



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2025

APRIL VILLAGE MEETING

April 15, 2025 – 7:30pm – In-Person Only
 *Approval of March Minutes *Treasurer’s Report *Permits *Proclamations *Approval of FY26 Budget, Tax Rates, Ordinance and Resolution *Meet the Candidates

Council Secretary (Maury Mechanick at secretary@northchevychase.org).

Please find below details of the position.

The Village Manager reports to a five-member, elected Village Council. The Manager is the only employee of the Village of North Chevy Chase. This is a flexible fulltime salaried position. The Village is comprised of approximately 211 households, with no commercial businesses operating within municipal boundaries. Governance is provided by the Village Council, which meets monthly (the third Tuesday of each month except for August and for the May meeting, which precedes the Village Annual Meeting held on

CALENDAR (2025)

- April 15: Village Council Meeting (in-person only) at NCC Christian Church
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 25: National Arbor Day - Tree City USA
- May 3: Shredding & Donation event at the NCC Christian Church, sponsored by RLAH Real Estate; 9am-12pm
- May 6: Village Annual Meeting and Village Council Elections at NCC Christian Church (in-person only)
- June 6: National Gun Violence Awareness Day - orange ribbons
- June 12: Curbside Donation, Clothing Donation Nation
- June 13: Curbside Donation, Furniture/Non-Clothing Items Donation Nation
- June 14: Bulk Trash Pick Up
- June 17: Village Council Meeting

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES

The Village Council is seeking a new Manager for our municipality. The current Manager will be leaving on April 11. Residents interested in this position should send an up-to-date CV, along with a brief cover letter articulating why they are interested in the position, to 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 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

the first Tuesday of that month). The Village does not have a physical town hall, so the Manager must be able to operate primarily out of his/her residence, with an ability to be onsite at the Village when required (Village laptop and smart phone will be provided). Principal responsibilities include serving as the primary point of contact for Village residents and with external entities; publicly representing the Village's position on matters consistent with Village Council decisions; maintaining custody of official Village records; ensuring compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations; performance of budgeting and financial reporting activities, including facilitating an annual audit; providing support for the Council at its monthly meetings, including agenda preparation and building permit review; preparation of official Village correspondence including monthly Village newsletter and website maintenance; and contract oversight of vendors providing services to the Village.

Village Council Elections: Election for two of the five Village Council positions (2-year terms) will be held on **Tuesday, May 6, 2025**. The current Council members whose terms are expiring are **Brian Hoffner** and **Jon Macy**, both have indicated that they will seek reelection. In addition, residents **Juan Mayagoitia** and **Rebecca Wrady** have also indicated their interest in running for Village Council.

Bios for candidates are included at the end of this newsletter. Please plan to attend the in-person only April 15 Council meeting to hear from the candidates running for Village Council.

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 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 29**, per the Village charter.

Residents can request absentee ballot and/or vote in-person on **Tuesday, May 6** at the NCC Christian Church. Council members will then be sworn in for new terms at the **May 6** Annual Meeting.

FY2026 Budget: The Village Council reviewed the draft budget for FY2026 at the March 18 Council 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 15** 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.

The 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 fourth 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 proven to help mitigate the urban heat island effect, reduce stormwater runoff, improve air quality, and boost mental health and physical health. When the right trees are planted in the right places, they can reduce traffic noise, increase property values, and lower energy costs for homeowners.

To learn about the program, visit arborday.org.

Taxes Due: Tuesday, 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? He lived at 3812 Kenilworth Driveway.

Earth Day was founded in 1970 as a day of education about environmental issues, and **Earth Day 2025 is Tuesday, 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.

The theme for Earth Day 2025 is OUR POWER, OUR PLANET, inviting everyone around the globe to unite behind renewable energy, and to triple the global generation of clean electricity by 2030. How? By joining in Earth Action Day, encouraging all to take action—educate, advocate, and mobilize-- this **Earth Day, April 22**, and every day.

Obituary:

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of long-time Village resident, Al Brodzinsky, who lived at 3602 Kenilworth Drive until relocating to Rockville in 2021. Al passed away on January 19, 2025, at the age of 104. Al was a research engineer for the Navy Department, during the latter part of World War II. After the war, he continued his work in research and development on radar technology, earning three patents for his contributions. Al remained at the Naval Research Laboratory until his retirement as a division director.

