



**VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
MAY/JUNE 2021**

JUNE VILLAGE MEETING

June 15, 2021 – 7:30 PM – Zoom platform
(instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) Draft: *Approval of May Min *Treasurer’s Report *Permits * Sidewalk requests *July 4 annual picnic *Tree protection *Thrive Montgomery 2050

CALENDAR (2021)

- June 15: Village Council Meeting
7:30 PM Virtual
- June 17: Curbside Donation, Clothing
Donation Nation
- June 18: Curbside Donation,
Furniture/Non-Clothing Items
- June 19: Bulk Trash Pick Up
- July 20: Village Council Meeting
7:30 PM Virtual
- Sept 21: Village Council Meeting
7:30 PM Virtual

(No Council meeting in August)

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES

Village Council Elections: Brian Hoffner and Chas Stuart were reelected to two-year terms at the annual meeting on May 4. They, along with Olga Joos, who had been appointed at the April 20 Council meeting upon the resignation of

Ronald Jones, took the oath of office. Please note in the box for the Village Council the respective positions each Council member has over the next year.

Taxes: While the federal tax filing deadline has passed (May 17), the deadline for Maryland state income tax is July 15. 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.

<p>VILLAGE COUNCIL</p> <p>Chair: Adrian Andreassi chair@northchevychase.org</p> <p>Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner brianhoffner@gmail.com</p> <p>Secretary: Maury Mechanick secretary@northchevychase.org</p> <p>Treasurer: Olga Joos treasurer@northchevychase.org</p> <p>Member: Chas Stuart member@northchevychase.org</p> <p>Manager: Dana Peterson nccinfo@northchevychase.org</p> <p>Fire Board Representatives: Dave Albinson, Abby Morris, Guim Barbour</p> <p align="center">Village of North Chevy Chase</p> <p align="center">PO Box 15887, Chevy Chase, MD 20815</p> <p align="center">Mobile: 301-654-7084</p> <p>TDD (MD Relay Service): 1-800-735-2258</p> <p>Website: www.northchevychase.org</p>

Connecticut Ave/Jones Bridge/Kensington Parkway Intersection Work

SHA has erected work signs around the intersection and along Kensington Parkway and Montgomery Ave. The project engineer has indicated that the priority area for work in the near term includes sidewalk construction in front of NCC Elementary and removal of the median along Jones Bridge Rd.

Fast-Track Permit Approvals

- 8827 Kensington Parkway – fence replacement

Children at Play Signage

A number of residents have requested that additional “Children at Play” signs be installed on various Village streets. At the same time, a number of residents have raised concerns about excessive roadway signage. Upon further research, it appears that the County does not recommend installing Children at Play signs, as they are not approved for use by the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices", the national standard for traffic control signs. In addition, the County notes that there is concern that they provide a false sense of security and imply that playing in the street is acceptable behavior. There was discussion at the April Council meeting of options to address pedestrian safety while respecting the concern about signage volume in the Village and County recommendations to not erect such signs. The Village Council is receptive to providing portable ‘children at play’ signs to residents who request one, with the understanding that such signs would need to only be displayed when children are out and should be removed from driver visibility otherwise. Residents interested in a sign should contact the Village Manager. Existing Children at Play signs posted in the Village will remain.

New Residents: The Village warmly welcomes the following new residents!

3701 Stewart Drwy

Jennifer Irving and Michael Connell – a modern family merging 2 families. Jennifer and her children -- Katie (21), Stephanie (19), Mackenzie (16) and Jack (14) moved from Bethesda. Mike and his children -- Ryan (18), Siobhan (16) and Taryn (12) moved from Olney.

Tax Duplication

The Village of North Chevy Chase, as a member of the Montgomery Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League, has joined other municipalities to advocate to County Council members to include about \$14.2 million in the upcoming County budget for tax duplication. Village residents, along with many other municipal residents, have been paying taxes to both the municipal and county governments for services received only from the municipality. The Village has been receiving “rebate payments” for years; however, the amount has been considered insufficient and not based on a formula that reflects true costs. Upon final County Council approval of the FY22 budget, it is estimated that the Village’s rebate will go from \$25,000 to \$29,000 annually, recognizing variables with property taxes.

Village Trees

Please be reminded that the Village right-of-way extends approximately 12 feet from the center of the street onto a property (25 feet along Kensington Parkway). If there is a tree in that space, please check with the Village Manager prior to undertaking any maintenance or removals. The Village maintains village trees through a certified arborist and will follow up on tree assessment or maintenance needs that property owners identify. An updated survey of

Village trees will be posted on the Village website prior to the June 15 Council meeting.

Permit Reminders: Please note that a Village permit may be required for many exterior work projects. Please find further information on the Village [website](#) or contact the Village Manager to verify any requirements.

