



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2023

MARCH VILLAGE MEETING

March 21, 2023 – 7:30pm – hybrid platform (in-person and via Zoom - instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) *Approval of February Minutes *Treasurer’s Report *Permits *Draft FY24 Budget *

Montgomery County and is registered with the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors of Elections or with the Village Council) who is interested in seeking nomination for the available seats should send Written Notice up to **one week before the elections, Tuesday, April 25**, per the Village Charter.

CALENDAR (2023)

- March 16: Curbside Donation, Clothing Donation Nation
- March 17: Curbside Donation, Furniture/Non-Clothing Items
- March 18: Bulk Trash Pick Up
- March 21: Village Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- March 27: Deadline: Nominations to Village Council
- April 18: Village Council Meeting (Annual Budget Review) - 7:30pm
- April 25: Final Declarations for Candidacy of Village Elections
- May 2: Village Annual Meeting/Elections

However, please note that a portion of the April Newsletter will be devoted to information about each candidate, so those interested in running are encouraged to provide their name by **Monday, March 27** to Geetika Sripathi at gbhandari@gmail.com.

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES

Village Council Elections:

Election for two of the five Village Council positions (2-year terms) will be held on **Tuesday, May 2, 2023**.

The Village’s Nominating Committee for this electoral cycle comprises: Geetika Sripathi (Chair), Abby Morris and Brigitte Akalovksy.

Any Qualified Voter (resident of the Village of North Chevy Chase who is qualified to vote in

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

Donation Prior to Bulk Trash Pick Up:

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. They will bring the items to their storage facility and work with their partners to determine if it can be salvaged for textile materials or simply reused. Pick up of bagged clothing curbside will be on **Thursday, March 16** and non-clothing and furniture will be picked up on **Friday, March 17**. 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/>

Bulk Trash: Bulk trash pickup is scheduled for **Saturday, March 18**. Items must be at curbside by 7am. Our contractor uses different trucks to haul different items, so certain items may be removed before others. Included items: Washing machines, dryers, stoves, hot water heaters, other major appliances, furniture/parts of furniture, large toys, bicycles, swing sets, bath tubs, sinks, toilets, do-it-yourself amounts of earth, sand, gravel, demolition debris and construction waste, parts of automobiles, but not fleet tires. Excluded: Large tree stumps, poisons, acids, caustics, explosives, oil or other flammable liquids, motor vehicles and parts such as batteries, tires, bricks, general construction material, iron pipe over 10 ft long, large rocks, wood piles, large tree limbs, dead animals, human or animal feces and ammunition.

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.

On Street Parking Concerns:

The Village representatives on the Montgomery County Fire Board have advised the Council of difficulties that on-street parking poses for safe passage by emergency vehicles on some Village streets, particularly narrower ones. Recognizing that some parking on Village streets is unavoidable, there are some commonsense measures that can minimize the impact on emergency vehicles and help avoid the imposition of more stringent parking restrictions by Montgomery County. These measures include:

- For residents with driveways or car pads, please park as many cars as you can in your driveway or on your car pad before using on-street parking.
- For residents owning multiple vehicles, park larger vehicles (such as SUVs) in driveways while using on-street parking for smaller vehicles (such as compacts or sedans).
- When parking on the street, park your vehicle as close to the curb as possible.
- When parking on the street, be mindful of where other cars are parked on the opposite side and attempt to stagger your parking by at least one car length from cars parked on the opposite side.

Notary Public: Maury Mechanick, Council Secretary, is a Maryland certified Notary Public, and is available to notarize documents for Village residents. Maury can be reached at secretary@northchevychase.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.

GENERAL INTEREST:

Community meetings on future Bethesda Market Park development

Montgomery Parks will host two in-person community meetings to present initial concepts and solicit public input on future Bethesda Market Park development. When completed, Bethesda Market Park and the adjacent Elm Street Urban Park will provide approximately four acres of vibrant park and green space in downtown Bethesda. The new park will be adjacent to the historic Bethesda Farm Women's Market.

Each community meeting (see below) will present the same information.

- **Wednesday, March 15, 6:30-8:30 pm**, Jane E Lawton Community Recreation Center social hall, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
- **Thursday, March 16, 7-9 pm**, Bethesda Elementary School all-purpose room, 7600 Arlington Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

Meeting registration is optional but for more information on the Bethesda Market proposal, go to:

<https://montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/bethesda-market-park/>

**Purple Line Construction Update:
Excavation and blasting to commence at the Bethesda connection to Metro's Red Line**

On or about **March 20**, crews will resume excavation in the Purple Line's elevator shaft to connect to Metro's Red Line in Bethesda. This operation will include blasting the rock within the shaft located at the work zone on Elm Street at Wisconsin Avenue. Blasting is planned during daytime hours, typically once a week with additional work in the area occurring over multiple shifts between excavation and removal of spoils from the site. In advance of each blast, warning siren will be activated. Use of backup alarms will be limited during nighttime hours. Work may occur in two shifts weekdays and weekends, as needed.