Following his retirement, Al pursued a lifelong passion for aviation by becoming a pilot. He also enjoyed traveling with family and friends and remained actively involved in his religious community.

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 - 49th Annual Art Show and Sale

With over 100 artists and 400 works of art by local and aspiring artists. The show is free and open to the public. The event is one of the Club’s signature community service projects and is entirely a volunteer effort.

Friday, April 4 from 1-5pm; Saturday, April 5 and Sunday, April 6 from 11am-5pm

This show raises money for art scholarships and gives local artists a platform to exhibit and sell their work. for art students. Visit www.wccmaryland.org for more details.

County Council public hearings on FY 2026 operating budget

The County Council will hold public hearings on **April 7 and 8, both at 7pm**, on the proposed [Fiscal year 2026 operating budget](#) and FY2026-31 public services program and fiscal policy for the following: Montgomery County Government, Montgomery College, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, WSSC Water and Montgomery County Public Schools.

Reference copies of the recommended FY2026 county government operating budget are available on the [Office of Management and Budget's website](#) or by calling 240-777-2800. Other agency budgets are available from the individual agencies and their websites.

Kensington Historical Society: How Streetcars Shaped Kensington Tuesday, April 8 at 7pm

Kensington recently celebrated the history of the B&O Railroad and its role in the town's development, but did you know there once was a streetcar line that brought people from Chevy Chase to Kensington?

Join us for a fascinating look at the history of streetcars in Kensington and Chevy Chase. The presentation will explore the significant role streetcars played in the development and growth of our area, offering a unique glimpse into this important aspect of our local history and the people it served.

Speaker: Eric Madison, Executive Director of the National Capital Trolley Museum.

Two ways to attend: in-person at the Kensington Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington or Virtual Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83214596940?pwd=PWoPeaOIZWzrbS7AKKLWYL5DpSpEIX.1> (Meeting ID: 832 1459 6940, Passcode: 501798). This event is free of charge. An RSVP to info@kensingtonhistory.org is appreciated for planning purposes, but not essential for admittance.

Ever thought of growing vegetables yourself - whether indoors or outdoors? The Chevy Chase Library is hosting a Master Gardener event on Seed Starting on **Sunday, April 13** from 11:00am-12:30pm. An hour long presentation by Master Gardener Meipo Martin will be followed by a demonstration and Q & A.

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich to Deliver 'State of the County' Address

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich will deliver his annual "State of the County" address at **6 pm on Thursday, April 24**, at the Leggett Executive Office Building in Rockville. The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place on the terrace level of the LEOB, located at 101 Monroe Street in Rockville. Light refreshments will be served.

During his address, County Executive Elrich will highlight the County's accomplishments over

the past year and discuss the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

18th annual Kensington Day of the Book Festival: Sunday, April 27, 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. Not your average book festival! Now in its 18th year, this festival offers something for everyone!

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

Annual Community Spring Cleaning & Shredding Event: Saturday, May 3 from 9am to 12pm

at the NCC Christian Church parking lot. Sponsored by RLAH Real Estate. It's Spring Cleaning Day! Onsite paper shredding securely destroyed. Donation needs to A Wider Circle of gently used clothing, housewares and furniture and to Levelling the Playing Field who will be collecting all types of game equipment and athletic sporting items.

Living Solo: A Support Group for People on Their Own

This group is for individuals who are living and aging independently. It offers a chance to connect with others in similar situations, share support, exchange ideas, find solutions, and access helpful resources. The group will be facilitated by two retired social workers.

If you're interested or would like more information, please contact:

- Anne Gonzalez at 240-354-8536 or via email at annegonzalez@mac.com
- Martha Pleasure at 240-478-3248 or via email at mpleasure45@verizon.net

Sponsored by NCC Connections (www.northchevychaseconnections.org) and open to neighbors only.

New public-private coalition to address federal workforce cuts

It is estimated that more than 70,000 federal workers live in Montgomery County. The Trump administration's layoffs and firings have affected more than 1,000 residents so far, according to county officials. [That number does not include federal workers who live in neighboring jurisdictions and work at agencies based in the county, such as NIH, the Food and Drug Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.]

The Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) announced a public-private coalition of Montgomery County officials and key partners in a strategic initiative: **Mobilize Montgomery**. The goal of the initiative is for the [Mobilize Montgomery website](#) to serve as a centralized resource hub, ensuring that businesses, employees, and residents, especially recently laid off federal employees, have access to critical information and support they need.

For more information about the initiative or to access available resources, please visit www.mobilize-montgomery.com.

Executive Elrich proposes 3.4% property tax rate increase

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich announced that he is proposing a 3.4% property tax rate increase in order to fully fund Montgomery County Public Schools' \$3.65 billion budget request for the upcoming fiscal year.

If approved by the County Council, the homeowners' tax rate would be \$1.0605 per each \$100 of assessed value of their property, an increase of 3.5 cents from the current rate of \$1.0255. Elrich said because President Donald Trump plans to lower federal taxes, he believes that will offset the proposed tax increase for property owners.

The proposed property tax increase is part of Elrich's recommended \$7.6 billion county operating budget plan for fiscal year 2026, an increase of 7.4% from the county's current \$7.1 billion operating budget.

MCPD expands eligibility for security camera rebate program

The Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) has announced that eligibility for the police-private security camera rebate program, which started last November, has been expanded to include all addresses in the county.

The program is designed to deter and solve crimes by incentivizing the installation of security cameras in geographic areas experiencing relatively high crime incidents. An owner or tenant of a property used as a residence, business or nonprofit organization located within Montgomery County now may apply.

Individuals, businesses or nonprofit organizations must register online to participate, and residents must purchase and install their security cameras before applying for a rebate. The rebate is for the cost of the camera, not to exceed \$250. Other costs, such as installation, accessories, recording subscription, and video storage, are not covered.

For more information, visit pol.camera.rebate@montgomerycountymd.gov or call #240-773-6120.

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

Montgomery County continues to be recognized as one of the healthiest counties in Maryland and the United States, according to the annual County Health Rankings (CHR). The 2025 report does not provide a specific ranking for each county within a state but offers valuable data on how a county's health outcomes and contributing factors compare to others in the State and nationwide.

The CHR, a collaboration between the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, annually evaluates counties across the U.S. based on more than 30 factors that influence health. These factors include social determinants such as education, employment, housing, physical activity and commuting times. The report emphasizes that where we live, work

and play has a significant impact on overall health and well-being.

Highlights from the 2025 report include:

- Montgomery County performs better than the average county in Maryland and in the U.S. in terms of population health and well-being.
- The County has some of the lowest rates of premature death (from any cause), and a higher life expectancy than the State and national averages. However, health disparities persist across racial and ethnic populations within the County.
- Montgomery County residents exhibit healthier behaviors, including lower rates of smoking, obesity and physical inactivity compared to other jurisdictions across Maryland and the U.S.
- The County has significantly lower teen birth rates.
- Montgomery County has a higher ratio of primary care physicians, dentists and mental health providers per resident compared to both Maryland and U.S. averages.
- Vaccination rates are higher in Montgomery County, and there are fewer preventable hospital stays compared to other jurisdictions.

Join Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as they celebrate Earth Month!

This year's Earth Month celebrations will feature activities, workshops, and events designed to bring the community together in support of a healthier, more sustainable environment. From tree planting milestones to climate-focused library conversations, there's something for everyone.

Here's a look at some of the exciting highlights happening this month:

- **Montgomery County Energy Summit – April 8 & 9**

Kick off Earth Month by attending the [12th Annual Montgomery County Energy Summit](#) at the Silver Spring Civic Center. This two-day event will offer a variety of educational sessions, hands-on workshops, and

personalized resources for building professionals. Whether you're looking to dive deep into energy efficiency or take your sustainable practices to the next level, this summit is the place to be!

- **Tree Montgomery's 10th Anniversary**

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the [Tree Montgomery program](#). Over the last 10 years, Tree Montgomery has successfully planted over 18,400 trees across the County!

- **GreenFest – April 26**

Celebrate the 10th Annual GreenFest at Marian Fryer Town Plaza from **11am to 4pm**. GreenFest is the County's largest environmental festival. Bringing together eco-conscious vendors, organizations and activities. Whether you're looking for ways to reduce your carbon footprint or simply want to enjoy a fun, GreenFest is the place to be.

