



**VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2022**

JANUARY VILLAGE MEETING

January 18, 2022 – 7:30 PM – Zoom platform (instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) *Approval of December Minutes *Treasurer’s Report *Permits *Resolutions on Permit Restructure Fees *Sandy Spring Bank *ARPA funds *Investment & Debt Policy

Yard Waste Pick Up: Christmas trees can be left curbside for pick up any Monday during the month of January. Street leaf pick up has ended for the season. Residents should place yard waste in paper yard trim bags or a reusable container for collection on Mondays. Brush can be bundled with twine. Branches or tree limbs should not exceed 4 feet in length and 4 inches in diameter and each bundle must be 30 inches or less in diameter and no more than 45 pounds.

CALENDAR (2022)

- January 18: Village Council Meeting
7:30 PM Virtual
- February 15: Village Council Meeting
7:30 PM Virtual
- March 15: Village Council Meeting
7:30 PM Virtual
- March 17: Curbside Donation, Clothing
Donation Nation
- March 18: Curbside Donation,
Furniture/Non-Clothing Items
- March 19: Bulk Trash Pick Up

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

- 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 Stewart
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

Snow Removal: Village management will 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 for passable and safe 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 driveways, as feasible, or on the even side of the street to facilitate snow removal and application of salt.

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.

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.

Thefts: Some residents have recently experienced signs of vehicles being tampered with, and it appears there is an increase of vehicle theft throughout the neighborhood. Residents are encouraged to ensure vehicles are locked and valuables

removed as the majority of cases involve unlocked doors. Village management has contacted the Montgomery County Police Department regarding this recent crime wave and they have assured us that with the resources they have, their officers are doing their best to help catch the individual's involved.

NEW RESIDENTS

The Village warmly welcomes the following new families!

3503 Hutch Place: Vanessa Beveridge

PERMITS

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

- 3607 Stewart – dumpster and front porch (12/3/2021)
- 3606 Stewart – rear deck (12/16//2021)

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

Montgomery County Council Elects Gabe Albornoz as President and Councilmember and Evan Glass as Vice President

Unanimously elected by the Montgomery County Council, they will serve one-year terms as Council officers. Council President Albornoz just completed his term as vice president and chairs the Council's Health and Human Services Committee. He also is a member of the Council's Public Safety Committee.

County Board of Health Extends Indoor Masking Mandate

The County Council, acting as Board of Health voted unanimously to extend the indoor mask mandate through January 31st, effective January 5th.

This decision was made after careful consideration based on rapidly rising COVID-19

case counts and hospitalizations in our community.

Update - Montgomery County finalizing plans for 'vaccine passport'

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich's vaccine passport proposal for certain businesses countywide is now being reviewed by the County Council. The council, acting as the Board of Health, could vote on the proposal as soon as January 11th.

If it is approved, individuals 12 and older, and eventually 5 and older, would have to show proof of vaccination at establishments such as restaurants, bars, nightclubs, movie theaters, bowling alleys, billiard and pool halls, performing arts theaters, hotels, conference centers, and gyms.

The proposal does not apply to anyone entering an establishment for a short time, such as to place or pick up a takeout order, and it allows for medical and religious exemptions.

Acceptable proof of vaccination could be a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccine card, an immunization record, a state record of the vaccination, or a digital photo or copy of any of these.

Montgomery County Launches 2021 Biennial Online Resident Survey

The survey is available on the County website: (<https://polco.us/n/res/vote/montgomery-county-md/montgomery-county-2021-2?>) and asks residents age 18 or older to rate how they feel about the quality of life, County services, use of existing amenities and facilities, whether they take advantage of County programs, their impression of County employees, how well the County communicates with its residents, and various household practices such as recycling.

To generate a more equitable sample, the survey was mailed to 5,000 randomly selected households with instructions in English, Spanish, Chinese, French, Korean, Vietnamese, Persian/Farsi and Amharic. However, the survey is open to all residents.

Households that received the mailed survey should use the link and access code contained in the mailer.

This biennial survey was last conducted by the County in 2019. This survey is an important tool to create better customer service, more transparency, and provide ideas and feedback to help the government make better budget and policy decisions to create a more effective and efficient service.