Work continues in the Connecticut Avenue Station Area

Work continues in the area of future Connecticut Avenue Purple Line Station through March. Work includes concrete placement, stormwater drainage and retaining walls. Work may take place 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and weekends, as needed.

Council President Evan Glass Introduces Safe Streets Act of 2023.

The legislation is the largest pedestrian safety package since Vision Zero, creating safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists on our roadways.

In 2022, 19 pedestrians and bicyclists were killed and 541 people seriously injured on Montgomery County roads. Seven weeks into 2023, the County has had two fatalities and 25 injuries involving pedestrians and cyclists.

The Safe Streets Act of 2023, formally Bill 11-23, Motor Vehicles and Traffic - Traffic Control Signals, Devices, and Enforcement Action Plan, prioritizes pedestrians by enhancing walk times at crosswalks, prohibits "right turn on red" at busy intersections in downtown areas, and requires infrastructure reviews following incidents in school zones. The proposed legislation also requires the County Executive to provide an automated traffic enforcement plan. A public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, March 21 at 1:30pm**.

Pedestrian Master Plan

The Montgomery County Planning Board has set the date of the public hearing for **Thursday, March 23 at 6pm**.

The plan is the county's first comprehensive master plan to create safer, more comfortable walking experiences, making walking around more convenient and accessible for every pedestrian.

The planning Board invites the public to provide testimony on the draft in person or virtually. To sign up you may visit:

<https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/meetings/signup-to-testify/sign-testify-form/>

The Pedestrian Master Plan provides detailed, actionable recommendations in line with national and international best practices to improve the pedestrian experience. The plan's vision is supported by four goals:

- Increase walking rates and pedestrian satisfaction
- Create a comfortable, connected, convenient pedestrian network
- Enhance pedestrian safety
- Build an equitable and just pedestrian network

Council President Evan Glass Announces Roadmap to Boost Economic Development in Montgomery County

to promote equitable policies that prepare the County for long-term success.

The plan outlines immediate next steps to reduce barriers for small and minority-owned businesses, expand the County's life sciences industry, attract and retain more Fortune 500 companies and close the racial wealth gap.

The economic roadmap, created in consultation with leaders of large and small businesses, economic development partners, residents and other stakeholders addresses long-standing issues facing economic development in the County and proposes solutions for improvement.

The economic development proposal includes: Creating a new Economic Development Committee: The newly formed committee will elevate economic development issues, focus on growing the business sector and improving economic outcomes for all segments of the community;

Cutting red tape and easing regulatory compliance: Accelerating and streamlining the review process for commercial development and review business codes with the goal of easing regulatory burdens;

Review of the Business Advancement Team activities: The Business Advancement Team is tasked with duplication elimination, conflict resolution, and elimination of unnecessary requirements for small businesses, but has not provided the Council with a report of its work since 2014.

Pay equity analysis: The Montgomery County Pay Equity Act, passed by Council President Glass in 2019, requires the County Executive to submit several reports analyzing the effects of the legislation and efforts to foster equal pay in other jurisdictions. No reports have been transmitted to date.

New mixed-use high-rise slated for downtown Bethesda

A new mixed-use building in downtown Bethesda, slated for up to 350 multi-family dwelling units and up to 15,000 square feet of non-residential uses, has been approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board.

The property, called 8001 Wisconsin Avenue, will extend over 2.74 acres on the block bounded by Wisconsin Avenue, Highland Avenue, West Virginia Avenue and Tilbury Street, which falls in the northern part of the 2017 Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan.

According to Montgomery Planning documents, 15% of the development will contain Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDUs).

There are also plans for 345 parking spaces across three below-grade levels at the property.

The idea for the development and preliminary plans were first unveiled in February 2020.

Inflation Reduction Act

The Inflation Reduction Act, or IRA, is a federal law that was enacted on August 18, 2022. The law includes billions of dollars for tax credits, rebates and federal programs to invest in healthcare, domestic energy production and manufacturing, and climate change-mitigation, to name a few.

The IRA contains several new tax credits and rebates for 2023 to help households pay for energy-efficiency upgrades, electric vehicles, electric heating and cooling systems, and certain electric appliances.

Learn more about the IRA and what might be available to you by visiting -
<https://opc.maryland.gov/Consumer-Learning/Inflation-Reduction-Act>

Free Bus Rides on MCDOT's Ride On, Most Metrobuses for all Seniors 65+ and Youth
Seniors age 65+ and youth under 19 (older if still in high school) can ride all Ride On buses and most Metrobuses within the county for free at all times by using Senior SmarTrip and Youth Cruiser SmarTrip cards.

MCDOT has updated fareboxes and asks that those riders tap the fare box with their special smart cards when entering the bus, which will provide an accurate count of senior and youth ridership. With that data, Ride On can work to further improve service for senior and youth riders.

