



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

JULY VILLAGE MEETING

July 20, 2021 – 7:30 PM – Zoom platform
 (instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) Draft: *Approval of June Min *Treasurer’s Report *Permits *Capital Improvement Projects Contract Award *3-hour parking signs 8800 block Montgomery *New Sidewalk Request Update *Village Tree protection *In-person v virtual Council meetings in future

Village Manager Solicitation:

The Village Council is seeking a new Manager for the municipality. The current Manager will be leaving the country this fall. Residents interested in the Manager position should send an up-to-date CV, along with a brief cover letter articulating why they are interested in the position, to the Village Council Chair (Adrian Andreassi at chair@northchevyCHASE.org) with a copy to the current Village Manager (Dana Peterson at nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org) by Friday, July 30. The Village Council will interview qualified applicants in August and look to have the new Manager start by September

CALENDAR (2021)

- July 20: Village Council Meeting
7:30 PM Virtual
 - Sept 16: Curbside Donation, Clothing Donation Nation
 - Sept 17: Curbside Donation, Furniture/Non-Clothing Items
 - Sept 18: Bulk Trash Pick Up
 - Sept 21: Village Council Meeting
 - Oct 19: Village Council Meeting
- (No Council meeting in August)

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES

VILLAGE COUNCIL

Chair: Adrian Andreassi
chair@northchevyCHASE.org

Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner
brianhoffner@gmail.com

Secretary: Maury Mechanick
secretary@northchevyCHASE.org

Treasurer: Olga Joos
treasurer@northchevyCHASE.org

Member: Chas Stuart
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

1. Please note that the new Manager will overlap with the current Manager for approximately 2 months to facilitate a smooth transition. Please find below details of the position.

The Village Manager reports to a five-member, elected Village Council. The Manager is the only employee of the Village of North Chevy Chase. This is a salaried position, based on an assumed workload of approximately 20 hours/week. The Village is comprised of approximately 210 households, with no commercial businesses operating within municipal boundaries. Governance is provided by the Village Council, which meets monthly (the third Tuesday of each month except for August and for the May meeting, which precedes the Village Annual Meeting held on the first Tuesday of that month). The Village does not have a physical town hall, so the Manager must be able to operate primarily out of his/her residence, with an ability to be onsite at the Village when required (Village laptop and smart phone will be provided). Principal responsibilities include serving as the primary point of contact for Village residents and with external entities; publicly representing the Village's position on matters consistent with Village Council decisions; maintaining custody of official Village records; ensuring compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations; performance of basic budgeting and financial reporting activities, including facilitating an annual audit; providing support for the Council at its monthly meetings, including agenda preparation and building permit review; preparation of official Village correspondence including monthly Village newsletter and website maintenance; and contract oversight of vendors providing services to the Village.

New Village Sidewalk(s) Analysis

As a follow up to the June 15 Council meeting discussion on assessment of new sidewalks

within the Village, the municipality has contracted with Clark/Azar & Associates, a civil engineering firm which has been supporting the Village in assessing its existing road and sidewalk infrastructure, to analyze the potential installation of sidewalks on the 9000 block of Montgomery Ave and 3600 block of Husted, per residents' request on those 2 blocks.

Clark/Azar & Associates will prepare 4 concept plans that show sidewalk construction on either side of each block, document obstructions and/or constraints that would require modifications to install a sidewalk (i.e. trees, utilities, landscaping or homeowner constructed improvements, structures, walls, poles, mailboxes, etc.), and a cost estimate for each plan.

The engineering firm will also be doing a notional demarcation/delineation of the potential location of a sidewalk on both sides of the 2 blocks with white flags or chalk paint. While this initial demarcation will provide residents with a visual on the potential sidewalk location, it is important to highlight that the engineers may change the envisioned location as they finalize the concept plans. The notional delineation is scheduled for Friday, July 9, weather permitting. The concept plans will be completed by July 31.

Once the analysis is completed, the information will be made available to all Village residents, prior to determination of whether there is sufficient support on either block for installation of sidewalks. The Council will also clarify at that time the specific method for affected property owners to inform the Village Council of their continuing desire to have a sidewalk installed on one side or the other of each block.

