



## VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2022

### **SEPTEMBER VILLAGE MEETING**

September 20, 2022 – 7:30 PM – hybrid platform in person and via Zoom (instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list): \*Approval of July Meeting Minutes \*Treasurer’s Report \*Permits \*Environment Committee

### **CALENDAR (2022)**

September 15: Curbside Donation, Clothing Donation Nation

September 16: Curbside Donation, Furniture/Non-Clothing Items

September 17: Bulk Trash Pick Up

September 20: Village Council Meeting

October 18: Village Council Meeting

November 15: Village Council Meeting

December 20: Village Council Meeting

### **VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES**

#### **Donation Prior to Bulk Trash Pick Up:**

Donation Nation will be coming through the Village prior to the Saturday, September 17 bulk trash pickup, as noted on the calendar. 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. Pick up of bagged clothing curbside will

be on **Thursday, September 15** and non-clothing and furniture will be picked up on **Friday, September 16**. 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](mailto:chair@northchevyCHASE.org)

Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner

[brianhoffner@gmail.com](mailto:brianhoffner@gmail.com)

Secretary: Maury Mechanick

[secretary@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:secretary@northchevyCHASE.org)

Treasurer: Olga Joos

[treasurer@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:treasurer@northchevyCHASE.org)

Member: Chas Stuart

[member@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:member@northchevyCHASE.org)

Manager: Susan Theis

[nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto: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](http://www.northchevyCHASE.org)

**New Residents:** The Village provides a very warm welcome to the following new residents!

**3816 Inverness:** Arnaud Montouche and Melissa Deehring and family.

3714 Stewart: Martin Sibilaue and Jennifer Santo and family.

8807 Montgomery Avenue: The Andros Family.

**“Petiquette”**: Please see below for helpful reminders for pet owners. Not every homeowner is a pet owner, so please be a responsible pet owner and be respectful of private property. Avoiding private property is the best way to be a courteous neighbor.

- **Keep your pet on a leash.**
- **Do not allow your pet to wander onto other resident's property.**
- **If your pet has to go, make sure it does so on common areas**, like the curb grass closest to the street. Do not venture into homeowner's yards.
- **Pet urine kills plants and flowers.** Please be mindful of the community landscaping and your neighbors landscaping.
- **Keep our common areas clean**, by picking up pet waste and disposing it in your trash can at your home.

#### **PERMIT REMINDERS:**

- *Please note that a **Village permit** may be required for many exterior work projects (and, when applicable, Montgomery County). Please visit the Village website at [northchevyCHASE.org](http://northchevyCHASE.org) or contact the Village Manager at #301.654.7084 to verify any requirements.*

#### **GENERAL INTEREST**

##### **Biden Signs the Most Significant Climate Investment in US History**

President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law, which contains \$369 billion in funding to build clean-energy infrastructure, accelerate the transition to electric vehicles, improve energy efficiency, and ensure environmental justice. The passage of this law marks the largest investment ever in

sustainability and climate in the history of the United States.

The new law aims to slash climate pollution by an estimated 40% over the next decade by incentivizing stakeholders across sectors to invest in our planet. In the process, over 9 million new clean energy and environmental jobs are projected to be created by the end of the decade, in addition to revitalizing American manufacturing by supporting domestic production of clean energy and transportation technology.

##### **Hogan's I-495, I-270 widening plan gets green light from Federal Highway Administration**

An environmental impact statement for Gov. Larry Hogan's plan to widen Interstates 495 and 270 has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – clearing a major hurdle in the project and making it eligible for federal funding.

Nearly five years ago, Hogan proposed widening all of the Beltway in Montgomery and Prince George's counties as well as I-270, and installing two toll lanes in each direction to help pay for the project. Last year, the Maryland Department of Transportation announced that the first phase had been scaled back, and now only includes the replacement of the American Legion Bridge, the portion of I-270 that runs to the I-370 interchange and the westernmost section of I-495 that leads to I-270. The cost of this work is estimated to be between \$3.75 billion and \$4.25 billion.

