VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
JULY 2023

JULY VILLAGE MEETING
July 18, 2023 – 7:30pm – Hybrid platform
(Zoom instructions will be sent to the Village's email list) ***Approval of June Minutes
*Treasurer's Report *Permits**

CALENDAR (2023)

July 4:   45th Annual Block Party
                 6pm (rain or shine)
July 18:   Village Council Meeting
                 7:30pm (hybrid)

(No Council meeting in August)

Sept 15:   Curbside Donation, Clothing
                 Donation Nation
Sept 16:   Curbside Donation,
                 Furniture/Non-Clothing Items
Sept 17:   Bulk Trash Pick Up
Sept 19:   Village Council Meeting
                 7:30pm (hybrid)

Oct 17:   Village Council Meeting
                 7:30pm (hybrid)

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES
45th Annual Village Block Party: Monday, July 4 at 6pm (rain or shine) at the intersection of the Montgomery Avenue and Inverness Drive. It's a potluck supper, so please bring a side dish or salad. BBQ will be provided by Famous Daves! Cost is $2 per person to cover the cost of soft drinks and supplies (an extra $1 for beer and wine). We are aiming for a zero-waste event! Please bring reusable plates, cups and utensils from home.

Holiday Sanitation Schedule:
Monday, July 3 – yard waste
Tuesday, July 4 – holiday - no trash pick-up
Wednesday, July 5 – recycling
Friday, July 7 – trach collection

Resident Directory: The Village will be updating the website version of the Resident Directory. If you haven't already done so, please provide your updated information or confirm that no changes are needed, no later than July 31. For access to the "Residents Only" section please contact the Village Manager at nccinfo@northchevychase.org or #301.654.7084.

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: Jon Macy
            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

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 as we begin to revive this opportunity.

Permit Reminders: 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 *at nccinfo@northchevychase.org or #301-654-7084 to verify any requirements.*

On Street Parking Concerns: The Village representatives on the Montgomery County Fire Board have advised the Council of difficulties that on-street parking poses for safe passage by emergency vehicles on some Village streets, particularly narrower ones. Recognizing that some parking on Village streets is unavoidable, there are some common-sense measures that can minimize the impact on emergency vehicles and help avoid the imposition of more stringent parking restrictions by Montgomery County. These measures include:

- For residents with driveways or car pads, please park as many cars as you can in your driveway or on your car pad before using on-street parking.
- For residents owning multiple vehicles, park larger vehicles (such as SUVs) in driveways while using on-street parking for smaller vehicles (such as compacts or sedans).
- When parking on the street, park your vehicle as close to the curb as possible.
- When parking on the street, be mindful of where other cars are parked on the opposite side and attempt to stagger your parking by at least one car length from cars parked on the opposite side.

GENERAL INTEREST
County to Host Independence Day Fireworks Shows in Kensington and Germantown
Montgomery County will host two free Independence Day fireworks displays this year, one **on Saturday, July 1**, and the other on **Tuesday, July 4**.

The Independence Day celebrations will take place at the following locations:
- Saturday, July 1, 6pm "Mid-County Sparkles." Einstein High School, 11135 Newport Mill Road, Kensington.
- Tuesday, July 4, 7pm "Germantown Glory." South Germantown Recreational Park, 18041 Central Park Circle, Germantown (Boyds).

Mid-County Sparkles will begin at 6pm on Saturday, July 1, with concerts by Ocho de Bastos, an Earth Wind and Fire Tribute Band. The only parking available on-site will be for individuals with disabilities. Free parking and shuttle service will be provided starting at 5:30pm, from Westfield Wheaton, located at 11160 Veirs Mill Road. Event goers who park at Westfield Wheaton prior to 5:30pm may be subject to towing by the property owner. Follow the directional signs for event parking and shuttles.

Germantown Glory will kick off at 7pm on July 4 with a concert by Forever Tina, a tribute band to the late queen of rock and roll, Tina Turner. On-site parking is available.

