



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

DECEMBER VILLAGE MEETING:

December 20, 2022 – 7:30 PM – hybrid meeting in-person and Zoom (instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) *Approval of November Minutes *Treasurer’s Report *Permits *Kensington Parkway Traffic Safety

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 15th** and non-clothing and furniture will be picked up on **Friday, December 16th**. 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/>

CALENDAR (2022-2023)

- December 15: Curbside Donation – bagged clothing
- December 16: Curbside Donation – Non-clothing, furniture
- December 17: Bulk Trash Pick Up
- December 20: Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM Virtual
- December 21: Voluntary tips for waste/recycling collection (can be taped in envelope on underside of recycling container)
- January 17: Village Council Meeting
- February 21: 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 17th 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

VILLAGE COUNCIL

- Chair: Adrian Andreassi
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 - Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner
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 - Secretary: Maury Mechanick
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 - 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 17th**. 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 21st**. Please note that the crew are Francisco Perez, Carlos Carillo, Oscar Martinez and Amado Baten,

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

Leaf Pick Up: Street leaf pick up will likely end the last week of December. Bethke Landscaping is the Village contractor. 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.

"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.

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@northchevy Chase.org as we begin to revive this opportunity.

Snow Removal:

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: With the holiday season in full swing, residents are once again encouraged to ensure vehicles are locked and valuables removed. It is also advised that residents not leave valuables outside or unattended. 'Porch pirate' theft is on the rise as virtual shopping continues to grow and more packages are being left on porches and doorsteps—especially during the holidays. Unfortunately, law breakers know this too.

In Memoriam:

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of two longtime Village residents – Janet Nufer Umhau, who passed away on November 22nd, at the age of 95 and the passing Bob Maher on July 15th, at the age 83. The Village Council sends its deepest condolences to the Umhau and Maher families at this difficult time.

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 #301.654.7084 to verify any requirements.

GENERAL INTEREST:

With expansion, Montgomery County Council deciding on committee structure

As the County Council will soon grow from nine to 11 members, its returning and incoming members will make changes that will fundamentally change the power and legislative structure of the body: how committees will be organized.

A restructuring of the committees could mean legislation is reviewed more thoroughly, but it could also potentially make it more difficult for bills to make it through the full council.

Currently, there are six council committees that workshop legislation before bills reach the full council for a vote:

- Education and Culture
- Government Operations and Fiscal Policy
- Health and Human Services
- Planning, Housing and Economic Development
- Public Safety
- Transportation and Environment

Council Vice President Evan Glass is likely to be Council President once the new council is seated, as council tradition dictates that the council vice president ascends to president the following year. Gabe Albornoz is the current council president.

Along with the change in overall structure, committee leadership will significantly change in the coming weeks. Council Members Craig Rice, Nancy Navarro, Hans Riemer, and Tom Hucker are all leaving office.

The new council is scheduled to be sworn in with County Executive Marc Elrich at 11am on December 5th at a public ceremony at The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda.

I-270, I-495 toll lanes project's fate to rest with Gov.-elect Wes Moore's administration

The Maryland Department of Transportation announced that it is extending its deadline for the contractor of a project to widen parts of I-270 and I-495, and rebuild the American Legion Bridge. Commuters hoping for wider lanes on I-270 and a reconstructed American Legion Bridge will have to wait longer, if the projects move through at all.

MDOT's move indicates it is leaving the fate of the project for the administration of Governor-elect Wes Moore.

Gov. Larry Hogan has been a champion of the project for the last several years, saying it's needed to alleviate traffic congestion in Montgomery County.

Nearly five years ago, Hogan proposed widening all of the Beltway in Montgomery and Prince George's counties as well as I-270.

Installing two toll lanes in each direction would 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. It's still not entirely clear why they chose to do so.

The cost of this work is estimated to be between \$3.75 billion and \$4.25 billion.

Instead of the original May 27, 2022 deadline for Accelerate Maryland Partners (AM Partners) — the consortium of contractors and subcontractors tasked with completing the project — the deadline was extended to March 21, 2023.

It's unclear what the project's exact fate is, but this announcement is important because final contract approvals will rest in the hands of a new Board of Public Works: Governor-elect Moore and Comptroller-elect Brooke Lierman, along with Treasurer Dereck Davis.

Montgomery County Completes Nation's Largest Bus Microgrid and Charging Infrastructure Project in Silver Spring

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen, Congressman Jamie Raskin, County Council President Gabe Albornoz, Council Vice President Evan Glass, Federal, State and local officials and corporate partners including AlphaStruxure celebrated the completion of the Brookville Smart Energy Depot located at 8710 Brookville Road in Silver Spring with a ribbon-cutting event. The nation's largest solar bus charging infrastructure project will supply clean energy to the MCDOT's growing Ride On electric bus fleet.

