



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022

OCTOBER VILLAGE MEETING

October 18, 2022 – 7:30pm – hybrid platform
(instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) *Approval of September Minutes
*Treasurer’s Report *Permits* Environment Committee

2022 CALENDAR

Oct 18: Village Council Meeting
Nov 15: Village Council Meeting
Dec 15: Curbside Donation, Clothing
Donation Nation
Dec 16: Curbside Donation,
Furniture/Non-Clothing Item,
Donation Nation
Dec 17: Bulk Trash Pick Up
Dec 21: Village Council Meeting

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES

Leaf Pick Up: Street leaf pick-up will start the week of October 3. Leaf pick-up will occur weekly for 3 months. Bethke Landscaping, the Village contractor, will not provide a specific day each week given continual schedule adjustments due to weather. Leaves are to be placed curbside and made accessible for leaf 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.

Pet of the Month: Would you like your family pet (dog or cat) to be featured as the Village Pet of the Month? A number of Village family pets have already received this prestigious honor, and yours could be next. To be eligible, please send a photograph, accompanied by a brief narrative text, to the Village Secretary (Maury Mechanick) at secretary@northchevyCHASE.org. Requests will be acted upon in the order that they are received. So even if your family pet is not selected for this month, your pet would be eligible for a following month!

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

Website/Listserv: For those who have not yet signed up on the Village's listserv and/or website, we strongly encourage you to do so, as those two venues are the primary way in which the Village Manager and Council members can provide time-sensitive, important information to the community (i.e. related to power outages, public works projects, emergency advisories, Village-wide surveys, etc.). Please send your email address to nccinfo@northchevychase.org (include name and street address) or text that information to the Village mobile at 301-654-7084 and the Village Manager will sign you up. When sending that information, please confirm whether you would also like to be included in the online directory (password protected on the Village website).

Composting: There has been an ongoing discussion about the value of composting and how best to move forward as a Village in supporting it. The Village plans to survey residents about their interest/willingness to compost and their perspectives on using Village funds. A survey will be going out to residents electronically through the listserv and in hard copy attached to the November newsletter to maximize resident response. It is anticipated results will be available in December.

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 www.northchevychase.org or contact the Village Manager at nccinfo@northchevychase.org to verify any requirements.

Permits: Fast Track:

- 8901 Connecticut Avenue – fence (approved 9/8/2022)
- 8809 Montgomery Avenue – POD (portable on demand storage) – approved 9/19/2022

GENERAL INTEREST

October in Maryland becomes WALKTOBER and October 5th is Walk Maryland Day!

A month where the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and other partnering agencies promote and host events and webinars spotlighting Maryland pedestrians' safety, health, and commuting options in current walk programs and initiatives.

Through a series of informational resources and free webinars for pedestrians tailored to interest enthusiast, advocates, planners, and residents. Throughout Walktober, learn how walking is easy and accessible exercise, how to safely use pedestrian infrastructure, and how to incorporate walking in your daily routines within the provisions of social distancing and other restrictions.

For more information and to register visit:
<https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/Index.aspx?PageId=136>

The Chevy Chase Fire Department will be holding its annual Open House on Saturday, October 8th, from 10am to 3pm at the Chevy Chase Fire Station.

The following events are for children (and parents)

- The Extreme Dual Slide
- Fire Engine rides
- Balloons, fire helmets and fire prevention material for children
- The Jaws of Life
- State Canine Police demonstration,
- And more....

On Wednesday, October 12th, the County will be participating in Walk to School Day.

'Safe Routes To School' is a nationally recognized program that aims to significantly improve safety for students who walk and bike to school. In Montgomery County, the SRTS program also combines a safer roads component to slow down drivers and build new

pedestrian and bicycle safety treatments such as new crosswalks, and bump-outs at an intersection and add stop or yield signs.

MCDOT is completing walkability studies through the pedestrian road safety audit program to review the sidewalk and crosswalk conditions surrounding schools. For each school, these studies identify structural improvements including curb extensions, sidewalks, enhanced crosswalks, and the installation of traffic signs and signals. The accompanying educational effort teaches elementary students how to use new infrastructure and traffic rules. It also encourages walking and biking by raising awareness of health and environmental benefits.

