



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2023

JUNE VILLAGE MEETING

June 20, 2023, 7:30pm – Hybrid (zoom and in-person - instructions will be sent to the Village's email list). *Approval of May & Annual Meeting Minutes *Treasurer's Report *Permits *July 4th annual party

CALENDAR (2023)

- June 2: National Gun Violence Awareness Day (orange ribbons)
June 3: Village Spring Fair (10am-1pm) at Inverness & Montgomery
June 15: Curbside Donation, Clothing Donation Nation
June 16: Curbside Donation, Furniture/Non-Clothing Items
June 17: Bulk Trash Pick Up
June 20: Village Council Meeting 7:30pm Hybrid
- July 4: Annual Block Party/Pot luck
July 18: Village Council Meeting 7:30pm Hybrid

(No Council meeting in August)

- Sept 19: Village Council Meeting 7:30pm Hybrid

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES

New Residents:

The Village warmly welcomes the following new residents!

- 3827 Kenilworth Driveway: Jenni Schneiderman & Kapil Sharma
- 8904 Montgomery Avenue: Jenna Kruse & Matt Donnally

Village Council Elections:

Brian Hoffner was reelected and Jon Macy was elected to two-year terms at the annual meeting on May 2, 2023. Please note in the box for the Village Council the respective positions each Council member has over the next year.

Do you need a Permit?

Spring/Summer is a great time to refresh your home and yard, but before you begin any exterior improvement project, please ensure you have obtained the necessary permits from the Village (and, when applicable, Montgomery County). When in doubt, please visit the Village website, or contact the Village Manager to confirm if your planned project requires a permit.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

- Chair: Adrian Andreassi
chair@northchevyCHASE.org
- Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner
brianhoffner@gmail.com
- Secretary: Maury Mechanick
secretary@northchevyCHASE.org
- Treasurer: Olga Joos
treasurer@northchevyCHASE.org
- Member: Jon Macy
member@northchevyCHASE.org
- Manager: Susan Theis
nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org
- Fire Board Representatives:
Dave Albinson, Guim Barbour, Abby Morris

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

Jones Bridge Improvement Project

The Council appreciates Village resident engagement in ensuring the Jones Bridge Improvement Project keeps resident interests in mind. Please note that the Village received notification from the consultants with MDOT asking that all future correspondence regarding the ongoing construction on Jones Bridge Road and/or Montrose Driveway to be relayed by the Village Manager.

They are asking Village residents to no longer directly email, text or call and not to contact the contractors directly.

Therefore, please continue with your questions, comments and concerns to keep the Village informed as this work continues and the Village Manager will continue to pass on your questions and concerns to the consultant directly, as well as continue to copy the Village Council on every email too.

Village Spring Fair on Saturday, June 3rd!

Come by Montgomery Avenue at Inverness Drive on **Saturday, June 3 from 10am to 1pm** and enjoy:

- **Gorgeous native flowers and shrubs** - Pre-order and/or available at the fair.
- **Art show - Nature in Our Neighborhood!** All ages and all art are welcome, from crayon & pencil drawings to photographs & oil paintings.
- **Kids' Corner** - Bring the kids for a fun scavenger hunt and nature-friendly crafts!
- **Fresh golden crispy crepes** from The Crepe Shoppe available for purchase and cooked to order. We're aiming for zero waste so please bring your own coffee cup.
- **Live music!** Folk Favorites & more!
- **Free compost bins. Sign up for free trees.** Get garden and nature advice from local experts and your favorite non-profits!

We hope to see everyone there!

Calling All Artists!

Submit your artwork to be showcased at Nature in Our Neighborhood, the **NCC Spring Fair Art Show, on June 3 from 10am-1pm**. All ages and skill levels are welcome. You may use whatever medium inspires you, from oil paints to markers or crayons.

We are accepting submissions through **Friday, June 2**. If you are interested, please drop off artwork with the artist's name and title at the Sripathi residence, 3706 Stewart Dr., or contact Geetika Sripathi at gbhandari@gmail.com for more information.

