



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

DECEMBER VILLAGE MEETING:

December 21, 2021 – 7:30 PM – Zoom platform
(instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list)
*Approval of November Minutes
*Treasurer’s Report *Permits *Arbor Pro Presentation* Restructure Permit Fee*
Resolution Debt & Investment Policies

CALENDAR (2021-2022)

- December 16: Curbside Donation – bagged clothing
- December 17: Curbside Donation – Non-clothing, furniture
- December 18: Bulk Trash Pick Up
- December 21: Village Council Meeting
7:30 PM Virtual
- December 22: Voluntary tips for waste/recycling collection (can be taped in envelope on underside of recycling container)
- January 18: Village Council Meeting
- February 15: Village Council Meeting

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES:

Donations Prior to Bulk Trash Pick Up:

In an effort to help residents donate reusable/donatable items prior to bulk trash pickup, the Village has again arranged with Donation Nation to come through the Village in advance of the December 18th bulk trash pickup. Donation Nation is a 501©3 whose mission is to reduce landfill waste and supply a variety of tangible and economic resources to benefit the growth of the nonprofit sector. 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. Pickup of bagged clothing curbside will be on **Thursday, December 16th** and non-clothing and furniture will be picked up on **Friday, December 17th**. 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/>

VILLAGE COUNCIL

- Chair: Adrian Andreassi
chair@northchevychase.org
 - Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner
vicechair@northchevychase.org
 - Secretary: Maury Mechanick
secretary@northchevychase.org
 - Treasurer: Olga Joos
treasurer@northchevychase.org
 - Member: Chas Stuart
member@northchevychase.org
 - Manager: Susan Theis
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

Bulk Trash: Bulk trash pickup is scheduled for **Saturday, December 18th**. Items must be at curbside by 7 a.m. Our contractor uses different trucks to haul different items, so certain items may be removed before others. Included items: Washing machines, dryers, stoves, hot water heaters, other major appliances, furniture/parts of furniture, large toys, bicycles, swing sets, bath tubs, sinks, toilets, do-it-yourself amounts of earth, sand, gravel, demolition debris and construction waste, parts of automobiles, but not fleet tires. Excluded: Large tree stumps, poisons, acids, caustics, explosives, oil or other flammable liquids, motor vehicles and parts such as batteries, tires, bricks, general construction material, iron pipe over 10 ft long, large rocks, wood piles, large tree limbs, dead animals, human or animal feces and ammunition.

Gratuities for Waste/Recycling Crews: For those residents who would like to provide a voluntary holiday tip to the Village's waste/recycling crew, an envelope can be taped to the inside of the lid of the recycling receptacle for pick up on **Wednesday, December 22nd**. Please note that the crew are Gustavo Alvarado, Nelson Galvez, Francisco Perez and Mosies Sarabia.

Holiday Waste Pick Up: Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Saturdays this year so there should be no disruption to our schedule. Household waste will be collected, as usual on the Tuesdays prior and post. In addition, Christmas trees can be left curbside for pick up any Monday the month of January.

Leaf Pick Up: Street leaf pick up will likely end the week of January 3rd, weather permitting. 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.

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 and public safety concern, residents are requested to please ensure waste is disposed of in trash receptacles.

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.

Services Offered:

Village management is looking to re-establish a list for residents' referral on our website. This would include pet sitters, baby sitters, leaf raking, lawn mowing, snow shoveling, etc. If you or a family member are interested in offering your services to Village residents, please contact the Village Manager at nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org as we begin to revive this opportunity.

Snow Removal:

The Council approved renewal of the contract with Snow Central for snow removal services for the upcoming winter season, expressing satisfaction with services and responsiveness previously provided by this contractor and noting that cost increases for services provided appeared reasonable.

Village management will notify residents via the email distribution list when snow removal is scheduled. The 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 within 24 hours of snowfall ceasing (or spreading sand or calcium magnesium acetate if snow/ice has hardened).

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:

3607 Stewart Driveway - dumpster

REMINDERS:

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

New Residents:

The Village is pleased to welcome Patricia Metzger who moved into 3602 Kenilworth Driveway.