The project was completed through a partnership between the County's Department of General Services (DGS) and AlphaStruxure, a leader in Energy as a Service (EaaS) solutions. It is the third microgrid in the U.S. that will use solar power to charge buses for public transportation. The first of its kind project will help move Montgomery County closer to

meeting its goal of reducing GHG emissions to zero by 2035.

This resilient microgrid will provide uninterrupted power to MCDOT's Ride On transit electric buses. Transitioning 70 buses from diesel to electric, powered by the on-site clean energy microgrid, will reduce lifetime emissions by 62 percent equivalent to more than 160,000 tons of greenhouse gas reduction over the next 25 years.

WSSC Water is #WinterReady - are you?

Before winter weather arrives, it's important that you take steps to protect your home and pipes from the cold - to prevent the pipes and your inside water meter from freezing or possibly bursting. An extra benefit: you might also reduce your heating costs.

First things first: Keep these important phone numbers handy:

WSSC Water Emergency Service Center

301-206-4002

WSSC Water Customer Service Center

301-206-4001

Important tips for homeowners

Here are some key steps to take before freezing weather hits:

- Turn off the water to outside faucets, remove hoses and drain the pipes
- From the inside, cover any open vents with insulation, plastic or cardboard
- Tightly close all doors and windows, repair as necessary to seal out drafts
- Insulate and repair outside-facing walls
- On colder nights, it's a good idea to open cabinet doors to expose pipes to your home's warmth
- The temperature where water meters and interior pipes are located must be a minimum of 55 degrees Fahrenheit from November 1 through April 1
- On very cold nights, let your kitchen or bathroom faucets drip slowly to keep water moving

If a pipe in your home freezes:

- Completely open the cold and/or hot water faucet closest to the frozen pipe.

This will relieve pressure and reduce the chance of breakage

- If you decide to try thawing the pipe yourself, use a hand-held electric hair dryer
- If in doubt, call a registered plumber for help

Department of Environmental Protection Unveils ‘Gift Outside the Box’ Campaign Encouraging Greener Gifting for Holidays

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has launched its annual Gift Outside the Box campaign and encouraging people to “gift-greener” this holiday season.

The holiday campaign will focus on five areas: **Buy Local:** Support County and State businesses by purchasing locally made products. Look for the “MoCo Made” label at Alcohol Beverage Services (ABS) or other retail stores.

Gift Experiences: No need for a box when the gift features event tickets, Montgomery Recreation classes, music lessons, and time to be spent in nature or at parks.

Gift Greener: If purchasing new items, make sure that they encourage green living and, when possible, help people lower their utility bills. Consider LED lightbulbs, smart thermostats and reusable materials such as water bottles, metal straws and cloth napkins.

Give Back: Appreciated gifts include donations to local charities in the name of a family member or friend. Consider setting aside time to spend with friends and family by volunteering together.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle: Reduce waste by buying gifts made from recycled or reused materials, regift items not used from last year and recycle the paper (minimize wrapping by using reusable gift bags and cloth).

More information about the most sustainable ways to give for the holidays is available at the Gift Outside the Box website at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/gift-greener.html>.

Montgomery County Recreation Will Celebrate Holiday Season with Festivals, Movies Events and Special Events

Montgomery County Recreation is hosting holiday-themed, family-friendly events for everyone to enjoy this winter. From cocoa and crafts to photos with Santa, December events will be hosted at community recreation centers, senior centers and aquatic facilities across the County.

Registration for events can be completed online at [ActiveMONTGOMERY.org](https://www.active-montgomery.org). Registration for winter programs and activities is also currently underway.

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 2022 Council Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer’s Report for October 2022 (Joos) – Results for October 2022 included income of \$38,655.37, and operating expenses of \$27,974.00 (including waste removal, leaf collection, street lighting, landscaping and mowing, wages and taxes, professional fees and office and communication). Current fiscal year to date revenues through October 2022 (not including ARPA funds) came to \$104,617.94 and current fiscal year to date operating expenses came to \$ 94,911,98. No capital expenditures were incurred during October 2022. Total current assets as of October 2022, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including ARPA funds received, came to \$2,474,947.01.

Permits:

- **3702 Husted Driveway** - deferred
- **8901 Connecticut Avenue**– confirmed fast track approval for shed and pergola issued on November 11, 2022

Action Items:

Snow Removal Contract – The Council approved an additional one-year contract for snow removal services with Snow Central, on terms generally consistent with prior year terms.

Results of Village Composting Survey – The Council reviewed the results of the recent composting survey, which updated the prior survey conducted in December 2018. The number of responses this time was nearly double that provided with respect to the prior survey (81 versus 45), although the survey responses received still represented only about a third of Village residences. There appears to be broad-based interest in composting and having the Council explore possible options for community-based alternatives. As to financing arrangements, there continue to be a variety of views as to the desirability and appropriateness of the Village providing direct financial support for composting. The Council intends to further assess the survey results and will further consider options for moving forward.

