



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022

FEBRUARY VILLAGE MEETING

February 15, 2022 – 7:30 PM – Zoom platform
(instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) *Approval of January Minutes *Treasurer’s Report *Permits *Sandy Spring Bank *ARPA funds *Investment & Debt Policy

CALENDAR (2022)

- February 15: Village Council Meeting
7:30pm Virtual
- March 15: Village Council Meeting
7:30pm Virtual
- March 17: Curbside Donation, Clothing
Donation Nation
- March 18: Curbside Donation,
Furniture/Non-Clothing Items
- March 19: Bulk Trash Pick Up
- April 19: Village Council Meeting
7:30pm Virtual

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES

Taxes: Please be sure to include the Village of North Chevy Chase as your “city” at the top of your State Tax Return. In the past, Village residents’ income taxes have been sent to other municipalities in error due to misfiling. For electronic filers, the Political Subdivision Code for North Chevy Chase is **1618**.

Village Council Elections: Election for three Village Council positions (2-year terms) will be held on **May 3, 2022**. Per the Village Charter, a Nominating Committee shall be appointed no later than March 1, to comprise at least 3 persons who are Qualified Voters (resident of the Village of North Chevy Chase who is qualified to vote in Montgomery County and who is registered with the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors of Elections or with the Village Council). Qualified Voters who are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact the Village Manager by Friday, February 18.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

- Chair: Adrian Andreassi
chair@northchevyCHASE.org
- Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner
vicechair@northchevyCHASE.org
- Secretary: Maury Mechanick
secretary@northchevyCHASE.org
- Treasurer: Olga Joos
treasurer@northchevyCHASE.org
- Member: Chas Stewart
member@northchevyCHASE.org
- Manager: Susan Theis
nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org
- Fire Board Representatives:
Dave Albinson, Abby Morris, Guim Barbour

Village of North Chevy Chase

PO Box 15887, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Mobile: 301-654-7084

TDD (MD Relay Service): 1-800-735-2258

Website: www.northchevyCHASE.org

Snow Removal: Village management will notify residents via the email distribution list when snow removal is scheduled. The snow removal contract provides for automatic mobilization upon snow accumulation of 2" depth. Please note that residents are required to maintain the sidewalks in front of their property for passable and safe pedestrian travel by removing snow and ice (or spreading sand or calcium magnesium acetate if snow/ice has hardened) within 24 hours of snow cessation. Residents are also requested to park their vehicles in driveways, as feasible, or on the even side of the street to facilitate snow removal and application of salt.

Donation Prior to Bulk Trash Pick Up:

Donation Nation will be coming through the Village prior to the March 19 bulk trash pickup, as noted on the calendar. Donation Nation accepts furniture and appliances, household items such as dishes and glassware (they ask that those items be boxed up and not mildewy or significantly stained) and office furniture and furnishings such as chairs, computers, copy machines, filing cabinets, desks and more. They also accept clothing but request that it be placed in a bag. Pick up of bagged clothing curbside will be on **Thursday, March 17** and non-clothing and furniture will be picked up on **Friday, March 18**. No specific timeframe is scheduled both days - the Village was informed that trucks will be in the area throughout the day. Additional information on the organization can be found at:

<https://www.donationnationusa.org/>

Services Offered: Village management is looking to re-establish a list for residents' referral on our website. This would include pet sitters, baby sitters, leaf raking, lawn mowing, snow shoveling, etc. If you or a family member are interested in offering your services to Village residents, please contact the Village Manager at nccinfo@northchevychase.org as we begin to revive this opportunity.

Pet Waste: A number of residents continue to face challenges with pet waste being left on their property. Residents are required to dispose of pet waste properly. Waste is to be bagged and placed in Village trash receptacles or the pet owner's household waste. Pet waste is not to be placed in neighbors' trash receptacles, including yard waste and recycling containers. Please note that the Village fine for not properly disposing of pet waste is \$100 for the first offense and \$500 for subsequent offenses.

Thefts: Some residents have recently experienced signs of vehicles being tampered with, and it appears there is an increase of vehicle theft throughout the neighborhood. Residents are encouraged to ensure vehicles are locked and valuables removed as the majority of cases involve unlocked doors. Village management has contacted the Montgomery County Police Department regarding this recent crime wave and they have assured us that with the resources they have, their officers are doing their best to help catch any offenders.

