



# Forecast

MAY 2022

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

# May

**Monday, May 2**

Land Use/ Planning\*, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 3**

Election & Annual Meeting  
see page 2

**Wednesday, May 4**

Community Relations\*, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, May 5**

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

**Saturday, May 7**

Derby Day Party, 6 p.m.  
see page 3

**Wednesday, May 11**

Town Council, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 18**

4-H Committee\*, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, May 14**

Play Date in the Park, 3:30 p.m.  
see page 3

**Wednesday, May 25**

Public Services\*, 7:30 p.m.

**Monday, May 30**

Memorial Day  
Town office closed

\* Town Committee meeting

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

**2022 Council Election  
& Annual Meeting**  
see page 2

## The Social Contract is Alive and Well in Town

As I close out my term on the Town Council, I have been reflecting on just how many world events have touched our community in the last two years. Whether it was the rapid spread of COVID-19, George Floyd's murder that sparked an international conversation about racial justice, or the courageous acts of essential workers who risked their lives to care for others, each day seemed more challenging than the previous one.

Yet, despite periods of great uncertainty, I learned a lot about myself, our community, and our country. One realization I had was that at the core we are all interrelated. What happens to one of us impacts all of us. When one person acts, it brings results to many. And, for the sake of progress by a community, I might have to give up a little of what I want. Indeed, this is the framework of the social contract and the foundation of living in a representative democracy.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving you and will miss participating in our Town's vibrant democratic process. I have appreciated talking with neighbors and making new friends. But most of all I have relished solving problems while considering the greater good.

I am proud that I was part of the Council that made the switch from gas to electric powered leaf blowers, and I am honored that we have moved toward a more inclusive democratic process where 16- and 17-year-old residents can now vote in Town Council elections! Both initiatives came about as a result of listening to resident ideas. During my first year on the Council, I heard your concerns about the Subdivision Staging Policy, Thrive Montgomery 2050, and the proposed changes in residential zoning. My instinct was to listen, reflect, engage, and take thoughtful actions, which sometimes included working with other municipalities and citizen groups across Montgomery County.

During the past year, I have worked hard to solicit resident input on the final concept plan for Zimmerman Park and on the Town's contribution to the Farm Women's Market parks creation project. I have listened on how best to invest the American Rescue Plan Act funds in community projects, such as Wonders Early Learning Center. Moreover, I helped to pass additional safety and traffic calming measures, including increased hours for off-duty police, to further improve the quality of life in our Town.

While these continue to be challenging times, there are bright spots as well. I am inspired to see people working together to solve difficult problems and exercising their freedoms, all in the name of preserving our social contract.

To that end, I thank you for your participation in forums, surveys, conversations, and committee meetings. I appreciate the ways in which all of you have contributed to the social contract in order to contribute to the greater good, and I look forward to seeing what's in store in the next chapter for my beloved Town.

– Councilmember Ellen Cornelius Ericson

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# NEWS & NOTES

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## 2022 Town Council Election & Annual Meeting

The Town's Election and Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. In this year's election, Town residents will select three candidates, each to serve for a two-year term. There are three candidates on the ballot: Rich Brancato, Irene N. Lane, and Barney Rush. As of April 21, no qualified Town voter has submitted a certificate to run as a write-in candidate.

Balloting will be undertaken by mail and drop box only. Balloting materials and information on the nominated candidates were mailed to residents in April. In order for a resident's vote to be counted, ballot return envelopes must either be mailed by May 3 and received by May 10 or placed in the drop box outside the Town Hall by 5 p.m. on May 3.

The Annual Meeting will be held on May 3 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall and via Zoom and will include a public hearing on, and Council adoption of, the FY23 budget and tax rates. The proposed budget is available for review on the Town website, as is information on how to join the Annual Meeting.

## Town Response to 7100 Connecticut Avenue Concept Plan

On April 15, the Town submitted its response to the initial concept plan for redevelopment of 7100 Connecticut Avenue to the property owners. Prior to this date, the Council collected substantial feedback from residents and from the 4-H Special Committee that informed the requests and comments in the Town's response. We will notify residents when we hear back from the property owners and about next steps for engaging with them on the redevelopment plan.

## Farm Women's Market Parks Creation Project

In early April, the Maryland General Assembly passed the capital budget for Fiscal Year 2023. The budget includes a total of \$3.5 million earmarked to support the creation of new parks associated with the redevelopment of the Farm Women's Market. \$3 million is included in this upcoming fiscal year, and another \$500,000 is pre-authorized to be included in the budget for FY24.