The fireworks displays will begin at approximately 9:15pm at both celebrations. The timing of the fireworks may change due to weather conditions. Lawn chairs, blankets and coolers are welcome at both events. There will be food vendors at both locations. Alcoholic beverages and pets are not permitted.

For more information, call MC311 at 311 or 240-777-0311 or visit the Montgomery County Recreation website

New Saturday Parking Hours for Montgomery-Operated Garages, Parking Lots and Meters in Downtown Bethesda and Silver Spring Go Into Effect on July 8

Montgomery County-operated garages, parking lots and street meters in Downtown Bethesda and Silver Spring will begin charging for Saturday parking beginning on **Saturday, July 8**. The Saturday hours and rates will be the same as the existing weekday schedules. Sundays will remain free.

Parking revenue will be used to implement new safety and security measures in Downtown Bethesda, Silver Spring and Wheaton parking facilities. This will include installing more lighting and cameras, in addition to maintenance.

Parking rates and hours **effective July 8** in Downtown Bethesda and Silver Spring will be:

Downtown Bethesda:
- On-street: Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.: $2.25 per hour
- Surface lot parking: Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.: $2 per hour
- Garage parking: Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.: $1.75 per hour or less

Downtown Silver Spring:
- On-street parking: Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.: $2 per hour
- Surface lot parking: Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. -10 p.m.: $1.25 per hour
- Garage parking: Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.: $1.25 per hour or less

Seven Maryland County Podcasts to Keep Your Ear to the Ground

These seven Maryland County Podcasts offer a convenient and engaging way to access the latest updates, insightful interviews, and in-depth discussions on county governance.

- "The County" – Baltimore County Government
- "Charles County Unscripted" – Charles County Government
- "Commissioners' Corner" – Carroll County Government

- **"What's Happening MoCo?" – Montgomery County Government**
- "QACTV Podcast" – Queen Anne's County Government
- "CIT Today Podcast" – Anne Arundel County Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team
- "HoCo Community Chat" – Howard County Government

These podcasts delve into a wide range of topics, ensuring that listeners gain valuable insights into the issues shaping their counties. From discussions on infrastructure development, education initiatives, and healthcare policies to environmental concerns and economic development, these county podcasts cover it all.

County Planning Board approves master pedestrian plan draft

The Montgomery County Planning Department's draft of the Pedestrian Master Plan, the first comprehensive countywide plan to improve the pedestrian experience, was approved by the county Planning Board on May 25. The plan will guide improvements to pedestrian infrastructure, safety and walkability in the county for years to come.

The Pedestrian Master Plan makes recommendations in line with national and international best practices. They include initiatives such as widening sidewalks, building paths for pedestrians and bikes in rural parts of the county, designing pedestrian shortcuts, and continuing the operation of Open Streets and Open Parkways programs.

The next step is a County Council public hearing, when community members can testify on the draft master plan. No date for the hearing has been announced.

County Council approves FY 2024 operating budget

Montgomery County Council voted to approve the county's $6.7 billion FY 2024 operating budget and the $5.7 billion amended FY23-28 capital improvements program. They go **into effect on July 1**.

Almost half of the operating budget is allocated to fund Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). The budget also fully funds Montgomery College, at $345 million. County Executive Marc Elrich had recommended that the property tax be increased by 10 cents per $100 assessed value to fully fund the MCPS budget. The County Council reduced the property tax increase to 4.7 cents per $100 assessed value. There is a $692 property tax credit for homeowners. As passed by the County Council, the FY 2024 operating budget funds

The County Council press release states that "(t)his budget increases Montgomery County's ongoing investments in education through youth programming, expands access to health and human services, generates solutions to develop affordable housing opportunities, increases rental assistance and supports innovative ways to boost economic development in the county."

