



**VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2024**

APRIL VILLAGE MEETING

April 16, 2024 – 7:30pm – hybrid platform (in-person and via Zoom – instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list *Approval of March Minutes *Treasurer’s Report *Permits *Proclamations *Approval of FY25 Budget & Ordinance

Village Council Elections: Election for three of the five Village Council positions (2-year terms) will be held on **Tuesday, May 7, 2024**. The current Council members whose terms are expiring are Adrian Andreassi, Olga Joos and Maury Mechanick, all of whom have indicated that they will seek reelection.

CALENDAR (2024)

- April 16: Village Council Meeting
7:30pm (in-person and virtual)
- April 22: Earth Day – Senator Nelson
- April 26: National Arbor Day - Tree City USA
- April 27: Centennial Celebration! at NCC Christian Church from 3-6pm
- May 7: Village Annual Meeting/Elections at NCC Christian Church (in-person only)
- June 1: Spring Fair – 10am-1pm
- June 7: National Gun Violence Awareness Day - orange ribbons
- June 13: Curbside Donation, Clothing Donation Nation
- June 14: Curbside Donation, Furniture/Non-Clothing Items Donation Nation
- June 15: Bulk Trash Pick Up
- June 18: Village Council Meeting

Please note that the Village Charter Section 9.03 indicates that any Qualified Voter (resident of the Village of North Chevy Chase who is qualified to vote in Montgomery County and is registered with Montgomery County Board of Supervisors of Elections or with the Village

VILLAGE COUNCIL

- Chair: Adrian Andreassi
chair@northchevyCHASE.org
- Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner
brianhoffner@gmail.com
- 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-SPECIFIC NOTICES

Centennial Celebration! Saturday, April 27 from 3-6pm at the NCC Christian Church. Please join your neighbors and learn about the Village’s history, enjoy walking tours, games, rides, food & much more!

Village of North Chevy Chase
P.O. Box 15887, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Mobile: 301-654-7084
TDD (MD Relay Service): 1-800-735-2258
Website: www.northchevyCHASE.org

Council) can seek nomination for the available Council positions by sending written notice to the Nominating Committee (Geetika Sripath at gbhandari@gmail.com) up to one week before the elections, which is **Tuesday, April 30**, per the Village charter.

Bios for candidates are included at the end of this newsletter.

Residents can request absentee ballot and/or vote in-person on **May 7** at the NCC Christian Church. Council members will then be sworn in for new terms at the **May 7** Annual Meeting.

FY2025 Budget: The Village Council reviewed the draft budget for FY2025 at the March meeting. The draft budget and corresponding ordinance will be posted to the Village website and attached to this newsletter as well. The Council will be voting on the budget at the **April 16** meeting. Residents are requested to provide any written feedback/comments to the Village Manager in advance of the meeting. Please note that the proposed real property tax rate (0.045) and personal property rate (0.13) of assessed value remains the same and has been since FY18.

Composting: A fully subsidized composting program will roll out in the coming months as the Council approved a one-year pilot program with Compost Crew. The Village currently has 10 households that compost with Compost Crew – with this fully subsidized composting budget, we expect that number to significantly increase as a result of the pilot program.

Arbor Day Foundation once again Names the Village of North Chevy Chase A Tree City USA

The Village was once again named as a Tree City USA for 2024 by the Arbor Day Foundation (our third year!), in honor of our commitment to effective urban forest management. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

The Village achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care

ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Trees are assets to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits. More information on the program is available at arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

Taxes Due: Monday, April 15:

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**.

DID YOU KNOW? Senator Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day while he was living in the Village - 3712 Kenilworth Driveway!

Earth Day was founded in 1970 as a day of education about environmental issues, and **Earth Day 2024 will occur on Monday, April 22**. The holiday is now a global celebration that's sometimes extended into Earth Week, a full seven days of events focused on green living and confronting the climate crisis. The brainchild of **Senator Gaylord Nelson** and inspired by the protests of the 1960s, Earth Day began as a "national teach-in on the environment" and was held on April 22 to maximize the number of students that could be reached on university campuses. By raising public awareness of pollution, Nelson hoped to bring environmental causes into the national spotlight.