North Chevy Chase Christian Church:
Is in a search of a part-time, on-site Office Secretary with basic secretarial skills as well as a Child Care worker (18 or older) for the Church.

If interested please contact:
Rev. Dr. Cheryl L. Tatham, Minister
North Chevy Chase Christian Church
8814 Kensington Parkway
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
nc4disciples.org

Saturday, March 11: St. Patrick's Day Parade
Fire trucks, equestrian units and various community groups join Celtic dancers and bagpipers in marching through the streets at Gaithersburg's St. Patrick's Day Parade. gaithersburgmd.gov/recreation/special-events/st-patrick-s-day-parade

Saturday, March 25: Kites Over Clarksburg
Bring your own kite or buy one at this annual festival at **Ovid Hazen Wells Park**, and get ready to let it fly. The fun also includes games and arts and crafts for kids. Local businesses, clubs and associations will be on hand, and festival-goers are invited to bring their own picnics. montgomeryparks.org/events/kites-over-clarksburg

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY COUNCIL

MEETING: *(Please note that the official minutes will be posted to Village website upon approval)*

Secretary's Report for January 2023 Council Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer's Report for January 2023 (Joos) – Results for January 2023 included income of \$101,487.49, and operating expenses of \$15,985.08 (including waste removal, trees, street lighting, sign/street maintenance, wages and taxes, and office and communication). Current fiscal year to date revenues through January 2023 (not including ARPA funds) came to \$395,884.88 and current fiscal year to date operating expenses came to \$170,043.97. No capital expenditures were incurred during January 2023. Total current assets as of January 2023, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including ARPA funds received, came to \$2,695,848.34. It was noted that the Village had received a significantly greater amount of property/local tax disbursements from the State and Montgomery County for FY 2023 than had been budgeted, and the Village Manager will review further to determine if this was simply a timing issue, the result of adjustments to prior year distribution shortfalls, or that our budget estimate had been set too low.

Action Items:

Key Sanitation Diesel Surcharge Renewal – The Council approved a further amendment to the existing contract with Key Sanitation for waste removal services, extending the previously agreed diesel surcharge amount for an additional six-month period.

Status Update/Intersection of Kensington Parkway and Montrose Driveway

– The Village is proceeding with the conversion of the Kensington Parkway and Montrose Driveway intersection into a four-way stop, with signage announcing changing traffic patterns already having been posted (to be effective as of March 6, 2023), and arrangements are in place for the installation of the necessary stop signs for the intersection as of that time. The Council will further consider installation of illuminated stop signs, including the necessary power sources, if needed to ensure vehicular compliance with the new traffic pattern.

Pepco Streetlight Ownerships Issue – The Council agreed to the retention of a legal specialist that will be advising a number of neighboring municipalities on issues related to various PEPCO streetlight ownership options, pending review of the proposed engagement letter that the Village will need to execute.

Village Fire Board Report – The Council received a report from the Village representatives on the Montgomery County Fire Board about the many difficulties that on-street parking is posing for safe passage of emergency vehicles, particularly on more narrow streets, and possible measures that the Village could voluntarily undertake to avoid possible imposition of more stringent parking restrictions by Montgomery County. Efforts will be undertaken to inform residents of these concerns and possible ameliorative measures that could be taken, including a survey to ascertain residents' views on these measures. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Fire Board representatives for bringing this to our attention on a timely basis.

Nominating Committee – The Village Manager is continuing efforts to identify residents who will be willing to serve on the Nominating Committee with respect to the upcoming Council election in May 2023. Unfortunately, none of the most recent past members of the Committee are available to serve this year, but the Village Manager has identified some alternative candidates who hopefully will be able to serve before the March 1, 2023 deadline.

Budget FY 2024 – In anticipation of initial review at the March 2023 Council meeting of the proposed Village operating budget for FY 2024, which will then be formally approved at the April 2024 Council meeting, the Council provided some initial views on budgetary priorities for the year in addition to ongoing priorities, including the possibility of replacement of the Village street signs. Separate consideration of appropriate expenditure of the ARPA funds that the Village has received remains an ongoing priority as well.

Earth Day Event – The Village, with the support of the Environmental Committee, will again host a celebratory event commemorating Earth Day, including native plant sales, art show, programming provided by Nature Forward, musical entertainment, and a food truck. Due to scheduling considerations, it will not be possible to hold the event on Earth Day (April 22), but instead it will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2023, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, at the same venue (Montgomery/Inverness intersection) that is normally used for the Village's Fourth of July celebration

SUSTAINABLE LIVING: (Courtesy of Environment Committee)

Pesticides for Your Yard

A reminder that synthetic pesticides for lawns are banned in Montgomery County. Learn more at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns/law/.

Mosquito spray services are not illegal, but the sprays used affect all insects, including pollinators and insects that birds need to survive. Try simple do-it-yourself bucket dunks, which target only mosquitoes. Learn more at <https://moco360.media/2020/04/23/welcomin-g-nature/5/>