



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019

NOVEMBER VILLAGE MEETING

December 17, 2019; 8 PM; NCC Christian Church

*Approval of Nov Mtg Min *Treasurer's Report

*Permits *Permit Fees *Updates to Rules and Regulations *I-495 Expansion

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Leaf Removal: The Village's leaf contractor is currently scheduled to vacuum leaves through Dec. 31. The Village will assess at that time whether an extension of services will be needed. Please remember that residents are requested to place leaves curbside and ensure the leaves are accessible by truck. Leaves are not to be shredded. Sticks, trash, rocks and other debris will not be collected.

Bulk Trash: Bulk trash pick up is scheduled for December 14. Items must be at curbside by 7 AM. 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.

The Village continues to reach out to charitable organizations about the feasibility of pick up of appropriate material the day before bulk trash. It is unlikely that such a pick up will be scheduled for this upcoming bulk trash but residents will be kept apprised of future donation opportunities.

Recycling Pick Up: Given that Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Wednesday, the Village's contractor will be picking up recycling on Thursday, Dec. 26 and Thursday, Jan. 2. For those

VILLAGE COUNCIL

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Treasurer: Chas Stuart

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Member: Fern Lapidus

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Village of North Chevy Chase

PO Box 15887, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Mobile: 301-654-7084

Fire Board Representatives:

Dave Albinson, Anne Fox, Abby Morris

TDD (MD Relay Service): 1-800-735-2258

Website: www.northchevyCHASE.org

residents who would like to provide a holiday tip to the Village's yard waste and trash/recycling crew, an envelope can be taped to the inside of the lid of their trash receptacle for pick up on Monday, Dec. 23 for the yard waste and Tuesday, Dec. 24 for the general waste/recycling. Please note that the yard waste crew are Jorge Hernandez and Adan Portillo and the trash/recycling crew are Nelson Galvez and Moises Sarabia.

Christmas Tree Pick Up: The Village's contractor will pick up Christmas trees left curbside on the Mondays from January 6 – 27 with the yard waste.

Snow Removal: The Village has signed a contract for snow removal for the upcoming winter season. Village management will attempt to notify residents via the listserv when snow removal is scheduled. The contract provides for automatic mobilization upon snow accumulation of 2" depth. Please note that residents are required to maintain the sidewalks in front of their property reasonably safe for pedestrian travel by removing snow and ice (or spreading sand or calcium magnesium acetate if snow/ice has hardened).

I-495 Expansion: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCCPC) voted unanimously in November to reaffirm a June decision rejecting the state's proposed lane expansions on I-270 and I-495, some citing potential violations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), among other factors.

Separately, on November 12, Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland and Governor Ralph Northam of Virginia announced a partnership – "Capital Beltway Accord" - to expand the American Legion Bridge as part of the overall effort to address traffic along I-495 and I-270. The proposal includes adding two new express lanes in each direction between the George Washington Memorial

Parkway and River Road. The accord indicates that this section of I-495 will be a priority, which counters the State's previous commitment to address I-270 first. The Maryland Board of Public Works (composed of the Governor, Comptroller and State Treasurer) was scheduled to vote on December 4 on a proposal which would include considering the American Legion Bridge and entire top side of the beltway through both Montgomery and Prince George's County, nearly to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, as a single phase of the project. In addition, there are provisions in the proposal that would allow Maryland Department of Transportation to begin purchasing property before any environmental impact statement is completed. At the request of the Comptroller, Governor Hogan agreed to delay this critical vote until December 18. The Village Council is preparing a letter expressing strong concerns about revisions to the agreement in June to focus on I-270. The letter will be shared with residents via the listserv. Additional information from the Village's State Delegates is being shared via the listserv as well.

In addition, the Village Council discussion on beltway expansion is reflected in the summary of the November meeting, below.

