



**VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2020**

DECEMBER VILLAGE MEETING

December 15, 2020 – 7:30 PM – Zoom platform
(instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) *Approval of Nov Min *Treasurer’s Report
*Permits *Ordinance Violations

CALENDAR (2020)

- December 10: Pilot Curbside Donation – bagged clothing
- December 11: Pilot Curbside Donation – Non-clothing, furniture
- December 12: Bulk Trash Pick Up
- December 15: Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM Virtual
- December 22: Voluntary tips for waste/recycling collection (can be taped in envelope on underside of waste container)
- Dec 25/Jan 1 No Household Waste Pick Up

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES

Donations Prior to Bulk Trash Pick Up: As a pilot effort to help residents donate reusable/donatable items prior to bulk trash pickup, the Village has arranged with Donation Nation to come through the Village in advance of the December 12 bulk trash pickup. Donation Nation is a 501©3 whose mission is to reduce landfill waste and supply a variety of tangible and economic resources to benefit the growth of the nonprofit sector. Donation Nation accepts furniture and appliances, household items such as dishes and glassware (they ask

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that those items be boxed up and not mildewy or significantly stained) and office furniture and furnishings such as chairs, computers, copy machines, filing cabinets, desks and more. They also accept clothing but request that it be placed in a bag. They will bring the items to their storage facility and work with their partners to determine if it can be salvaged for textile materials or simply reused. Pick up of bagged clothing curbside will be on **Thursday, December 10** and non-clothing and furniture will be picked up on **Friday, December 11**. No specific timeframe is scheduled both days - the Village was informed that trucks will be in the area throughout the day. Additional information on the organization can be found at:

<https://www.donationnationusa.org/>

Bulk Trash: Bulk trash pickup is scheduled for **Saturday, December 12**. 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.

Gratuities for Waste/Recycling Crews: For those residents who would like to provide a voluntary holiday tip to the Village's waste/recycling crew, an envelope can be taped to the inside of the lid of their trash receptacle for pick up on Tuesday, **December 22**. Please note that the crew are Carlos Fuentes and Francisco Perez.

Holiday Waste Pick Up: Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Fridays this year. There will no pick up of household waste either day. Household waste will be collected the Tuesdays prior and post. In addition, Christmas trees can be left curbside for pick up any Monday the month of January.

Snow Removal: The Village is finalizing a contract for snow removal for the upcoming winter season. Village management will attempt to notify residents via the email distribution list 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 within 24 hours of snowfall ceasing (or spreading sand or calcium magnesium acetate if snow/ice has hardened).

Leaf Pick Up: Street leaf pick up will likely end the week of January 4, weather permitting. Bethke Landscaping is the Village contractor. Mondays are the scheduled day each week – if there is rain, it will be Tuesday. The contractor may come more than once per week if their schedule permits. Leaves are to be placed curbside and made accessible for pick up by truck (please note that given the traffic flow on Kensington Parkway, residents can place leaves on the grassy area but ensure they are right next to the street to facilitate reach of the vacuums). Sticks, trash, rocks and other debris will not be collected and will be left curbside. Leaves are not to be shredded.

NCC Christian Church Parking Lot: The church at 8814 Kensington Parkway notified the Village that some individuals in the area have set up skateboard ramps in the church's parking lot recently. Please note that the parking lot is private property and anything

placed and left there will be considered property of the church.

New Residents:

3807 Montrose: A family is temporarily renting the home at 3807 Montrose Drwy through June.

GENERAL INTEREST

I-495/I-270 Toll Lane Project:

The comment period on the proposed I-495/I-270 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) ended on November 9. According to SHA, the state received close to 3,000 comments over the 120-day public comment period. State officials are currently reviewing the comments and conducting additional analysis. Responses to the comments will be included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (release date not clear).

Below are highlights of some of the final comments the State received.

According to Bethesda Magazine, November 25 article “State Expects I-495/I-270 Widening to Proceed Despite Navy’s Opposition”, the U.S. Navy sent comments on November 4 noting that “although the state’s Department of Transportation asserts that it will acquire Navy property for the construction of toll roads, the Navy ‘will not cede any property for the construction of this toll road...doing so would compromise Antiterrorism/Force Protection guidelines and impact the Naval Support Activity Bethesda mission.’” It should be noted that “in a statement provided to Bethesda Beat (on Nov 24), the State indicated that it is ‘confident that (they) will partner together again to provide congestion relief for the users of I-495 and I-270 while ensuring critical national security functions are not compromised in any manner.’”

