



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024

MARCH VILLAGE MEETING

March 19, 2024 – 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 *Award Composting Bid *Draft FY25 Budget *

CALENDAR (2024)

- March 14: Curbside Donation, Clothing Donation Nation
- March 15: Curbside Donation, Furniture/Non-Clothing Items
- March 16: Bulk Trash Pick Up
- March 19: Village Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- March 29: Newsletter Deadline:
Nominations to Village Council
- April 16: Village Council Meeting (Annual Budget Review) - 7:30pm
- April 27: 100th Celebration! NCC Christian Church - 3-6pm
- April 30: Final Declarations for Candidacy of Village Elections
- May 7: Village Annual Meeting/Elections

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES

Save the date: April 27, 2024 for our 100 Celebration!

Do you have a story to share? Do you have old photos of the Village or know the history of your home? Please contact Olga Joos at treasurer@northchevyCHASE.org with any photos, history, or simply just names of previous owners as this information may help in the search for Village history.

We will be sharing a lot more about the history of North Chevy Chase at the event, but we need your help. The Village is also in need of volunteers to assist with our 100th Celebration and would greatly appreciate your time and talents to make this event a success. Volunteering is a great way to benefit our community and a great way to get to know your neighbors. Please contact the Village Manager at nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org if you are interested in helping.

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: Jon Macy
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

Village Code Amendments:

The Village Council provisionally approved an amendment to Section 5-201 of the Village Ordinances (Planting of New Trees) to establish specific policies regarding circumstances in which the Village may plant trees within the Village right of ways and to specify the circumstances in which canopy trees on residential property can be taken down.

The Council also provisionally approved an amendment to Section 3-212 of the Village Ordinances (Property Ownership) to require disclosure of the Village's permitting procedures by the owner or agent in connection with the sale of any residential property within the Village.

Consistent with the requirements of Section 603 of the Village Charter (Village Ordinances), the text of the amended Ordinances is included in this newsletter to allow residents to submit written comments prior to the next Council meeting or to appear at the next Council meeting to express their views prior to final approval by the Village Council and their taking effect.

Village Council Elections:

Election for three of the five Village Council positions (2-year terms) will be held on **Tuesday, May 7th, 2024.**

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

Any Qualified Voter (resident of the Village of North Chevy Chase who is qualified to vote in 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 30th**, per the Village Charter.

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 **Friday, March 29th.**

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 14th** and non-clothing and furniture will be picked up on **Friday, March 15th.** 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 16th.** 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.

REMINDERS

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

GENERAL INTEREST:

New Silver Spring Recreation and Aquatic Center

On Saturday, February 24 the new Silver Spring Recreation and Aquatic Center opened.

The 120,000 square-foot facility, which includes a new senior center, offers recreation and leisure activities, including pools designed for general swimming, low-level diving, exercise, aquatic play, training and teaching opportunities. It also has a gymnasium, fitness center, movement and dance studios, multipurpose activity rooms, staff offices, a teaching kitchen, café, a new home for the Montgomery County Sports Hall of Fame, public use space and social space.

A variety of programming at the center will be free for county residents, although some classes and programs have a fee, and pool access requires paid admission or membership. County residents are encouraged to sign up for a [free RecFit pass](#) for access to the fitness room, open gym/drop-in activities and the game room.

Call for Entries: Earth Day Youth Art Competition

Join us in celebrating Earth Day by creating artwork that shows how public transit is helping to create a brighter, greener future.

The Maryland Transit Administration invites youth ages 5 to 17 residing in Maryland to create original designs centered around environmental sustainability and the role of public transit in preserving our planet. If your artwork is selected, it will be featured on a limited-edition MTA bus!

Designs must align with the Earth Day theme, focusing on the role public transportation plays in protecting the planet, environmental conservation, and sustainability. Designs may

also highlight Maryland's unique landmarks, ecosystem, or local plants and animals.

Please be sure to read all the rules on the entry form at <https://idcorpmd.com/mta/> before you submit. The deadline for submissions is **March 8th**.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School used book sale

More than 60,000 books in good condition, carefully sorted into more than 60 genres (including a huge children's section), will be on offer.

Saturday, March 9th, 10am-5 pm, and Sunday, March 10th, 10am-3 pm.

