



**VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 2021**

**JANUARY VILLAGE MEETING**

January 19, 2021 – 7:30 PM – Zoom platform  
(instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list)  
\*Approval of Dec Min \*Treasurer’s Report  
\*Permits \*Resolutions on Ordinance Violations and Elections Procedures \*Process for Sidewalk Decision-Making

**CALENDAR (2021)**

- January 19: Village Council Meeting  
7:30 PM Virtual
- February 16: Village Council Meeting  
7:30 PM Virtual
- March 11: Curbside Donation, Clothing  
Donation Nation
- March 12: Curbside Donation,  
Furniture/Non-Clothing Items
- March 13: Bulk Trash Pick Up
- March 16: Village Council Meeting  
7:30 PM Virtual

**VILLAGE-SPECIFIC 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**.

**Donation Prior to Bulk Trash Pick Up:** The pilot effort in December to help residents donate reusable/donatable items prior to bulk trash pickup was successful. The Village has reached out to Donation Nation to schedule similar collections prior to future quarterly bulk trash pickups.

**Yard Waste Pick Up:** Christmas trees can be left curbside for pick up any Monday during the month of January. Street leaf pick up has ended for the season. Residents should place yard waste in paper yard trim bags or a reusable container for collection on Mondays. Brush can be bundled with twine. Branches or

**VILLAGE COUNCIL**

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Secretary: Maury Mechanick  
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Treasurer: Chas Stuart  
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Member: Ronald Jones  
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Manager: Dana Peterson  
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Fire Board Representatives:  
Dave Albinson, Abby Morris, Guim Barbour

**Village of North Chevy Chase**  
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tree limbs should not exceed 4 feet in length and 4 inches in diameter and each bundle must be 30 inches or less in diameter and no more than 45 pounds.

**Snow Removal:** Village management will attempt to notify residents via the email distribution list when snow removal is scheduled. The snow removal 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) within 24 hours of snow cessation. Residents are also requested to park their vehicles in driveways, as feasible, or on the even side of the street to facilitate snow removal and application of salt.

**Storm Drain Repair Kenilworth Drwy:** The County plans to begin replacement/repair o/a January 18 of the storm drainage system at the intersection of the 3700 block of Kenilworth Drwy and Kensington Parkway. It is expected that the work will take approximately one week to complete and should hopefully address the flooding that occurs in the area during heavy rains.

**NEW RESIDENTS:** The Village warmly welcomes the following new families!

**8806 Clifford Ave:** Warren Margolies and Rebecca Gale with their 3 children, Ezra (7), Micah (4), and Arielle (2)

**3712 Kenilworth Dwy:** Matthew and Yvette Greeves and their 2 children, Ava (11) and Ian (9)

## **GENERAL INTEREST**

**Salt Barn:** Village Management spoke with the project engineer for the salt barn in December

to get a project update. With respect to the fence at the salt barn, he indicated that it is standard to have a barbed wire fence. The contractor still needs to address some areas that could allow for a possible security breach (wrong-size gates and gaps under portions of the fence) but the intent is to secure the perimeter. SHA will be completing some landscaping around the area - evergreens and some other trees - which may help with the appearance. The salt barn is ready for use this winter. It is already filled with salt and the brine tank has been pre-treated. Trucks will NOT access the salt barn from Kensington Parkway. They enter and exit from a ramp off I-495. A new signal has been put in allowing trucks to pass straight through and not go to Connecticut Ave. There is still some electric work that needs to be completed. Once Pepco completes the exterior lighting, the engineer indicated that lights would only be lit during snow events. It is anticipated that all work will be completed by spring 2021.

**I-495/I-270 Toll Lane:** According to Maryland Matters, the State's Department of Transportation issued a formal Request for Proposals late on Friday, Dec 18 without notice to the public related to the I-495/I-270 "managed lanes" highway project. The four transportation consortiums bidding on the project were given 3 business days to provide technical responses and a deadline of Jan. 8 for the financial responses. The RFP was placed on MDOT's website late on Dec 23. The four firms had received a draft RFP on July 24. "In its RFP, the state discloses for the first time a significant change in how the project will advance. Under what the agency is now calling "Phase 1 South A," the state will first build the new bridge (addressing American Legion Bridge traffic), in coordination with Virginia, and add four lanes to the western portion of the Capital Beltway — the stretch that runs from the new span to the western I-270 spur and along the inner loop of I-495 to Old Georgetown

Road. The state's new "Phase 1 South B" would result in the widening of I-270 between Interstate 370 and the Beltway....As for the other pieces of the ambitious plan Hogan unveiled in 2017 — to widen all of I-270, all of I-495 and the federally-owned Baltimore-Washington Parkway — they may not be sufficiently lucrative or environmentally sound enough to lure any bidders, particularly with the rise in telework." The winning bid is scheduled for selection on February 1. While the State is still completing the National Environmental Policy Act process, the plan is for the winning firm to work collaboratively with MDOT, utility companies and other stakeholders on design and "minimizing impacts on right-of-way". ("MDOT Accelerates Timetable for Next Steps on Beltway Widening, Rearranges Project Phases"; December 29, 2020; Maryland Matters)

