



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2021

NOVEMBER VILLAGE MEETING

November 16, 2021 – 7:30 PM – Zoom platform (instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list): **Approval of October Minutes *Treasurer’s Report *Permits *ARPA Program Manager *New Bank Account *Revise Permit Application *Resolution on Investment Policy and State Bonds Investments *Village Tree Plantings* Stop Signs on Kensington Parkway/Kenilworth Driveway*

CALENDAR (2021 - 2022)

Nov 16: Village Council Meeting
Dec 16: Curbside Donation, Clothing Donation Nation
Dec 17: Curbside Donation, Furniture/Non-Clothing Item, Donation Nation
Dec 18: Bulk Trash Pick Up
Dec 21: Village Council Meeting
Jan 18: Village Council Meeting

- Please note that trash and recycling schedules may vary due to the upcoming holidays. Residents will be notified, in advance, via Constant Contact with any changes.

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES:

Leaf Pick Up:

Street leaf pick up started the week of October 11 and will end in early January. 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. The contractor will also be removing leaves from the 2 diverters along Montgomery Ave at Stewart and Kenilworth, over the storm drains, and at the 3 bus stops along Kensington Parkway.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

Chair: Adrian Andreassi
chair@northchevyCHASE.org
Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner
vicechair@northchevyCHASE.org
Secretary: Maury Mechanick
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Treasurer: Olga Joos
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Member: Chas Stuart
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Manager: Susan Theis
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Village of North Chevy Chase
PO Box 15887, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
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TDD (MD Relay Service): 1-800-735-2258
Website: www.northchevyCHASE.org

Native Village Tree Plantings:

Stadler Nursery has planted 24 of the 58 trees ordered from the Village. It is anticipated that all of the remaining trees will be planted by the end of November, when the trees are dormant. Residents will continue to be notified in the coming weeks regarding their plantings. The Village asks that you please follow the recommended watering schedule necessary for recently planted trees

(<https://www.stadlergardencenters.com/resources/watering-instructions/>).

Litter: There continues to be an increase of litter left on Village sidewalks and yards, particularly discarded face masks. As it is both an aesthetic concern and a public safety concern, residents are requested to please ensure waste is disposed of in trash receptacles.

Pet Owners: The Village Ordinance Section 4-203 states “Pet owners must prevent unwelcome or unsolicited threatening physical contact or close proximity to a person or a domestic animal that occurs outside the owner’s property that may cause alarm in a reasonable person, such as biting, chasing, tracking, inhibiting movement, or jumping.” Just a friendly reminder, while walking your pets to please keep them on a leash.

Recyclables: The Village participates in a dual stream recycling program. Glass/plastic/aluminum go in one recycling container. Mixed paper should be placed in a separate container. No plastic bags of any type in the recycling bins – please take them to the grocery store. Additional excluded items are hazardous/toxic product containers, electronics, plastic wrap, Styrofoam, and needles/syringes/health care supplies. The Village recycling service will not collect waste with excluded items.

Thefts: Some residents have recently experienced signs of unlocked vehicles being

tampered with, and it appears there may be an increase of vehicle theft throughout the area. Residents are encouraged to ensure vehicles are locked and valuables removed. In addition, a few residents have reported theft from their yards. It is advised that residents not leave valuables outside or unattended.

Permits:

The following permit received fast-track approval, per the Village permit application:

- 3804 Inverness – dumpster (10/28/21)

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:

Update on Thrive Montgomery 2050: On October 25, the County Council’s Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee held its ninth and final work session on the Thrive Montgomery 2050 (Thrive) Draft Plan. Thus far, the committee has made some minor updates to each of the chapters of the Draft Plan and received a presentation based on the report issued by the County’s Office of Management & Budget (OMB). Before the PHED Committee voted unanimously to send the Draft Plan to the full County Council for consideration, they did discuss the possibility of holding a Town Hall or Listening Session in the coming weeks with the public. The recommendation is being considered by County Council President Hucker.

Update on Montgomery County’s Attainable

Housing: The County Planning Board is operating under the assumption that the principles of Thrive 2050 (i.e., compact growth or urbanism) will be passed by the County Council this fall. Therefore, the County Planning Department is currently preparing a Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) to change the zoning in single-family neighborhoods.

The Planning Staff released an interactive tool so that residents can better understand which lots could be impacted by the County

Planning Board Attainable Housing Proposals (if adopted by the County Council). Residents are encouraged to zoom in on the map and select the layers that correspond to the current Planning Board recommendations (i.e. Red Line 1-mile Buffer, Purple Line 1-mile Buffer, Priority Housing District, AHOM Parcels: Abut Corridor).