GENERAL INTEREST:

Beach Drive Bridge Replacement Project in Kensington – Reopening April 1st:

The construction project on Beach Drive in Kensington, between Kensington Parkway and Old Spring Road, has been accelerated by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) so that a two-lane vehicle bridge can be replaced and the road reopened to traffic by April 1st.

To meet the new accelerated construction schedule, additional crews are being added. Construction will take place Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. and may include Saturday work. Residents living near the site may hear construction-related noise during these hours.

A 2020 bridge inspection revealed that the bridge's steel arches are in poor condition. The south parapet has been removed above two arches and temporary concrete traffic barriers were put in place. The project, which will allow the bridge to be restored to full capacity, is being partially funded with Federal funds. The project includes replacement of the two-

lane bridge, relocating Rock Creek Trail to a separate alignment, constructing a pedestrian bridge crossing of Silver Creek and removing the right turn lane of Kensington Parkway at Beach Drive. The project also will plant trees, incorporate landscaping and implement erosion control measures.

Purple Line: Managers of the Purple Line — Maryland's 16-mile light rail line coming to Prince George's and Montgomery counties — announced that they've selected a new contractor to complete the project.

The contractor, Maryland Transit Solutions, is expected to start construction next spring, once the plan receives approval from the Maryland Board of Public Works — comprised of the governor, state treasurer, and comptroller. The final cost and timeline for when passengers can start riding won't be released until that final contract goes through, according to The Washington Post.

Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP), the organization managing the project under a public-private agreement with Maryland's transportation authorities, selected Maryland Transit Solutions after a search that began in January. The company is made up of Dragados USA and OHL USA, two American branches of major Spanish firms, per the Post.

The previous group of construction companies, Purple Line Transit Constructors, dropped out last year, after complaining that delays and legal problems set the project back by more than a year and added \$519 million to the total cost. (Maryland transit officials disputed those claims for years.) The state paid a hefty settlement to PLTP after back-and-forth lawsuits further stalled the project.

The 21-station Purple Line is slated to run from New Carrollton to Bethesda and will connect riders with five branches of Metrorail, bus routes, three MARC commuter lines, and Amtrak.

Now, MDOT says, the project is moving "full speed ahead" and expects to be fully greenlit by February 2022.

I-495/I-270 Toll Lane Project:

The Maryland Transportation Authority's board has approved rates for toll lanes in Gov. Larry Hogan's proposal to widen I-270 and part of I-495.

The rates would apply to high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes, and would vary based on whether motorists have an EZ-pass.

Passenger vehicles (with two axles) would pay varying amounts, and have a "minimum toll rate range," a "soft rate cap" or the "maximum toll rate range." The tolls are calculated per mile, based on overall traffic, vehicle speed and other factors.

The I-270 and I-495 project includes reconstructing the American Legion Bridge and constructing two high-occupancy toll (HOT) managed lanes in each direction from the southern end of I-270 to I-370.

The MDTA board approved the proposed toll rates after months of public comment. Proponents of the project, including Hogan, say it is the only legitimate, immediate way to reduce traffic congestion along I-270 and I-495 around the American Legion Bridge.

Opponents argue that the project would not result in long-term traffic relief, and that the tolls would be costly to middle- to lower-class residents and families. Some have called the HOT lanes "Lexus Lanes" because of that economic argument.

Here are some of the toll rate changes, per mile, the MDTA Board approved:

- For a two-axle passenger vehicle with an EZ-Pass, the "minimum toll rate range" is \$0.17, "soft rate cap" is \$1.50 and the "maximum toll rate range" is \$3.76
- The toll rate increases climb as axles are added to the vehicle. The most expensive is for a six-plus-axle vehicle, with a "minimum toll rate range" of \$1.28, "soft rate cap" of \$11.25 and "maximum roll rate range" of \$28.22
- Those using the pay-by-plate system, without an EZ-Pass, would be charged

more. For a two-axle passenger vehicle, the "minimum toll rate change" is \$0.21, "soft rate cap" is \$1.88 and "maximum toll rate range" is \$4.70