GENERAL INTEREST

I-495/I-270 Toll Lanes

On May 12, MDOT announced that they have identified a new, preferred alternative to alleviating traffic congestion on the beltway; specifically, focusing only on construction of a new American Legion Bridge and two high-occupancy toll (HOT) managed lanes in each direction from the southern end of I-270 to I-370. The announcement indicated that there is “no action at this time on I-495 east of the I-270 eastern spur.” The vocal opposition by many stakeholders is recognized as one of the main reasons for the State’s proposed change, including the Village of North Chevy Chase’s official letter in December 2019 to Comptroller Franchot - as the deciding vote on the Board of Public Works – vehemently opposing any effort to move proposals for Montgomery County Beltway Expansion from Phase II to Phase I of the I-495 & I-270 3 Program. The letter also expressed grave concerns about the lack of transparency by SHA throughout the process and the deleterious health, environmental and quality of life impacts of beltway expansion. It should be noted that a fact sheet on the new alternative did note “This [recommended preferred alternative (RPA)] does not suggest that improvements will not be needed on the top side and east side of I-495.” Next steps are that MDOT needs to issue a “supplemental” draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), which will be released late summer. The public will have the opportunity to comment on it after

it is released. “MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration are still in the process of considering approximately 3,000 public comments that were submitted in response to the original draft impact statement.” (“MDOT Removes Large Stretch of Capital Beltway from Toll-Lane Plan”; May 12, 2021; Maryland Matters)

Meanwhile, Maryland residents will have until August 12 to provide feedback on proposed tolls for the “managed lanes”, as articulated in a 87-page “dynamic-pricing” scheme. Public hearings will be held on the proposed rates, but dates, times and locations have not been announced. Comments can be submitted via the authority’s web site:

mdta.maryland.gov/ALB270TollSetting. A video describing the soft rate cap is also available online:

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/552441203>

Purple Line

“On May 13, a federal appeals court ruled that construction of Maryland’s light-rail Purple Line does not violate Clean Water Act protections for streams and wetlands. The unanimous ruling in the third and final lawsuit by opponents of the 16-mile project lifts the threat of legal action against it for the first time since 2014.” (“Court says Purple Line construction doesn’t violate water protections”; May 17, 2021; Bethesda Beat)

In addition, the Maryland Department of Transportation has indicated that the decision on a new design-build contractor for the Purple Line has been moved from June to the fall. According to the Department of Transportation, “The teams, which were short-listed in early March, have been given more time to put together their proposals. The bidders are: Halmar International, Maryland Transit Solutions (made up of Dragados USA Inc. and

OHL USA Inc.), and Tutor-Perini/Lunda (a joint venture).” (Purple Line Design-Build Contractor Selection Moved to Fall; May 5, 2021; Bethesda Beat)

Lastly, Maryland’s Secretary of Transportation rejected County Executive Elrich’s proposal to single-track the Purple Line in downtown Bethesda given that it would impact operational capacity and flexibility. The plan will remain to have two tracks running into an existing tunnel which feeds into the Bethesda station.

School Boundary Analysis

On May 13, 2021, MCPS released a nearly 200-page final report analyzing how current school boundaries address diverse schools with adequate enrollment. The full report can be found at this link: [MCPS Releases Districtwide Boundary Analysis Final Report - Montgomery County Public School, Rockville, MD \(montgomeryschoolsmd.org\)](https://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/montgomeryschoolsmd.org) and includes analysis of school utilization, school diversity, student proximity to school and student assignment stability. MCPS highlights that over the last 20 years, student enrollment has increased by more than 30,000 students, with facility construction not keeping pace with such growth. The report indicates that MCPS could consider redistricting up to 10% of students throughout the county to improve more equitable and diverse enrollment throughout its schools. The report does not recommend any specific boundary changes. A couple of key findings noted the possibility of improving school utilization and diversity at the same time when adjusting boundaries between neighboring schools and the possibility to improve diversity between nearby schools without significant impacts to proximity. During the 2021–2022 school year, the Board of Education will explore potential next steps based on the findings of the report.

Thrive Montgomery 2050

The County’s Planning Board is finalizing preparation of the “Thrive Montgomery 2050 General Plan”, which attempts to articulate a shared vision for the County and actions to respond to opportunities and challenges over the next 30 years. The Village has joined a coalition of other municipalities, HOAs, and community groups that have emphasized the importance of transparency and thorough analysis before it is approved by County Council members. In particular, there are issues related to creating “attainable housing”, which could have impacts on single-family communities like the Village’s. There will be discussion of this at the upcoming Village Council meeting and further information forthcoming as to how residents can communicate their view to County elected officials.