Thus far, four decisions have been made by the County Planning Board that would impact residential buildings within the Village.

- Establish "Priority Housing Districts" for larger multi-family housing types. The entire Village would be in a Priority Housing District, defined as an area within 1 mile "as the crow flies" of a Metro or Purple Line station and/or within 500 feet of major roads (which include Connecticut and Wisconsin Avenues).
- Allow "house-scaled" duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes to be built by-right on all lots in the Village and each unit within the structures would be allowed to have an accessory dwelling unit.
- Allow quadplexes to be bigger than "house-scale" if they contain an affordable dwelling unit.
- Create a new optional method of development that would allow townhouses and small apartment buildings (containing up to 19 units) to be built on properties that abut Connecticut Avenue.

On November 4, the Planning Board will continue its discussions addressing the issues of affordability, displacement, subdivision, tree canopy, parking, and pattern books that would be provided to builders so that they can be granted permits for building a duplex, triplex, and quadplex without additional oversight by the County.

While the Village does not have the zoning authority to regulate the types of residential buildings that can be built within the Village or the subdivision of lots, it does have the authority to regulate setbacks (front, rear, and

side), building height, mass, lot coverage, impervious surface, parking, water drainage, and tree canopy.

Because both initiatives, Thrive 2050 and the Attainable Housing recommendations, are slated to be voted on by the County Council this fall, residents are encouraged to email their questions, concerns, and suggestions to County Council members. To access to County Council member emails please see the Village website – link here:

[\(https://northchevyCHASE.org/other-local-officials/\)](https://northchevyCHASE.org/other-local-officials/)

I-495/I-270 Toll Lanes: The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study. The Study considers ways to relieve congestion and improve trip reliability, mobility and connectivity for modes of travel, including transit, in the National Capital Region.

MDOT SHA and FHWA continue to consider the nearly 3,000 comments received as part of the DEIS and public hearings held last fall. Responding to public input, the SDEIS reflects successful efforts by the NEPA team to reduce community and environmental impacts, including complete avoidance of Morningstar Cemetery in the Cabin John area. On Plummers Island, a research site for the Washington Biologists Field Club, the team collaborated with regulatory agencies and interested stakeholders to reduce the impact by 90% to 0.2 acre, consisting of one pier piling for the American Legion Bridge replacement.

Comments on the SDEIS will be accepted between Friday, October 1, and 11:59 PM on Monday, November 15, 2021.

Building on the existing DEIS that was published on July 10, 2020, the SDEIS has been prepared to consider new traffic, engineering, financial, and environmental information relative to the Preferred Alternative, Alternative 9 – Phase 1 South: American

Legion Bridge I-270 to I-370. The scope of the SDEIS focuses on new information while referencing the DEIS for information that remains valid. Following the 45-day comment period on the SDEIS, MDOT SHA and FHWA will consider comments received and will respond to substantive comments on the DEIS and SDEIS in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

The Op Lanes Maryland website has been updated with SDEIS and public hearing session information. For more information, please visit: (<https://oplanesmd.com/sdeis/>)

Future of the Chevy Chase Library: The Chevy Chase Library underwent a building assessment in 2019 and found many problems from roofing to damp basement to HVAC to ADA issues. In light of the cost to fix the library (at least \$7 million), the DGS, which manages public building construction and renovation for the County, has proposed two alternative scenarios for the library:

- The first is “a full scale renovation of the existing 16,000 sq. ft. library” funded by the County;
- The second “might include a newly constructed 20,000 sq. ft. library achieved through a Public-Private Partnership and a mixed-use project to include residential development to offset the costs of a replacement library on the site.” According to DGS staff, this would be “market rate” housing with the required minimum, 12.5% of moderately priced units. The developer’s money would save the County coffers.

Please go to the online DGS survey at <https://mcpl.link/chevy-chase-survey> and you have until noon on Monday, November 15th to vote.

WSSC: Sign up for WSSC Water's Customer Notification System. It's the best way to receive alerts about repairs that may affect your water service or daily routine. Once you sign up, you'll receive email or text alerts about water main breaks, sanitary sewer overflows, road or lane closures caused by WSSC Water work, boil water advisories and occasionally other important messages.

Visit: wsscwater.com/CNS

Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade:

The Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade will usher in the holiday season on Saturday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. The parade is filled with gymnasts and tumblers, performing dogs, colorful Mexican, Peruvian, and Bolivian dancing groups, fire trucks, music, and colorful inflatable characters. Attendees will be able to socially distance themselves, as the parade route continues for a mile along Ellsworth Drive, to and along Georgia Avenue, ending at Spring Street. All attendees are encouraged to wear masks to keep the community safe. More information about the parade can be found at: <https://www.silverspringdowntown.com/montgomery-county-thanksgiving-parade>.