National Gun Violence Awareness Day:

In May 2020, the Council unanimously adopted a proclamation declaring the first Friday in June (**June 2, 2023**) as National Gun Violence Awareness Day within the Village of North Chevy Chase, to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence, to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence, and to encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives. In recognition of this day, the Village will be hanging orange ribbons on its municipal signs.

Donation Prior to Bulk Trash Pick Up:

Donation Nation will be coming through the Village prior to the Saturday, June 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 and labeled for Donation Nation. Pick up of bagged clothing curbside will be on **Thursday, June 15** and non-clothing and furniture will be picked up on **Friday, June 16**. Please only put out items scheduled for pick up that day. 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/>

Pesticides and Alternatives:

Now that spring/summer has arrived, many residents are working at having greener lawns. Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) encourages enthusiastic lawn care but reminds residents that the County's pesticides law is in effect, which affects property owners and professional landscapers equally. Contracts for lawn care should have provisions that include the use of organic pesticides or herbicides. Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/laws/la w/>

Montgomery County's organic lawn and landscape program, says that organic lawn care is not difficult and recommends:

- Leave grass clippings on lawns to provide nitrogen to the grass.
- Cut grass over 3 inches to shade the ground and prevent weeds from germinating.
- Water lawns during dry spells to limit weed growth.

GENERAL INTEREST:

Council Appoints Artie Harris as Planning Board Chair and Josh Linden as a Planning Board Member

The Montgomery County Council appointed Artie L. Harris, Jr. as the new Montgomery County Planning Board chair and Josh Linden as a Planning Board member. The Planning Board serves as the County's principal land use and planning advisor. Planning Board members also serve as commissioners of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Harris has served as vice president of real estate at Montgomery Housing Partnership, Inc. (MHP), which is a nonprofit real estate development organization based in Silver Spring where he has worked since 2009. He has 30 years of experience developing multi-family housing and retail facilities, and an additional nine years of experience as a civil engineer managing design and construction projects for commercial high-rise and industrial buildings and power plants.

Linden is a planner and analyst for BERK Consulting where he provides comprehensive plans, housing needs assessments, climate vulnerability assessments, equity analyses, pricing and more for housing, transportation and planning projects.

Planning Board members generally serve four-year terms and are limited to two full terms. No more than three members of the Planning Board may be from the same political party, and each member must be a resident and registered voter of Montgomery County when appointed. Harris, who is a Democrat, and Linden, who is an unaffiliated voter, both begin new terms on the Planning Board. They join Planning Board members James Hedrick, who is a Democrat, Mitra Pedoeem, who is an unaffiliated voter, and Shawn Bartley, who is a Republican.

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich must approve or disapprove the Planning Board appointments within 30 days. If no communication is received, the appointments are approved. Once the Planning Board members are sworn in, they will begin their work on June 15, 2023.

Funding county's high-priority budget items would require 5.7-cent property tax hike. Council poised to vote on the proposed tax increase

The County Council is poised to vote on a hotly-debated property tax hike, and some councilmembers have suggested the increase may end up being significantly lower than what was originally proposed.

County Executive Marc Elrich (D) introduced his \$6.8 billion proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024 on March 15, which included a 10% suggested increase in the county's property tax rate. Over the past several weeks, the County Council has been making numerous cuts and adjustments to the proposed budget, organizing line items into "high priority" and "priority" categories.

To fully fund all the line items council has identified as high priority—an amount totaling \$238.4 million—the council would need to pass

a minimum 5.7-cent property tax increase, according to Councilmember Kristin Mink (D-Dist. 5). The high priority list includes a \$156.4 million increase in Montgomery County Public Schools' operating budget, a topic heavily debated by school officials and employee unions in recent weeks. The priority list includes an additional 2 percent increase in MCPS-allotted funds.

On May 15, over 30 of the county's most prominent businesses and employers sent a joint letter to council expressing "strong opposition" to a tax increase. The letter's signatories included several local chambers of commerce and property management companies.

"While we fully support funding our public schools, raising property taxes on county residents is not the way to accomplish this," the letter reads. "In fact, no other county in the region, or the District of Columbia, is raising property taxes—even as they all significantly increase school funding."

