



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

FEBRUARY VILLAGE MEETING

February 16, 2021 – 7:30 PM – Zoom platform
(instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list)
*Approval of Jan Min *Treasurer’s Report
*Permits *Emergency Elections Ordinance
*Connecticut Ave/Jones Bridge/Kensington Parkway Construction

CALENDAR (2021)

- February 16: Village Council Meeting
7:30 PM Virtual
- February 17: SHA Meeting on Intersection Improvement Project at Connecticut/Jones Bridge Rd
6:00 PM Virtual
- March 11: Curbside Donation, Clothing Donation Nation
- March 12: Curbside Donation, Furniture/Non-Clothing Items
- March 13: Bulk Trash Pickup
- 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.

Village Council Elections: Election for two Village Council positions (2-year terms) will be held on May 4, 2021. 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 Board of Supervisors of Elections or with the Village Council). Qualified Voters who are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact the Village Manager by Friday, February 19.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

Chair: Adrian Andreassi
chair@northchevychase.org

Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner
brianhoffner@gmail.com

Secretary: Maury Mechanick
secretary@northchevychase.org

Treasurer: Chas Stuart
treasurer@northchevychase.org

Member: Ronald Jones
member@northchevychase.org

Manager: Dana Peterson
nccinfo@northchevychase.org

Fire Board Representatives:
Dave Albinson, Abby Morris, Guim Barbour
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 Council introduced an elections ordinance at the January 19 meeting, prepared by the Village attorney, that details a revised elections timetable in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and need to conduct the elections by absentee ballot. A draft of the elections ordinance has been uploaded to the Village website as part of the Jan 19 agenda packet. The Council plans to approve the draft ordinance at the February 16 Council meeting. Please note that the ordinance indicates that any Qualified Voter can seek nomination for the Council positions by Written Notice up to March 31 (versus one week before the elections) in order to provide sufficient time to prepare and process absentee ballots. Per the ordinance, residents will need to request an absentee ballot by April 9, to be received no later than April 16 and postmarked by April 26. If the election is uncontested, two candidates will be sworn in at the May 4 annual meeting.

Donation Prior to Bulk Trash Pick Up:

Donation Nation will be coming through the Village prior to the March 13 bulk trash pickup, as noted on the calendar. Donation Nation accepts furniture and appliances, household items such as dishes and glassware (they ask 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. Pick up of bagged clothing curbside will be on **Thursday, March 11** and non-clothing and furniture will be picked up on **Friday, March 12**. 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/>

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 a driveway, as feasible, or on the even side of the street to facilitate snow removal and application of salt.

Connecticut Ave/Jones Bridge Rd

Intersection Improvement: SHA will be making improvements to the intersection of MD 185 (Connecticut Ave)/Jones Bridge Rd/Kensington Parkway as part of Phase 3 of BRAC improvements in the area to enhance safety and traffic operations and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and accessibility. This will include widening Jones Bridge Rd to accommodate an additional left turn lane for the movement from eastbound Jones Bridge Road to northbound MD 185 as well as expanding the sidewalks along Jones Bridge Rd to make them ADA compliant. SHA has scheduled a virtual community pre-construction informational meeting - which will be held via Microsoft Teams - on: **Wednesday, February 17th at 6:00 p.m.** (It appears that you may need to download microsoft teams prior to the meeting to join - Village management will seek to clarify those details closer to the meeting).

A link to join the meeting is inside a project newsletter that has been uploaded to the Village website given the file size. The meeting will familiarize community residents with the project. MDOT SHA representatives will be available to answer project-related questions as part of this online forum. Attendees will also have an opportunity to leave comments and ask questions in an online comment form via a link which is also inside the newsletter. SHA encourages residents to send questions and

comments in advance so that SHA may address them during the virtual meeting. The meeting will also be recorded and posted at a later date for viewing on the project's MDOT SHA project web page for those unable to attend the live community meeting.

Pet Waste: A number of residents continue to face challenges with pet waste being left on their property. Residents are required to dispose of pet waste properly. Waste is to be bagged and placed in Village trash receptacles or the pet owner's household waste. Pet waste is not to be placed in neighbors' trash receptacles, including yard waste and recycling containers. Please note that the Village fine for not properly disposing of pet waste is \$100 for the first offense and \$500 for subsequent offenses.

GENERAL INTEREST:

I-495 Managed Lane Study: On January 27, MDOT SHA announced that it had selected "Alternative 9 with respect to addressing traffic congestion on the beltway, which will add four High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes — two in each direction — to I-495 across the American Legion Bridge to I-270, and north on I-270 to I-370. Buses and vehicles with three or more people would be able to travel the new HOT lanes free of charge. Existing travel lanes throughout the corridor will be retained and will remain free for use by all motorists." The announcement also highlighted that "the agency will not proceed with permitting and implementation of subsequent phases until additional environmental reviews are complete with further collaboration and engagement with agencies and the public." Please note that the portion of I-495 north of the Village is considered part of the subsequent phases.