This year's Earth Day theme, **Planet vs. Plastics**, calls on individuals, businesses, and governments to unite in combating plastic pollution. Seeking for a 60% reduction in plastic production by 2040 and the elimination of single-use plastics by 2030, paving the way for a plastic-free future.

PERMIT REMINDERS:

- Please note that a **Village permit** may be required for many exterior work projects (and, when applicable, Montgomery County). Please visit the Village website at www.northchevyCHASE.org or contact the Village Manager at #301.654.7084 to verify any requirements.

GENERAL INTEREST:

The Woman's Club of Chevy Chase - 48th Annual Community Art Show and Sale

With over 130 artists and 400 works of art by local and aspiring artists.

Friday, April 12 from 2-6pm; Saturday, April 13 from 11am-5pm and Sunday, April 14 from 11am-5pm

This Community Art Show and Sale supports scholarships for art students.

17th Annual Kensington Day of the Book Festival - April 21, 11am-4pm

The Kensington Day of the Book Festival is a family friendly street festival, held rain or shine, spanning three blocks of Howard Avenue in the heart of historic Kensington. Come meet authors, poets, literary and community organizations. Live music on a few stages, special guest speakers, poetry readings, cookbook demos, children's program, and much more.

For more information, please visit <https://www.dayofthebook.com>.

Annual Health Rankings Show Montgomery County Among Healthiest Counties in Maryland and the United States

According to the annual County Health Rankings (CHR), a collaboration of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, annually compares counties within each state on more than 30 factors that impact health. The factors include social determinants such as education, jobs, housing, exercise and commuting times.

Highlights from the 2024 report include:

- Montgomery County has some of the lowest rates of premature death (from any cause), and higher life expectancy

than the average in Maryland and the U.S.

- Montgomery County has many healthier behaviors, including a lower percentage of adults who smoke, are obese or report being physically inactive, than most other jurisdictions across Maryland and the U.S.
- Montgomery County has significantly lower teen birth rates.
- Montgomery County has a higher ratio of primary care physicians, dentists and mental health providers per resident than Maryland and U.S. averages.
- Montgomery County has higher vaccination rates and fewer preventable hospital stays than most jurisdictions.
- Montgomery County has seen continued progress in reduction of air pollution.

Additionally, the County has many social and economic factors that rank better than state and national averages. These factors include median income, education, high school graduation rates, unemployment rates, deaths from injury—including motor vehicle crash rates, homicide and suicide rates, voter turnout and census participation.

To see the full report, visit the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website at <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org>.

Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection Will Celebrate April as 'Earth Month' with Countywide Activities and Events

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will celebrate April as "Earth Month" with activities and events aimed at taking action and fostering environmental awareness and stewardship across our community.

Earth Month activities will include:

Earth Month Clean-Up Events: Join DEP staff and community members for neighborhood cleanup efforts at various county locations. The events will provide an opportunity to take an active role in preserving the natural beauty of the surroundings.

Composting and Recycling Workshops: DEP will host a series of workshops covering topics

such as composting, energy efficiency and sustainable gardening. These sessions will empower participants with practical knowledge and tips for reducing their environmental footprint.

Food Waste Prevention Week Education: As part of the effort to reduce food waste in the County, DEP will have information about food waste prevention at grocery stores throughout the County during April.

Illumination Stations: Shine a light on energy savings and keep more money in your pockets. DEP is hosting a series of events where people can apply for energy assistance and exchange old incandescent and compact fluorescent bulbs for new energy-efficient LED light bulbs.

GreenFest 2024: DEP and a coalition of public and nonprofit partners will host this annual event from 11am-4pm on **Saturday, April 27**, at the Blackrock Center for the Arts in Germantown.

For a full calendar of Earth Month events, visit the Montgomery County DEP website at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/>

Montgomery County Council Selects Caven West as New Executive Director

The Montgomery County Council announces the selection of Caven West as its new executive director responsible for leading the 100-person staff that provides fiscal and policy analysis of the \$7.1 billion county operating budget and day-to-day oversight of all Council operations. The Council is scheduled to vote on Mr. West's appointment on **April 9**. His work with the Council will begin on **April 22**. Mr. West succeeds Ms. Marlene Michaelson who is retiring after serving in the position since 2018.