- **Food Scraps Recycling – April 13**

April 7 – 13 is Food Waste Prevention Week. Join DEP at the Bethesda Central Farm Market on **Saturday, April 13**. DEP will highlight the [Food Scraps Recycling Program](#) at the farmers market. Stop by to recycle your food scraps and explore the farmers market.

- **Join the Celebration!**

Earth Month is a reminder of the steps we can all take to make a positive impact on our planet. By participating in any of the events planned for April or doing your own thing, you will be joining a growing movement of individuals and organizations working together to create a sustainable future for Montgomery County and beyond.

So, mark your calendars, bring your friends and family, and get involved in the exciting activities and initiatives happening throughout the month. It's not just about one month of celebration, it's about making changes that last all year long! 🌍💚

Deadline coming up for REAL ID compliance

Starting **May 7**, Maryland residents will need a [REAL ID-compliant](#) driver's license (or for non-drivers, an MVA-issued REAL ID-compliant ID card) or another acceptable form of identification (such as passport) to board domestic flights or access secure federal facilities, including military bases.

The Maryland REAL ID driver's license/ID card has a small star on it to indicate that it meets U.S. Department of Homeland Security regulations.

To get a REAL ID driver's license or identification card, visit the Maryland Department of Transportation MVA in person with required documents, including proof of identity, residency, and Social Security.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH COUNCIL

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

Secretary's Report for February 2025 Council Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer's Reports for February 2025 (Joos)

–Results for February 2025 included income of \$3,183.72, and operating expenses of \$22,960.05 (including street lighting, snow removal, waste removal, composting services, landscaping and lawn moving, membership and dues, wages and taxes, professional fees, and office and communication). Total income for FY 2025 to date (July 2024-February 2025) came to \$276,691.83, and total operating expenses came to \$214,253.21. No capital expenditures have been incurred to date for FY 2025. Total current assets as of February 2025, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including ARPA funds previously received, came to \$3,160,316.41. The Village Council decided to put funds previously transferred from Truist Bank to Sandy Spring Bank in a 17-month CD, offering the highest rate for the longest term.

Permits

3812 Inverness Driveway – permit granted for screened porch

Action Items:

Environment Committee/Earth Day Event –

The Village Council confirmed arrangements for holding an event commemorating Earth Day, which will take place on Saturday, May 10, 2025, to be at the intersection of Montgomery Avenue and Inverness Driveway, with a rain date location to be held in Harlow Hall at the North Chevy Chase Christian Church. Council

approved the \$250 fee associated with this and Village Manger will follow up with the church to secure the rain date availability and payment. The focal point for this year's event will be "All About Zero Waste." A number of activities and educational programs, aimed at all ages, are planned.

Kensington Parkway Street Lighting –Efforts continue to finalize the exact location of the lighting fixtures and specific installation arrangements based upon reviews conduct by CAS Engineering and Design America Engineering, and to begin to move forward with implementation measures in consultation with Baldwin Line and PEPCO, with final location walk through scheduled for March 27, 2025.

More Housing N.O.W./ZTA 25-02 – Maury Mechanick on behalf of the Council provided oral testimony at the County Council hearing that took place on March 11, 2025, indicating that while the new zoning proposal (ZTA 25-02) was an improvement over the previously circulated AHSI proposal, there were still a number of concerns as to whether it would accomplish the intended results and highlighted certain important changes that would be necessary if Montgomery County Council were to nonetheless proceed with adoption of ZTA 25-02 in some fashion. The Council will submit additional written testimony on or before March 24, 2025, further addressing potential areas for improvement, and is working with outside counsel and five other nearby municipalities regarding specific text amendments to the wording of the zoning amendment to address certain concerns and deficiencies.

Budget FY 2026 – The Council continued its review of a proposed FY 2026 budget and recommended continuing with Compost Crew beyond the one-year pilot program for an additional year. In addition to the proposed budget, the Council will present the budget ordinance and resolution, and proposed FY 2026 tax rates at its upcoming April Council meeting in advance of the Village Annual Meeting scheduled for May 6, 2025. A copy of the proposed budget will be attached to the Village's April newsletter as required by the Village Charter.