According to state transportation officials, the plan “avoids all residential and business displacements and significantly reduces impact on parkland, right of way and other resources...” It also replaces the American Legion Bridge, which is 60 years old.

On August 25, the State Highway Administration (SHA) and FHWA announced its approval, which is the final milestone in a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The environmental review process lasted four years and included multiple public

workshops and hearings, according to a press release.

Earlier in August, the FHWA was scheduled to approve the impact statement, but announced a delay in its review of the environmental impact statement. The Sierra Club and other local organizations have argued that the public deserves more time to review the lengthy impact statement.

Elrich said in a statement to Bethesda Beat Thursday evening that he is “disappointed and dismayed” about the ruling. Elrich noted that he had asked the Federal Highway Administration more than a month ago to delay its decision for at least 60 days to “ensure proper public engagement and creative problem solving for the myriad of issues which will surface over the course of this project.”

The Maryland Transit Opportunities Coalition, another opponent of the project, said that the traffic modeling used in the environmental impact statement was not sufficient enough to prove whether the extra lanes would relieve traffic congestion.

The project will move forward to the state Board of Public Works for additional steps. Among the steps remaining is the approval of a final contract with Accelerate Maryland Partners – the consortium of private companies working with the state to carry out the project.

### **Montgomery County Wins Nearly \$15 Million ‘Low or No-Emissions’ Award for the First Hydrogen Electric Bus Project on the East Coast**

MCDOT has won a competitive grant award of nearly \$15 million from the United States Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the purchase of 13 new hydrogen fuel cell buses and the construction of a green hydrogen fueling site at the David F. Bone Equipment Maintenance Transit Operations Center in Gaithersburg. The project will be the first public transit application of green hydrogen on the East Coast.

The award, from FTA’s Low or No Emission Vehicle Program, makes the County a leading adopter of this clean technology.

The award will enable the replacement of 13 diesel-fueled buses in the County’s Ride On fleet with zero-emission, hydrogen-electric powered buses. The project advances the County’s goal to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2035. It reduces annual emissions by 640 tons while ensuring reliable and sustainable bus service.

The new fuel cell buses, alongside existing and planned battery-electric buses in the Ride On fleet, will enable MCDOT to provide clean, sustainable and reliable bus service.

These are the first of the FTA’s competitive grant selections under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The programs support the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to expand the nation’s transportation infrastructure, create and maintain good-paying jobs and fight climate change.

The FTA award covers 57 percent of the total \$28.6 million dollar of the Montgomery County project. The County will provide the required match from funds programmed in its capital budget for buses. The buses are expected to be in service by late 2025.

For information on MCDOT programs and services visit [montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot)

### **‘Reducing Food Waste Begins with You’ Campaign Now Under Way**

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has launched an educational awareness campaign to provide residents, businesses and organizations with ways they can reduce the estimated 124,000 tons of food scraps that are thrown away every year in the County.

Montgomery County is committed to reducing waste and recycling more as it aims for zero waste. Reducing food waste is a key objective of the County’s Climate Action Plan, which includes preventing and lessening the amount of food waste created.

Among the ways to reduce food waste are:

- Plan meals in advance.
- Make a shopping list and check expiration dates on the items purchased.
- Cook the food you buy.
- Cook smaller portions to cut down on the amount of leftovers.
- Save extra food in reusable containers and add a label listing the contents and the date before storing in the refrigerator or pantry.

To learn more about reducing food waste, visit <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/SWS/foodwaste/food-waste.html>.

### **County makes progress on implementing bike lanes**

For drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, it's easy to spot the recently painted lime-green bike lanes at the intersection of Woodmont and Bethesda avenues in downtown Bethesda.

The creation of the bike lanes is part of the county's Bicycle Master Plan, approved by the County Council in 2018. The plan aims to transform the county into a world-class bicycling community, according to the planning department's website. The county's Department of Transportation is responsible for installing the bike lanes.