Executive Elrich's proposed \$7.1 billion budget doesn't call for raising property taxes

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich said that he is not recommending an increase in property taxes to fund his proposed \$7.1 billion operating budget for fiscal year 2025, which begins **July 1**.

The FY2025 budget reflects growing demands for services, increased costs for operations, fulfilling contracts with county labor partners, a commitment to schools and a strengthened

approach to economic development activities. The budget includes a 4.9% increase over the current fiscal year's budget.

The proposed budget includes \$3.3 billion for Montgomery County Public Schools, funding 98.2% of the county school board's request but \$60 million less than the school board requested.

The New J.O.B.S. Initiative set to create up to 1,000 new jobs, spur innovation, and invest in Equity Focus Areas

Montgomery County Council President Andrew Friedson introduced a \$20 million appropriation for the County's Economic Development Fund to spur economic development and create high-paying jobs in Montgomery County.

The New J.O.B.S. (Jobs, Opportunities and Business Support) Initiative will create three separate, complementary initiatives: a Job Creation Fund, an Innovation Fund, and an Equity Fund.

The proposed \$10 million Job Creation Fund will incentivize growing Montgomery County companies to create and fill high-paying jobs by providing employers with \$10,000 for new jobs created offering salaries of \$100,000 or more, or \$12,000 per job if located in one of the County's Equity Focus Areas. The Job Creation Fund will support the growth of key industries, including employers in the life sciences, technology, hospitality and real estate industries, as well as national nonprofits, foundations, trade associations and corporate headquarters.

The \$7 million Innovation Fund will award up to \$100,000 to eligible companies developing any innovative technology, design or process. The initiative will fund prototype development and pilot projects and help Montgomery County entrepreneurs successfully move toward commercialization. Preference will be given to advance technology and life science companies, but funds will be available to any eligible startup.

The \$3 million Equity Fund will offer grants of up to \$80,000 to early and growth-stage small businesses with owners from Equity Focus

Areas, helping reduce barriers to entry for small businesses. Equity Focus Areas are primarily found along the I-270 Corridor, the Route 29 Corridor and eastern downcounty. The grants will be administered by the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation.

\$900,000 awarded to houses of worship, nonprofits to improve security, deter hate crime

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, County Council President Andrew Friedson and leaders of local nonprofit organizations at risk of hate crimes announced that \$900,000 in security grants were awarded to 136 houses of worship and local nonprofit community organizations at risk of hate crimes. The grants will enable the recipients to pay for security guards, cameras, and other safety measures.

The grants will enable houses of worship and community organizations at risk of hate crimes to pay for security guards, cameras and other safety measures. The county provides classes, assessments and training specifically designed for nonprofit organizations and houses of worship at risk of hate crimes.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH COUNCIL MEETING *(Please note that the official minutes will be posted to Village website upon approval)*

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

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

Results for February 2024 included income of \$82,998.95 and operating expenses of \$28,780.81 (including street lighting, snow removal, waste removal, landscaping and lawn services, membership and dues, wages and taxes, professional fees, and office and communication). No capital expenditures were incurred during February 2024. Total current assets as of February 2024, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to \$23,038,981.39.

Action Items:

RFP Composting – The Council awarded a contract with Compost Crew for a one-year pilot project, pursuant to which composting services will be made available all Village residents who sign up for the service at no cost.

Village Code Amendments – Based on comments received and the need for further consultation with Village legal counsel, the Council deferred final action for approval of the two proposed ordinance revisions that had been provisionally approved at the Council's February 2024 meeting. The two ordinances in question concerned (i) amendment of 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; and (ii) amendment of 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.

RFP for Sanitation Services – The Council approved a proposed RFP to secure sanitation services for the upcoming three-year period; the current contract for sanitation services expires later this year.