On Saturday, books will be \$1-3 each. On Sunday, you can fill a grocery bag with as many books as it will hold for only \$15. Cash, credit cards, and Apple Pay accepted.

BCC Musical boosters will be onsite to entertain book shoppers and refreshments will be available for purchase. Free parking in the school lot.

County Council seeks applicants for Montgomery County Planning Board

The Montgomery County Council is seeking applicants to fill one full-term, four-year vacancy on the Montgomery County Planning Board. Applicants must live in Montgomery County and be registered to vote. Board members receive \$30,000 annual compensation.

The deadline to apply is 5 pm on **March 11th**.

The Planning Board serves as the Council's principal adviser on land use planning and community planning. Planning Board members also serve as commissioners of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Go to <https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/> for additional requirements, information about the duties of board members, and how to apply.

CDC plans to loosen COVID isolation guidelines

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is planning to loosen its COVID isolation recommendations for the first time since 2021 to align it with guidance on how to avoid transmitting flu and RSV.

The CDC plans to recommend that people who test positive for the coronavirus use clinical symptoms to determine when to end isolation. Under the new approach, people would no longer need to stay home if they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the aid of medication and their symptoms are mild and improving.

The new isolation guidance would not apply to hospitals and other health care settings with more vulnerable populations, CDC officials said.

Scam calls impersonating law enforcement on the rise

Montgomery County police say residents should be aware that scam calls impersonating law enforcement, or a government agency are on the rise. WTOP traffic and sports reporter Steve Dresner says he almost got swindled by a scam call. Dresner said the caller identified themselves as a lieutenant from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and told Dresner that he had two jury violations and needed to pay a fee of \$1,000.

County police said they have received multiple complaints from residents with similar experiences and residents should know that law enforcement will never call to ask for money. Anyone unsure of whether they are talking to a real police officer can ask for their ID number and call the police non-emergency number to verify the call.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY COUNCIL

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

Secretary's Report for January 2024 Council Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer's Report for January 2024 (Joos) – Approved.

Results for January 2024 included income of \$51,491.51 and operating expenses of \$31,292.69 (including street lighting, waste removal, trees, membership and dues, wages and taxes, professional fees, office and communication, and miscellaneous/100-year celebration). No capital expenditures were incurred during January 2024. Total current assets as of January 2024, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to \$2,984,763.25.

Action Items:

RFP Composting – Based upon review of the bids provided by four bidders to the RFP issued by Village for composting services, the Council decided that further follow-up with two of the bidders would be warranted, looking towards taking a final decision to award a contract at its March meeting.

Village Code Amendments – In recognition of the importance of maintaining adequate canopy tree coverage throughout the Village, the Village Council provisionally approved an amendment to Section 5-201 of the Village Ordinances (Planting of New Trees) to establish specific policies regarding circumstances in which the Village may plant trees within the Village right of ways and to specify the circumstances in which canopy trees on residential property can be taken down, should be undertaken. In order to ensure that new residents are fully aware of Village permitting procedures, the Council also provisionally approved an amendment to Section 3-212 of the Village Ordinances (Property Ownership) to require disclosure of the Village's permitting procedures by the owner or agent in connection with the sale of any residential property within the Village. Consistent with the requirements of Section 603 of the Village Charter (Village Ordinances), the text of the amended Ordinances will be disseminated, at least 14 days prior to the next Council meeting, via email to all Village residents, placed on the Village website, and included in the next Village newsletter to allow residents to either submit written comments prior to the next Council

meeting or to appear at the next Council meeting to express their views on the proposed amendments prior to their final approval by the Village Council and their taking effect.

Emergency Preparedness Plan – The Council began consideration of the possible need for and potential features of a Village Emergency Preparedness Plan, prompted by a communication on this subject from the Maryland Municipal League. As part of this effort, the Village will also liaise with appropriate Montgomery County and State of Maryland entities as to relative responsibilities in the event of emergency situations.

ARPA Funds – To begin development of concrete plans and contract execution by year-end 2024 for improved Village lighting, as a condition for expenditure of the ARPA funds for this purpose, the Village Council will meet with Scott Watson, a lighting expert who has advised a number of neighboring municipalities on lighting issues. In response to a suggestion from a Village resident, the Council indicated that it remained open to considering other possible projects, including the establishment of one or more pocket parks on land under the control of the Village, should that prove feasible.

