



## VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2020

### JUNE VILLAGE MEETING

June 16, 2020 – 7:30 PM – Zoom platform  
(instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) \*Approval of May Mtg Min \*Treasurer’s Report \*Permits \*Chicken Coops \*Tree Maintenance \*Capital Improvement Projects

### 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, including a data dashboard to highlight progress on criteria for reopening the County, 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>

**Village Election Results:** Pursuant to the Emergency Elections Ordinance adopted at the April 21, 2020 Council meeting, given that the number of candidates for the Village Council equaled the number of positions up for election (three), the nominees previously reported -- Adrian Andreassi, Maury Mechanick and Ronald Jones – were deemed elected to two-year Council terms, effective as of May 5, 2020. The Village extends special appreciation to Fern Lapidus, who did not seek reelection to the Village Council after having served as a member for 10 years. The Council also would

#### VILLAGE COUNCIL

Chair: Adrian Andreassi  
[chair@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:chair@northchevyCHASE.org)  
Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner  
[vicechair@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:vicechair@northchevyCHASE.org)  
Secretary: Maury Mechanick  
[secretary@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:secretary@northchevyCHASE.org)  
Treasurer: Chas Stuart  
[treasurer@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:treasurer@northchevyCHASE.org)  
Member: Ronald Jones  
[member@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:member@northchevyCHASE.org)  
Manager: Dana Peterson  
[nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto: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](http://www.northchevyCHASE.org)

like to recognize the many years of service of Anne Fox as a Village Representative to the Montgomery County Fire Board. Residents interested in serving as a Fire Board Representative should contact the Village Manager.

**Village Tax Rate:** Residents who participated in the virtual Annual Meeting voted in favor of the Village tax rate, which is unchanged from last year and the year prior. The tax for FY21 will be \$0.045 (per \$100 assessed value) for real property and \$0.13 (per \$100 assessed value) for personal property.

**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). The Village's response rate currently totals 67.9%. Please note that census responses will impact numerous critical services to the citizens of Maryland, including resource allocation by the federal, State and County governments to our Village in the event of disasters. It is estimated that every Marylander not counted costs the State \$18,000 per person over the next decade.

**Voluntary Tips for Waste/Recycling Crew:**

For those residents who would like to provide a tip to the Village's waste and recycling crew, recognizing the consistent service the crew members have provided throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, an envelope can be taped to the inside of the lid of your trash receptacles for pick up on Tuesday, June 16. Please note that the crew during this pandemic have been Carlos and Moises.

**Capital Crescent Trail:**

It appears that Montgomery County plans to allocate \$54 million for the Capital Crescent Train Tunnel in Bethesda. The County Council's unanimous approval to fund the construction came after significant citizen advocacy (the Village joined Coquelin Run Citizens Association on a letter to County Council members as well). The tunnel will allow those using the Capital Crescent Trail to avoid crossing Wisconsin Ave and will provide access to a future Purple Line stop on the basement of a mixed-use development, coming to ground level at Elm Street Park. Designs include a 980-foot tunnel with 12.5-foot ceilings and a 16-foot-wide cycle track, as well as security cameras, blue light phones and cell phone coverage. Construction on the tunnel is slated to begin in 2023, with completion in 2026.

**WSSC Rate Increase:**

In a unanimous straw vote at its meeting on April 30, the Montgomery County Council supported a 6 percent increase for WSSC water and sewer rates for the coming fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2020. The Council's recommendation is \$6.5 million less than the 7 percent increase that County Executive Marc Elrich proposed.

**I-495/I-270 Toll Lane Project:** The Montgomery County and Prince George's County Councils sent a joint letter to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) on May 13 expressing deep concern over potential costs to WSSC ratepayers that may arise if MDOT's P3 widening plans are implemented. Montgomery County Councilmembers Katz, Hucker, Alborno, Jawando, Navarro, Glass and Riemer signed the letter. A recent briefing by WSSC to a joint session of the transportation committees of both Councils showed that the average WSSC customer could see added costs of \$2,250 to their water bill over the next 20 years if MDOT's P3 widening program proceeds. A 1958 agreement between the two entities requires WSSC to fund the relocation of water pipes that need to be moved for highway widenings on state roads.

