

Discussion and Desserts with Rachel Vogelstein

Since 2017, millions have joined the global #MeToo movement, catalyzing an unprecedented wave of women's activism powered by technology that crosses borders, races, religions, and economic divides. Join us on **Thursday, December 9 at 7 p.m. via Zoom** as Rachel Vogelstein discusses her new book *Awakening: #MeToo and the Global Fight for Women's Rights*. Rachel, senior advisor to the White House Gender Policy Council, will discuss the trajectory of the movement internationally and where it stands today. Please RSVP to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or 301-654-7144.

Holiday Sing-Along Walkabout Through Town

On **December 19 from 5 to 7 p.m.**, residents of all ages are invited to walk through the Town singing the songs of the season. If you know a resident who could use some holiday cheer, please nominate them for a designated "singing stop" in front of their home. RSVP to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org by December 15 if interested in singing or have a nomination. Rain date: December 20.

Holiday Gift Drive for Domestic Violence Victims



This is the 9th annual Holiday Gift Card Drive! It's when Town residents purchase gift cards to be given to needy 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. It's a wonderful way to brighten the holidays for these families. There are two donation options: gift cards in denominations from \$10 to \$50 for stores such as Target, Marshalls, Kohl's, Ross, and Giant or checks made out to MCFJC Foundation. You can mail your donation to the Town Office at 4301 Willow Lane. You can also drop it off at 7624 Lynn Drive in the basket in the carport or at 7203 Ridgewood Avenue in the mailbox. (To receive an acknowledgment for tax purposes, be sure to include your name and e-mail address.) Gift cards and checks will be collected through December 20 but will be accepted gratefully at any time of year. Our town has contributed generously to this cause in the past, and we look forward to another very successful campaign! Sponsored by the Community Relations Committee.

Winter Clothing Drive Continues Thru February 28

Please help the men, women and children who depend on Interfaith Works Clothing Center to keep them warm. They provide free clothing to 13,000 income-qualified residents each year, including nearly 6,000 children. Please donate clean, gently used or never used warm coats, gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, sweaters, pants, and socks to those in need. 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). This project is sponsored by the Community Relations Committee.

Thanksgiving Thanks!

A grateful thanks to all who contributed to this year's Thanksgiving Dinner Basket effort. Your donations helped over 166 MCPS families with grocery shopping this November holiday. We purchased or received more than 166 grocery gift cards that the YMCA's Youth and Family Services staff have now given to families continuing to experience food insecurity challenges of the pandemic. Thank you for your extraordinary generosity!

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Climate & Environment Tip of the Month

“The Issue with Tissue”

Americans' love of luxury paper products is harming the environment. In the 90 seconds it will take you to read this message, two football field-sized areas of the Canadian boreal forest will have disappeared. What are boreal forests and why should we care? Boreal forests are full of deciduous trees and conifers and cover vast expanses in Canada, Alaska, and Russia. They're an important carbon sink which absorbs carbon dioxide -- a main contributor to global warming and climate change and they're home to abundant wildlife.

But these crucial forests are threatened, due in large part to the demand for virgin pulp to make ultra-soft TOILET PAPER, FACIAL TISSUE, PAPER NAPKINS AND PAPER TOWELS.

Fortunately, there are eco-friendly alternatives:

- Look for recycled and chlorine-free paper products or products made from Forest Stewardship Council-certified bamboo. These are available in local stores and online. Recycled paper products (don't worry -- not made from used toilet paper or Kleenex!) are almost as soft and strong as the “luxury brands” -- and without the negative effect on the environment.
- Use cloth rags, sponges, and dishcloths instead of paper towels whenever possible. Skoy cloths are an example of an effective, washable, and compostable cleaning cloth.

For specific guidance on the best and worst paper products to buy -- from an environmental standpoint -- here's some helpful information from the Natural Resources Defense Council: <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/issue-with-tissue-2021-scorecard.pdf>. Thanks for making climate-friendly choices!