



Forecast

FEBRUARY 2019

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Friday, February 1
Family Movie Night
Town Hall, 6 p.m.
see page 3

Wednesday, February 6
Community Relations*
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 10
25th Annual Chili Dinner
CCES, 5:30 p.m.
see page 3

Monday, February 11
Long Range Planning*
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 13
Council Work Session
Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.
see page 2

Wednesday, February 13
Town Council
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 14
Public Services*
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Monday, February 18
Presidents' Day
Town Office Closed

Thursday, February 28
Land Use*
Town Hall, 7 p.m.

* Town committee meeting

Pedestrian Safety on East West Highway

The Town is working with the State Highway Administration (SHA) to undertake a comprehensive plan for improved pedestrian safety along East West Highway. We, along with representatives of the Edgevale community (just north of East West Highway) recently met with SHA officials to discuss this important effort. The Town's follow-on letter to the SHA outlining the safety plan is available for review on the Town website.

The plan elements include:

- Ongoing clearance of vegetation along the southern sidewalk, most recently completed by the Town last September.
- A path and staircase across Zimmerman Park, which is currently being planned by the Town to bypass a narrow portion of sidewalk adjacent to the park.
- Narrowing the traffic lanes, in an effort to slow vehicle speeds, from the bridge over the Purple Line towards Connecticut Avenue, now scheduled to be completed by the SHA in April or May of this year.
- A proposed SHA project to add signalization to two crosswalks: one across East West Highway near Maple Avenue, and the other across Montgomery Avenue where it terminates at East West Highway.
- A proposed Town project to install radar signs to monitor the speed of eastbound traffic.

Some of the proposed plan elements noted above must go through a process of review and approval by the Town and the SHA. We will provide periodic updates as consideration proceeds.

Purple Line Noise Report

The Council's decision to approve funding for a 2-foot increase in the height of the noise wall along the Purple Line tracks is reported on page 2 of this issue. I'd like to encourage residents to view the noise barrier analysis that was recently completed by our consulting acoustical engineer. The report, which is posted on the Town website, provides a visual representation of the noise level of the light rail train at different distances and heights, from Elm Street Park to East West Highway.

CC@H Postcards in the Mail

Every resident will soon receive a postcard with information on how residents can sign up and volunteer for the valuable programs offered by Chevy Chase at Home (CC@H), a non-profit organization to help seniors age in place. Please review and consider these programs, including the "Storm Buddy" system that ensures someone reaches out to CC@H members if there is a power outage or weather emergency.

-- Mayor Barney Rush

TOWN NEWS

Public Hearing on Regulating Small Cell Facilities

At its February 13 meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on an ordinance to regulate small wireless telecommunications facilities (“small cells”) within Town rights-of-way. The Council discussed and introduced this ordinance at its January meeting.

Small cells are wireless antennas that can be placed on existing or new structures, such as utility poles. These deployments, which will soon be faced by local governments, are aimed at providing 5G coverage for wireless devices and smart phones. 5G service will require more equipment to be placed in the public rights-of-way than previously required for earlier technology.

Among other restrictions, the proposed ordinance would require that all small cells be installed at a height of at least 15 feet above the ground and be limited to 5 per pole. New towers could be located no closer than 1,000 feet to another tower. Under federal law, a small cell can compose up to 3 cubic feet, and related equipment boxes can compose up to 28 cubic feet. Currently, County law requires small cells to be located at least 60 feet away from any single family home, and this setback applies in the Town. However, the County Council is in the process of reviewing whether the setback should be reduced. The proposed Town ordinance would require setbacks of 2 feet from public improvements and 5 feet from driveway aprons to avoid interference with vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

If you are unable to attend the February Council meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall, you may submit comments to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org.

Council to Hold Work Session on February 13

On February 13 at 5:30 p.m., prior to the regular Council meeting, the Town Council will hold a work session to discuss a report by the Town’s Land Use Committee on possible locations for a dog exercise area in or near Town. The Council also will review the latest plans for a sustainable garden and a pathway and staircase in Zimmerman Park. Residents are welcome to attend the work session but will not be able to participate in the discussions. Any proposal related to a dog exercise area will be subject to a future public hearing.

Council Funds Higher Purple Line Noise Wall

At its January 9 meeting, the Town Council approved a supplemental appropriation of \$107,658 to increase the height of the noise wall by 2 feet along the Purple Line alignment adjacent to the Town. The Council determined that this change in wall height would provide additional sound mitigation from the trains; more visual privacy for homeowners adjacent to the tracks; and increased safety for children. The Town’s consulting acoustical engineer reviewed the plans for a higher noise wall and concluded that a 6-foot noise barrier is more effective than the original 4-foot noise barrier and will provide a perceptible reduction in noise level. The engineer’s report is available for review on the Town website.