GENERAL INTEREST

Council Extends Indoor Masking Guidance in Public Spaces to Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Until February 21 - The Montgomery County Council met as the Board of Health and enacted a Second Amended Board of Health Regulation to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19. The updated regulation extends indoor masking guidance in public spaces in Montgomery County until February 21 at 11:59 p.m.

The COVID-19 omicron variant has pushed Montgomery County and other areas of the country into an extended period of high COVID-19 transmission.

"We know that getting vaccinated, boosted and wearing masks are the most important public health measures we can take to help contain

the ever-evolving COVID-19 virus,” said Council President Gabe Alborno, who also serves as chair of the Council’s Health and Human Services Committee. “We appreciate the ongoing efforts of our residents and public health team.

“By continuing to work together, we are hopeful that we will contain this latest surge in cases next month. Until then, we must continue the tried and true protections that we know help to limit community spread. These steps help protect our most vulnerable residents as well as our first responders, medical personnel and essential workers who continue to keep our community moving.”

Students are still required to wear face coverings in schools based on requirements from the Maryland State Department of Education. Moreover, face coverings are still required on public transportation as required by the Transportation Security Administration.

Elrich transmits proposed capital budget to County Council - Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich transmitted his \$16 billion proposed FY 2023 capital budget, including \$5.1 billion for the capital improvements program (CIP) for 2023-2028, to the County Council. For the first time, the budget prioritizes projects related to climate change and racial equity. The budget is up 17.2% from the last capital budget the County Council approved, in 2020.

Elrich’s proposal allocates \$1.822 billion for Montgomery County Public Schools, 3.1% more than the \$1.767 billion than MCPS requested. Other major allocations are \$408.4 million for bus rapid transit and \$146.3 million for affordable housing projects. Climate-related spending in the CIP includes allocations for mass transit improvements, energy-efficient initiatives, stormwater management, and recycling and resource management.

The County Council is scheduled to hold public hearings on the proposed capital budget virtually on Tuesday, February 8, at 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm and on Wednesday, February 9, at 1:30 pm. Residents can sign up to testify via Zoom. The council can add to or decrease from any budget item and has until June 1 to pass some version of the budget.

Maryland individual income tax deadline extended to July 15; Federal income taxes due April 18 - The Maryland Comptroller, Peter V.R. Franchot announced a three-month extension for Maryland state individual income taxes, meaning taxpayers now have until Friday, July 15, 2022, to file and pay. The federal individual income tax deadline is Monday, April 18, 2022.

This is the third consecutive year that Comptroller Franchot has extended filing and payment deadlines for state individual income taxes to July 15, each time to assist taxpayers facing financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maryland taxpayers do not need to request an extension to receive the three-month grace period; it will be automatically granted to all resident and nonresident filers. Taxpayers expecting a refund should file their return as soon as possible and not wait until July 15 to submit.

As always, taxpayers are encouraged to file their returns electronically and use direct deposit for the fastest possible processing and to ensure they receive all possible refunds.

Maryland taxpayers also can use the agency’s free I-File system to file state tax returns.

Comptroller Franchot also reminds taxpayers that changes made last year to both the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the state Earned Income Credit (EIC) may benefit them,

particularly Marylanders who file using an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN).

Taxpayers can call 1-800-MD-TAXES or email taxhelp@marylandtaxes.gov.

For questions related to federal taxes, visit www.irs.gov or call Taxpayer Advocate Service at 443-853-6000 or 877-777-4778 (outside the Baltimore area).

With \$3.4 Billion Construction Contract, Purple Line Moves Forward - The Maryland Board of Public Works approved a \$3.4 billion contract that will allow full-scale construction to resume on the Purple Line this spring.

The 16.2-mile, 21-station light rail system that will run between New Carrollton and Bethesda is now expected to open to riders in fall 2026.

The Maryland Department of Transportation announced earlier this month that it had selected Maryland Transit Solutions to complete the project.

With approval from the Board of Public Works, the full cost of the broader public-private partnership agreement to build and operate the line is now \$9.3 billion. The original P3 agreement inked in 2016 had an estimated cost of \$5.6 billion.

