



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020

APRIL VILLAGE MEETING

April 21, 2020 - 8 PM – Zoom platform
(instructions will be sent to the Village's email list) *Approval of Mar Mtg Min *Treasurer's Report *Permits *Emergency Elections Ordinance *Final Approval of Updated Code of Ordinances/Permit Fees *FY21 Budget Approval

IMPORTANT NOTICES

COVID-19

The Village hopes all residents are staying safe and well. Per Village emails, below are recommended websites to receive up-to-date information on COVID-19.

For the latest updates from the County on COVID-19, please go to:
<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/RightNav/Coronavirus.html>

For the latest updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, please go to:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

While schools and public facilities are closed, Montgomery County government services are continuing. Check the county's website for updated information on public services:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/COVID19-Closures.html>

Staying Connected: Given the fluid situation with the COVID-19 response and the potential impact to municipal services and the need to communicate time-sensitive information to residents between monthly newsletters, including about 2020 Village elections, it is critical that Village management have contact information for each resident. For those residents who have provided their email addresses but are not receiving Village notices electronically (approximately 2-3 are sent weekly), please check your spam/junk folder. To be added to the email distribution, please send your email address and phone number to

VILLAGE COUNCIL

Chair: Adrian Andreassi
chair@northchevychase.org
Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner
vicechair@northchevychase.org
Secretary: Maury Mechanick
secretary@northchevychase.org
Treasurer: Chas Stuart
treasurer@northchevychase.org
Member: Fern Lapidus
member@northchevychase.org
Manager: Dana Peterson
nccinfo@northchevychase.org
Fire Board Representatives:
Dave Albinson, Abby Morris
Village of North Chevy Chase
PO Box 15887, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Mobile: 301-654-7084
TDD (MD Relay Service): 1-800-735-2258
Website: www.northchevychase.org

the Village Manager at nccinfo@northchevychase.org or via text to the Village mobile at 301-654-7084. If you do not utilize email, it would be helpful to briefly call the Village to ensure updated phone information is available for you. In addition, residents have reached out trying to find contact information for their neighbors through the online directory (password protected) on the Village website. If you would like to be added to the directory, please notify the Village Manager.

Village Council Elections:

Election for three Village Council positions (2-year terms) will be held on May 5, 2020. Given Governor Hogan's emergency declaration and social distancing requirements, Village elections will be via mail-in, absentee ballot only. The Village Council approved three Charter amendments and introduced an emergency elections ordinance (all prepared by the Village attorney) on April 2 to address the election modifications (these are posted on the Village website). Any Qualified Voter is eligible to nominate him/herself or another by no later than April 14 to the Village Nominating Committee (Brigitte Akalovsky, Helen Santiago Fink, Fern Lapidus). Village residents will be notified on April 15 via the email distribution list and Village website whether the number of candidates equals the number of electable Council positions, in which case there will be no election and the three candidates will assume the Council positions at the Annual Meeting. If the number of candidates exceed the electable positions, residents can request an absentee ballot by contacting the Village Manager no later than Friday, April 17. Absentee ballots will be delivered electronically, via email, or

dropped off to the requester with social distancing protocols no later than Monday, April 20. Bios for the three candidates who have already declared candidacy are included at the end of this newsletter.

April 21 Council Meeting/FY21 Draft Budget:

At the April 21 meeting, the Village Council will be approving the FY21 budget – the draft is attached to this newsletter. Highlights include: no proposed changes to the real property tax rate (0.045) and personal property rate (0.13) for the Village (note these have been the same rates since FY18); the draft net income after operating expenses and capital budget set asides is \$68,000; all operating expenses incorporate a 2.5% inflation rate; the line item for state income tax assumes the potential for a 30% reduction from FY20; the line item for revenue sharing from the County has been zeroed out as a worst case scenario given the County's COVID-19 resource allocations; and the snow removal doubles the average spent from FY15-19, recognizing that in FY20, \$18,000 was budgeted and the Village only spent \$656. In addition, the Village Council plans final consideration of the revised Code of Ordinances and Permit Application. Residents on the Village email distribution list received the two documents on March 19. They have also been posted to the Village website. Changes to the text of the ordinances have been highlighted in yellow (formatting changes are not shown in tracked changes) and a summary of the key updates is presented on the first page of the Code of Ordinances document. Residents are requested to provide any written feedback/comments by Wednesday, April 15.

Taxes: In light of COVID-19, Maryland's Comptroller has extended the deadline for tax filings and payments to July 15, 2020. 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.

