



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020

FEBRUARY VILLAGE MEETING

February 18, 2020 - 8 PM; NCC Christian Church: *Approval of Jan Mtg Min *Treasurer's Report *Permits *Updates to Rules and Regs/Permit Fees *Live audio option during Council meetings *Council Mtg Start Time

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Taxes: 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.

Parking for Snow Plows: In the event of snow, residents are requested to park on the even side of the street. Cars should be in driveways – as feasible - to facilitate salt application and snow removal.

U.S. Census: The U.S. census (done every 10 years) will take place on April 1. Participation is important. The data collected determines the number of seats Maryland has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used in distributing federal funds to local communities. Every Marylander not counted costs the state approximately \$18,250 over 10 years. The

census will be electronic. Additional information can be found at the following site:

<https://census.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Village Council Elections: Election for three Village Council positions (2-year terms) will be held on May 5, 2020. Per the Village Charter, a Nominating Committee shall be appointed no later than March 1, to comprise at least 3 persons who are Qualified Voters (resident of the Village of North Chevy Chase who is qualified to vote in Montgomery County and who is registered with the Montgomery County

VILLAGE COUNCIL

Chair: Adrian Andreassi
chair@northchevyCHASE.org

Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner
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Secretary: Maury Mechanick
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Treasurer: Chas Stuart
treasurer@northchevyCHASE.org

Member: Fern Lapidus
member@northchevyCHASE.org

Manager: Dana Peterson
nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org

Fire Board Representatives:
Dave Albinson, Anne Fox, Abby Morris
Village of North Chevy Chase
PO Box 15887, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Mobile: 301-654-7084
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Website: www.northchevyCHASE.org

Board of Supervisors of Elections or with the Village Council). Any Qualified Voter can seek nomination for the Council positions by Written Notice up to one week before the elections (April 28). Qualified Voters who are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact the Village Manager.

Village Signs: The Village recently installed the following signs:

- “Stop for pedestrian” signs at Kenilworth/Kensington Pkwy
- “Place trash in receptacle” sign on chain link fence on 3800 block of Inverness
- “Attention Dog Walkers: Please dispose of dog bags in trash bin” on chain link fence on 3800 block of Inverness
- “No parking over storm drain” on either side of 3700 block of Kenilworth
- “No commercial vehicle parking on Village streets between 7 pm and 6 am” on either side of Kenilworth near Church and on Montrose near Church
- “Slow: Children at Play” on both sides of Dundee

Residents are requested to please be alert to children throughout all Village roads. Please note that the pedestrian-activated/solar powered “Stop for Pedestrian” signs at Kensington Parkway/Montrose should be installed within the month, as the installation requirements are a bit more involved.

Land Donation at Montrose/Jones Bridge:

Village management and Councilmembers met with SHA and County representatives on Feb 3 related to donation of the land for a micro-bio retention facility as part of the overall BRAC improvement projects. The landscapers are identifying plants for the bio swell that are native/native cultivars, pollution tolerant, diverse, flowering, deer resistant, and low maintenance. There will be a hedge around the site (possibly Shamrock). SHA agreed to add a waste receptacle near the site and allow the

Village to help maintain the area aesthetically, if necessary. After 1 year of SHA oversight, the County will maintain the area and has indicated they should be monitoring the facility every 6 weeks to ensure proper functioning. It is anticipated that work at the site will start around August and will include staging, constructing an additional bio retention facility across the street at the NCC Elementary School, and laying drainage pipes under Jones Bridge Rd. SHA also confirmed that work will continue along Jones Bridge Rd, as over 30 different crews need to move various utility infrastructure and make stormwater improvements. The dividers along Jones Bridge Rd. will be removed and the sidewalk widened to 4 ft with pervious material. The Village highlighted to SHA the poor quality of Jones Bridge Rd right now and SHA confirmed the road will be repaved at the end of all of the work.