Deadline to respond to survey is January 17th.

Sale of 4-H site in Chevy Chase complete

The sale of the former National 4-H Conference Center 12-acre site at 7100 Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase to Atlanta developer Galerie Living and DC-based Community Three has been finalized for \$40 million.

The developer plans to turn the property into a senior living community. Galerie Living said that it will likely contain amenities such as an on-site restaurant and green space. This will be the first senior community the developer has built outside Atlanta.

The National 4-H Council had announced in March 2021 that it was selling the building due to economic challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Galerie Living and Community Three are working closely with the Town of Chevy Chase and expect to have specifics on the project sometime in the first quarter of 2022.

The Town of Chevy Chase to contribute up to \$4 million to convert parking lots near Bethesda Farm Women's Market to parks.

During a December 2021 meeting, the Town Council unanimously voted to contribute about 25% — up to \$4 million — of the public funds needed for the project. The town will use money from its reserves, which, as of June 2021, had a balance of more than \$10 million, according to Chevy Chase Mayor Barney Rush. The remaining public funding is expected to be

provided by the Montgomery County government.

Rush added that Chevy Chase leaders included some conditions to its contribution, like that the parks will be “enduring” and not later converted to something else, and to ensure town residents are included in the planning process. They also were clear that their contribution is to build the parks on the two open lots — not just one or the other.

The Farm Women’s Market, on Wisconsin Avenue, was founded in 1932.

The project, which first came into focus in 2018, is led by EYA Holdings. The update plans include a roughly 6,000-square-foot addition to the historic market, large parks on what are now parking lots, and residential buildings, as well as playground and dog park, an area for temporary vendor tents, botanical gardens and an amphitheater.

Montgomery County Urges Homeowners to be ‘Salt Wise’ During Winter Storms

MCDOT, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and WSSC Water are urging homeowners to be “Salt Wise” and use less salt on sidewalks and driveways during winter storms.

Salt runs off into storm drains, local streams, and eventually, to the Potomac and Patuxent rivers, which are drinking water sources for 1.8 million people in Montgomery and Prince George’s counties. Salt can corrode concrete and masonry, harm pets, damage surrounding plants and lawns, and adversely impact the water supply. Local water filtration plants are unable to remove salt from the water.

The “Salt Wise” campaign is a simple three-step method for residents to keep sidewalks and driveways safe while also reducing harm to the environment.

It’s Easy as 1-2-3!

- 1 Shovel Right Away** 
Clear pavement and driveways before snow turns to ice. ❄️
- 2 Use Less Salt**  If you must use salt, a 12-oz mug holds enough salt to treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares.
- 3 Sweep & Reuse** 
Keep unneeded salt out of our waterways by sweeping and collecting for reuse. ❄️

We hope residents will heed this guidance as we all work together to protect our environment.

For more information on how to effectively address salt use on residential properties, go to montgomerycountymd.gov/salt.

New County Council Map Approved Over the last year, the Redistricting Commission had the tough task of redrawing the County Council map. With a population increase of 90,000 people over the last decade and a voter approved referendum to add two new districts, the nonpartisan Commission worked overtime in an effort to create fair and equitable boundaries. While they could not accommodate every boundary change requested, it is believed that this new map will serve the County well for the next decade because it recognizes the population growth and better represents the diverse community.

Before 2020, the Charter required that the County be divided into five Council districts. The new requirement for seven districts applies to the 2022 elections, and the Council will consist of eleven members in total in December 2022. Seven district Councilmembers will be elected by registered voters who live in each district and four at-large members will be elected by all voters across the County.

An interactive map is posted on the Council's webpage:
(www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/BC/C/redistricting/)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER COUNCIL
Secretary's Report for November 2021 Council Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer's Report for November 2021 (Joos) – Results for November 2021 included income of \$177,448.69, and operating expenses of \$26,683.92 (including waste removal, street lighting, trees, sign/street maintenance, wages and taxes, professional fees, and office and communication). Current fiscal year to date revenues through November 2021 came to \$322,974.25 and current fiscal year to date operating expenses came to \$117,403.68. Capital expenditures incurred during November 2021 came to \$137,465.54 including capital expenditures for streets (\$112,571.11) and sidewalks (\$1724.43), representing the principal expenditures incurred with respect to the Village's FY 2021/22 capital infrastructure improvements program. Total capital expenditures for FY 2022 to date came to \$151,368.90. Total current assets for as of November 2021, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to \$2,167,502.61.