ARPA Funds –The Council agreed to retain Scott Watson, a lighting expert who has advised a number of neighboring municipalities on lighting issues, to develop, as an initial immediate priority, a lighting plan for the installation of pedestrian street lighting along Kensington Parkway, and expressed an interest in separately retaining Mr. Watson to advise on lighting improvements throughout the remainder of the Village, with that work to be undertaken following completion of his initial work assignment.

Budget 2025 – The Council reviewed an initial draft of a proposed Village operating budget (covering income and operating expenses) for FY 2025 and Council Members will provide any specific comments to the Village Manager for

inclusion in the proposed budget prior to the next Council meeting, at which meeting the final FY 2025 budget will be approved. The Council also approved retention of the current Village real property and personal property tax rates for FY 2025. Consistent with the Village Charter, a copy of the draft budget will be included as an attachment to the Village newsletter for April 2024.

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

SUSTAINABLE LIVING: (Courtesy of Environment Committee)

SAVE THE DATE:

Village Spring Fair on Saturday, June 1st

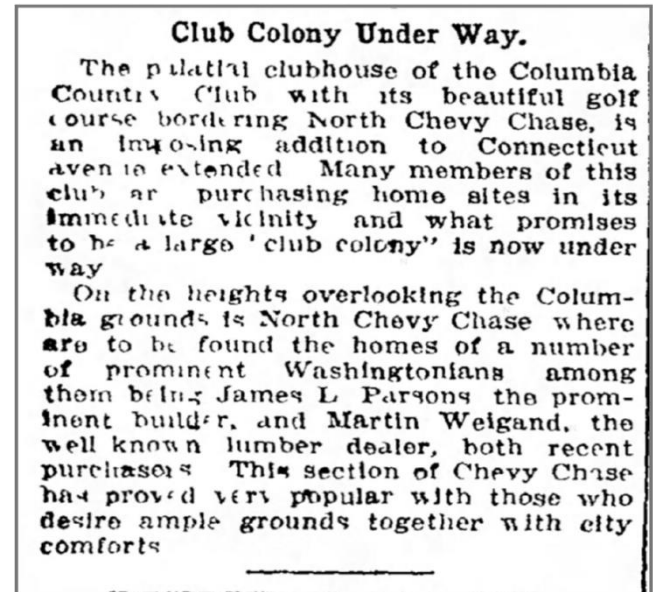
Come by Montgomery Avenue at Inverness Drive on **Saturday, June 1 from 10am-1pm** for the Village Spring Fair and enjoy:

- Gorgeous native flowers and shrubs. See recommended flowers and ordering details in early May.
- Art show - Nature in Our Neighborhood! All ages and all art are welcome, from crayon & pencil drawings to photographs & oil paintings.
- Live music! Folk Favorites & more!
- Get garden and nature advice from local experts and your favorite non-profits!
- and much more!

Village of North Chevy Chase History:

Over the course of Village history, numerous residents have played a very important role in designing and building homes in the Chevy Chase and Washington DC area. I am going to highlight just a few in this little write up.

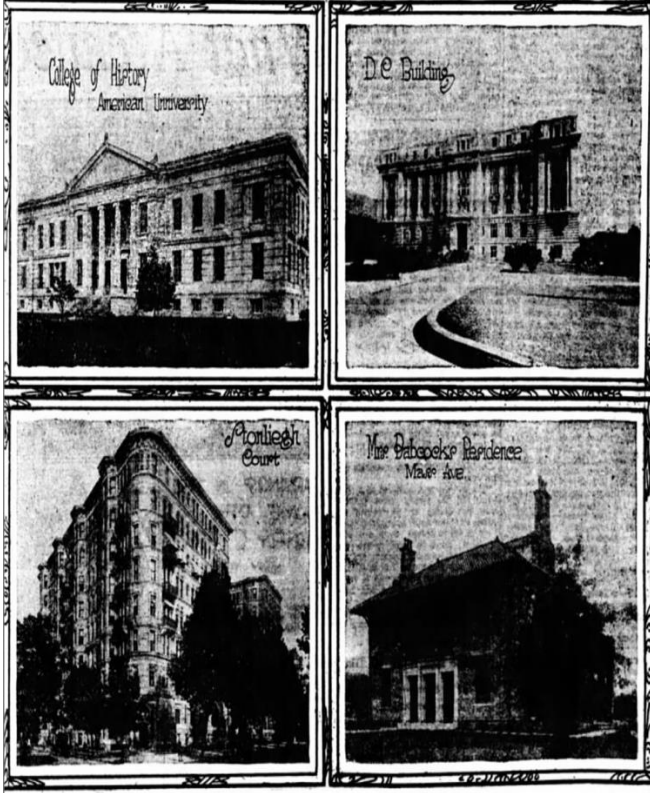
In 1911, when this Washington Post article ran (May 7), the Village of North Chevy Chase still had few homes and residents. The article highlights the great location of North Chevy