When asked whether it considered a six-cent property tax increase still too high, Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce president Allie Williams responded in an email: "The County needs to find additional ways to economize, rather than just tax our way out of an unsustainable budget. [...] The focus should be more on widening our tax base to bring in more jobs and attract new businesses, which result in higher tax revenue."

Albornoz said the sheer volume of the amount of funds council is reviewing in this year's budget sets the county up for an even more challenging budget season next fiscal year.

MCPS Reveals 3-Year Antiracist System Action Plan

Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) action plan to combat systematic antiracism includes teacher training and ensuring that all schools are treated equally. It includes a role for everyone involved in the schools and the school community.

The first priority of the three-year plan is to "build in trust" both in school and throughout the community, he said, noting that includes transparency in all actions and decisions. The plan is divided into three sections – system-level, domain-specific and school-level. Its goal is to make every student and every parent in every school feel welcome and a part of the school community.

In the plan, curriculum will be inclusive as will staff. Teachers will know not just how a student is doing educationally but also how they are faring as a whole person. This information will be shared with the student's family.

The action plan is designed to fight hate, bias and racist bullying and was developed from results of MCPS' antiracist audit.

On May 26, MCPS will list on its website links for every school concerning what was learned during the antiracist study.

Montgomery County to Host 26th Juneteenth Celebration with Music, Artistic Performances, Educational Exhibits in Germantown

Montgomery County's 26th Juneteenth Celebration will be held from 12pm-10pm at the BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown on **Saturday, June 17**. This year's theme, "Journey to Freedom: Acknowledge, Educate, and Celebrate" will showcase tracing the African American struggle for freedom through education, art, dance, music and honoring elders.

The celebration weekend will begin at 7pm on **Friday, June 16**, at BlackRock when County Executive Marc Elrich leads ceremonies to honor the 2023 winners of the County's African American Living Legends Awards. The awards honor individuals who are 75 or older and have dedicated their lives to service, advocacy and selfless acts of kindness to their community.

The County Office of Human Rights and the County Executive's African American Advisory Group are coordinating the program in partnership with the BlackRock Center for the Arts to commemorate the 158th anniversary of

the events of June 19, 1865. On that day, Union General Gordon Granger and 2,000 Federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take possession of the state and enforce the emancipation of its enslaved persons. The event today is known as Juneteenth and is celebrated widely across the United States.

Information and details about the celebration, and information on how to nominate someone for the African American Living Legends Awards, are available on the Office of Human Rights website at:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/humanrights/>

New telephone area code in June 2023

The Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) announced the assignment of 227 as a new telephone area code which will eventually serve the same geographic area in Maryland currently served by the 240 and 301 area codes. Beginning **June 14**, customers in the 240/301 area code may be assigned a number in the new 227 area code when they request new service or an additional line. The 240/301 calling area serves residents and businesses in Allegany, Charles, Garrett, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and Washington counties.

Customers with a 240 or 301 area code will maintain their existing area codes and their phone numbers will not change. Under the implementation plan approved by the PSC, no new 227 numbers will be assigned in the area until the remaining 240/301 numbers are completely exhausted.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL COUNCIL MEETING ***(Official minutes are posted to the website)***

The Meeting began with a presentation by the Maryland State legislative representatives for District 18 (which includes the Village of North Chevy Chase), Senator Waldstreicher and Delegates Solomon, Shetty and Kaufman, regarding major decisions taken at the recently concluded 2023 session of the Maryland State legislature. The Village Council then highlighted certain issues of concern to the Village, including the unresolved status of the terms of an agreement between the Village and the State Highway Administration regarding the installation

of a storm water management facility at the intersection of Montrose Driveway and Jones Bridge Road. The Village Council expressed its appreciation for the excellent efforts put in by our Congressional delegation and their interest and attention to issues of concern to the Village.