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

CANDIDATES for 2025 VILLAGE COUNCIL POSITIONS:

Brian Hoffner

My name is Brian Hoffner, and I have proudly served on the North Chevy Chase board for over 14 years. I am the father of Gavin (14) and Cece (12), and husband to Wendy. Our family, including our dogs Greyson (the Weimaraner) and Miley (the Aussiedoodle), has happily lived in the village throughout my children's entire lives. You may recognize us from our daily walks around the neighborhood.

My commitment to the village began when I joined the board to ensure that younger parents had a voice addressing concerns about traffic safety, speeding, and the urgent need for traffic-calming measures. Soon, I realized these issues impacted not only families with young children but all village residents. My advocacy expanded to encompass the safety and well-being of our entire community. During my tenure on the board, I have been instrumental in:

- Proposing the Village Tree Program by enhancing our community's green spaces and preserving its natural beauty.
- Improving Pedestrian Safety by successfully advocating for multiple stop signs along Kensington Parkway, significantly reducing speeding and making the streets safer for pedestrians of all ages.
- Proposing the Village Composting Program, an initiative I personally proposed and championed. This program has now been extended one year beyond the initial pilot program as valued service, demonstrating our community's commitment to environmental responsibility.

In addition to my board activities, I enjoy coaching my children's youth sports teams and spending time working in my yard. My goal remains steadfast: to make informed decisions with your tax dollars, ensuring North Chevy Chase continues to be a safe, walkable, enjoyable, and sustainable community for everyone.

Jon Macy

Originally from Northeast Ohio (suburb of Cleveland), I moved to the DC area in 2004 after graduating from Denison University as a Political Science Major with Minors in Environmental Studies and Geology. Over the past 21 years, I have lived all over the DMV from Bethesda, Annandale, Arlington, Tenleytown and now the Village of North Chevy Chase. My wife, Elizabeth and I brought our family here in the summer of 2015 and have loved this amazing community that we now call home. Along with our daughters Kaitlyn (12), Emma (10) and Chocolate Lab Bodie (4), you can find us walking the streets on scooters or bikes while Bodie tries to say hi to every single person and/or dog he sees along his walk since he is such a social butterfly. Most of my professional career has been handling large scale operations from the Hospitality Industry to now Amazon where I am often tasked with making

quick, smart decisions for long term success of the operation that ensures employee safety and relations while capitalizing on customer obsession and promise. I love to bring my passion for living in the now and taking everyday as a blessing and trying to live each day to the fullest and never taking what we have for granted. When not working or attending sporting events for my daughters, we can be found at the NCC pool, on the pickleball courts, or out on the trails nearby in Rock Creek or any of the many parks near and far to the DMV. While still an avid Browns & Guardians fan, I do enjoy going to Nationals and Caps games when the opportunity presents itself. Elizabeth and I look forward to raising our daughters in this amazing community and look forward to enjoying many more years in the Village of North Chevy Chase.

Juan Mayagoitia (NCC resident since 2020)

Juan has been happily married to his wife, Mary, for the past ten years and they are proud parents to their six-year-old son. Throughout the past five years, he has continued to put down roots in the Village of North Chevy Chase, including as a full-member of the North Chevy Chase Swimming Pool Association and supporter of Nature Forward. Juan holds a Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University with a concentration in International Relations and Security, which he obtained as a Fulbright scholar. Since 2012, he has worked in the humanitarian and international development fields at the World Bank, the United Nations system, and the federal government. Juan currently serves as the Administrative and Operations Manager of a European NGO where he supervises business operations are conducted under the principles of transparency and accountability. Throughout the last three years, Juan has volunteered as a member of the selection committee for the Margaret McNamara Education Grants, promoting the academic growth of exceptional women committed to the advancement of women and children in developing countries. He is a native Spanish speaker and is fluent in English and proficient in French.

Rebecca Wrady

Rebecca Wrady has built a diverse career spanning manufacturing, startups, and her current role bringing technology to the government. Having lived in the village for two years with her family, she is deeply committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive community where everyone feels safe. Rebecca believes in leveraging innovation and collaboration to improve local governance and quality of life. Her passion for service is rooted in her love for bringing people together—whether through community initiatives or sharing home-cooked meals with loved ones. When she's not working or advocating for the community, she enjoys cooking and spending time with family around the DMV area.