Capital Crescent Trail: The Village joined Coquelin Run Citizens Association in a joint letter to the Montgomery County Council and Executive Erlich to advocate for funding for a tunnel under Wisconsin Ave. as part of the Capital Crescent Trail redevelopment. Current plans have the trail going through high-traffic areas of Wisconsin and Bethesda Ave. before joining the Georgetown Branch Trail.

I-495 Expansion Update: According to a January 29 Maryland Matters article, “MDOT Chief: Saving Homes, Moving Traffic Will Win Major Road and Bridge Contracts”, State Highway Administrator Gary Slater (who the Governor has nominated to serve as Transportation Secretary), recently told the House Environment and Transportation Committee that during the bidding process for

construction of a new American Legion Bridge and widening of I-270 and portions of I-495, SHA will work to find firms that “will minimize the loss of private homes” and ones that keep traffic flowing during construction. While this is a positive statement, a concern Village Councilmembers have raised with State Delegates and SHA officials - and will continue to raise - is what leverage the State will have with a contractor to adhere to proposal commitments once a contract is awarded. The Council will continue to monitor the bidding and contract award process closely.

School Boundary Analysis:

A series of public consultations were held over the past few weeks to solicit citizens’ input on potential school boundary changes throughout Montgomery County. The consultants for the analysis are scheduled to provide an interim project report to the public in February, after which the project will enter Phase II, involving the development of an “interactive tool” to simulate the impact of boundary changes. Additional community meetings will be scheduled after that. A final report is due by June.

Montgomery County Salt-Wise Campaign:

Montgomery County’s Executive – Marc Elrich - and the Department of Environmental Protection have launched an initiative to encourage homeowners to use less salt on sidewalks and driveways during winter storms. Overuse of salt to melt ice and snow results in runoff into stormwater drains, local streams and eventually, to the Chesapeake Bay. It can corrode concrete and masonry, harm pets, damage surrounding plants and lawns and impact the water supply. Salt levels have been

steadily increasing in local streams, posing a risk to sensitive wildlife and stream health. In many cases, salt simply is not needed. Once it gets into waterways, salt does not go away.

Tips include:

- Shovel ice and snow early and often.
- Use one 12-ounce cup of salt for 10 sidewalk squares or for a 20-foot driveway.
- After storm events, sweep up excess sand and salt for reuse.

Additional information can be found at:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/water/education/winter-salt-management.html>.

5G/Small Cell Tower County Regulations:

According to a January 31, 2020 Bethesda Magazine article entitled “Proposal to Allow 5G Antennas Deferred Until June”, a zoning amendment to allow 5G antennas in residential areas has been delayed to allow litigation to be completed with the FCC related to strict guidelines on local jurisdictions’ capacity to address the deployment of 5G technology. The draft zoning amendment, proposed by Councilmember Hans Riemer, would allow 5G antennas up to 60 feet from a residential property; while some antennas could be installed up to 30 feet from a home as a conditional usage. The County currently allows the antennas in commercial and mixed-used zones within 10 feet of existing buildings and in residential zones, all new cell towers must be at least 300 feet from a home.

Special Donation Pick Up – scheduled for Monday, May 11. Ingrid Dallaire with Long and Foster is organizing the service, which will benefit The Purple Heart organization. To register for pick up, email

Ingrid.Dallaire@Longandfoster.com with your name and address by May 4 or call 301-455-6962. More information forthcoming.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY VILLAGE

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

Secretary's Report for December 2019

(Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer's Report for December 2019 (Stuart)

–Results for December 2019 included income of \$8,487, and operating expenses of \$15,781 (including waste removal, leaf collection, wages and taxes, street lighting, and professional fees). Fiscal year to date revenues through December 2019 of \$241,787 have exceeded expenses of \$108,825 by \$132,962. Capital expenditures for the current fiscal year to date come to \$35,053, incurred for tree replacements and removals, road maintenance and sidewalk replacement on Inverness. Total current assets as of December 2019, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, come to \$1,577,120.48.