David Anspacher, the county's transportation master planning supervisor, said the plan contains recommendations for creating about 1,000 miles of bikeways, and about a quarter of those miles have been constructed so far. Master plans typically take between 20 to 30 years to fully implement, he said.

The project was split into tiers, with downtown areas receiving high priority. By placing bikeways along the main streets of these downtown areas, such as Woodmont Avenue in Bethesda, the county aims to connect people in the suburbs to the downtown areas.

### **Deer Population Management Program Begins in September**

Montgomery Parks, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), announces its annual deer population management program to occur from September 2022 into March 2023. A total of 63 parks where archery and/or firearms-managed deer hunting, or Park Police-based sharpshooting operations, these 63 parks comprise nearly 60 percent of M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks' total land area.

Initiated 26 years ago, addresses the over-population of deer in many areas of the county which result in deer-automobile collisions, excessive damage to the environment, private landscapes and agriculture, and the spread of disease. Once programming is implemented and established in these areas, routine maintenance is typically required to balance deer with available habitat and human land uses.

Since the inception of the program, parks staff and program participants have removed over 22,500 deer. All deer meat is used and/or donated by hunting participants or, in the case of Park Police-based sharpshooting, donated to the Capital Area Food Bank—over 367,000 pounds to date.

Questions or comments regarding deer and deer management programming occurring on M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks lands may be directed to: [Info@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:Info@montgomeryparks.org) or 2425 Reedie Drive, 2nd Floor, Wheaton, MD 20902.

### **Amazon Fresh sets opening date at Chevy Chase Lake**

The anchor retail tenant of Chevy Chase Land Company's new Chevy Chase Lake development now has an opening date. Amazon Fresh will open there on September 1, 2022. This will be the first Amazon Fresh store in Montgomery County to feature the company's Just Walk Out payment technology.

Amazon Fresh has slowly started to expand its presence in the greater Washington

region, opening a store almost a year ago at 5463 Wisconsin Avenue in the Friendship Heights area. Another location is also under construction in the former Office Depot on Shady Grove Road in Gaithersburg at the 270 Center.

### **Montgomery County Provides Updates on Four 'Streeteries' for Fall**

Four 'streeteries' were created in early 2020 by Montgomery County as a temporary concept to support businesses struggling from the economic impact of COVID-19 and allow residents to gather freely on public streets closed to cars.

As the pandemic continues to ease, the county is working with communities around each location to establish a long-term plan for each space.

Two of the 'streeteries' are in Bethesda – the *Norfolk Avenue Streeteries* which will remain in operation and closed to vehicles for the foreseeable future. The *Woodmont Avenue Streeteries* will be closed and partially reopened to traffic after Labor Day, on September 7, to allow for construction of the Woodmont bikeway project. However, outdoor dining on sidewalks at restaurants that offer it will remain an option.

The county has hired a consultant to look at a future streeteries concept that would widen the sidewalks and add trees while potentially restoring traffic movement through the block.

### **Taste of Bethesda to return in October**

Downtown Bethesda's annual food festival will return October 1 after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 31<sup>st</sup> annual Taste of Bethesda will highlight the community's restaurants while also featuring live entertainment and an activity area for children from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in downtown Bethesda's Woodmont Triangle. Admission to the event is free but tickets must be purchased for the food samples offered by participating restaurants.

For the full schedule, visit Bethesda Urban Partnership's at [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org)

### **Call 311 to Get it Done**

It's storm season. If you come across debris blocking the road or the sidewalk or street light outages contact MC311 Customer Service Center by calling 311 in the County or 240-777-0311, 711 for [MD Relay TTY](http://MDRelayTTY.com), from anywhere, Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. or follow on Twitter [@311MC311](https://twitter.com/311MC311).