- The most expensive category is video tolling, but those with plates not registered for the pay-by-plate system. For a two-axle passenger vehicle, that's \$0.26 for the "minimum toll rate range," \$2.25 for the "soft rate cap" and \$5.64 for the "maximum toll rate range"
- Carpools or vanpools with three or more people in the vehicle, also known as a high-occupancy vehicle, would not pay for the tolls. Neither would motorcycles or buses.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER 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 Report for October 2021 Council Meeting: (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer's Report for October 2021: (Joos) – Results for October 2021 included income of \$80,107.49, and operating expenses of \$27,766.54 (including waste removal, street lighting, leaf collection, trees, sign/street maintenance, wages and taxes, professional fees, membership and dues, and office and communication). Current fiscal year to date revenues through October 2021 came to \$145,525.56 and current fiscal year to date operating expenses came to \$88,719.76. Capital expenditures incurred during October 2021 came to \$4,790.78 including capital expenditures for sidewalks (\$145) and streets (\$4,645.78), with total capital expenditures for FY 2022 to date of \$13,903.36. Total current assets for as of October 2021, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to \$2,154,150.82.

Permits:

- **3804 Inverness Driveway**– Deferred action on permit application for a shed until the December meeting, pending receipt of additional information about the construction of the shed from the property owner.

- **3709 Kenilworth Driveway** – Deferred action on permit application for a replacement fence until the December meeting including request for a grant from the Village to partially offset the cost of a replacement fence which is described as a historically significant fence within the Village. While some concerns were raised as to whether or not the requested grant would represent an appropriate expenditure of Village funds, a final decision was deferred pending receipt of additional information regarding the manner in which other nearby municipalities handle such issues and the nature of the County's designation process for historic properties.

Action Items:

Kensington Parkway/Kenilworth Driveway 4-Way Stop Signs – Work is proceeding for the procurement of signs required to convert this into a four-way stop intersection, including posting to the extent required by Montgomery County of advisory signs announcing a change in traffic patterns as a preliminary step to installation of the additional stop signs on Kensington Parkway.

Native Tree Plantings Update – The Council was informed that planting of all of the trees ordered from Stadler Nursery would be completed by November 20, 2021. The Village asks that you please follow the recommended watering schedule necessary for recently planted trees (<https://www.stadlergardencenters.com/resources/watering-instructions/>). The Council will revisit next year future plans for the tree planting program. Information was also provided about other methods by which residents could obtain trees from programs operated by Montgomery County. They are as follows:
Tree Montgomery:
<https://treemontgomery.org/request-a-tree/>
and Reforest Montgomery:
<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/environment/forest-conservation-and-trees/reforest-montgomery/free-urban-shade-trees/>

Program Manager (ARPA Funds) Update – The Village is continuing efforts with other nearby municipalities (Garrett Park, Chevy Chase Section 5, and Martins Addition) to hire a program manager that would assist those municipalities with various issues related to record keeping and planned expenditures for the ARPA funds that those municipalities have received, including preparation of a job description for the position.

Village Banking Relationships – The Village is moving forward with establishment of new banking arrangements, including three bank accounts and securing a safety deposit box, with Sandy Spring Bank, and anticipates having those new accounts go active very shortly. All the necessary information from Council members required by Sandy Spring to open the accounts has now been received by Sandy Spring.

Permit Application Update - Fees for Projects Involving "Substantial House Renovations" – The Council deferred final consideration of this until the December meeting, while noting general agreement with the underlying concern that certain renovation projects were of such a magnitude that they should be considered on the same basis as tear downs/new home construction for purposes of permit fees and security deposits required pursuant to Village ordinances governing such activities.

Resolutions on Village Investment and Debt Policies – Consistent with the recommendation of the Village's outside auditor, the Village will adopt formal policies governing Village investments and circumstances in which the Village may incur debt. Initial drafts of such policies were considered by the Council, with a final decision deferred to the December meeting, to insure full consistency of the drafts with relevant provisions in the Village Charter.

HAVE A SAFE, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!