Secretary's Report for March 2023 Council Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer's Report for March 2023 (Joos) – Results for March 2023 included income of \$1,373.04, and operating expenses of \$26,467.27 (including waste removal, trees, street lighting, sign/street maintenance, wages and taxes, professional fees, office and communication and miscellaneous). Current fiscal year to date revenues through March 2023 (not including ARPA funds) came to \$490,764.62 and current fiscal year to date operating expenses came to \$219,484.55. No capital expenditures were incurred during February 2023. Total current assets as of March 2023, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including ARPA funds received, came to \$2,744,708.67.

Permits:

9006 Montgomery Avenue – permit approved for construction project over 250 sq. feet.

Action Items:

Tree City USA Proclamation – The Village Council adopted an Arbor Day Proclamation, proclaiming April 28, 2023, as National Arbor Day in the Village of North Chevy Chase.

Budget FY 2024 Approval and Ordinance–

The Council approved the proposed Village budget for FY 2024. The Council noted that no comments had been received from any Village residents regarding the proposed budget, which had been attached to the April 2023 newsletter distributed to all Village. The FY 2024 budget includes projected income of \$544,466.55 and projected operating expenses of \$285,486.00. Budgeted capital expenditures for FY 2024 come to \$100,000. The formal ordinance for adoption of the budget and for setting the Village tax assessments for FY 2024 for real and personal property will be approved at the next Council meeting, in conjunction with the vote on the proposed tax rates that will occur at the Village Annual Meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY COUNCIL MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING (Please note that the official minutes will be posted to Village website upon approval)

MAY COUNCIL MEETING

Secretary's Report for April 2023 Council Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer's Report for April 2023 (Joos) –The Treasurer's Report for April will be presented, along with the Treasurer's Report for May, at the June 2023 Council Meeting.

Action Items:

Adoption of Village FY 2024 Budget Ordinance

– The Council adopted the FY 2024 Budget Ordinance as required under Maryland law, setting forth the previously approved Village operating and capital budgets.

Provisional Approval of Resolution for Real and Personal Tax Rate

– The Council provisionally approved the resolution setting forth the proposed FY 2024 Village tax rates for real and personal property, pending confirmation by vote of Village residents of the proposed tax rates at the Village's Annual Meeting. The proposed tax rates are \$0.045/\$100 assessed value for real property and \$0.13/\$100 assessed value for personal property subject to the tax.

National Gun Violence Awareness Day – The Council approved issuance of a proclamation recognizing National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Village Spring Fair on June 3 and Village Annual Picnic on July 4

– The Council received status updates on the planning activities related to both activities.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Action Items:

- Based on a vote of Village residents attending the meeting or voting by absentee ballot, the proposed Village real property and personal property tax rates for the upcoming year was approved (\$0.045/\$100 of assessed value for real property and \$0.13/\$100 assessed value for personal property), both tax rates remaining unchanged from the past four years.

With the vote, the formal resolution establishing these rates was signed by the Village Secretary.

- The Council Chair, Adrian Andreassi presented an Annual Report on Village services and activities. A power point presentation of the Annual Report will be posted to the Village website.
- Based on a vote of Village residents attending the meeting or voting by absentee ballot, Brian Hoffner and Jon Macy were elected to two-year terms as Council members and were administered the oath of office.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING: (Courtesy of the Environment Committee)

Sustainable Gardens

Thinking about "greening" your garden to reduce the use of chemicals and attract pollinators? Spring is the perfect time.

My Green Montgomery

(<https://mygreenmontgomery.org/about-us/>) has the following that can help you achieve your goal:

- tips for a creating a sustainable garden
- lists of native plants for shady or sunny gardens
- how to sign up with **TreeMontgomery** (<https://treemontgomery.org>) to get a free shade tree.

As you may know, shade trees help our environment in many ways. They are important to wildlife and the process of pollination. Trees soak up water runoff reducing the risk of flash flooding. These beautiful trees also help us save energy in homes, offices, and schools.

Plant a Pollinator Garden

Help critters out by planting native plants around your home. Native plants help provide species like insects and birds with food, shelter and proper habitat to reproduce.

Native plants are your best bets as the species in your area are specially adapted to pollinate the plants indigenous to their habitat.

Some pollinator favorites include alyssum, basil, the aptly-named butterfly bush, fennel, lavender, marigold, oregano, verbena and yarrow.