**Updated Pepco Service:** Pepco encourages residents to visit [pepco.com/mobileapp](http://pepco.com/mobileapp) to download their mobile app, which has many resources to keep customers informed during a storm. Pepco has also added a new feature this year that allows customers to report a live outage by texting "Out" to report an outage on their mobile device. Pepco customers can text "Out" to "48710". Customers must first text "ADD OUTAGE" to "48710" to sign up for this service. Your mobile number needs to be added to your Pepco account for it to work.

**Chevy Chase Library:** The Friends of the Library, Chevy Chase Chapter, recently sent a letter to various stakeholders about the County's proposal to tear down the existing Chevy Chase Library structure and replace it with a new library, which could be part of a new

residential development in the library's current location. They welcome thoughts from the community on this proposed development, which can be sent to [folchevychase@gmail.com](mailto:folchevychase@gmail.com). Additional information on the assessment of the current library's infrastructure (which identified significant repair requirements) as well as the County's "Request for Developer Expressions of Interest" to explore a possible public-private partnership can be found at: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DGS-BDC/711502-Chevy-Chase.html>.

**Maintenance of Yards:** The Village would like to remind residents of the Village's Ordinance (Section 4-202) related to maintenance of yards: "A: The owner of a yard or vacant lot, or his/her designated agent or lessee, shall maintain such yard or lot in a safe and sanitary condition including the unimproved right-of-way abutting his/her property. Every yard and vacant lot shall be kept free on a timely basis from accumulation of rubbish, lawn and garden debris, or hazardous or toxic material, and shall be kept free of garbage. Nothing in this section shall require repair to public improvements in the right-of-way. B. The owner of a yard or vacant lot shall not permit or allow any grass (other than ornamental grasses) or weeds to grow on such yard or lot to a height in excess of six (6) inches above the ground, nor shall such owner permit any ground cover, bushes or hedges to extend into improved portions of the public right-of-way."

**Pesticides:** Now that spring/summer has arrived, many residents are working at having greener lawns. Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

encourages enthusiastic lawn care but reminds residents that the County's pesticides law is in effect, which affects property owners and professional landscapers equally. Contracts for lawn care should have provisions that include the use of organic pesticides or herbicides. Homeowners who have banned pesticides should hold onto them until COVID-19-related restrictions have been lifted. After that, they can safely dispose of them at the household hazardous waste collection site at Shady Grove Transfer Station in Derwood. Additional information can be found at:  
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns/law/>

#### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY COUNCIL**

**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 April 2020** - Approved.

**Treasurer's Report April 2020** - To be presented, along with the May 2020 report, at the next Council meeting on June 16.

#### **Permits**

- **8901 Kensington Parkway** – new fence approved (includes waiver to accommodate 6' on a portion of the fence along Kenilworth Driveway).

#### **Action Items:**

##### **Proclamation on National Gun Violence**

**Awareness Day** – The Council unanimously adopted a proclamation declaring June 5 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day within the Village of North Chevy Chase, to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence, to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence, and to encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts

to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives. In recognition of this day, the Village will be hanging orange ribbons on its municipal signs. The Village understands that this nation-wide effort will include lighting the Empire State Building in orange.

**FY21 Budget** – The Council recommended that Village residents approve the proposed Village real and property tax rates for FY 2021 of \$0.045 (per \$100 of assessed value) for real property and of \$0.13 (per \$100 of assessed value) for personal property.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM ANNUAL MEETING**

The Chair presented his **Annual Report** on the State of the Village (a full copy of which has been posted on the Village website), including a presentation of the FY21 Village operating and capital budgets as approved by the Village Council at its April 21, 2020 meeting.

Village residents approved the Village tax rates for FY21.

**Council Meeting Start Time:** Based on discussion and input from Village residents, the Village Council announced that future monthly Council meetings would start at 7:30 pm instead of 8:00 pm, in an effort to facilitate greater participation by Village residents and end the meeting earlier in the evening.

The **Oath of Office** was administered to Village Councilmembers Adrian Andreassi, Brian Hoffner, Maury Mechanick, Chas Stuart and Ronald Jones for the upcoming twelve-month period.