**Purple Line:** The Maryland Board of Public Works unanimously approved a settlement payment of \$250 million for the Purple Line rail project on December 16, allowing the State to hire a new design-build contractor to continue the project. The State will continue to manage the project, complete the designs, obtain permits and complete utility relocations as a new design-build contractor is being identified. ("State Board Approves \$250M Purple Line Settlement"; December 16, 2020; Bethesda Beat)

**School Boundary Study:** The final report for MCPS's boundary study will likely be completed in the spring, nearly one year later than originally planned (largely due to the COVID pandemic). The final report will include four "simulations" that will use data to prioritize:

- Improving capacity within school clusters
- Improving capacity concerns between neighboring schools
- Improving capacity concerns while increasing diversity

- Improving capacity concerns while reducing distances students walk to school. ("Boundary Analysis Final Report Delayed Until Spring Due to COVID19"; December 3, 2020; Bethesda Beat)

**PEPCO LED Street Light Conversion:** Pepco has filed a tariff with Maryland's Public Service Commission which includes a proposed conversion of the 84,000 company-owned street lights to LED street lights during 2022-2026. This conversion would have no up-front cost for the Village and would be paid for through monthly bills – which are estimated to stay about the same as they are today even though the new lights would use much less energy. The new street lights would have smart nodes to enhance lighting controls such as dimming and enhanced communications that could automatically inform Pepco when a light is out, eliminating the need for individuals to report street light outages. The Public Service Commission has seven months to decide on Pepco's rate case proposal; therefore, it could be summer before a decision is made. If the conversion proposal is approved, Pepco indicated it would start installing LED street lights in 2022.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER 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 Nov 2020 Council Meeting** - (Mechanick) – Approved.

**Treasurer's Reports for November 2020** (Stuart) –Results for November 2020 included income of \$143,864, and operating expenses of \$16,948 (including waste removal, leaf collection, landscaping and lawn mowing, trees, wages and taxes, street lighting and professional fees). No additional capital expenditures were incurred for November 2020; fiscal year to date capital expenditures total \$10,340, largely for tree removals. Total current assets as of November 2020, consisting of operating balance plus

reserves, came to \$1,880,122. Note was taken that income for the rest of the fiscal year (and current assets) was expected to decrease due to pandemic-related developments, and that both Maryland State and Montgomery County revenue forecasts for FY21 and FY22 are expected to show significant decreases as a result of the pandemic, which would result in corresponding reductions in income and reserves available to the Village.

#### **Permits:**

- **3820 Inverness Dr** – deck; decision deferred awaiting submission of completed permit application and execution of Site Management Conditions Agreement.
- **3818 Inverness Dr** – retaining wall and fence; decision deferred awaiting submission of documentation (additional information regarding proposed removal of two damaged canopy trees on property also requested – subsequent information identified high risk potential for tree failure).

#### **Action Items:**

**Village Ordinance Violations** – The Council reviewed a proposal to clarify the Village’s ability to impose fines in those instances where ongoing violations of Village Ordinances occur. As indicated, this is not intended for the purpose of revenue generation, but rather to ensure that the Village has the means available to secure compliance with Village Ordinances. It was highlighted that fines would only be invoked in those instances where efforts to secure compliance through requests and other means, such as written warnings, proved unsuccessful. While the baseline for such fines would be \$100 per occurrence, except in instances where the current ordinances specify a different amount, the Council considered it desirable to provide for escalation of fines if violations continue unabated

after the initial fine. The Council will consider a formal resolution adopting these procedures at its next meeting.

**Snow Removal Contract** – The Council approved the snow removal contract for FY21 with Snow Central, noting that the vendor has provided reliable and dependable snow removal services to the Village for a number of years. The contract terms are consistent with the terms for prior years. In anticipation of a potentially significant snow storm occurring on December 16 (the day after the Council meeting), the Village Manager, with the consent of the Council, had communicated to Snow Central in advance of the meeting that the Village Council intended to approve renewal of the contract at this meeting, in order to ensure that snow removal services would be available for the expected snow storm.

#### **SUSTAINABLE LIVING: COUNTY CLIMATE PLAN**

(Courtesy of the Environment Committee)  
Montgomery County Executive Elrich released a Draft Climate Action Plan in mid-December for public review. According to the December 14 press release, the Climate Action Plan is the County’s strategic plan to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80 percent by 2027 and by 100 percent by 2035. The Draft Climate Action Plan identifies the County’s major GHG emissions sectors, including energy supply, buildings and transportation, and proposes actions to directly reduce GHG emissions in these sectors. The plan also includes actions related to climate adaptation, carbon sequestration, climate governance and public engagement, partnerships and education. The Draft Climate Action Plan is open for public review and comment through the end of February. The complete list of recommended actions is available at <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/climate>. The plan will be finalized in the spring of 2021.