Town Joins Dockless Vehicle Pilot Program

The Town Council has agreed to opt in to Montgomery County’s expanded pilot program for dockless vehicles. By joining this program, Town residents and visitors will have access to dockless bikes, e-bikes, and e-scooters for door-to-door transportation. The pilot program has been in effect in the Silver Spring/Takoma Park area over the past year, and most individuals in the pilot area find the dockless vehicles useful as a way to get around without the need for a car. The expanded program will last one year and will begin once the County completes the appropriate agreements with each dockless vehicle vendor. These agreements give the Town the right to terminate or restrict a company’s operation in the Town if a company fails to meet performance requirements or to adhere to other provisions of the agreements.

TOWN EVENTS

Family Movie Night

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2: Friday, February 1, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Flint Lockwood learns that his food making invention survived and is now combining food and animals to create 'foodimals'! Flint and his friends embark on a mouth-watering mission to save the world -- again! Rated PG; 95 minutes. Come at 5:30 for pizza, snacks and drinks. Movie starts at 6. Children must be accompanied by an adult. RSVP to 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchvyechase.org.

25th Annual Chili Dinner

Sunday, February 10, 5:30 – 7 p.m., Chevy Chase Elementary School

Beat the winter blues with chili, hot dogs and ice cream sundaes, as well as vegetarian options. The evening features music by Leroy Hyson and old-fashioned, buttercream-frosted cupcakes to celebrate the 25th year of the Chili Dinner and the 100th anniversary of the Town. We will continue our support of Manna Food Center, which feeds those in need. While we can't collect food items, a collection basket for cash and checks will be provided. RSVP to 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevyechase.org.

Help Us Build a Centennial Time Capsule!

In honor of the Town's Centennial, we are creating a Time Capsule and need your help. The Town's Centennial Committee will be at the annual Chili Dinner to collect potential Time Capsule items and ideas. Drop off photos, stories, newspaper articles, etc., that reflect the spirit of the present day. Make sure to include your name, phone number, or email address. Questions? Call 301-654-7144.

Dessert, Discussion & Book Signing

The Joy of Forest Bathing: Wednesday, February 27, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Town resident Melanie Choukas-Bradley discusses her latest book, *The Joy of Forest Bathing*. It's not about taking off your clothes! It's about reconnecting with wild places and being present in nature, which promotes health and stress relief. Come and enjoy dessert, discussion, a book signing, and a chance to win a copy of Melanie's book! RSVP to 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevyechase.org.

Progressive Dinner is Back on Saturday, April 13!

Our Town's Progressive Dinner is back! Join your neighbors on Saturday, April 13 beginning with a Centennial Committee-sponsored celebration of drinks & hors d'oeuvres at the Town Hall. You will first 'progress' to your surprise host for a delicious dinner and then move onward to a 3rd location to enjoy dazzling desserts. This event can only happen with YOUR participation to ATTEND, COOK or HOST! The Community Relations Committee is looking for chefs to prepare the main course (recipes will be provided) for 10 people or desserts for 20, and hosts for the dinner and dessert parties. Dinner hosts entertain 8-10 guests, Dessert hosts entertain 20 people, including themselves. A small stipend is provided to dinner hosts and chefs. To volunteer as a chef or host (or both!), or to attend this fun event, please contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or townoffice@townofchevyechase.org. Questions? Contact Cathy Wolf (cathrynwolf2@gmail.com) or Michele Marston (lmmarston@comcast.net).

Your Generosity Sets Holiday Gift Drive Record!

Town residents donated a total of \$5,215 in gift cards and checks (an all-time high!) and adopted 7 families to give them individual gifts in the 7th annual Holiday Gift Drive. Thanks to your great generosity, all the women and their children, who have been victims of domestic abuse, received gifts. In addition, after all checks were converted into gift cards, some cards were set aside to aid those in need during the year. This is a first for the drive and spreads your generosity further.

Town of Chevy Chase

4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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TOWN COUNCIL

Barney Rush, Mayor
Cecily Baskir, Vice Mayor
Kirk Renaud, Secretary
Joel Rubin, Treasurer
Wicca Davidson, Community Liaison



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AROUND CHEVY CHASE

Let CC@H Brighten the Dark Days of February

Come to the Chevy Chase Village Hall on Tuesday, February 19 at 2 p.m. to hear the Kemper Duo perform on Irish pipes and harp. The event is free and open to the public. CC@H's excellent exercise classes are underway for the winter session. Visit www.chevychaseathome.org for more information.

Opportunity Shop Needs Volunteers

The Saint John's Opportunity Shop, a nonprofit consignment and thrift store on Walsh Street, needs volunteers. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and volunteers normally work 3 hours a day. Call 301-652-1788 or visit the shop if you are interested in volunteering.



Centennial Snipit: Chili Dinner Turns 25 on February 10!

The first Town Chili Dinner was held on a cold winter Sunday in 1995. Hard Times Café provided the chili. Over the years, entertainment has included Barbershop quartets, Ragtime piano players, clowns, magicians and puppeteers. The event has always been a chance for Town residents to help others, first through donations to Bethesda Cares and, in recent years, to Manna Food Center. In 2010, residents of all ages recounted their "Snowmagedden" stories, now part of the Chevy Chase Historical Society's archive (<http://www.chevychasehistory.org>).