Permits:

- **8808 Kensington Parkway** — Application approved for fence replacement, including requested waiver of corner lot, side fence height restriction (to 6 ft).
- **8813 Kensington Parkway** – Application approved for dumpster.

Action Items:

Montgomery Municipal Cable Board – The Council decided to nominate Village resident Martin Crowson – who volunteered for the position and demonstrated strong interest in public television - to serve as the Village representative

member on the Board of Montgomery Municipal Cable.

Issues for Discussion/Decision:

Permit Fees/Updates to Village Rules and Regulations

– The Council is continuing its review of Village regulations and permit fees and is also looking into how to address Airbnb/short-term rentals and the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units. The Council expects to provisionally approve specific revisions to its Code of Ordinances at either its Feb or March meeting. Village residents will have access to the proposed changes and will be afforded the opportunity to provide comments/views, with final approval by the Council of the updated Code of Ordinances - taking into consideration any residents' comments - at the following meeting of the Council. This process follows the requirements set forth in Section 6.03 of the Village Charter and is fully consistent with the process followed in 2017 when the regulations were last updated.

Tree Maintenance Proposal – The Council agreed to a tree maintenance/removal contract with Bartlett Tree Experts for Village tree removal and pruning work at 3800 Inverness Drive and pruning at 8911 Montgomery Avenue.

Free Night-Time Illuminators for Kensington Parkway/Montrose Intersection – The Council decided to accept the gracious offer of Tapco to supply and install, at no charge, pedestrian-activated illuminators to light one lane on either side of the Kensington Pkwy/Montrose intersection, in connection with the installation of additional pedestrian safety signage that the Village had already procured for that location. Tapco will use the illuminators in the Village to highlight innovative pedestrian-safety technology to MDOT and other stakeholders.

Hiring of Engineering Consultant to Assess Village Road Maintenance Needs – The Council decided to retain the civil engineering services of Clark/Azar & Associates to conduct a comprehensive review of all Village streets and sidewalks, to determine maintenance or resurfacing needs over the next five to ten years. The results of this assessment will inform a more comprehensive five-year capital plan and budget for the Village.

Consideration of Shifting Council Meeting Start Time to 7:30 pm – At the previous Council meeting, one Council member had raised the possibility of a change in the start time for Council meetings, from 8:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Given the potential impact (either beneficial or detrimental) on Village residents of such a change, the Village Manager was requested to gain input from Village residents for such a change prior to a Council decision. If residents have a particular perspective on moving the monthly Council meeting start time to 7:30 p.m., please share your preference with the Village Manager via email, phone, text -- whatever is most convenient. The Council will make a decision on whether to revise the start time at the Feb. 18 Council meeting.

Environment Committee: The Village Council also received an informal presentation from a representative of the Environment Committee on preliminary plans for a Village-wide event related to Earth Day.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

(Courtesy of the Environment Committee)

The Environment Committee is planning a celebration for Village residents of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day on Sunday, April 26 from 2-5 p.m. Committee members are working

to have a range of resources available to residents, including:

- A Master Gardener to inform residents of options related to rain gardens, indigenous plants, and zero scaping.
- An opportunity to sign up for trees with Tree Montgomery.
- Information on waste reduction, including composting.
- Activities for youth, including face painting and a nature walk to the Audubon as part of a City Nature Challenge: <http://citynaturechallenge.org>

Additional details forthcoming.

CALENDAR (2020)

Feb 18:	8 PM:	Village Council Meeting
March 17:		Village Council Meeting
March 21:		Bulk Trash Pick Up
April 1:		U.S. Census
April 21:		Village Council Meeting (Annual Budget Review)
April 26:		Earth Day Celebration (2-5 PM)
April 28:		Declarations Due for Candidacy of Village Elections
May 5:	7:30 PM: 8 PM:	Village Elections Annual Meeting
May 11:		Donation Pick Up (register in advance)
June 16:		Village Council Meeting
July 21:		Village Council Meeting