Chase and recent lot purchases by two prominent Washingtonians: James L Parsons, a builder, and Martin Weigand, a lumber yard owner whose [business](#) continues to this day.

James L Parsons and his wife, Mary, had multiple residences, including a home where the North Chevy Chase Christian Church is currently located. Given his work on large building projects, Parsons was often highlighted in local newspapers, such as the Washington Herald which, in the August 28, 1915 issue, showcased some of the notable he built.

THE PROMINENCE OF JAMES L. PARSONS



The large home being built for Dr. James D. Morgan in Connecticut avenue, almost opposite the Chevy Chase Club, is practically completed. It was built by John Simpson's Sons.

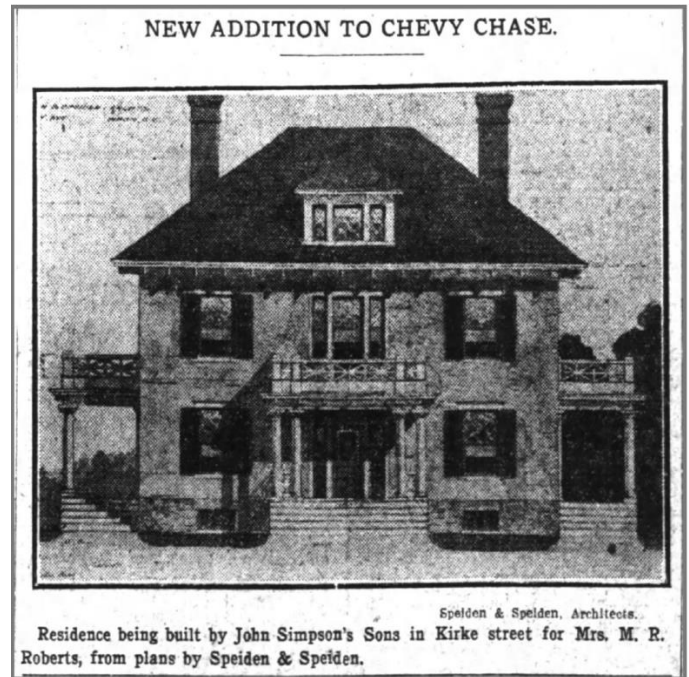
The concrete brick house being built by S. S. Ludlum on the west side of Connecticut avenue, just north of Bradley lane, Chevy Chase, is being trimmed out. It was built by H. S. Palmer.

James L. Parsons reports that the bungalow being erected by him for George L. Whitford on the north side of Newlands street is ready for roofing.

John Simpson and sons built many homes in Chevy Chase, including this home on Kirke Street as shown in the Washington Post on January 24th, 1909.

Another prominent builder living in the VNCC was John Simpson, who lived on what is now called Jones Bridge Road, and one of his sons, Robert Simpson, who lived at 8905 Kensington Parkway. Robert Simpson actually purchased 8905 Kensington Parkway from his father, the home's builder, for \$3,500 in 1912 which is [equivalent in purchasing power to \\$86,201.67](#) today. Compared to today's Zillow estimate of \$1,5 million, let's just say that Robert purchased the home at a great price.

With all the development occurring in the Chevy Chase area and DC in the early 1900s, the Washington Post regularly listed the building permits issued, homes sold, and even included the name of the builders and architects. This section of the Washington Post on October 25, 1908 lists a few homes being built, one of which is by Johns Simpson Sons and another by James Parsons.