Official County Tree: County Executive Marc Elrich recommended the black tupelo to be Montgomery County’s official tree. The county’s Forest Conservation Advisory Committee was tasked with the selection process for the county tree. The black tupelo can tolerate a wide range of conditions and are expected to weather well through climate change.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OCTOBER COUNCIL

MEETING: *(Please note: the Official minutes will be approved at the next Village meeting and after which will be posted to the Village website)*

Secretary’s Report for September 2021 Council Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer’s Report for September 2021 (Joos) – Results for September 2021 included income of \$53,031.97, plus receipt of the Village’s initial funding under the American Rescue Plan Act of \$113,647.39, for a total of \$166,679.36, and operating expenses of \$24,374.56 (including waste removal, street lighting, trees, sign/street maintenance, landscaping and lawn moving, wages and taxes, professional fees, membership and dues, and office and communication). Capital expenditures incurred during September 2021 came to \$3,789.96 including capital expenditures for trees (\$2,295.00) and streets (\$1,494.96), with total capital expenditures for FY 2022 to date of \$9,112.58. Total current assets for as of September 2021, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to \$2,106,548.08.

As part of the Treasurer's Report, the Council agreed to approve, pending final review, the proposed FY 2021 audit report prepared by the Village's external auditor, and to implement the specific measures recommended by the auditor relating to Village financial matters.

Action Items:

New Sidewalk Assessment/Update: The results of the polling on installation of sidewalks on the 3600 block of Husted and the 9000 block of Montgomery Avenue were announced – in each case support for installation of a sidewalk came to 33% of households eligible to vote and opposition to installation of a sidewalk came to 67% of households eligible to vote. In light of this, no further consideration will be given to the possible installation of sidewalks on either block at this time. Consistent with the general policy adopted by the Council to deal with this issue, future consideration of the possible installation of sidewalks on blocks that do not currently have at least one sidewalk would next be addressed in 2029, in connection with the formulation of the Village's next ten-year capital plan.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): The Council noted receipt of the first installment of ARPA funds that have been allocated to the Village in the amount of \$113,647.39. This amount is 50% of the Village's total allocation. The Village decided to participate in an effort being undertaken by a number of other nearby municipalities to hire a shared Program Manager (similar to the arrangement with the Village Attorney) to assist the participating municipalities with compliance and recordkeeping obligations associated with the use of ARPA funds and to consider circumstances, if any, in which multi-jurisdictional projects could be considered.

Capital Improvement Project Update: The Village received a status update on the FY 2021/22 capital improvement projects currently contracted to Team Cam. The Village Council noted that work is proceeding and expects that all work will to be completed by the end of October. Relevant communications will be disseminated to Village residents as work proceeds, particularly to inform them of activities that will affect particular residential locations.

Village Banking Relationships: The Council decided to approve the recommendation of the Village Manager to establish a new banking relationship with Sandy Spring Bank, including opening of three checking accounts (operational; escrow; and ARPA funds) and the termination of our existing bank accounts with our current bank, SunTrust. Among other things, Sandy Spring Bank seemed particularly responsive to and knowledgeable of specific banking issues and concerns related to municipalities, including the ability to establish appropriate collateral agreements for such accounts.

Kensington Parkway Safety: Given ongoing concerns regarding pedestrian safety at the Kensington Parkway/Kenilworth Driveway intersection, the Council approved conversion of this intersection into a four-way stop intersection and authorized the Village Manager to proceed with commencing the process to implement such a change, including posting of signs along Kensington Parkway indicating that new traffic control measures will be established.

Parking Restrictions on 8800 Block of Montgomery Avenue: In light of an increase in non-resident parking on the portion of the 8800 block of Montgomery Ave adjacent to Jones Bridge Rd and 3600 block of Stewart Drwy, the Village will install signs imposing a 3-hour parking restriction on those streets. It is anticipated that this will be completed by early November. The Village appreciates resident input on the effectiveness of the signage in stopping contractor vehicle parking on those blocks. There has also been discussion about the potential for the Village to move to "permit parking" in the future if non-resident parking increases with the Chevy Chase Lake Development, Purple Line, and other developments in the area.

Venue for Future Meetings:

The Council expects to continue with Zoom virtual meetings for the foreseeable future, most likely through the rest of the calendar year at least. The Council notes that both in person and Zoom virtual meetings each offer certain advantages, and the possibility of some sort of hybrid approach in which some meetings would be in person and others conducted via Zoom would also be considered.