All Safe Routes to School program resources are free and community participation is encouraged. Students, parents and schools are encouraged to start an SRTS program at their schools.

Child and Adult Used Bicycles Can Be Donated at the Annual Department of Transportation Event on Friday, October 14th

Bicycles that are no longer being used by some can make a big difference for others. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation's annual Bicycle Donation Drive, will make it easy to donate previously owned bikes and ensure they will have a continued impact.

MCDOT is sponsoring the collection of child and adult bikes in partnership with Rockville Bike Hub and Bikes for the World. From 7am-2pm on Friday, October 14th, bikes will be collected (rain or shine) outside of the Montgomery County Council Office Building Garage at East Jefferson and Monroe Street in Rockville.

Bicycles should be in good working condition or in need of only minor repairs. Rockville Bike Hub volunteers will refurbish the bikes and MCDOT will place them with low-income children and adults in the County through

the MCDOT Bike Match Program or through the Rockville Terrific Kids program.

For more information about the bike donation event, visit <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dir/BikeDrive.html>.

NCC Connections Annual Halloween Parade and Block Party on Sunday, October 30th

Celebrate Halloween with your neighbors!

Parade Starts at the NCC Pool, 8817 Briery Rd, Chevy Chase, from 3-4pm with kids in costume while neighbors cheer, wave, and hand out treats. Block Party from 4-5:30 pm on 3400 Block of Kenilworth Driveway. with hand-painted tattoos, games, crafts, snacks, and more!

See the NCC Connections website (<https://www.northchevychaseconnections.org/event-details/nccc-annual-halloween-parade-and-block-party>) for more information.

Thrive Montgomery 2050

The council will continue its work on Thrive Montgomery 2050, the proposed update to the county's general master plan. The plan focuses on topics such as where growth should occur in the county, what type of housing is needed, what new communities should look like, how to grow arts and culture countywide, transportation networks, and the future of county parks.

The proposed plan has generated controversy, with supporters saying it is the appropriate roadmap for how the county should grow, and opponents saying it will lead to greater gentrification and displacement, and that much more expensive infrastructure improvements will be needed to execute the plan's overall goals.

Based on community feedback and through a review by council staff, the council hired

Nspiregreen, a consultant, to solicit feedback about Thrive, specifically through the lens of racial equity and social justice. Nspiregreen will brief the council on its report, which includes recommendations to improve the plan in those specific areas, including a separate chapter on the matter.

The council is also scheduled to extend the deadline to vote on Thrive 2050 to November 15th, an action required by state law if the governing body wants to vote on the plan by October 25th.

County Council passes new rules for e-scooters

Children under age 14, pending County Executive Marc Elrich's signature, will be prohibited from using e-scooters while those under 18 must wear helmets, according to legislation approved by the County Council that also requires e-scooters companies to register with the county Department of Transportation.

The legislation, passed unanimously, also regulates where the scooters can be parked, prohibiting parking on a sidewalk that is 5 feet wide or narrower or in sidewalk dining areas, loading zones and bicycle lanes, among other areas.

The bill is designed to increase safety concerning the use of e-scooters, a transportation mode that has become more popular in recent years.

New Montgomery County Website Highlights Flooding Issues, Concerns and Solutions

Montgomery County has unveiled a new website to educate and inform the public about flooding issues that may affect residents and businesses throughout the County. The website provides information about frequently flooded roads, steps residents can take to prepare for potential flooding and the availability of flood insurance to all properties in the County. Montgomery County is committed to addressing adverse flood impacts to residents and businesses in the County.

The web address is <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flooding/>.

Flooding is the most frequent severe weather event and the costliest natural disaster. Floods not only affect high-risk coastal areas, but according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 25 percent of flood insurance claims come from moderate-to-low-risk areas like Montgomery County. Just one inch of floodwater can cause up to \$25,000 in damage.

Montgomery County is developing a comprehensive flood management plan to better understand the causes and impacts of flooding—and potential strategies to eliminate or minimize the risks of flooding.

