



## VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER JULY 2019

### JULY VILLAGE MEETING

**July 16, 2019; 8 PM;** NCC Christian Church  
\*Approval of June Mtg Min \*Treasurer's Report  
\* Permits (3712 Kenilworth Dr new home construction) \*Sustainable Maryland Certification Resolution \*Permit Fees

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE VILLAGE

**ANNUAL MEETING** (*Please note that official minutes will be approved at the next Village mtg and will be posted on the website after*)

Secretary's Report for May/Annual 2019 – approved. Please note that a 2019 Annual Report was presented by the Council Chair at the May meeting. The report has been uploaded to May Agendas & Minutes on the Village webpage.

Treasurer's Report: Village expenditures totaled \$20,156.01 (April) and \$13,140.43 (May), while income totaled \$1,387.05 (April) and \$59,642.36 (May). As of May 31, Village assets totaled \$1.436 million.

### Permits:

- The permit for 8903 Kensington Pkwy was approved, consisting of a back porch addition, driveway expansion (without curb cut), front sidewalk repair and regrading of yard.
- A fence replacement for 3606 Kenilworth Dr was approved,

- conditioned on confirmation that the backyard fence would not exceed 6 feet.
- A backyard gazebo for 8813 Montgomery Ave was approved on the condition that neighbors be informed, as the application was received shorter than the 7 days prior to a Council meeting. In addition, the residents had received a Montgomery County “walk-through”/same day permit, which may be issued for projects of a limited scope. The Village is looking at modifications to its permit requirements to allow for

### VILLAGE COUNCIL

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### Village of North Chevy Chase

Fire Board Representatives:  
Dave Albinson, Anne Fox, Abby Morris  
PO Box 15887, Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
**Mobile: 301-654-7084**  
TDD (MD Relay Service): 1-800-735-2258  
Website: [www.northchevyCHASE.org](http://www.northchevyCHASE.org)

expedited approvals in such circumstances as well.

- A permit application was received for 9010 Kensington Pkwy to replace an existing brick/stone front walkway with new stone. The Council considered the work as general maintenance/repair given that the footprint was not changing; as a result, the permit application was deemed unnecessary.

Kensington Pkwy Signs: Two traffic issues related to Kensington Pkwy were discussed. One involves concern over vehicular speeds; the second relates to pedestrian safety, largely at the crosswalk at Montrose. With respect to speeding vehicles, the Council and attendees discussed the pros and cons of a speed display device along the road. While some saw the potential deterrence by flashing speeds, others maintained that vehicles speeding along Kensington Pkwy are largely trying to get through the Connecticut intersection before the light turns yellow/red and will likely not reduce speeds. With respect to the crosswalk, the Village Manager is looking into pricing options for lighting the crosswalk itself through pedestrian activation.

Permit Fees: The Village Manager is obtaining additional information from neighboring municipalities on their permit pricing structure and staff dedicated to building inspections. The Village currently has some of the lowest permit fees and relies largely on Montgomery County inspectors for new home construction and additions.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution: At the recommendation of the Village attorney, the Council passed a resolution to adopt

Montgomery County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Local governments are required to develop a hazard mitigation plan as a condition for receiving disaster mitigation grant funding. The Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security requested that municipalities adopt the Plan in order to have a uniform approach to hazard events. The Village is reviewing the plan in more depth to determine whether there are aspects to the plan that should be further tailored to Village needs.

Dog Park: The Council and attendees discussed Montgomery Parks recent posting of a list of future dog park options. One is proposed for North Chevy Chase Local Park down Jones Bridge Rd. While there is interest by some residents to have dedicated space within the Village for a dog park, it was determined that there is insufficient Village property to create such a park. Possible beltway expansion and the new vegetative screen along the chain link fence off the 3800 block of Inverness also limit Village options in engaging SHA on the issue. It was ultimately determined that a dog park for the Village is not realistic.

Tree Maintenance: The Council approved the following tree maintenance/removals:

- 8907 Montgomery Ave – Removal/stump grinding of red oak due to infestation and proximity to utility wires
- 8900 Montgomery Ave – Removal of all black gum saplings
- 8903 Kensington Pkwy – Removal/stump grinding of dead cherry
- Kensington/Montrose left side of Church – Cut section of vines from trunks of 3

mature trees to allow vines aloft to dieback.

Village management will inform residents at properties adjacent to the trees when work will be scheduled by Titan Tree Care. Management will also keep residents informed of future Village tree maintenance efforts.

ZTA 19-01 (Accessory Dwelling Units): On June 18, the County Council held a work session on the legislation. It plans to vote on the legislation “at a later date”. The Village is working with neighboring municipalities to request the County Council hold a follow-on public hearing with comments, as the only public hearing which allowed public comments took place earlier this year, when communities were much less informed about the legislation and its potential impact on single-family neighborhoods.

