

Montgomery County Council to Host Bethesda-Chevy Chase Area Town Hall Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wed., March 2

- Release ID: 11-036
- Release Date: 2/15/2011
- Contact: Sharon St. Pierre 240-777-7951
- From: Council Office

ROCKVILLE, Md., February 15, 2011—The Montgomery County Council will continue its efforts to find out what issues most concern residents when it hosts a Town Hall Meeting for the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area on Wednesday, March 2. The meeting at Westland Middle School in Bethesda will start at 8 p.m. A pre-meeting reception will begin at 7:30 p.m.

This will be the second Town Hall Meeting hosted by the Council in 2011. The Council hosted a Town Hall Meeting for the East County area in Silver Spring in January. The Council is composed of President Valerie Ervin, Vice President Roger Berliner and Councilmembers Phil Andrews, Marc Elrich, Nancy Floreen, George Leventhal, Nancy Navarro, Craig Rice and Hans Riemer. Most town hall meetings hosted by the Council in recent years have drawn crowds of more than 200 residents.

Westland Middle School is located at 5511 Massachusetts Ave.

It is expected that the major topics of the evening will include the expansion of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda and its impact on the surround community; the performance of power utilities following storms; traffic; schools; the County budget; and redevelopment of existing neighborhoods and business areas.

The meeting will allow residents to voice their opinions on specific issues and will allow them to ask questions of the Councilmembers in an organized, but informal, setting.

“The Council comes off one of the most difficult budget years in history with the challenge of approaching the Fiscal Year 2012 budget with a projected operating gap of possibly \$300 million,” said Council President Ervin. “We cannot continue to operate in this manner. It is clear that the Council will be making very difficult decisions that will impact every resident of this County. In addition, the Council has been working to improve situations that affect people in this community every day. We want to hear their thoughts on these issues.”

Council President Ervin said Town Hall Meetings are one of the avenues the Council has pursued to keep residents better informed.

“This Council has made a priority of having better direct communication with residents, and Town Hall Meetings have proven to be an excellent way to do just that,” she said. “For the residents, these meetings provide a forum where they can see their elected officials in a different format than a televised meeting or through a news release.”

The meeting will be taped for later broadcast on County Cable Montgomery (CCM—cable Channel 6 on Comcast and RCN, Channel 30 on Verizon). Susan Kenedy, a producer for the County station, will moderate the meeting.

For more information about the Town Hall Meeting or about the broadcast times, call 240-777-7931.