



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2022

NOVEMBER VILLAGE MEETING

November 15, 2022 – 7:30pm – hybrid platform
(Zoom instructions will be sent to the Village’s
email list): **Approval of October Minutes*
**Treasurer’s Report* **Permits* ** Snow Removal*

CALENDAR (2022 - 2023)

November 15: Village Council Meeting
December 15: Curbside Donation, Clothing
Donation Nation
December 16: Curbside Donation,
Furniture/Non-Clothing Item,
Donation Nation
December 17: Bulk Trash Pick Up
December 20: Village Council Meeting
January 17: 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 3rd and will end in December. Bethke Landscaping is the Village contractor. 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 two diverters along Montgomery Avenue at Stewart and Kenilworth, over the storm drains, and at the three bus stops along Kensington Parkway.

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.

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

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 should be recycled – please take them to the grocery store or discard. Additional excluded items are hazardous/toxic product containers, electronics, plastic wrap, Styrofoam, and needles/syringes/health care supplies. In addition, any plastic food or beverage containers that are marked PS (polystyrene) or #6 are not to be included in the recycling. The Village recycling service will not collect waste with excluded items.

REMINDERS:

- Please note that a **Village permit** may be required for many exterior work projects (and, when applicable, Montgomery County). Please contact the Village website at www.northchevyCHASE.org or contact the Village Manager at nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org to verify any requirements.

Permits:

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

- 8807 Montgomery Avenue – dumpster (10/18/22)

GENERAL INTEREST:

The 2022 General Election is Tuesday, November 8th. Below are answers to commonly asked questions about voting and the election

Where do I go to vote in person on Election Day?

- Each voting site is for voters in that area. To figure out your polling place or check if you are registered to vote, go to voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch or check a sample ballot that the Board of Elections mails to you.
- **Polling places will be open from 7am to 8pm**

Which offices are up for election?

- At the county level: Montgomery County executive, County Council, sheriff, state's attorney, register of wills, clerk of the circuit court, circuit court judges, school board
- At the state level: governor/lieutenant governor, state senators, state delegates, attorney general, comptroller
- At the federal level: U.S. senator, U.S. representatives
- The Montgomery County Republican and Democratic parties will choose members of their central committees.

What ballot questions will voters see?

- Voters in Montgomery County will be able to vote on several amendments: five to the Maryland Constitution and one to the Montgomery County Charter.

The Audubon Naturalist Society is now Nature Forward.

Nature Forward reflects the impact we can have as stewards of the environment in our region when we move forward together.

Please know that they remain committed to their mission to inspire people across the region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment. Creating a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it continues to be their vision.

Residents are invited to attend the **Community Meeting on Tuesday, November 8th at 7pm.**

The meeting will be held on the virtual Zoom platform:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4886313655?pwd=aMjGUzJXTGxQbklweHI3Y1JlRStKUT09>

Meeting ID: 488 631 3655

Passcode: Nature

If you do not have video conference capabilities, you can join by phone at (301) 715-8592.

Montgomery County Council Appoints Temporary Acting Planning Board Members to Ensure Continuity of Service

The Montgomery County Council appointed five temporary acting Montgomery County Planning Board members. The Council selected Jeffrey Zyontz as temporary acting chair and Amy Presley as temporary acting vice chair. Cheri Branson, David Hill, and Roberto Piñero were appointed as temporary acting Planning Board members. The temporary Planning Board members reflect Montgomery County's diversity in their backgrounds, experience, and party affiliations.

"Given the unprecedented challenges at the Montgomery County Planning Board, the Council has selected a diverse group of experienced leaders, who will reset operations, support the Park and Planning staff, and provide a bridge to the next Planning Board," said Council President Gabe Albornoz.

The Council is confident that this group of dedicated individuals will immediately hit the ground running and work collaboratively with Acting Planning Director Tanya Stern and Park and Planning staff to restore the public's confidence in the agency. They will perform the critical functions of the Planning Board and move planning projects and services forward for residents.

The next Montgomery County Council will be charged with selecting the new Planning Board members, who will serve out the remaining terms of the members. Once the new Council is inaugurated on December 5th, the process will begin to fill three Planning Board positions, which is expected by March 1, 2023, and the remaining two positions, including the chair, which is expected by June 14, 2023. The incoming Council will determine the final schedule.

The Montgomery County Planning Board serves as the Council's principal adviser on land use and community planning. Planning Board members also serve as commissioners of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

County Executive nominates new county health officer

County Executive Marc Elrich announced the nomination of Dr. Kisha Davis to serve as the health officer for Montgomery County. The position has been vacant since September 2021.