Montgomery County Public Libraries Releases New Strategic Plan

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) has unveiled a new strategic plan effective Fiscal Year 2023 through Fiscal Year 2026. The new strategic plan defines MCPL's core mission, values and community-centered vision for increasing equity in access and opportunity while identifying goal areas that will be the main focus over the next three years.

MCPL will continue to provide its core services for all, while working to achieve the goals in support of the following populations in particular:

- Children 5 and under are ready for kindergarten.
- Teens are ready for college and/or the workforce, and to be lifelong users of the library.
- Speakers of languages other than English can participate fully in American society.
- Residents with limited access to technology and/or the internet can navigate a digital world to get what they need.

To achieve these goals, MCPL will explore launching its strategic priorities at branches located in parts of the County that are characterized by high concentrations of lower-

income people of color, who may not speak English as their first language.

“Our strategic planning is an ongoing process,” said MCPL Director Anita Vassallo. “We will annually assess where we are with the plan’s actions and update it based on achievement and changing community needs.”

Tutor Perini selected as contractor for I-270 and Beltway widening project

Tutor Perini, a construction company and one of the largest general contractors in the United States, has been selected to build Gov. Larry Hogan’s proposed project to widen I-270 and parts of the I-495 and rebuild the American Legion Bridge.

The company was selected by Accelerate Maryland Partners, the consortium that has been tasked with working with the Maryland Department of Transportation to complete the project.

The road widening project has been controversial in Montgomery County, supported by many residents upcounty as a way to alleviate traffic between the northern part of the county and Washington D.C. and other parts of the region.

Many residents downcounty, along with transit and environmental advocates, believe the project won’t fix traffic problems in the long run, and that the toll lanes will be too expensive for many motorists to use.

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.

Recently, the Federal Highway Administration approved an environmental impact statement for the project, making it eligible for federal funding. The Board of Public Works — consisting of Hogan, Comptroller Peter Franchot and Treasurer Dereck E. Davis — still needs to approve final contracts and requirements for the project to proceed. But the selection of a contractor indicates that Hogan may be able to accomplish that before he leaves office in early January.

County Executive Marc Elrich, a long-time opponent of the project, said during a news briefing that he is not against replacing the American Legion Bridge, or addressing traffic issues on the western part of I-495 and I-270. But Hogan’s proposal is costly and not the appropriate way to handle the issue, he said.

The Board of Public Works has five more meetings scheduled for 2022 and another scheduled for Jan. 4, 2023 — perhaps the last one before Hogan leaves office. Both Wes Moore, the Democratic nominee for governor, and Dan Cox, the Republican nominee, have expressed concerns about how Hogan’s proposal is currently structured.

Judge grants elections board request to count mail-in ballots as they arrive

A Montgomery County circuit court judge sided with the state Board of Elections, ruling that Maryland elections officials may process and count mail-in ballots as they come in.

In granting the election board’s petition, Chief Administrative Judge James Bonifant accepted their argument that the expected deluge of mail-in ballots would result in a weeks-long delay before results could be tabulated, potentially creating turmoil.

“There is no doubt that the increased number of mail-in ballots will have an enormous affect on the process of this election,” said Bonifant, in a ruling he delivered from the bench. “Mandatory deadlines will be missed if the court takes no

action.” He stressed that his ruling applies only to this year’s elections.

Voters will elect a new governor, comptroller and attorney general in November. In addition, all 188 members of the General Assembly, all eight congressional seats, and a U.S. Senate seat are on the ballot, as are numerous local offices and statewide ballot questions.

Elections officials expect to see a record number of mail-in ballots this cycle. As of September 19th, more than half a million Marylanders — 524,818 — had requested mail-in ballots.

The deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot is November 1st, though elections officials suggest voters not wait until the last minute.

2022 Gubernatorial General Election

Registered voters can either vote in person during early voting or on election day or by mail-in ballot.