Budget 2025 – The Board began initial consideration of the budget for FY 2025 and will review and initial draft of the budget at its March meeting.

Village 100-Year Celebration – The Council continued its discussion of the planned celebration, including consideration of the possibility of having one or more food trucks at the event, as well as possible arrangements for beverages being available attendees.

SSL Registration – The Village Council decided that it should register as an eligible entity for purposes of students being able to earn Student Service Learning (SSL) credits required by the State of Maryland for high school graduation, for appropriate volunteer services to be provided by students to the Village of North Chevy Chase.

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/welcominq-nature/5/>

Proposed Amendments to the Village Code of Ordinances:

Section 5-201. Planting of New Trees

A. To fulfill its objective of maintaining and enhancing the Village tree canopy and an aesthetically pleasing streetscape, the Village will seek to fully utilize opportunities for planting trees within the Village rights of way, taking into consideration the need to plant a variety of species (to the extent possible, native to this area), constraints imposed by power lines and other utilities, appropriate spacing, and such special circumstances as may be brought to its attention through the process outlined below.

B. The Village will maintain a tree inventory of all trees planted in the Village Right of Way and a roster of potential planting sites on Village rights of way. As funds become available, trees will be planted in all sites within the Village rights of way absent compelling reasons not to do so. Additionally, in selected locations where a viable planting site is not available in the right of way but canopy and streetscape would be enhanced through a tree planted on the immediately adjacent private property, the Village may, with the owner's concurrence, assume the cost for planting a tree that will be included in the Village tree inventory and maintained by the Village. These plantings will be negotiated with the affected residents on a case-by-case basis but with notification of any planned plantings also provided to close neighbors.

C. At least four months prior to any proposed planting, a list of trees proposed for planting in Village rights of way and species proposed for each site will be published on the Village website and in the monthly Village newsletter. Additionally, notice of any proposed plantings will be mailed to the directly abutting households. Residents will be invited to provide a written comment regarding proposed plantings adjacent to their property as to the proposed species, preferred specific location, and possible unique circumstances which might render planting on the proposed site clearly inappropriate or infeasible. These comments will be referred to the Village Manager who, at

least six weeks prior to the planned date for planting, will tally resident comments for the Village Council to review and offer any further advice or comment. The Village Manager report will be reviewed and acted upon by the Village Council in public session prior to planting. At such time, any resident who believes the Village Manager in its report has not appropriately addressed his/her circumstance may appear before the Council to state their concerns.

D. Spacing and location of trees and shrubs planted on public space shall be based on recommended standards, taking into account the desires of the owners of the adjoining property, the species, the tree plan, the requirements of Section 3-207, and proximity to intersections, driveways, utility poles, and fire hydrants. All new trees planted on the public right-of-way shall be free of disease and pests.

Proposed Amendments to the Village Code of Ordinances:

Section 3-212. Property Ownership

A. The holders of title to all residential properties in the Village, whether in residence or absentee, are required to provide written notice to the Village Manager, indicating their name, mailing address, telephone number and email address, in order to allow the Village to make contact with the property owner if circumstances so require. In the event of change of ownership, any such change shall be reported to the Village Manager within 30 days of such change occurring. Information provided to the Village Manager pursuant to this Section will not be publicly disclosed or used for purposes other than official Village business absent the consent of the property owner providing the information.

B. On or before entering into a contract for the sale of real property in the Village, the owner or agent of the property must provide the prospective buyer with a Village of North Chevy Chase Disclosure in accordance with Subsection D below. At the time the disclosure is delivered, each buyer must sign and date a written acknowledgment of receipt of the Disclosure. The Disclosure shall be included in or attached to the contract of sale.

C. The Disclosure required pursuant to Subsection B above does not apply to a tax sale; sheriff's sale; sale by foreclosure, partition or court-appointed trustee; deed in lieu of foreclosure; transfer by a fiduciary in the course of the administration of an estate, guardianship, conservatorship, or trust; transfer to a spouse, former spouse, domestic partner, former domestic partner, parent, sibling, child or grandchild; or transfer solely to provide a security or leasehold interest.