MDOT has set a deadline of July 10th for public comment on the latest revision to Maryland's Transportation Plan.
Maryland is creating a long-range vision for transportation to serve the state for generations to come – incorporating every mode from passenger and commuter rail, airports and highways to bridges, bike and pedestrian facilities. The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is asking residents to join this process, and share their ideas to help build a safe, convenient and inclusive system that benefits every Maryland community.

Maryland's Transportation Plan is revisited every five years. The 2050 Maryland Transportation Plan, expected to be adopted in January after public review and input, will guide policy and investments in the coming decades.

MDOT has launched an online survey asking Marylanders to help shape the state's future transportation network. The survey is available through July 10 at: https://live.metroquestsurvey.com/?u=vj71u#!/?p=web&pm=dynamic&s=1&popup=WTD. The public also can share comments at MDOTMTP@mdot.maryland.gov.

In addition, the state's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is also being updated this year as part of the overall transportation review, recognizing that bike/pedestrian infrastructure and policies are critical components of an interconnected network.

Residents can get more information on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan process – and follow its progress – at 2050marylandbpmp.com. Comments and questions about bicycle and pedestrian access are encouraged and can be submitted at bikepedinfo@mdot.maryland.gov.

Leveraging the power of solar panel group buying
Have you been thinking about installing solar panels? Montgomery County is again joining the Solar Switch Capital Area group buying program, which helps residents and businesses in the Washington metropolitan area learn about and install rooftop solar panels, battery storage and electric vehicle charging stations.

Solar Switch will conduct a reverse auction with qualified, vetted installers on June 21 to secure a competitively priced solar package. After the auction, personal recommendations will be prepared and sent to all registered residents by July 25. The auction is expected to potentially save residents an average of $4,000 on a standard-sized system. The IRS federal solar tax credit could further reduce costs by an additional 30 percent.

Registration is free. There is no obligation for registered homeowners to purchase solar panels. They will have the option to move forward with a solar purchase and installation based on program-negotiated pricing that includes the group discount. To register go to https://solarswitch.com/en/capitalarea/register?start=product.

Now through August 30, Capital Area Solar Switch is offering free virtual and in-person information sessions on Solar 101 (solar technology, financing and incentives), as well as sessions with winning solar installers.

Have an extra unused bike?
The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is asking residents to donate their extra or unused adult and children's bicycles in good condition to the county's free Bike Match program. The program matches donated bicycles with requests from individuals in need who live or work in Montgomery County.
To date, Bike Match has more than 500 bicycles, but demand is still high. The program currently has a list of more than 200 adults hoping to receive donated bikes. Bike Match also accepts donations of and requests for children's bikes. Donated bikes must be in ready-to-ride condition and should be cleaned and sanitized before drop-off.
Residents who wish to donate or receive a bike should fill out the online form (https://montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dir/commuter/bikeshare/bikematch.html) (all information is kept confidential). Once a donated bike has been matched to a recipient, a MCDOT representative facilitates the donation and pickup.

Montgomery County Offers Tick Protection Tips as Weather Heats Up
Experts are warning there may an increase in ticks around the region this summer due to the mild winter.

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is encouraging residents to take simple precautions to prevent illness caused by infected ticks, as warmer weather means increased risk of tickborne disease transmission.

Lyme disease is the most reported tickborne disease in Maryland. Symptoms of Lyme disease include:
A rash (which might look like a bull's eye), fever, headache, joint pain and fatigue.
If left untreated, the disease may spread to the joints and nervous system. Contact your health care provider if any of these symptoms develop after a known tick bite or after spending time in a tick habitat. Most cases can be cured with antibiotics.

Perform a tick check on yourself, children and pets after being outside in a tick habitat and talk to your veterinarian about ways to protect your pets.

Find out more about ticks on the DHHS website at https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/PHS/LymeDisease/LymeDiseaseIndex.html

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE COUNCIL MEETING *(Official minutes will be posted to the website)*
Secretary's Report for May 2023 Council and Annual Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer's Report for April and May 2023
(Joos) –Results for April and May 2023 included combined income of $93,735.57, and combined operating expenses of $44,512.87 (including waste removal, street lighting, sign/street maintenance, landscaping and mowing, trees, wages and taxes, and office and communication). Current fiscal year to date revenues through May 2023 came to $584,500.19 and current fiscal year to date operating expenses came to $263,997.42. Total current assets for as of May 2023, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to $2,790,497.03.