2020 Census: This is a reminder to please complete the 2020 census at <https://2020census.gov/> (which has been extended in light of COVID-19). Census responses will impact numerous critical services to the citizens of Maryland. Invitations to respond to the 2020 Census started to arrive in households around March 12 and included a unique ID identifying your household. You can respond to the 2020 Census online, via phone or paper questionnaire. The census is set up for one response per household and you are to provide basic head count information about everyone living in your household, regardless of their citizenship. (Please note that the census will not include a citizenship question, and by law all census information collected must be kept confidential.)

Jones Bridge Construction Work: SHA and the utility companies continue to move forward on the BRAC intersection improvements at Connecticut Ave and along Jones Bridge Rd. Residents may have noticed substantial pruning of trees on the northside of Jones Bridge across from the school. SHA has confirmed that all six trees near the road will be removed likely within the year given the sidewalk upgrades and no replacements are anticipated.

Vehicular Speeds: Village management spoke with the manager of Montgomery County's Automated Traffic Enforcement Unit about the possibility of placing speeding camera(s) on Kensington Parkway. The manager confirmed that Kensington Pkwy will be added to a list of sites for an analysis of vehicular speeds. Speeding violations from cameras must exceed the speed limit by 12 mph (37 mph for Kensington Pkwy). The analysis will capture the number of vehicles and speeds at different times of the day as well as where possible camera placement would go, as vehicles parked on the side of the road would obstruct the cameras. Given the County's COVID-19 response requirements, it may take up to 6 months to complete the analysis.

It should also be noted that the Village had intended its contractor to install "stop for pedestrian" signs above the pedestrian-activated lights at Montrose and Kensington Pkwy; however, the installers highlighted that the pedestrian-specific signs were more prevalent at school crosswalks and would be useful there.

Vehicular Thefts: A number of vehicular thefts occurred in the Village in early March. Residents are strongly advised to follow the following prevention tips: always lock vehicles; roll up windows; leave in a well-lit area; do not leave valuables in the car, especially cell phones, GPS units, satellite radios, money, purses, and laptops. Law enforcement has also indicated that cameras/surveillance systems on private property have proven useful in helping to identify and pursue thieves.

I-495/I-270 Toll Lane Project: Before the Maryland Legislative session ended early due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maryland House of Delegates approved three bills – one of which was sponsored by one of the Village’s Delegates, Jared Solomon – to place conditions on utilizing a public-private partnership to finance, construct, and operate a beltway expansion project. However, the legislation was not taken up in the State Senate.

According to a March 13, 2020 Maryland Matters article entitled “Express Toll Lanes Could Raise Water Bills in Montgomery and Prince George’s”, given that WSSC – the utility that provides water and sewer services to Montgomery and Prince George’s counties - has significantly large pipes near I-495, “(it) could be forced to spend \$2 billion to move pipes and other infrastructure to accommodate the planned widening of Interstate 270 and the Capital Beltway, agency officials told local lawmakers. That expense — which officials said represented a worst-case scenario — could add thousands of dollars to the utility bills paid by residents of the two counties.” The article also highlighted the required replacement of “thousands” of other features such as storm water ponds, drains, bridge abutments and piers.

School Boundary Analysis: The school boundary analysis was posted on MCPS’s website on March 18 prematurely, as the school district had intended to further delay its release given school closures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. MCPS has indicated that additional information on next steps will be shared at a later date. Meanwhile, the analysis remains on the website and can be accessed

at:
https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/publicinfo/Boundary_Analysis/interim-report/MCPS_InterimReport_Full.pdf

Postponed Events: The 50-year celebration of Earth Day, scheduled for April 26, has been postponed due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements. The special donation pick up, scheduled for Monday, May 11, has been postponed as well.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH 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 Feb 2020 – Approved.
Treasurer’s Report for Feb 2020 (Stuart) – Results for February 2020 included income of \$68,732, and operating expenses of \$27,793 (including waste removal, leaf collection, wages and taxes, street lighting, and professional fees). Fiscal year to date revenues through February 2020 of \$349,737 have exceeded operating expenses of \$159,233 by \$190,504. Capital expenditures for the current fiscal year to date come to \$40,973, incurred for tree replacements and removals, road maintenance and sidewalk replacement on Inverness. Total current assets as of February 2020, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, come to \$1,643,886.

Action Items:

Code of Ordinances: The Council unanimously, provisionally approved updates to the Code of Ordinances (formerly known as Rules & Regulations). The updates include incorporating a Site Management Conditions Agreement for certain permitted activities,

addressing accessory dwelling units and short- and long-term rental licensing, clarifying definitions for commercial vehicles and junk vehicles, adding criteria for speed humps, and elaborating on tree protection measures, among others. As noted above, revised language is marked in yellow on the document on the website.