“The County Executive and Council sent a joint letter raising ongoing concerns with the

analyses for the DEIS and reaffirming the County’s support for the MD-200 Diversion Alternative as its preferred alternative for reducing congestion on the eastern portion of I-495, while supporting managed lanes on I-270 and the western portion of I-495, where the existing right-of-way is much wider. The letter also raised significant concerns about the proposed public-private partnership (P3) model and the financial viability of the proposal.” (“Council Finalizes Comments on I-495/I-270 Widening Study” Bethesda Beats, 11/06/2020)

A “group of 51 local and regional organizations and officials (including the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter and Audubon Naturalist Society) sent the state more than 200 pages of comments opposing adding managed lanes and supporting a no-build alternative. Among the group’s comments were concerns about the project cost, toll-lane rates, effect on water quality, impacts to property, inadequate details on environmental concerns...and a lack of analysis for air emissions and noise impacts.” (Bethesda Beats “51 Organizations, Officials weigh in on I-270/I-495 Widening” (November 11, 2020)

“Comments by AAA, the Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance (SMTA), and the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance supported Alternative 9 in the draft plan, which would add two ‘managed lanes’ in each direction on the Capital Beltway from the American Legion Bridge east to I-270. Four new lanes would also be built along I-270 from the Beltway north to I-370. All three groups said that expected increases in the capital region’s population — compiled before the COVID-19 pandemic — underscore the need to expand transportation capacity now, and to do so while interest rates are low and people needs jobs.” (Maryland Matters article – November 11, 2020 “Business Groups Cheer Highway Plan; Glendening Calls State Approach ‘Nonsense’”)

Related to I-495 congestion, Maryland and Virginia are requesting the public's input via a survey on solutions to reduce congestion on the I-495 American Legion Bridge. Please find here a link to the survey for those who would like to contribute feedback: [We Want Your Input! I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit/TDM Study Survey 2 \(jotform.com\)](#) Recommended potential options for improved travel across the bridge will be in a joint study: [DRPT \(virginia.gov\)](#)

Purple Line: According to a Maryland Department of Transportation press release on November 24, "The State of Maryland and its partners – Meridiam, Star America and Fluor - today announced they have reached a \$250 million agreement that settles all outstanding financial claims and terminates the current litigation between the parties regarding the Purple Line project. As part of the settlement agreement, Purple Line Transit Partners P3 Agreement will proceed with just Meridiam and Star America as P3 developers and equity partners. A formal settlement agreement will go before the Board of Public Works (BPW) in December for review and approval. With this progress in the negotiations, the parties have agreed to put all pending claims and litigation on hold pending BPW review of the settlement agreement....If approved by BPW, Meridiam and Star America would initiate a solicitation for a new design-build contractor in coordination with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Maryland Transit Administration (MTA).

In the interim period, MDOT and MTA will retain oversight of hundreds of contracts and purchase orders to continue delivery of the Purple Line. Purple Line work currently underway includes: light rail car manufacturing, bridge work, stormwater drainage, paving, utility and pump station construction. MDOT and MTA will continue work while also focusing on reducing risks in the upcoming solicitation by

completing design, acquiring permits and advancing utility work along the Purple Line corridor."

WSSC Advisory: "If you're cooking this holiday season, WSSC Water warns never to pour leftover grease down the drain. Please can the grease. Grease poured down a drain can harden in the pipes and clog the sink or cause an expensive sewage backup in homes. Nationwide, about 50 percent of all sewer overflows are caused by grease. The vast majority of these overflows occur in residential neighborhoods.

Running hot water after dumping grease down the drain will not prevent a blockage. The water may push the grease further inside the pipe, but eventually the grease will harden causing a sewage overflow inside a home or from a manhole – resulting in an environmental hazard with wastewater spilling into creeks, streams and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. Please CAN IT (pour grease into a soup can); COOL IT (put the can in the freezer or refrigerator until it hardens (WSSC Water will send customers a special lid that fits most cans); and TOSS IT (throw the can in the trash (save the lid for next time)). WSSC Water customers can get more information, including a free Can the Grease lid, by visiting:

www.wsscwater.com/canthe grease

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER 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 Reports for October 2020 Council Meeting - (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer's Reports for October 2020 (Stuart) – Results for October 2020 included income of \$36,166, and operating expenses of \$21,715 (including waste removal, leaf collection, landscaping and lawn mowing, trees, wages and taxes, and professional fees). Capital expenditures for October 2020 came to \$425,

incurred for tree removal, and fiscal year-to-date capital expenditures total \$10,340. Total current assets as of October 2020, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, came to \$1,752,344.

Permits

- **3705 Husted Driveway** – replacement fence; approved.
- **3714 Kenilworth Driveway** – front porch (deck extension), back porch (screened with roof) including fireplace - approved, pending execution of a Site Management Conditions Agreement.
- **3804 Inverness Driveway** – retaining wall and deck; approved pending receipt of revised landscape drawing, confirming the results of the Council inspection and review of proposed location of retaining wall.