Permits:
- **3702 Husted Drive** – permit application for fence, deck and gazebo
- **8804 Montgomery Avenue** – permit application for demolition and reconstruction of residence at 8804 Montgomery provisionally approved, pending execution of Site Management Agreement, including appropriate provisions related to protection and/or removal of any trees, including canopy trees, on the property.

Action Items:
SHA Presentation – Representatives from the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), attended the Council meeting and made a presentation regarding the ongoing status of Project MO5935870 MD 185, involving the reconstruction of the Jones Bridge Road/Connecticut Avenue/Kensington Parkway intersection and related roadway renovations along Jones Bridge Road. Those in attendance from SHA at the meeting were Carm Saimbre,

John Gover, Vernon Murray, and Tiffany Boulware, and attending virtually via Zoom were Gary Lilly and Amy Andrews.

Following the presentation, a number of questions and concerns were raised by Village residents including:

- pedestrian safety concerns regarding crosswalks on Jones Bridge Road by the elementary school and on the north side of Connecticut Avenue, and the future status of the crosswalk on the south side of Connecticut Avenue
- inadequacy of lane designation signage for turning onto Kensington Parkway from Jones Bridge Road;
- ongoing repair work required to remedy damage to residences along the 3700 block of Jones Bridge Road, including watering of sod and raising soil levels to match water cut off valves installed by WSSC along the 3700 block of Jones Bridge Road; and
- plans, including timing, for removal of trees at the corner of Kensington Parkway and Jones Bridge Road to improve visibility issues regarding that intersection

The SHA representatives were very responsive to the concerns raised, addressing each of them in detail to the extent that they were able to do so at the meeting, including in particular committing to ensuring full and proper restoration of any damage done to the residences along the 3700 block of Jones Bridge Road, and confirming plans for removal of the trees at the corner of Kensington Parkway and Jones Bridge Road to be done by a subcontractor specializing in tree removal within the next few weeks, with replanting of more appropriate landscaping in the first quarter of 2024.

Sandy Springs Bank Accounts – Council authorized transfers of funds from current banking arrangements to Sandy Springs and further exploration of investment opportunities including money market and certificates of deposit issued by Sandy Springs.

45th Annual 4th of July Block Party – The Council confirmed plans for the block party to be held as an in-person event on July 4 and expressed its appreciation to those residents who volunteer their time and effort to support this activity.

NCC CONNECTIONS
Interested in Helping a Neighborhood Watch Program Start Here?
A new Neighborhood Watch Program is now forming locally under the guidelines of the Montgomery County Police Department. The goal is to keep our community as safe as possible from crimes including auto break-ins, home burglaries and catalytic converter thefts that have concerned area residents recently.

The program is being organized under the auspices of NCC CONNECTIONS, Inc., the neighbors-helping-neighbors nonprofit open to anyone living in the Village of North Chevy Chase as well as other households in the larger area served by NCC CONNECTIONS.

The County Police Department will provide training, education, guidance and support. But first at least ten residents are needed to sign up as soon as possible to be the core active participants and leaders. NCC CONNECTIONS aim is to be ready to launch in mid-September.

Participants will report suspicious activity to the police, schedule a home security survey, attend a one-day training at the Bethesda Police Station, and meet as needed with our local Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, a long-time resident of our community who has already volunteered. There is no patrolling by residents and you do not have to be a member of NCC CONNECTIONS to volunteer.

To participate, please email: info@nccconnections.org and leave your name, address, email address and a phone number or call 240-343-2446. For information about the geographic area of NCC CONNECTIONS, visit the website at www.northchevychaseconnections.org