**Temporary RV parking permit** – In April, the Village Council approved a temporary parking permit for an RV parked along the 8900 block of Clifford Ave near Kenilworth Drwy. The RV is part of the RVs for MDs initiative

(<https://rvsformds.com/>) that helps provide housing for first responders to stay close to their family but not risk their health as responders care for COVID-19 patients at work. There are a number of health care workers who live in the Village and the Village Council is grateful for the service of this resident and all other health care workers and those on the front lines in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Food Drive:** The NCC Christian Church at 8814 Kensington Parkway is organizing a drive-through, drop off of healthy choice dry & canned food items on Saturday, June 13 and Saturday, July 11 from 2-4 PM. The following items will be accepted: soup, mac and cheese, canned fruit, peanut butter, canned vegetables, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, canned protein (tuna, chicken, etc.). The Church appreciates the community's generosity in these times when the need for food has increased and the supply decreased, significantly.

**Pet of the Month:** The Village would like to continue to honor the wonderful pets in the neighborhood on the Village website. Please send a photograph, accompanied by a brief narrative text, of your pet to the Village Secretary (Maury Mechanick) at [secretary@northchevychase.org](mailto:secretary@northchevychase.org).

**Bulk Trash:** Bulk trash pickup is scheduled for June 20. 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.

Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are limited charitable donation pick-ups. The Village hopes to arrange a pick-up of charitable items prior to the September bulk trash.

#### CALENDAR (2020)

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|----------|---|
| June 5   | National Gun Violence Awareness Day         |
| June 13  | NCC Christian Church Food Drop Off (2-4 PM) |
| June 16: | Voluntary Tips to Waste/Recycling Crew      |
| June 16: | Village Council Meeting (7:30 PM)           |
| June 20: | Bulk Trash Pick-Up                          |
| July 11: | NCC Christian Church Food Drop Off (2-4 PM) |
| July 21: | Village Council Meeting                     |

## SUSTAINABLE LIVING

(Courtesy of Village Environment Committee)

This short article is based on information from the Washington Post and Douglas Tallamy's book "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in your Yard."

During this unusual time of quarantine and orders to stay planted, at home, I have found tremendous solace in my garden. Many of us have. I have enjoyed watching the birds and the bugs. In fact, without the bugs we would not have birds. Baby birds eat only bugs for survival, mostly caterpillars. This helps make a case for us to create lawns and gardens that host these creatures. Currently 1 million plant and animal species, mostly bugs, are at risk of extinction. Without bugs, the rest of the natural world is at risk. Flowering plants and the food webs they support - reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals - will vanish without bugs. We take for granted the decomposition of organic matter, composting, but even this would not happen without bugs. Decomposition is essential for human existence.



Well-manicured lawns can act like "ecological wastelands," but simple changes can fix that. Seventy three percent of the continental United States is privately owned. Twenty million acres of this is planted in lawns. 20 million acres is more land than 10 of our favorite and largest national parks combined - the Everglades, Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Teton, Canyonlands, Olympic, Sequoia, Grand Canyon, Denali, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. With this in mind, we have a tremendous opportunity to save bio systems by just turning even part of our lawns into ecosystems. Just think, we could all be part of the "largest conservation effort in history," if we all just do a small part.

## WHERE TO BUY NATIVE PLANTS

- Nature by Design in Alexandria, VA has a large selection of native plants and offers curbside pick-up. See their 2020 plant list at: <https://www.nature-by-design.com/>.
- Izel Native Plants (online). Visit [www.izelplants.com](http://www.izelplants.com)
- The Audubon, our neighbor on Briery Road, has resources to begin planting our yards with native plants which are good for the bugs, birds and butterflies.

## PESTICIDES AND ALTERNATIVES

Besides planting native species, try to resist using pesticides and herbicides in our yards. The County has laws limiting use of pesticides. Mosquito yard sprays are popular, but they kill all insects in the yard, not just mosquitoes. Get rid of mosquitoes by removing the water where they breed: clean out gutters, trap mosquito larvae by putting a straw in a bucket of water and adding "mosquito dunk" (a small disc sold at garden centers that targets only mosquitos), and keep yard toys, equipment and birdbaths free of standing water. Learn more: <http://conservationblog.anshome.org/blog/nature-friendly-ways-to-combat-mosquitoes-and-ticks/>

Mary Travaglini, program manager for Montgomery County's organic lawn and landscape program, says many of the weed products residents have grown accustomed to are no longer legal and that organic lawn care is not difficult. She recommends 1. Leave grass clippings on lawns to provide nitrogen to the grass. 2. Overseed in the spring to prevent weeds. 3. Cut grass over 3 inches to shade the ground and prevent weeds from germinating. 4. Water lawns during dry spells to limit weed growth.