Street Lighting: The Village reported in the last newsletter about planned installation of light fixtures at:

- 1) Montgomery Ave near the diverter with Kenilworth Drwy
- 2) Near 3600 Dundee
- 3) Northside of Kenilworth near Kensington Parkway

The Village met with a Pepco representative at the end of November who indicated that the work will likely be completed within the next couple of months. The Village is also now working with Clean Energy Solution, part of a competitive grant awarded to the Maryland

Energy Administration, to receive no-cost technical assistance related to the conversion of all street lights to LED. The consultant will provide estimated costs and energy savings in doing the conversion.

Unleashed Dogs: Many residents are expressing increasing concern about unleashed dogs in the Village. Dog owners are reminded of the following provisions in the Montgomery County Code, Chapter 5, related to Animals and Public Nuisance: **Animal Trespass (Montgomery County Code, Sec. 5-203(a)(3))** -

“An owner must not allow an animal to enter private property without the property owner’s permission. (\$100 fine). Any dog is at large if it is outside the owner’s premises and not leashed, unless it is a service dog, is in a dog exercise area designated by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, or is participating in an approved activity. (\$100 fine for first offense; \$500 fine for each subsequent violation)”

Unwanted Contact -

“The pet owner must prevent unwelcome or unsolicited threatening physical contact or close proximity to a person or a domestic animal that occurs outside the owner’s property that may cause alarm in a reasonable person, such as biting, chasing, tracking, inhibiting movement, or jumping.” (\$500 fine)

Village Code Section 4-204 reinforces the County Code: “It shall be unlawful for any person to permit his or her dog to run at large in violation of the Montgomery County Code.”

County Pesticide Law Restrictions

All residents should have received a mailer from the County related to its pesticide law, which was approved by the County Council in 2015 and upheld by a ruling of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals in May 2019. The law restricts the use of

most synthetic pesticides and herbicides on private lawns, playgrounds, mulched recreation areas and private childcare facilities, which include “weed & feed”/combined fertilizer and pesticide.

The law aims to protect families, pets and the environment from the harmful effects of synthetic chemicals in the air, water and soil. Homeowners, property managers and landscapers should familiarize themselves with the requirements of the law. The law affects property owners and professional landscapers equally, so future contracts for lawn care should only have provisions for the use of organic pesticides or herbicides – i.e. those certified by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), products exempt from EPA labeling under FIFRA 25(b), and those listed by the USDA for use in organic crop production.

If homeowners are still in possession of pesticides that are now banned, they may safely dispose of those pesticides at the household hazardous waste collection site of the Shady Grove Transfer Station in Derwood.

Inquiries can be sent to

AskDEP@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov. Violations

can be reported to the County 311 line. The following website has additional information on restrictions and best tips for a healthy lawn:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns/law/>

School Boundary Analysis: A schedule of outreach activities throughout December and January related to the district-wide school boundary analysis has been posted to: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/boundary-analysis/> The scope of work requires that the consultant review data collected by MCPS and other local and federal agencies regarding demographics, socioeconomic trends, development and transportation trends, and existing school boundaries.

requirements, deferred at applicant's request until Dec meeting.

Chevy Chase Library Book Donations:

As you're preparing for the holidays, please consider donating any books, CDs and DVDs to the Chevy Chase Library. The Friends of the Library sells the books and uses the proceeds to enhance programming and equipment. They accept recent fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks, children's picture books, DVDs, CDs, and books on CD. They cannot accept encyclopedias, magazines, textbooks, or religious tracts. Donations can be deposited any time the library is open in the tub next to the circulation desk.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER COUNCIL

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

Treasurer's Report for October 2019: October income totaled \$40,127 and operating expenses totaled \$33,297 (including waste removal, leaf collection, wages and taxes, landscaping and mowing, street lighting, professional fees). Fiscal year to date revenues through October 2019 of \$80,271 have exceeded expenses of \$76,922. Capital expenditures for current fiscal year come to \$5,185, all of which have been incurred for tree removals and replacements. Total current assets as of October 2019, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, come to \$1,485,203.75.