D. The Disclosure required pursuant to Subsection B above shall contain the following statements:

(1) The subject property is located within the Village of North Chevy Chase, an incorporated municipality and political subdivision of the State of Maryland. The Village is operated by a 5-member Village Council, elected by the residents and serve 2-year terms, and a Village Manager.

(2) In addition to any permitting requirements that may be imposed by Montgomery County, Village ordinances require residents to obtain permits for various activities including the addition to, or erection, alteration, construction, re-construction, repair and improvement of the exterior of all buildings and accessory buildings, fences and structures, and to any activity which will, or may, result in the excavation or alteration or temporary closure or blockage of streets, sidewalks, and/or public rights-of-way within the boundaries of the Village.

(3) The Village is responsible for road maintenance for all Village roadways and provides a range of services to its residents beyond those provided by Montgomery County. These services include regularly scheduled trash pickup; recycling and yard waste pickup; and bulk trash pickup; and leaf pickup and Village roadway snow removal and plowing services during an annually determined time frame of each year. More information about the Village's programs and services, including the permitting requirements, can be viewed on the Village's website (www.northchevyCHASE.org).

E. A buyer's failure to receive the Disclosure required by this Section does not invalidate the contract or excuse or waive buyer's compliance with the requirements of Village laws and regulations. Failure to provide such information upon request of the Village Manager or to submit the necessary Disclosure to any prospective buyer may result in a fine of up to \$500.

Village of North Chevy Chase History:

Last month we shared a beautiful photo from one of the oldest homes in the Village that the homeowner and Village resident, Jacqueline Flanagan, received when she purchased the home in 2021. Among the Village residents who responded to the trivia question, all correctly identified the house at 8801 Kensington Parkway, right at the entrance of the Village at the intersection with Connecticut Avenue and Jones Mill Road. Congratulations to our architect sleuths- Chip Roh, and Al and Genie Barlett!

Let me share a bit more about this home and the detective work we are doing to learn more about it...

In the early 1900s, Clarence Harding (1872-1954) lived in this home as he began establishing his career as an architect in Washington DC. He [designed a number of historical sites](#), including the Woodward Apt. Building 2311 Connecticut Ave., NW which was built in 1909 as well as 9901 Kensington Parkway as noted in this 1910 announcement in the Washington Post. Martin Wiegand, a successful business man in Washington DC, purchased 8801 Kensington Parkway as a country home for about \$10,000 and lived there until 1923.

MARTIN WIEGAND BUYS HOME.

Lumberman Pays \$10,000 for North Chevy Chase Residence.

Martin Wiegand, the well-known lumber man, has purchased, through the real estate office of W. H. Walker, the beautiful suburban home at North Chevy Chase, Md., recently the property of R. P. Covert. The house, which was designed by Harding & Upman, architects, and built by John Simpson's Sons, Inc., contains ten rooms and bath, and is beautifully situated on a corner lot containing about 35,000 square feet.

It is understood that the price paid was about \$10,000. After extensive improvements, Mr. Wiegand expects to occupy the premises as a country residence.

We know just a little bit more about this home after reaching out to his descendants at the [Martin Weigand Wholesale Lumber](#), an active and still-family-owned business in the area. His granddaughter kindly shared that her father had a horse at this home which was the family's summer home until they sold it in 1923. One hundred years ago, the Village and the surrounding area was quite different than it is today and the Wiegand family wasn't the only one with a horse. As described by Winifred Dynes who grew up in the Village, '*When I got on the streetcar and went home, I was leaving civilization behind, believe me. I was going out in the country. I envied my friends who were where they could go to the drugstore. See, we couldn't do that. We didn't have anything close to us out there in North Chevy Chase.*' She presents a wonderful description of Village life in the [oral history she recorded in 1992 for the Chevy Chase Historical Society](#). It even includes a funny story about the horse her brother purchased for \$25 from a police down in Chevy Chase.

Although the Washington Post announcement states that 8801 Kensington Parkway was designed by Clarence Harding, we have tried to find other additional documentation to be certain. In fact, as suggested by Al and Genie Barlett, there are various homes in the neighborhood with somewhat similar styles that were built around the same time so it would be interesting to confirm whether Harding and Upman designed them.

We look forward to sharing more Village history with you in upcoming Newsletters and at the **Centennial celebration on April 27th!**