Action Items:

Fast Track Permits – The Council approved an initial list of Village permits that should not require full review by the Council and therefore may be approved by the Village Manager on a more expedited basis, assuming all permit conditions are met. The Village permit application will note the fast-track permits, which include dumpsters, PODs, trash truck/trailer, and fence replacements. This action item will continue under review for possible inclusion of additional permits over time.

Village Fines/Penalties – The Council reviewed a set of proposed fines for violation of specific Village ordinances, in an effort to clarify possible penalties. While the fines identified are consistent with the broader authority already contained in the Village ordinances for addressing violations, the Council will continue to review this matter to address various concerns raised about the scope and detail of the proposed fines. The Village Manager was requested to clarify any County fines that overlap with the proposed Village ones. It was also highlighted that residents would be notified of ordinance violations and provided an

opportunity to address them before any fine would be levied.

Sidewalk Installation Discussion – In response to interest from a number of residents of the 3600 and 3700 blocks of Husted Driveway in the installation of sidewalks on one side or the other of those two blocks, and apparent interest from residents on other streets in the Village that do not have at least one sidewalk on a particular block, the Council decided to establish a formal mechanism for considering requests for installation of sidewalks and will propose a specific ordinance for this purpose at a future meeting. To address immediate concerns about pedestrian safety on the two blocks of Husted referenced above, the Council decided to make the Montgomery Avenue/Husted Driveway intersection a three-way stop and advised residents that, should they desire to have speed bumps installed on those two blocks, they are encouraged to request such installation in accordance with Section 6.201 of the Village ordinances. The Council was also prepared to support making the Clifford Avenue/Husted Driveway intersection a three-way stop pending coordination with Montgomery County, which has jurisdiction over the eastern portion of that intersection. In addition, the Council approved the installation of “children at play” signs along the two blocks to further alert vehicles to small children in the area.

Bike Paths/Kensington Parkway Discussion – The Council took note of interest in the creation of dedicated bike lanes on Kensington Parkway, perhaps tied into the Kensington Parkway resurfacing that is scheduled to be undertaken in FY 2026, while acknowledging certain challenges in doing so related to impact of bike lanes to on-the-street parking on Kensington Parkway. The Council is also open to consideration of additional traffic control measures along Kensington Parkway, particularly with respect to the Kensington Parkway/Kenilworth Driveway intersection. The Village Manager also noted that

she will look into the possibility of a sidewalk extension to Beech Dr, which falls under the jurisdiction of the County and Parks and Planning.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING: RECYCLING

(Courtesy of the Environment Committee)

With more people at home, there has been a marked increase in material being sent to the County's recycling plant. According to Bethesda Beat article "County's Plastic Waste Increases as Residents Stay Home during Pandemic (11/09/2020)", "Between March and August, the material sent to the county recycling plant — including glass, plastic, aluminum and tin — increased about 17 percent from last year, according to the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)... 'The COVID crisis has exposed the overreliance of our community on single-use plastics', Amy Maron, the zero waste lead at the Sierra Club chapter in Montgomery County said."

It should be noted that, "despite the increase in the amount of overall waste, recycling contamination in the county has decreased during the pandemic. Contamination refers to any non-recyclable material put in recycling bins. It is significant because it slows down the recycling process at the county plant.... From March and August, recycling contamination decreased 26.5% compared to the same period last year." However, up to 39% of the material received at the County's recycling facility cannot be recycled. The majority of contamination comes from plastic bags, red Solo cups, shrink wrap and plastic films. In addition, number 6 plastic cannot be recycled, even if it has the symbol of three arrows in the shape of a triangle."

Please note that all containers must be emptied and rinsed. Lids of glass or plastic containers can be recycled, but they must be removed from the containers.

Furthermore, if people carry out food, they should ask the restaurant not to give them utensils or sauce packets to cut down on the waste, and they should try to bring reusable containers for the restaurant to fill.

Efforts are underway by the County Council and various organizations to address the waste associated with single-use plastic. Our Last Straw – a coalition of restaurants, bars, cafés, hotels, and other organizations across the DMV - has been seeking to eliminate single-use plastic straws and address sustainable alternatives to plastic utensils and containers. The Montgomery County Council has been discussing a bill to ban plastic straws. On Oct. 20, the County Council passed a bill to clarify the terms of the county's polystyrene ban. "The council first passed a bill to ban polystyrene — which many refer to as Styrofoam — containers in 2015, as they cannot be recycled...but... numerous small restaurant owners are still unaware of the legislation. The new bill widens the scope of the ban to include all #6 polystyrene food-ware — including red Solo cups — and clarifies the intent of the legislation." The County's legislation follows a statewide ban of polystyrene containers. "On Oct. 1, the ban went into effect for all of Maryland. It was initially set to launch on July 1, but state officials gave restaurants more time to finish their stock due to pandemic-related shutdowns."

HAVE A SAFE, HAPPY HOLIDAY