Storm Drains

With respect to the storm drainage challenges at the intersection of the 3700 block of

Kenilworth and Kensington Parkway, the Village received an update from the County's Department of Transportation/Division of Transportation Engineering (DTE) on July

2. The County's original plan was to replace the existing inlets in their current locations (near 3716 and 3719 Kenilworth) with higher capacity inlets designed to also reduce the risk of clogging. Unfortunately, after the County's pre-construction visit with the contractor, concerns were raised about the connecting pipes. The two major issues identified were: 1) the shallow pipes would not connect properly with the new inlets and water would not drain out of the new structures and 2) because these pipes are very old and sections are made of terra-cotta clay, the pipes are now too fragile to withstand modification and would collapse while trying to construct the new inlets. If the pipes were to collapse during construction, all drainage from that location would be cut off and the project would have to be expanded as far as necessary to reestablish connection.

Rather than risk a potentially extensive project with indeterminate cost, DTE has indicated that they need to more carefully study and plan the project. Some of the required survey work has already been conducted and it appears replacement of the existing storm drain pipe may be required all the way across Kensington Parkway. A project of this scale will require significant planning to avoid utilities, for maintenance of traffic during construction, and will require several permits. Unfortunately, the County's Drainage Assistance Program does not currently have available funds for the increased scale of this project. They will continue to work on the planning stages but they have indicated that construction is unlikely until at least July of 2022. They have acknowledged that while there is a significant drainage issue at this location, at this time they cannot risk rushing into a project that could make the situation worse.

The County will keep the Village apprised of the planning and the Village will discuss with the County funding options as well.

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.

Village Trees

Please note that an updated Village tree survey has been posted to the Village website. The Village greatly appreciates resident Jane Houlihan for her work in verifying tree data and creating a valuable resource for the municipality in documenting its trees. The survey will allow the Village to track changes to the tree canopy and ensure a diversity of tree species throughout the community in future plantings.

The following Village trees were serviced within the past 2 months:

3800 Inverness – 2 chestnuts – cleaned of deadwood and crown raised

3804 Inverness – silver maple – deadwood removed, limbs damaged by storms removed

3820 Inverness – holly – crown raised over sidewalk

3719 Kenilworth – willow oak – deadwood removed; zelkova – deadwood removed, crown raised

8813 Kensington Parkway – willow oak – large dead limb removed

8814 Kensington Parkway – pin oak (left of parking lot) – crown clean, remove fallen limb

8809 Montgomery – willow oak – broken limb removed

9011 Montgomery – sycamore – PHC deep root fertilization

3704 Stewart – alder – cleaned of deadwood and crown raised

REMINDERS

- Please note that a Village permit may be required for many exterior work projects. Please contact the Village Manager to verify any requirements.

GENERAL INTEREST

5G/Small Cell Technology

The County Council has been deliberating on a zoning text amendment that would establish guidelines for 5G small cell antennas. On Tuesday, June 29, County Executive Elrich sent a memo recommending a task force - comprised of residents, representatives from local industries, nonprofits, HOAs, among others – further study the issue before any legislation is passed. Elrich has highlighted multiple concerns including how the public hearing process would occur for residents who object to the small cell antennas in their neighborhoods. Elrich also recommends that County officials see how the Federal Communications Commission rules on cases involving 5G antennas, which could determine where those devices need to be placed.

“Council members are scheduled to debate an amendment from Council Member Andrew Friedson to the overall proposal, which states that wireless carriers may only construct new poles if there is no existing utility or streetlight pole within 150 feet of a proposed location.

Under the current proposal, residents can file an objection if a new pole is proposed within 300 feet of their property. A notice would be sent out to property owners and civic associations within that radius. If there are objections, a hearing would be held in front of a hearing examiner in the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings.

The council is scheduled to discuss the zoning text amendment, including Friedson’s proposal, on July 13. It’s unclear whether a final vote will occur before or after the council’s summer recess, scheduled from Aug. 2 to Sept. 12.” (“Elrich Wants Task Force Looking into Zoning Amendment Allowing 5G Cell Tower Technology”; July 1, 2021; Bethesda Beat)

Please note that the Village has an ordinance related to “small wireless telecommunications facilities” (Chapter 7) that requires a permit and establishes standards before deployment in the Village right-of-way. The Village is in touch with its attorney and neighboring municipalities on whether amendments to the Village’s ordinance may be needed in the event of County legislation and the FCC ruling.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE COUNCIL

MEETING (*Official minutes will be posted to the website*)

Secretary’s Reports for May 2021 Council Meeting and Village Annual Meeting – approved.

Treasurer’s Reports for April and May 2021

- April/May 2021 combined income totaled \$77,576.04 and operating expenses totaled \$28,457.89.
- Capital expenditures of \$6,445 were incurred for tree removals and streets (preparation of bid package for capital improvement projects).
- Total current assets as of May 2021, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, were \$1,952,294.43.