This month's trivia: What is the current address of the Kirke Street home Simpson and Son built shown in the 1909 Washington Post photo?

As a bonus trivia, can you determine the current address of the home built by John Simpsons Sons in the October 25th, 1908 listing? The only clues are the first owner (Dr James D Morgan), the location (Connecticut Avenue, almost opposite from

the Chevy Chase Club), and estimated date (1908).

Please email your answers to Olga Joos at treasurer@northchevyCHASE.org so that I can highlight you as a history sleuth in our next VNCC newsletter.

As mentioned in the January VNCC newsletter, Martin Wiegand and his family had a country home in the Village, located at 8801 Kensington Parkway. They had a horse on the property as well two collie dogs which unfortunately strayed or were stolen, as you can see from this notice in the lost section from the Evening Star in October 24, 1915.

DOGS—Strayed or stolen, on Oct. 10, 1915, from North Chevy Chase, Md., 2 black collie dogs; answer to names of "Guy" and "Rodolph"; white around neck, white under, white tip on tail. Reward if returned to Mr. Wiegand's farm, North Chevy Chase, Md., or 430 1st st. s.e. 24^e

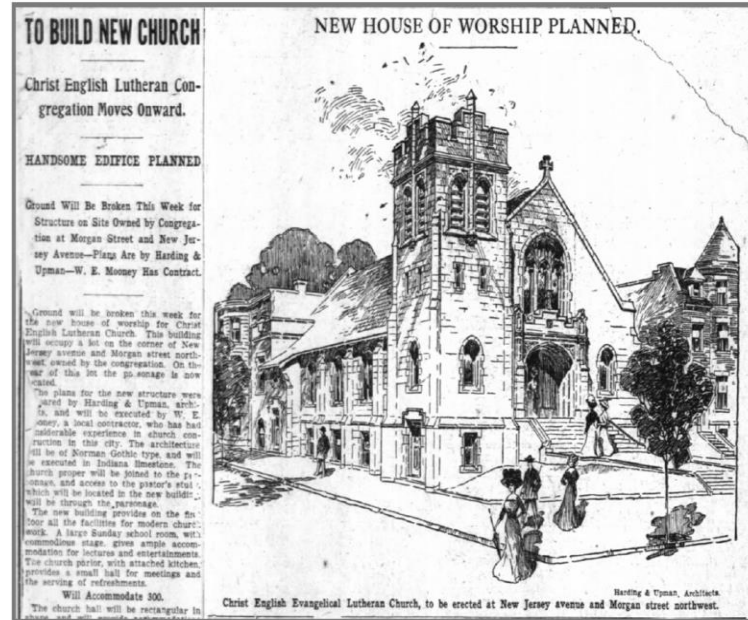
Collie dogs seemed to be popular at that time, and they also strayed and were stolen quite frequently since Mary Parsons, a widow when she posted this notice in the lost section of the Washington Post on April 6, 1920, needed help in her search to find Roy, her white Collie dog with brown spots.

COLLIE DOG—White, with brown spots; name Roy; strayed from North Chevy Chase. Phone Mrs. Parsons, Kensington 125-G. Reward.

The Village has always been a great place for dogs, even today.

Martin Wiegand's country home was designed by Clarence Harding, a prominent DC architect, who established a firm with a colleague, Frank Upman, and went on to build many homes and buildings in Chevy Chase and the DC area,

such as the Christ English Lutheran Church highlighted in the June 6, 1909 Washington Post article. Located at 1204 3rd Street, NW in Washington, DC, this church is now the Third Street Church of God.



Once again you can see the prominence of our former Village residents in this listing of buildings in the Evening Star printed on October 19, 1905 which notes the building work of John Simpson & Sons and architectural design by Clarence Harding and his partner, Frank Upman. You can also see that home prices have increased just a bit since 1905.