Village liability insurance coverage: The Village Council approved an increase in the Village’s liability coverage from \$1 million to \$5 million (per occurrence), which totaled only a \$10.00 increase in the annual premium (\$111 total).

Village Escrow Account: The Village has created an escrow account at SunTrust for security deposits associated with permit applications.

Environment Committee: The Council approved the formation of the Village’s Environment Committee, which will serve as a valuable resource for the community on topics ranging from pesticide alternatives to native tree plantings to other “green” living recommendations.

Storm Drains: Montgomery County – which is in charge of maintaining the Village’s storm drains – recently cleaned 3 storm drains on the 3700 block of Kenilworth, a drain on Kenilworth across from the Church parking lot, and a drain at the diverter at Stewart/Montgomery. Residents are encouraged to bag leaves from their property and sidewalks, which can clog the drains. Residents are also requested to alert Village management of any flooding issues around the drains.

Village listserv: Village management will be transitioning the Village listserv from yahoo groups to Constant Contact over the summer to allow for improved communication and ability to join (which has been a challenge for many with yahoo). The listserv will be used to communicate Village business to residents (meeting agendas, traffic issues around construction sites, planned leaf and snow removal, utility issues, updates on public policies affecting the Village, etc.). Residents are encouraged to utilize NCC Connections to relay information about social events.

General Updates: Information from the June newsletter related to the salt barn, Connecticut/Jones Bridge intersection improvements, and I-495/I-270 expansion were relayed to meeting attendees.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/UPDATES**

Job Opportunities: Youth interested in small work projects for Village residents (i.e. yard work, leaf pick up, snow shoveling, moving furniture/boxes) should contact the Village Manager, who will compile a list. A number of Village residents have

reached out inquiring about an updated list of available youth, so jobs are available.

### Recycling

A number of residents have inquired about what can/cannot be placed in the single stream recycling bins. Village management is confirming the allowed and restricted items with its recycling vendor and the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station, where the recyclables are deposited. A brochure with that information will be circulated on the Village listserv soon. One noteworthy item is that plastic bags – even those labeled as recyclable – are prohibited.

## **SUSTAINABLE LIVING**

(Courtesy of the Village's Environment Committee)

### **Seven tips for fighting weeds gently, without the chemicals**

Some Village residents regularly apply weed killers to the lawn, aiming for a weed-free look. Posted signs keep kids and pets off the grass for a while, but residues persist after the signs come down. The chemicals stick to skin, shoes and soil and get tracked into our homes. All weed killers pose possible health risks. Try these steps to cut down on weeds without the use of chemicals:

#### **1. Set your lawn mower blades higher –**

Longer grass crowds out weeds and holds more moisture for a greener summer lawn. Raise your mower blades to 2.5 inches or higher.

#### **2. Learn to tolerate some weeds –**

A chemical-free lawn may have some unwanted clover and dandelions, but it is safe and non-toxic for pets and kids playing outside.

#### **3. Keep up with routine lawn care –**

A healthy lawn out-competes weeds. Leave clippings on the lawn to improve the soil. Rake up thatch in late spring to help rain percolate. Apply slow-release organic fertilizer in spring and fall.

Aerate in early summer or fall to increase air and water circulation to grass roots. Seed your lawn and any bare patches after aeration. Use seed without added pesticides and fungicides (check the label).

**4. Weed by hand –** Once a week is usually enough. Walk through your beds and gardens, cutting off any new weeds at the surface. If you have more time or are facing a fast-spreading invasive weed, dig into the dirt and get the roots. You can weed grassy areas that have excessive weeds. Reseed afterwards if needed.

#### **5. Use mulch or ground cover for beds –**

Two to three inches of mulch helps retain soil moisture and block sunlight that weeds need to grow. Ground cover also blocks weed growth – local nurseries carry a variety.

**6. Use a vinegar spray –** For a natural spray that kills weeds, use a solution of 4 parts water to 1 part white vinegar. You may have to spray more than once, and then spray again if the plant resprouts from the roots.

**7. Use an organic lawn care company -** To find a lawn care company specializing in organic, chemical-free lawn care, check the non-profit Beyond Pesticides' company guide - <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/resources/safety-source-on-pesticide-providers/welcome>.

***Please note that there is no Village Council meeting in August. The next newsletter will be distributed in early September. Please feel free to contact the Village Manager with any issues/concerns in the interim. Enjoy the remainder of summer!!***

### **CALENDAR (2019)**

July 16: 8 PM - Village Council Meeting

Sept 17: 8 PM – Village Council Meeting

Sept 21: Bulk Trash Pick Up