Council Member Positions for 2021/2022

Following the election in May, it was announced that Council members for the upcoming year will hold the following official positions:

Chair: Adrian Andreassi

Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner
Secretary: Maury Mechanick
Treasurer: Olga Joos
Member: Chas Stuart

- The Council reiterated planned next steps based on the approved process (mentioned earlier in the newsletter).

Permits:

- **3700 Kenilworth Driveway** – approved permit for demolition/new home construction, pending execution of Site Management Conditions Agreement.
- **8912 Montgomery Avenue** – approved permit for addition/modification, pending execution of Site Management Conditions Agreement.
- **8908 Montgomery Avenue** – concluded that permit not required for requested driveway modification.

The Council highlighted the need for close coordination between the projects at 3700 Kenilworth and 8912 Montgomery to avoid major disruptions. With respect to 3700 Kenilworth Drwy, given its location adjacent to the Montgomery Ave/Kenilworth intersection, the primary construction activity will need to be based along the Montgomery side of the property (8800 block), including deliveries and contractor parking. These requirements will be addressed in greater detail in the respective Site Management Conditions Agreements that will be entered into for each project.

Action Items:

New Sidewalk Requests

- The Council confirmed receipt of timely requests – with at least 60% of the affected property owners - from two blocks for possible installation of a sidewalk, the 3600 block of Husted and the 9000 block of Montgomery.

Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

- The Council agreed to accept funding that would be available to it pursuant to the terms of the American Rescue Plan Act.
- The Village Manager will reach out to neighboring municipalities to determine their plans and to identify potential areas of cooperation.
- Update: The U.S. Treasury should be providing additional guidance on the use of funds in mid-July.

Thrive Montgomery 2050

- Olga Joos presented an overview of the Thrive Montgomery 2050 initiative, highlighting concerns that have been raised.
- Issues for Village residents to particularly consider include proposed changes to land use zoning to accommodate “attainable housing” which could result in greater density, fewer setback requirements, and more crowded public schools and on-street parking in communities.
- The Village will continue to be active with a coalition of other neighboring municipalities in articulating these concerns to the County Planning Board, County Council, and County Executive.
- Village residents who share these concerns are encouraged to communicate them directly to the County Council.

July 4 Annual Picnic

- Given updated State and County policies on outdoor gatherings, the Council agreed that the Village would hold the July 4 picnic as an in-person event.

Please note that the other agenda items – updates to the site management conditions agreement to include tree protection and

discussion of in-person versus virtual Council meetings in the future – were deferred to the July meeting given limited time to discuss those.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING: (Courtesy of Environment Committee)

On June 23, County Executive Elrich released the County's "Climate Action Plan" to guide the County toward its goals of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80 percent by 2027 and by 100 percent by 2035 compared to 2005 levels. The County's Climate Action Plan is considered one of the most ambitious climate plans in the nation for a local government. The actions and technical analyses presented in the plan build upon the work of more than 200 volunteer members of the Climate Technical Workgroups formed by the County Executive, County employees and technical consultants.

The details of the plan can be found at www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/climate.

Throughout the summer and into the early fall, the County's climate team plans to host community conversations to present the plan to residents, businesses and property owners. The main elements of the Climate Action Plan include:

- **Reduce Emissions in the Energy, Buildings and Transportation sectors** -- includes increasing the use of and investment in clean, reliable and affordable energy; implementing code requirements related to energy efficiency, solar installations and net-zero standards and building energy performance standards for existing buildings; expanding public transit service, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure; and supporting community-wide adoption of electric vehicles.
- **Center Racial Equity and Social Justice** – includes consideration of racial equity and social justice implications of each climate action
- **Address Residual Emissions and Carbon Sequestration** -- identifies nature-based carbon sequestration actions including retaining, managing and expanding forests, wetlands, grasslands and urban tree canopy.
- **Reduce Climate Risk** – includes repairing and upgrading stormwater drainage and management systems; updating green streetscape and green infrastructure standards; hardening emergency shelters and installing resilience hubs; and updating floodplain maps.
- **Identify Ways to Pay for Climate Action** – leverage local, State and Federal government resources and private sector assets.
- **Enhance Climate Governance** -- institutionalize climate change considerations within Montgomery County Government processes and decision making
- **Engage the Community as Partners in Climate Action** – involve residents in the implementation of the plan through a climate communications coalition; a Community Justice Academy in which community ambassadors work with neighbors and the County to co-create community-based solutions; enhanced partnerships with municipalities; increase opportunities for climate change education in the public school system; advocate for a statewide coalition of local governments and youth groups focused on advancing ambitious State climate policy.