To Lillian A. Fuller, for two-story frame dwelling, 2944 Newark street; architect, Frank Barton; builders, John Simpson & Sons; estimated cost, \$6,500.
To Charles C. and Edward E. Murray, for two two-story and attic frame dwellings, 3305-3307 18th street northwest, architects, Harding & Upman; estimated cost, \$8,000.

I look forward to sharing more VNCC history with you at the Centennial celebration and via the newsletter for many months (years!) to come. Please reach out to me if you have any history, photos, or even tidbits of information to share since they help in my research efforts. Thanks! Olga (treasurer@northchevyCHASE.org)



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024

CANDIDATES for 2024 VILLAGE COUNCIL POSITIONS:

Adrian Andreassi

Address: 3816 Kenilworth Driveway

Length of time being a resident in the Village: Since 2001

Lifelong Bethesda-Chevy Chase resident, I grew up in East Bethesda. Attended Lynbrook Elementary School, Leland Junior High School and BCC High School.

I have worked for almost 40 years in the residential remodeling business and have been with my current employer since 1988 and have worn many hats along the way.

My building and remodeling experience and knowledge of zoning regulations and building codes in DC, Maryland and Virginia makes me well suited to review proposed remodeling or home building activity within the village.

I have served on the Village council since about 2002.

I have a wonderful wife, Beth, who gave me three great daughters Maddalena, Alexandra and Olivia. I am blessed with a feisty 101-year-old mother.

I have a miniature poodle named Scout and she has a cute underbite.

Diagnosed with lymphoma in 2004 and still here to talk about it!

My hobbies include bicycle riding, working on cars and home projects, going to the gym and sampling single malt scotch whisky.

Olga Joos

Born and raised in Florida and Spain, and having lived in a number of cities in the US (DC, Philly, and LA) and various countries in Africa (Mali, Togo, and Malawi), I am so happy to call the Village of North Chevy Chase home. It is a wonderful place for Nick, my first husband, and I to raise our children, Penelope (12 human years), Felix (9 human years), Yoshi (2 cat years), and Zelda (2 cat years). Professionally, I have served as a Peace Corps Volunteer; worked as a pediatric critical care nurse; and now focus my efforts as a public health expert supporting governments in strengthening civil registration and vital statistics systems through my work as a consultant with various UN agencies. My background in public health and nursing have been beneficial in the Council's discussions on road safety issues and in fostering a green environment. I spearheaded the Council's efforts to pursue recognition as an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City which the Village achieved in 2022. With this year's Centennial celebration, I have truly enjoyed researching Village history and getting to know more about my current neighbors and past Village residents, the beautiful homes in our Village, and the Village's amazing development over the past 100 years. I look forward to continuing this research and sharing it with Village residents via the newsletter and website. I have served on the Council, initially as a Member and now as the Treasurer, since May 2021 and deeply appreciate the opportunity to serve Village residents in this role.

CANDIDATES for 2024 VILLAGE COUNCIL POSITIONS:

Maury Mechanick

I have been a resident of the Village for 29 years (since 1995). Professionally, I have been either an attorney in private practice or an executive in the satellite industry, until I retired in 2017. Most recently, I served as Counsel in the DC Office of the international law firm, White & Case LLP (2002-2017). Starting in 2012, I have been elected as a member of the Village of North Chevy Chase Council and served as Secretary for six terms. I have taken a leadership role on behalf of the Village on a number of issues affecting Village life, including updating the Village's regulations and website; re-development of Chevy Chase Lake; pedestrian safety in the Village, and various issues involving the Maryland State Highway Administration (herbicide spraying, Salt Barn relocation and, most recently, Beltway expansion). I have testified on behalf of the Village on numerous occasions before the County Planning Board and the County Council on these issues, and led Village efforts to influence Maryland Comptroller Franchot to hold firm on keeping the Montgomery County portion of the proposed Beltway expansion in Phase 2 of that project rather than accelerating it to Phase 1. I am also a Maryland Notary Public and am available to provide that service for Village residents and others in need of notarization services. I am usually quite visible walking the Village streets multiple times a day, with my wife and our dog, Franklin Delano, the third in a line of Village-friendly golden retrievers, the first being Wookie and the second being Teddy Roosevelt Ruff Rider.