Permits:

- **3806 Montrose** — Determined that formal approval of hedge replacement not necessary at this time under Village permitting requirements
- **8811 Montgomery Avenue** — Application for POD approved; shed replacement application, including waiver of setback

Action Items: Council approved a resolution for the Village to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Montgomery County regarding debris management, in connection with the Emergency Operations Plan that Montgomery County will submit to FEMA. Having executed the MOU, the Village will be able to obtain reimbursement from FEMA for any expenses incurred in addressing debris from a Declaration of Emergency by State or Federal officials.

Discussion Items:

Permit Fees/Updates to Village Rules and

regulations: The Council reviewed permitting fees of neighboring jurisdictions to inform revisions to the Village's permitting fees. This effort is being undertaken in connection with an ongoing review of Village Regulations. Copies of any proposed revisions will be made available for review by Village residents at least 14 days prior to any Council Meeting scheduled for final consideration of any such revisions, as required pursuant to Section 6.03 of the Village Charter.

I-495 Beltway Expansion: In light of recent correspondence received by some Village residents from MDOT/SHA informing them that SHA officials may need to temporarily enter onto their property to complete field research and survey activities related to the I-495/I-270 Managed Lane Studies, the Village had reached out to its State legislative representatives to alert them of this development and its possible significance with respect to efforts to accelerate plans for Beltway expansion. The Village remains very concerned about proposals for Beltway expansion and the potential adverse impacts on Village residents, and fiscal as well as environmental concerns more generally. The Village Council will continue to express those

concerns as appropriate, to State and County officials, and will continue to monitor developments related to such proposals. (Please note that since the Council meeting, Delegate Carr's office has requested from SHA a list of all properties which have received the letter but SHA has indicated that the Maryland Public Information Act restricts them from sharing those addresses).

Small Cell Tower Developments – The Village Council is aware of and will continue to monitor proposals now pending before the Montgomery County Council (ZTA-19-07) that would allow the placement of small cell transmitters on existing utility poles in closer proximity to residential properties than currently would be permitted under County regulations, and which, in some instances, would allow such transmitter to be located on existing utility poles as close as 30 feet away from individual residences.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

(Courtesy of the Environment Committee)

Planting Billions of Trees Is the 'Best Climate Change Solution Available Today,' Study Finds

Planting more than 500 billion trees could remove around 25% of existing carbon from the atmosphere, a new study has found. What's more: there's enough space to do it.

The [study](#), published in Science, set out to assess how much new forest the earth could support without encroaching on farmland or urban areas and came up with a figure of 0.9 billion hectares, an area roughly the size of the U.S., BBC News reported. "Our study shows clearly that forest restoration is the best climate change solution available today and it provides hard evidence to justify investment," senior study author and ETH-Zürich Professor Tom Crowther said, as [BBC](#) News reported. "If we act now, this could cut carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by up to 25 percent, to levels last seen almost a century ago." Read more at [EcoWatch](#).

Property Tax Credit for Renewable Energy:

Please note that residents may be eligible for a property tax credit for the purchase of energy conservation devices during the year. These do not include standard household appliances but instead, a device that "reduces the demand for conventional fuels or increases the efficiency of these fuels" such as weatherstripping doors/windows, programmable thermostat, and ceiling/attic/wall/floor insulation, among others. Additional information can be found at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Finance/Resources/Files/data/taxes/renewable_energy_tax_credit_application.pdf

Please note that results from the **Village tree survey** are included again at the back of the newsletter due to a formatting error that failed to show each Village street. The Village survey will be posted to the website shortly.

CALENDAR (2019/2020)

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| Dec 14: | Bulk Trash Pick Up |
| Dec 17: | 8 PM – Village Council Meeting |
| Dec. 23: | Voluntary tips for yard waste pick up (can be taped in envelope on underside of yard waste container) |
| Dec. 24: | Voluntary tips for waste/recycling crew (can be taped in envelope on underside of lid of waste container) |
| Dec. 26: | Recycling Pick Up (in lieu of Wed, Dec. 25) |
| Jan. 2: | Recycling Pick Up (in lieu of Wed, Jan. 1) |
| Jan. 6: | 7-9 PM District 18 Delegates Town Hall – Garrett Park (10814 Kenilworth Ave) |
| Jan. 21: | 8 PM – Village Council Meeting |