The light rail system was originally expected to open to riders this year, but a lawsuit filed by project opponents in 2016 temporarily halted progress. More recently, the major construction contractor quit the project in 2020.

The contract to hire Maryland Transit Solutions, a subsidiary of Dragados USA Inc. and OHL USA Inc., passed the Board of Public Works, unanimously.

Under the new contract, the state will continue to undertake smaller projects along the Purple

Line path until Maryland Transit Solutions resumes full-scale construction in the spring.

Metro seeks public input on FY23 budget proposal that would improve service and fares - The public comment period for Metro's Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget is officially open, and Metro's Board of Directors wants the public's input. Metro is encouraging the public to share feedback before the comment period ends at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15.

The FY23 budget focuses on providing safe, reliable and affordable transit service to the region. The budget takes into account the planned launch of Metrorail service to six new Silver Line stations, expanding Metro access to Dulles Airport and beyond, and the opening of Potomac Yard Station on the Yellow and Blue lines.

The budget proposals also include a number of service improvements on Metrobus and Metrorail, fare changes to provide better value to riders, and a \$2.3 billion capital budget to continue aggressive construction and rehabilitation projects that are foundational for safe and reliable service.

Full information about the proposals and ways to provide feedback available at wmata.com/budget.

Public feedback will be provided to Metro's Board of Directors as part of the final decision-making process. Any Board-approved changes will begin on or after the start of the FY23, which begins July 1, 2022.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY COUNCIL
Secretary's Report for December 2021 Council Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer's Report for December 2021 (Joos) – Results for December 2021 included income of \$2,103, and operating expenses of \$25,128.42 (including waste removal, street lighting, trees,

leaf collection, wages and taxes, professional fees, office and communication, and miscellaneous). Current fiscal year to date revenues through December 2021 came to \$325,077.25 and current fiscal year to date operating expenses came to \$142,532.10. Capital expenditures incurred during December 2021 came to \$3,592.20 involving capital expenditures for streets. Total capital expenditures for FY 2022 to date came to \$154,961.10. Total current assets for as of December 2021, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to \$2,142,135.37.

Permits

- **3804 Inverness Driveway** – Permit application for a shed (8' x 12') approved.

REMINDERS

- *Please note that a Village permit may be required for many exterior work projects. Please contact the Village Manager to verify any requirements.*

Action Items:

Restructured Permit Fees for Substantial House Renovations – The Council approved proposed revisions for permit fees and security deposits required in the case of substantial house renovations, aligning them with the fees assessed for teardowns/new home construction. For purposes of determining what would constitute a substantial house renovation, the Council identified four possible elements and decided that, if at least two of those elements were present, that would warrant treating the proposed renovation as a substantial renovation.

The four elements identified by the Council are as follows:

- 1) the proposed renovation involves construction of an additional story on a one-story house.
- 2) the house will be unoccupied while the renovations take place.
- 3) total space to be renovated is greater than 600 square feet.

4) the proposed renovation will require expansion of the existing ground level footprint of the house by more than 250 square feet.

The Council also requested the Village Manager to revise the text of the official Village permit that is issued for permitted projects to explicitly contain a summary of compliance terms associated with the grant of the permit.

Program Manager (ARPA Funds) Update – The Village is continuing efforts with other nearby municipalities (Garrett Park, Chevy Chase Section 5, and Martins Addition) to hire a program manager that would assist those municipalities with various issues related to record keeping and planned expenditures for the ARPA funds that those municipalities have received. As this activity has evolved, it appears more likely that each municipality will separately contract with the program manager for provision of specific services that the municipality requires. Some additional federal guidance has been prepared on the scope of acceptable expenditures for which ARPA funds may be utilized and the Village Manager will be participating in various fora in which this recent guidance will be reviewed.

Investment and Debt Policy – The Council noted ongoing work on this by the Village Manager, including review of specific provisions in the Village Charter relevant to formalizing this policy.

Village Banking Relationships – All necessary paperwork has been submitted to Sandy Spring Bank for opening three Village bank accounts; the Village Manager will be meeting with bank officials shortly to formally open the accounts.