As county health officer, Dr. Davis will be responsible for continuing the county's efforts on disease control and prevention, eliminating health inequities, promoting county-wide inclusion of health in all policies, and working with the Maryland Department of Health to coordinate disease control and develop and implement state health policies.

Dr. Davis, a Montgomery County native, is a family physician in Bethesda and a community health advocate. Most recently, she was the vice president for health equity at Bethesda-based Aledale, an organization that works with independent medical practices, health centers, and clinics to support the delivery of high quality, equitable patient care.

The County Council is expected to confirm Dr. Davis and has scheduled a vote for Tuesday, November 15th.

County Council unanimously approves Thrive Montgomery 2050 plan

As dozens of community members booed, the County Council voted unanimously to adopt the Thrive Montgomery 2050 plan, an update to the county's general master plan that is expected to guide development for the next 30 years.

The controversial 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 issues of growth and housing have generated opposition from some community members, and County Executive Marc Elrich has repeatedly stated his opposition to the plan, urging the council not to adopt the proposal,

which is the result of years of work by the county Planning Department and the council.

“This document has many critical goals: promoting environmental sustainability and resiliency solutions, promoting equity. This is promoting social equity and social justice, promoting economic competitiveness. I think that those are the right goals, and not everyone has to agree — that’s the nature of democracy,” said Council Member Hans Riemer, the chair of the council’s Planning, Housing and Economic Development committee.

The council has been reviewing Thrive since the county’s Planning Board approved it in April 2021. The council’s Planning, Housing and Economic Development committee as well as the full council have held multiple public sessions on the plan.

MCDOT Completed Bikeway Construction on Woodmont Avenue in Bethesda and Reopens Reconfigured ‘Streeterly’

The reconfigured Woodmont Avenue streeterly provides extended street dining and a short-term curbside pick-up zone for businesses while reopening two of the four roadway lanes to traffic.

MCDOT has constructed a link to the Bethesda bicycle network along Woodmont Avenue between Bethesda Avenue and Elm Street. The bikeway is separated from the roadway to protect bike riders. The cycle track is part of a new, two-way bike network in Bethesda that offers bright green, protected bike lanes. The cycle track loops around a wide stretch of Downtown Bethesda and connects to the Capital Crescent Trail.

Opening date set for the Silver Line extension to Dulles

Metro announced that opening day for the Silver Line extension is Tuesday, November 15th, connecting Metrorail customers to Washington Dulles International Airport and Loudoun County for the first time.

In addition to Dulles, there will be five other new Silver Line Metro stations: Reston Town Center, Herndon, Innovation Center, Loudoun Gateway and Ashburn. Visit wmata.com/silverline for more information, including virtual station tours, maps, and connecting bus routes.

Preparing for the Flu Season

Montgomery County health officials urge all residents to get a flu vaccination. Getting a flu vaccination does not protect against COVID-19, but flu shots have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death.

COVID-19 Remains a Community Concern and County Continues to Distribute Free Vaccines, Rapid Test Kits and Masks

Montgomery County continues to be in the “low” community transmission rate for COVID-19. However, COVID remains a concern as new strains become prevalent. Updated vaccines are now available as boosters. Montgomery County has done very well in terms of the number of residents vaccinated, but there is still work to do on getting every eligible resident to get the latest booster vaccines. Those who have stopped at just the first two doses are two and a half times more likely to be hospitalized with COVID than people who have received booster shots.

County-sponsored clinics have the vaccine, as do many pharmacies and retailers. Anyone 12 and older who had their last vaccine dose at least two months ago should get the booster shot. Make an appointment for a County-sponsored clinic at www.GoVaxMoco.com

The County continues to provide free rapid tests and N-95 masks at many library locations.

For the latest County COVID-19 updates, visit: <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/>

Fire Pit Safety

Fall weather has arrived, and that means many residents are gathering outdoors around their fire pits. The Department of Permitting Services (DPS) website

(<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DPS/index.html>) features important safety information for those who are using fire pits, fire bowls, chimineas. It is important to use these devices in accordance with the manufacturer's guidance, and to make sure at least one adult is supervising the use.

Fire pits and similar devices should be located at least 10 feet away from your home, and it is important to keep a clear area of 3 feet in diameter around the fire pit. Mulch can catch fire quickly, so be sure to keep the fire pit at least 3 feet away from any nearby mulch.

DPS's fire code compliance team strongly recommends that you do not use these devices on balconies or decks. Burn only aged, dried wood and do not use any type of flammable or combustible liquid. Have a garden hose or water source nearby and be mindful of the wind speed before starting a fire. Dispose of all ashes in a safe manner.

Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade

The Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade will usher in the holiday season on Saturday, **November 19th at 10am**. Larger than life inflatable turkeys and penguins, glittering floats, marching bands, dancing groups, and Santa and his elves!

The Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade is the only Thanksgiving Parade in the metro DC area. Held in downtown Silver Spring, the exciting parade traditionally heralds the start of the holiday season. The parade steps off from Ellsworth Drive and Fenton Street and proceeds south on Georgia Avenue, ending at Silver Spring Avenue.

More information about the parade can be found at:

<https://www.silverspringdowntown.com/montgomery-county-thanksgiving-parade>.

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 2022 Council Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer's Report for September 2022 (Joos) –Results for September 2022 included income of \$57,034.04, and operating expenses of \$21,125.56 (including waste removal, trees, street lighting, landscaping and mowing, membership and dues wages and taxes, and office and communication). Current fiscal year to date revenues through September 2022 (not including ARPA funds) came to \$65,192.57 and current fiscal year to date operating expenses came to \$ 66,937.98. No capital expenditures were incurred during September 2022. Total current assets as of September 2022, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including ARPA funds received, came to \$2,463,372.92.

Permits:

- **3717 Stewart Driveway** – permit application for sports court (without lighting) and pergola approved; if homeowner desires in the future to add any outside lighting, that will require a separate permit application.
- **3503 Hutch Place** – permit application for a replacement fence (with added height) approved.

Action Items:

Approval of Draft FY 2022 Village Audit from LSWG – The Council approved the draft Audit Report prepared by the Village's independent external auditor, LSWG, for FY 2022, consisting of financial statements, supplementary information and independent auditor's report, as well as the accompanying letters covering significant audit matters and internal controls. The Audit Report concluded that the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial positions of the governmental activities, each major Village fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Village as of June 30, 2022, and the respective changes in

financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for FY 2022, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. As recommended by LSWG, the Council also adopted a set policy for capitalization of fixed assets, pursuant to which all property purchases of over \$1,000 and having a useful life of one year or more are capitalized.

Results of Village Tree Survey and Future Tree Plantings – The Village Manager reported on the results of the survey sent to all recipients of Village-funded trees in 2021 to ascertain the status of those trees. While the number of survey responses fell short of the total number of recipients of Village-funded trees, the survey results did confirm that most recipients had followed the watering instructions and reported that the trees were in good health. The Village decided to move forward with the purchase of up to 50 additional trees to 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. This effort will occur over the next several months, with some plantings occurring later in 2022 and others in 2023.

Diverter Replanting – The Council received a report from the Environment Committee laying out plans for replanting of native vegetation in the two diverters along Montgomery Avenue, which plans were developed with the assistance of the Audubon Naturalist Society. The Council approved a budget of \$6000 to cover the replanting efforts at the two diverters. Some initial replanting will occur later in 2022, with the remainder to occur in the first half of 2023.

Ongoing Review of ARPA Funds Utilization – The Council is continuing with its consideration of appropriate activities to be funded by the ARPA funds that the Village has received. Particular attention will be focused on addressing lighting issues throughout the Village as well as storm water management issues at various intersections crossing or adjacent to Kensington Parkway. In either case, the timing of such efforts will need to be aligned with plans for the repaving of Kensington Parkway, which is contemplated to

occur in FY 2026. So long as the funding commitments for such efforts are made by year-end 2024, the Village will have through year-end 2026 to expend the funds. It was further acknowledged that the cost of either or both projects could potentially exceed the amount of available funds that the Village will have received under ARPA, and therefore could necessitate a commitment of additional funds from the Village to complete either or both projects and that. Additionally, with respect to any efforts to address storm water management issues, additional coordination with the County and WSSC would be required to determine what actions the Village can take on its own to remedy specific storm water management problems that exist within the Village.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING (Courtesy of the Environment Committee):

Montgomery County recently released a website to help residents navigate the county's progress on managing climate change.

Montgomery County has unveiled a new website about all aspects of the County's actions on climate change. The website brings the County's array of climate planning, progress and action under one, easy-to-navigate portal.

The web address is:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/climate/>

Through the new web portal, visitors can see the County's climate progress, planning, partners, plans, reports, news, information, public resources and ways to everyone can get involved.

Among the many interactive elements of the website is a calculator for individuals to estimate their carbon footprint. Students can engage with the website through the interactive youth climate education slides. Residents can learn how to adopt best practices for energy efficiency where they live and learn more about electric vehicles.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving and please remember to vote 😊