Additional Development Possible Near

Purple Line: According to a recent Bethesda Beat article, Parkway Custom Dry Cleaning moved from its Chevy Chase site (8402 Connecticut Ave) on Dec 1. "The Chevy Chase

site that Parkway Custom left might be turned into retail space with residential units or a hotel, according to a representative for the owners....It is zoned for mixed-use, and (the owners) are contemplating a development that includes both retail and a 'residential node of some sort' that might be apartments, condominiums or a hotel. ("After 50 Years, Dry Cleaning Business Moves from Chevy Chase to North Bethesda: Retail, Residential, Hotel Considered for Former Site"; Jan 28, 2021; Bethesda Beat)

Salt Barn: The Village Council has sent a letter to the Village's State Delegates (Carr, Solomon, Shetty) and Senator (Waldstreicher) requesting their assistance in working with SHA to move the fence along Kensington Parkway further away from the road – particularly to enhance safety for bicyclists - as well as to conceal or modify the structure of the fence to make it more aesthetically pleasing given its proximity to a residential community.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING (*Please note that the official minutes will be posted to Village website upon approval*)
Secretary's Reports for December 2020 Council Meeting - (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer's Reports for December 2020 (Stuart) –Results for December 2020 included income of \$4,166, and operating expenses of \$22,055. No additional capital expenditures were incurred for December 2020; fiscal year to date capital expenditures total \$10,340. Total current assets as of December 2020, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, came to \$1,867,236.

Permits:

- **3820 Inverness Driveway Husted Driveway** – replacement deck and screened in porch; approved. Meeting on Site Management Conditions Agreement with property owner and contractor to be scheduled before permit is issued.

- **3819 Kenilworth Driveway** – deferred, pending submission of more definitive plans, including coordination with County on applicable set back requirements if garage is permanently attached to main house.
- **8811 Montgomery Avenue** – bike shed; approved pending confirmation of proposed location on north side of house (note: suitability of proposed site confirmed 1/20/21).

ACTION ITEMS:

2021 Elections Ordinance – The Council introduced a proposed emergency ordinance applicable to the 2021 election cycle in the Village, before taking action to adopt the emergency ordinance at its next meeting. The ordinance largely tracks a similar ordinance adopted last year as a result of the pandemic. Given the anticipated inability for the Village to conduct an in-person Annual Meeting as required on May 4, 2021, the emergency ordinance establishes time periods for submission of nominations (March 31), procedures for absentee (mail-in voting) and dispensing of a formal election for Council membership in the event that the number of candidates is not greater than the number of vacancies (two for this election). The Council will also further consider the question of whether write-in votes for individuals other than those listed on the ballot should be permitted. A copy of the draft ordinance is located on the Village website under agenda packet for the January 2021 meeting.

Resolution on Fines – The Council approved the resolution setting specific amounts for fines to be assessed for violations of Village ordinances, the majority of which total \$100/violation. In taking this action, the Council confirmed: (1) that this was intended to confirm with greater specificity the longstanding ability already contained in the Village ordinances to assess fines and was not intended to expand Village authority in this regard; (2) the assessment of any fines was intended as a measure of last resort, only if absolutely necessary, and was not intended as any revenue

generation mechanism for the Village; and (3) the Village Council remained committed to try to resolve all issues relating to adherence to Village ordinances through other means whenever possible.

Civil Engineering Proposal for Capital Improvements

– The Council approved the proposal by civil engineering firm Clark/Azar to manage the bid process and to oversee actual construction with respect to capital projects included in the Village’s capital budget plan for fiscal years 2021 and 2022, looking towards issuance of RPFs in late spring and the bulk of the work effort performed during the summer months of 2021. This contract is independent of whatever procedures the Council may in the future adopt to govern consideration of new sidewalk installation on Village streets.

Update on All-Way Stop Sign Installation at Montgomery/Husted intersection

– The Council has signed a contract with FSM, Inc. for installation of signage required to convert the Montgomery/Husted intersection into an all-way stop and for installation of additional “Children at Play” signage on Husted Dr. The Village will also assess any shrubbery or other foliage that could impact visibility of the stop signs and trim back accordingly. The Council indicated that it is open to further consideration of installation of additional speed limit signs on Husted, if deemed advisable. (Signs have been erected notifying commuters of upcoming new traffic pattern. Stop signs will be installed on Feb 15).

The Village Manager inquired to attendees whether there was widespread delay in receipt of US Postal Service mail, which was confirmed. The Village Manager indicated that she would follow up with relevant authorities and keep residents apprised.