Permits

- **8910 Montgomery Avenue** – Permit request for a driveway pad approved.
- **3804 Inverness Driveway**– Action again deferred on permit application for a shed until the January 2022 meeting, pending receipt of additional information about the construction of the shed from the property owner.
- **3709 Kenilworth Driveway** – While granting the permit for reconstruction of the front-yard fence, the Council did not approve a request from the property owner for a grant from the Village to partially offset the cost of a reconstructed fence that had been described as being of historical significance. The Council could not

identify any other municipality in which a grant of this type would be awarded, did not believe that an expenditure of this type using Village funds would otherwise be appropriate or justified, and was concerned that approving a request of this nature would establish a precedent that could have significant adverse financial repercussions going forward. In taking this decision the Council noted that, while the fence may have some historical significance, the residential property in question had not been formally designated as a historic property within Montgomery County nor had a request that it be so designated ever been submitted.

Action Items:

Arbor Pro Software – Following a presentation by a representative of the Village's Environment Committee, the Council decided to approve procurement of the Arbor Pro Enterprise Tree Inventory & Management Software System, to assist the Village in tracking the status and health of Village trees. Initial costs to be incurred include procurement of the Software System (including a subscription covering the first year of its use) and a one-time fee for the importation of current Village tree inventory data into the software program. After the first year, the Village will have the option to continue the subscription to the software either on an annual basis or on a three-year subscription basis at a discounted fee.

Kensington Parkway/Kenilworth Driveway 4-Way Stop Signs – All signage to convert the Kensington Parkway/Kenilworth Driveway intersection into a four-way stop intersection, has been installed and the intersection is now fully operational as a four-way stop intersection.

Permit Application Update - Fees for Projects Involving "Substantial House Renovations" –

The Council noted general agreement with the underlying concern that certain major 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, but deferred final action on this matter in order to further consider what specific criteria should be used for determining what would constitute a substantial house renovation.

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 Springs Bank. The Village Manager is awaiting the necessary signature forms from Sandy Springs with respect to the various bank accounts and safety deposit box, and will disseminate those forms to Council members for their signature once received.

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.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tree Care: Proper Tree Pruning

Please do not allow tree companies to use the Topping method of tree pruning on your property, pictured below.



Large branches are lopped off mid-branch, leaving the tree weakened and disfigured and allowing fungus and insects open access to the

tree interior. The tree's new growth will be weak, brittle branches sprouting from the open cuts. Companies that prune trees properly will remove branches at branch nodes, where the tree has specialized tissue that allows healing. Thank you for helping to keep our neighborhood trees healthy.

A Neighborhood Treasure

Have you explored the wonderful 40-acre, nature sanctuary in NCC's backyard?

The **Audubon Naturalist Society at Woodend**, located on Briery Avenue, is a neighborhood treasure to be explored, appreciated and preserved. The Audubon's mission is to promote environmental awareness, education and stewardship throughout the Washington, DC area. Building upon its inspiring environment, the recent masterplan renovation has created ADA accessible trails, pervious surfaces for better stormwater management, use of nature-based solutions and green infrastructure for climate resiliency, wildlife lookouts, and so much more. An all-natural playground is under development to further complement a water refilling station, bike racks and a solar powered recharging site. The Audubon hosts a holistic kindergarten, a variety of nature camps of adolescents and a multitude of learning workshops, classes and excursions for adults and families throughout the year. Check out its valuable programming/website: (<https://anshome.org>)

This neighborhood treasure welcomes all, free of charge, to enjoy the wonders of nature, wander through its woodland trails, visit its native plant gardens and explore the aquatic life of its pond. North Chevy Chase is a wonderful place to live in so many ways and the Audubon makes it all the more special. Please visit and consider becoming a community member.