Creekside Chevy Chase Townhomes

Over the past several months, 3 units sold and the 1st group of 5 townhomes has been completed. Construction has begun on the second stick with an anticipated year-end delivery date. The developers added 200+ trees approved by SHA between the screen and sound wall. The Community Bike Station at the entrance along with the Pergola inside the community is nearing completion. Creekside Partners, LLC will plan a ribbon-cutting ceremony and will advise the community once they have more details on that specific event. The developers inquired to the Village as to whether there are any historical photos/maps of the area that could help decorate the shelter. The Village is looking through its archived material but if anyone has historical items they think would be relevant, please inform the Village Manager. For those interested, below is a secure link to photos of a completed unit. When prompted use password:

6110. Creekside Chevy Chase Secure Photo Link: [Dropbox - Password Required](#) (accessible via electronic version of newsletter)

Voter Registration

Montgomery County's Board of Elections has requested that municipalities share the following information with voters:

All registered voters are asked to keep their voter registration information current. **To register to vote or to update your voter registration** (i.e. change name, address and/or party affiliation) please:

1. text VOTE to 77788;
2. visit the Montgomery County Board of Elections web site 777VOTE.ORG;
3. call (240) 777-8500; or
4. visit the Montgomery County Board of Elections at 18753 N. Frederick Avenue, Suite 210, Gaithersburg MD 20879.

Voter List Maintenance

The Board of Elections regularly mails out election related correspondence to all registered voters. If you receive correspondence addressed to someone who does not live in your household – **please do not discard it, RETURN IT TO THE SENDER**. Returned mail initiates the process of inactivating voters with an unknown current residential address. Once a voter is inactivated, they must update their voter registration or vote within two consecutive federal elections, or their voter registration will be cancelled.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL COUNCIL MEETING (Official minutes are posted to the website)

- March income totaled \$4,255, and operating expenses were \$15,117. Capital expenditures of \$14,778 were incurred during March 2021 for trees and streets. Total current assets as of March 2021,

consisting of operating balance plus reserves, came to \$1,900,200.

- Olga Joos was appointed as a Council member upon the resignation of Ronald Jones. She will serve the remainder of the term, which runs until May 3, 2022.
- Permits:
 - 3607 Dundee Driveway– approved permit for a screened-in porch, pending execution of Site Management Conditions Agreement
 - 3705 Stewart Driveway – approved permit for a shed
- The Council approved by vote the Fiscal Year 2022 budget for operations and capital expenditures.
- The Council approved a resolution addressed to the Montgomery County Council raising concerns with the current tax duplication payment process.
- The Council received the initial bid package prepared by Clark/Azar regarding planned capital improvements during FY-21/22 time period. Village Manager was to follow up on options for tree protection measures during sidewalk repairs for the Council to review at its next meeting.
- Discussion about Children at Play and other safety signage.
- The Council reiterated the process for new sidewalk requests and decision-making.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY 4 COUNCIL MEETING (Please note that the official minutes will be posted to Village website upon approval)

- **Permits:**
 - 9004 Clifford Avenue – approved permit for a shed.

The Council approved the bid package prepared by Clark/Azar regarding planned capital improvements during FY-21/22 time period. To protect trees during sidewalk repairs, the bid package will require the contractor to hand excavate below the panels

and place aeration matting and gravel over tree roots.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY 4 ANNUAL MEETING

- Based on a vote of Village residents attending the meeting, the proposed Village real property and personal property tax rates for the upcoming year was approved (\$.045/\$100 of assessed value for real property and \$0.13/\$100 assessed valued for personal property)
- The Village Budget Ordinance, confirming the Village budget for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022) was adopted.
- The Council Chair (A. Andreassi) presented an annual report on Village services. The power point is posted to the Village website.
- Brian Hoffner and Chas Stuart were administered the oath of office as a result of their election to two-year terms. Olga Joos also took the oath of office in light of her appointment at the April 20 Council meeting.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING: (Courtesy of Environment Committee)

The native plant sale on April 25 was a big success! Neighbors bought nearly 500 native flowers (as well as some shrubs and trees), all of them great for supporting birds and butterflies.

Adults and children had a great time at the art show and drawing on the mural. The native plant company loved the art work and plan to display it in their shop.

Recycling:

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has launched a new video series ([Is This Recyclable? Recycling Questions Answered - YouTube](#)) to help residents understand how to recycle materials properly.

Each one-minute video highlights materials that are or are not recyclable and explains to viewers why. The series features six videos that will help residents understand how to recycle the following materials:

- Aluminum
- Batteries
- Foam Packaging
- Glass Bottles and Jars
- Plastic Bags
- Plastic Containers, Tubs, and Lids

The videos can also be viewed on DEP's YouTube

page: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMpbRgxtGnWLPdDIL-84Qu7j2fxm2c_Zd.