Future Tree Plantings – Having previously decided to move forward with the purchase of up to 50 additional trees for planting the Village right-of way in various locations to further increase the quality of the tree canopy coverage in the Village, 11 homeowners have confirmed a willingness to have a Village tree planted in the Village right of way adjoining their property. As a large number of homeowners did not respond to the request letter that had been sent to them, the Village Manager will follow up with those residents to determine their willingness to participate in this program. This effort will continue over the next several months, with some plantings occurring later in 2022 and others in 2023.

Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers – Recognizing that the County has under consideration adoption of a county-wide ban on gas-powered leaf blowers and that some other neighboring municipalities have already adopted such bans, the Council decided to communicate to the County Council its support for such a ban. If the County fails to move forward with adoption of a county-wide band on a timely basis, the

Village will further consider adoption of a ban specific to the Village at an appropriate time.

Traffic Safety Concerns/Intersection of Kensington Parkway and Montrose

Driveway – In light of excessive speeds regularly observed on Kensington Parkway as vehicles approach the Kensington Parkway/Connecticut Avenue/Jones Bridge Road intersection and traffic light, and the serious accident at the Kensington Parkway and Montrose driveway intersection earlier in November, a number of residents have raised concerns as to whether that intersection should be converted into a four-way stop intersection, with stop signs installed on Kensington Parkway. Believing the concerns that have been raised are serious and substantial, and the Council indicated support for such a change, although to allow all interested homeowners in the Village the opportunity to express views on this issue, the Council will readdress this subject at its December 2022 meeting, looking toward taking a formal decision to make that intersection a four-way stop.

Bike Lanes on Connecticut Avenue in DC –

The Village has been contacted by Chevy Chase Village regarding their concerns about a proposal within the District of Columbia to reduce the number of lanes from 6 to 4 along upper stretches of Connecticut Avenue. Chevy Chase Village is concerned that this could result in significant increases in traffic diverted onto side roads, including possibly extending into adjoining municipalities in Maryland, and there has been no effort on the part of the District of Columbia Department of Transportation to coordinate with those neighboring Maryland municipalities about these proposed changes. While it is unlikely that the changes will necessarily directly impact streets within the Village of North Chevy Chase, the Council did believe the concerns raised were legitimate and decided to send a letter to the District of Columbia Department of Transportation to that effect.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING (Courtesy of the Environment Committee):

Rethinking Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Gas-powered leaf blowers have long been controversial due to their extreme contribution to noise and air pollution. In fact, citing their adverse environmental, human health and quality of life impacts, jurisdictions all across the nation, including very recently, Chevy Chase Village and Washington, D.C., have restricted gas-powered leaf blowers.

Here are some reasons why gas-powered leaf blowers are so detrimental:

- **Emissions** - Gas-powered leaf blowers burn a mixture of gasoline and oil, of which around 30 percent is released as unburnt aerosol. Their inefficient two-stroke engines are far more polluting than cars. In fact, a recent report from California's Air Resources Board cited that small off-road engines, such as those found in gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers, are a larger source of smog-forming emissions than the state's 14.4 million passenger cars.
- **Biodiversity** - Fallen leaves provide an incredibly important winter habitat for pollinators, caterpillars, fireflies, snails, spiders, and a number of other organisms to live in and lay their eggs. The indiscriminate gusts of up to 200 mph that emanate from a leaf blower completely eliminate this habitat. Preserving a thin ground cover of leaves in your garden bed and around trees will help to overwinter a myriad of organisms. Additionally, leaves provide a natural protective cover for tree roots and release valuable nutrients back into your soil.
- **Human Health** - Emissions from gas-powered leaf blowers contain a number of compounds known to harm people's health, including hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, as well as carbon monoxide and particulate matter. Nitrous oxide is an extremely potent heat-trapping gas, so leaf-blower exhaust also contributes to climate

change, which has its own health consequences.

- **Noise** - Montgomery County's Noise Ordinance states that "a person must not use a leaf blower at any time that has an average sound level exceeding 70 decibels (dBA) at a distance of 50 feet." However, many models exceed the county limit, and it is difficult to control the simultaneous use of multiple leaf blowers and other noisy equipment in a one-block area. This can create noise of a sufficient level to qualify as a violation and/or noise disturbance. While electric leaf blowers can still be problematic from a noise standpoint, they are not as noisy as their gas-powered counterparts.

Montgomery County could soon join the growing list of locales banning gas-powered leaf blowers, thanks to a proposed bill at the request of County Executive Marc Elrich. In the meantime, we can do our part by requesting that our landscapers and contractors use battery-powered equipment and reduce their use of leaf blowers in our lawns and gardens.

WISHING ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!