Permit Application and Fees: The Council discussed the appropriateness of increasing the permit fees to coincide with fees charged in neighboring municipalities. The biggest increases relate to new home construction (\$4,000) and exterior additions/modifications (\$500-\$1000 depending on footprint change). There was significant discussion about the wear and tear on Village roads from new home construction and various exterior modifications and the value of permit fees supporting the Village with road maintenance, for which it is financially responsible.

Tree Maintenance Proposals: The Council approved crown cleaning of a red maple at 3703 Stewart Drwy, crown cleaning of a dogwood at 3703 Inverness Dr, and removal of a dogwood at 3703 Inverness Dr.

FY21 Budget: The Village Manager provided an overview of the draft FY21 budget.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

(Courtesy of the Environment Committee)

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, our neighbors at the Audubon Naturalist Society are offering beautifully packaged container gardens of native flowers. Order online at www.anshome.org/pollinatorplanters and pick up outdoors at Audubon after April 26 (with social distancing in place) or request delivery.

CALENDAR (2020)

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| April 2: | Extraordinary Council Meeting
(Address Charter amendments, introduce emergency elections ordinance) |
| April 21: | Village Council Meeting |
| May 5: | Village Elections/Annual Meeting |
| June 16: | Village Council Meeting |
| June 20: | Bulk Trash Pick Up |
| July 21: | Village Council Meeting |

CANDIDATES for 2020 VILLAGE COUNCIL POSITIONS:

Adrian Andreassi

I have lived in the Village since 2001 and am a lifelong Bethesda-Chevy Chase resident. I grew up in East Bethesda and attended Lynbrook Elementary School, Leland Junior High School and BCC High School. I have worked for almost 40 years in the residential remodeling business and have been with my current employer since 1988 and have worn many hats along the way. My building and remodeling experience and knowledge of zoning regulations and building codes in DC, Maryland and Virginia makes me well suited to review proposed remodeling or home building activities within the Village. I have served on the Village Council since about 2002. I have a wonderful wife, Beth who gave me three great daughters --Maddalena, Alexandra and Olivia. I am blessed with a feisty 97-year-old mother. I have a miniature poodle named Scout and she has a cute underbite. Diagnosed with lymphoma in 2004 and still here to talk about it! My hobbies include bicycle riding, working on cars and home projects, going to the gym and sampling single malt scotch whisky.

Ronald Jones

Ronald Jones serves as the Principal Owner of Kompass, LLC, which provides management consulting, venture capital, and executive mentoring to help structure his client's organizations to pave the way for creativity, innovation, and most importantly growth. For 15 years, Ronald served as the Director of Business Development and Sales Engineering for Ciena Government Solutions, where he focused on the mission of serving the US Department of Defense, crafting innovative technical and financial solutions to meet the needs of the government and his employer. Ronald has held many leadership roles with telecommunications providers including Verizon Business, Qwest Communications, and Hughes Network Systems. Ronald is a LEAD corporate innovator and holds an executive certification from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business and is currently an Executive MBA candidate at the Columbia School of Business in New York. He is a proud graduate of The Johns Hopkins University with a Masters degree in Computer Science, and he is an alumni of Prairie View A&M University with two Bachelor of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering. Outside of the office, Ronald enjoys his other passions in life – including music composition. Owing his love for music to his High School band teachers, Ronald continues to explore his self-developed talent for piano and composing whenever he has a free minute to spare outside of the office. In addition to his love for piano, Ronald is also an avid coffee drinker and is a practicing Barista. Ronald also enjoys recreational rock climbing and training his best friend, Murphy (Labrador Retriever). Serving in past leadership roles such as President of the Hillside Condominium Association in Washington DC have strengthened many of his soft skills required to serve and lead diverse groups of people ranging in age and interests.

Maury Mechanick

I have been a resident of the Village for 25 years (since 1995). Professionally, I have been either an attorney in private practice or an executive in the satellite industry, until I retired in 2017. Most recently, I served as Counsel in the DC Office of the international law firm, White & Case LLP (2002-2017). Starting in 2012, I have been elected as a member of the Village of North Chevy Chase Council and served as Secretary for four terms. I have taken a leadership role on behalf of the Village on a number of issues affecting Village life, including updating the Village's regulations and website; re-development of Chevy Chase Lake; pedestrian safety in the Village, and various issues involving the Maryland State Highway Administration (herbicide spraying, Salt Barn relocation and, most recently, Beltway expansion). I have testified on behalf of the Village on numerous occasions before the County Planning Board and the County Council on these issues, and led Village efforts to influence Maryland Comptroller Franchot to hold firm on keeping the Montgomery County portion of the proposed Beltway expansion in Phase 2 of that project rather than accelerating it to Phase 1. I am usually quite visible walking the Village streets multiple times a day, with my wife and our dog, Teddy Roosevelt Ruff Rider.