In an April 7 letter, which is available for review on the Town website, the Town Council extended its appreciation for State support for this vital project. With this appropriation, we are much closer to completing the financial plan that is needed to ensure adequate funding for this project. The focus now is on the amount that the County expects to contribute, and how the County will memorialize its financial commitment.

## Consulting Water Management Program

The Town's Consulting Water Management Program offers residents the opportunity to obtain free, professional recommendations on improving water management on their property. Under the program, a resident may request a water drainage review by the Town's consulting engineer. After visiting the property, the engineer will provide a written report to the resident with recommendations on improving water drainage and runoff. More information on the program and a registration form are available on the Town website.

## Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Banned January 1-October 14

Use electric leaf blowers or rakes -- they are quieter, cleaner, and more neighborly (and it's now the law in the Town of Chevy Chase.) Gas-powered leaf blowers are prohibited from January 1 to October 14. More information about obtaining rebates for the purchase of battery-powered and electric leaf blowers (either for you or your landscaping company) is available at [www.townofchevychase.org](http://www.townofchevychase.org). To report gas-powered leaf blower violations, call 301-654-7144.

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# SPECIAL EVENTS

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## Derby Day Party, May 7, 6-7:30 p.m., Town Hall

Join your neighbors to watch what has been called the greatest two minutes of sports. Celebrate the 148<sup>th</sup> running of the horses with mint juleps or lemonade and light snacks. Hats are encouraged! Reserve early since attendance is limited. Call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or email [townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org](mailto:townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org). This event for those 21 and above is sponsored by the Community Relations Committee.



## Play Date in the Park, May 14, 3:30 p.m., Lawton Playground

Calling all families with kids ages 0-5! Please join us for a play date at the Lawton Center playground. Snacks will be provided. Sponsored by the Community Relations Committee.

## TOCC Book Club, June 6, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Our Town of Chevy Chase Book Club will meet to discuss *These Precious Days*, a collection of essays by Ann Patchet. She is not only a renowned novelist, but her essays portray a truly brilliant appreciation of life. Join us for wine, snacks, and discussion! Sponsored by the Community Relations Committee.

## Chevy Chase At Home May Events

CC@H is a member organization providing social and educational programs to neighbors of all ages and support services to seniors. Below are some upcoming events open to the community. For more information about CC@H and to register for events, visit [www.chevy Chaseathome.org](http://www.chevy Chaseathome.org).

- *Navigating Life's Journey: Hospice, Death With Dignity, and Grief Support (May 6, 1-2:30 p.m.)*
- *CC@H Guest Speaker: Fiona Hill on "Finding Opportunity in the 21st Century" (May 31, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.)*

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# REMINDERS

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## Battery-Powered Blower Rebate Program

The Town's rebate program for the purchase of battery-powered blowers will end on June 30. The program 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 and related equipment, up to a maximum rebate of \$200 per household. More information and an application are available 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 an application are available 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.

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

The Town office receives ongoing 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.

## Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane  
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

### *EV Resources*

With recent gas price hikes, there has been an uptick of interest in hybrid and electric vehicles. There are already many models available but there will be \*many\* more options over the next 1-2 years. If you're interested in learning more to prepare for making your next vehicle purchase a hybrid or electric, here's several resources you can use:

- A 25" podcast which gives a great overview of the current state of all things EV and the flood of vehicles coming on the market in the next 1-2 years:  
<https://consumerpedia.org/13-thinking-about-buying-an-electric-vehicle-heres-what-you-need-to-know/?tc=email>
- Consumer Reports EV buying guide:  
<https://www.consumerreports.org/cro/cars/hybrids-evs/buying-guide/index.htm>
- Montgomery County Zero Emission Vehicles Information webpage:  
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/zev/index.html>
- Montgomery County EV Buyer's Guide (an excellent summary of all the models available now):  
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/Resources/Files/zev/evpc-buyers-guide.pdf>
- Montgomery County "Take the Pledge" website which they're using to build commitments from County residents to facilitate purchasing discounts with local dealers:  
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bEBbuWxc0Csl3eAaaCtZEU3FJIY74IKn8luKTY-D8xUOFU2RzFWOFU0Mkc5TFZCOUtFSFVHRjFWOCQIQCN0PWcu>