Early voting starts on Thursday, October 27th, 2022 and goes through Thursday, November 3rd. During early voting, you can vote at any early voting center in the jurisdiction where you live. Each early voting center will be open continuously from 7am to 8pm each day. Anyone in line at 8pm will be allowed to vote.

On election day, Tuesday, November 8th, you must vote at your assigned polling place. All election day polling places are open continuously from 7am until 8pm on. Anyone in line at 8pm will be allowed to vote.

If you are unable to vote during early voting or on election day, you may vote by absentee ballot.

For more information visit:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections/index2.html>

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING* (*Official minutes will be posted to the website*)

Secretary’s Report for July 2022 Council Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer’s Report for July and August 2022

(Joos) –Results for July 2022 included income of \$4,977.97, and operating expenses of \$31,681.09 (including July 4 picnic, waste removal, trees, street lighting, landscaping and mowing, membership and dues wages and taxes, insurance and bonds, professional fees, and office and communication). Results for August 2022 included income of \$3940.56 and expenses of \$14,131.33 (including waste removal, street lighting, landscaping and lawn moving, membership and dues, wages and taxes and office and communications). The Village also received its second tranche of ARPA funds in August 2022 in the amount of \$113,647.39, bringing total ARPA funds received to \$227,224.78. Current fiscal year to date revenues through August 2022 (not including ARPA funds) came to \$8918.53 and current fiscal year to date operating expenses came to \$ 45,812.42. No capital expenditures were incurred during July or August 2022. Total current assets as of August 2022, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to \$2,427,070.15. Preparatory work on the 2022 fiscal year external audit is near complete, as the auditors are simply awaiting final confirmation of State highway user revenues for the fiscal year. Once that is received, preparation of the formal audit document will commence.

Permits:

- **3820 Kenilworth Drive** – permit application for new driveway approved.
- **3702 Husted Drive** – consideration of permits for a retaining wall and for driveway deferred to October 2022 meeting, awaiting submission of complete information from homeowner.

Action Items:

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, the Council approved a further six-month addendum 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.

Leaf Pick-up and Vacuuming – The start date for Fall 2022 for this service will be the week of October 3, 2022.

Diverter Replanting – The Council approved a contract with Ever’s Green Acres landscape for removal of current plantings at the diverters at the Montgomery/Kenilworth and Montgomery/Stewart intersections, and agreed to a plan to replace those planting with native plantings. The actual replanting plan and budget will be submitted to the Council for further consideration at its October meeting.

Village Tree Survey and Future Tree Plantings – The Council approved a survey to be sent to all recipients of Village-funded trees in 2021 to ascertain the status of those trees. The Village intends to move forward with the purchase of additional trees that can be planted in the Village right-of way, in consultation with affected homeowners, to further increase the quality of the tree canopy coverage in the Village.

Maryland Certified Public Manager Program/Capstone Project – In connection with the Village Manager’s acceptance and enrollment in the Maryland Certified Public Manager Program offered by University of Baltimore, suggestions for possible capstone projects required as part of the curriculum for the Program included assessment of possible ARPA fund projects and assessment of street light alternatives for the Village, given the recent regulatory change that affords municipalities greater flexibility to own their own streets lights if desired. As the Village Manager

reported, she is already actively involved in participating in review activities with other municipalities regarding options now available to municipalities in this regard, including assessment of the benefits as well as the costs/risks of direct municipal ownership of street lighting.

Mailbox Issue – The Village Council noted and expressed concerns about the repeated vandalization of the USPS mail box at the corner of Kensington Parkway and Kenilworth Driveway. When the box is restored to use, suggested guidelines for use, including avoiding placing mail in the box after the last scheduled pickup each day, will be provided to all residents.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING: DEALING WITH CHANGE ON A LOCAL LEVEL

(Courtesy of the Environment Committee)

Smart EV Chargers Eligible for County Tax Credits

Montgomery County provides a tax credit of up to \$250 per household each year for devices that reduce demand for conventional fuels. If you installed a home EV charger in the last 12 months or install one going forward, you can claim the tax credit by filling out an online form, go to

<https://montgomerycountymd.seamlessdocs.com/f/RenewableTaxCredit>