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY COUNCIL**

**MEETING\*** (*Official minutes will be posted to the website*) \*The Village Council does not meet in August.

### **Secretary's Report for June 2022 Council and Annual Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report for June 2022 (Joos) –** Results for June 2022 included income of \$68,888.97, and operating expenses of \$14,472.57 (including waste removal, street lighting, landscaping and mowing, wages and taxes, and office and communication). Current fiscal year to date revenues through June 2022 came to \$640,525.41 and current fiscal year to date operating expenses came to \$243,324.84. No capital expenditures were incurred during June 2022. Total capital expenditures for FY 2022 came to \$154,961.10. Total current assets as of June 2022, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to \$2,349,906.31. The results as presented represented the final results for FY 2022, which ended June 30, 2022, and showed excellent performance in terms of income versus budget for the year, and funds for operation, which is the excess of income over operating expenses. Indeed, the only reason that operating expenses slightly exceeded the budget amount for the fiscal year related to the additional professional fees incurred for resolution of issues related to plans by the State and Montgomery County for a storm water management facility at the Montrose/Jones Bridge intersection.

**Permits:**

- **3604 Kenilworth Drive** – permit application for new fence approved.

**Action Items:**

**Arbor Pro Update** – Jane Houlihan provided a demonstration of the Arbor pro software previously purchased by the Village, including the multiple tracking capabilities incorporated within the software. The demonstration confirmed the significant value that this software will provide to the Village in the future to better track the status, health and location of all Village trees, and has the ability to provide similar information on resident-owned trees, should the Village desire to enter such data in the future.

**Pesticide Concerns** – While continuing to consider possible Village restrictions on toxic pesticide use, the Council will prepare a set of good neighbor practices that it will encourage residents to follow in the event of commercial pesticide usage on their properties.

**Composting** – The Village will survey Village residents to gauge their interest in composting and possible measures that could be taken by the Village to encourage composting. Review of a questionnaire is ongoing to ensure that it is properly focused to assess interest in various alternative approaches and will be considered further at the September meeting.

**Diesel Surcharge for Waste Management Services** – With the expiration of the current addendum to the Village's contract requiring the Village to cover the expense of a diesel surcharge arising as a result of increased fuel expenses incurred by the Village contractor, any further addendum will include language not only providing for a surcharge if diesel fuel costs remain high, but also providing for a rebate to the Village in the event that diesel fuel costs fall below a specified price level. This is an approach that at least one other neighboring Chevy Chase municipality is following in connection with contract renewals for waste management services.

**ARPA Funding** – The Village will endeavor to obtain cost estimates for various projects that

can be funded using ARPA funds including for improved storm water management capabilities adjacent to the Kenilworth/Kensington Parkway and Inverness/Kensington Parkway intersections and for improved street lighting throughout the Village, and to ensure proper alignment of any such undertakings with the Village's current long term capital program and the dates in the ARPA program by which funding commitments must be made and expenditures incurred.

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING**  
**(Courtesy of the Environment Committee)**

**Environment Committee seeks new members!**

Looking for proactive sustainability-minded individuals interested in making a difference in our community. Please come with your ideas and willingness to help develop projects such as composting, green spaces, walking trails and much more!

Contact the Village Manager or Helen Santiago Fink, [helensantiagofink@verizon.net](mailto:helensantiagofink@verizon.net), with your interest.

**County Council introduces bill banning gas-powered leaf blowers**

The Montgomery County Council introduced a bill to ban the sale and use of gas-powered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums to address environmental, noise and health concerns. Similar bans went into effect January 1 in Chevy Chase Village and Washington, DC.

The sale of the leaf blowers would be banned six months after the legislation is enacted. The use of the leaf blowers would be prohibited one year after enactment. Anyone caught using a combustible leaf blower or vacuum after that could be subject to a fine of as much as \$1,000.

The bill also authorizes a reimbursement program to give a partial credit to residents and businesses who return their gas-powered leaf blower or vacuum to the county and buy an electric leaf blower.

A public hearing is scheduled for September 20.