



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023

OCTOBER VILLAGE MEETING

October 17, 2023 – 7:30pm – hybrid platform
(instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) *Approval of September Minutes
*Treasurer’s Report *Permits* LSWG FY23
Audit

2023 VILLAGE CALENDAR

October 17: Village Council Meeting
November 21: Village Council Meeting
December 14: Donation Nation, Clothing
December 15: Donation Nation,
Furniture/Non-Clothing
December 16: Bulk Trash Pick Up
December 19: Village Council Meeting

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES

Leaf Pick Up: Street leaf pick-up will start the week of October 2nd. Leaf pick-up will occur weekly for 3 months, through December 2023. 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 two diverters along Montgomery Avenue at Stewart and Kenilworth, over the storm drains, and at the three bus stops along Kensington Parkway.

Directory/Listserv/Website:

For those who have not yet updated their information for the Village directory (online – password protected on the Village website) please take a moment to do so now. In addition, for those residents who have not signed up on the Village’s listserv, we strongly encourage you to do so now as well. These 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.).

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

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.

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

Recycling of Cardboard Boxes:

Key Sanitation, the Village's recycling contractor, has asked us to remind residents to break down cardboard boxes and place them in your recycling toter on Wednesdays. If residents can take the time to break these boxes down, there is more capacity for collection and the crew members do not need to spend extra minutes in front of a home tossing boxes into the back of recycling truck.

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.*

GENERAL INTEREST

October in Maryland becomes WALKTOBER!

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 visit: <https://mdot.maryland.gov/walktober/>

Quilt Show & Artisan Boutique

Friday, **October 6th** from 9am to 6pm and Saturday, **October 7th** from 9am to 4pm.

NeedleChasers of Chevy Chase returns to the Kensington Town Hall/Armory for its 22nd quilt and fabric arts display "It's a Material World." Admire the amazing selection of 200+ beautiful quilts or buy a handmade item (bags, home goods, etc. in stunning modern designs) at the Artisan Boutique or Buy It Now Sale. Admission is \$8; children under 12 are free. Proceeds support Community Service Programs and Guild Education.

Taste of Bethesda festival returns

This year, Taste of Bethesda is scheduled for Saturday, **October 7th**, 11 am-4 pm, in the Woodmont Triangle along Norfolk, St. Elmo, Cordell, Del Ray and Auburn avenues. There will be more than 25 restaurant vendors, five stages of live music from local artists, and a kid's activity area. Food tickets are sold on-site in bundles of four for \$5. Food servings cost one to four tickets. The event is produced by Bethesda Urban Partnership.

2023 Bethesda Arts Festival

Bethesda Arts Festival will be held on **October 14th and 15th**. It will host over 160 juried artists selling original fine arts and crafts in many mediums including painting, drawing, jewelry, photography, sculpture, fabric, glass, ceramics, wood, and many more. Free admission. Location: Bethesda Row (Bethesda Avenue & Elm Street). Hours: Saturday, 11am-6pm and Sunday, 10am-5pm.

NCC Connections Annual Halloween Parade and Block Party on Sunday, October 29th

Celebrate Halloween with your neighbors! Parade Starts at the NCC Pool, 8817 Brierly 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> for more information.

Montgomery Municipal Cable (MMC)

Channel 16, supports the 16 smaller municipalities in Montgomery County including the Village of North Chevy Chase. They frequently provide content geared towards issues that affect our community and provide local coverage of events. To learn more about our local TV station, watch some of their programming or sign up for their weekly newsletter visit mmctv.org.

Free COVID-19 test kits again available from U.S. government

People again can request up to four free COVID test kits per household, at covidtests.gov or by calling 1-800-232-0233.

Officials say the kits are able to detect the latest coronavirus variants and comes in response to the latest uptick in COVID cases.

The updated and recently approved COVID-19 vaccine is available at many pharmacies and some doctor's offices go to <https://www.vaccines.gov> to find locations that have it (and the flu vaccine) near you. The RSV (Respiratory syncytial virus) vaccine is also available at many pharmacies and is recommended by CDC especially for infants and older adults.

Once you've decided where to get your updated COVID-19 shot, remember, it's free if you have private insurance or are covered by Medicare or Medicaid. The [CDC's Bridge Access Program](#) will assist adults without insurance through the end of 2024, and [Vaccines for Children](#) provides access for kids at participating practices.

Sale, use of gas-powered leaf blowers in county banned

The Montgomery County Council passed legislation that will prohibit the sale and use of combustion engine-powered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums in most areas of the county (Bill 18-22). The legislation is meant as a step towards meeting the county's climate goals. County Executive Marc Elrich will sign the bill into law.

The law will:

- Prohibit sale of gas-powered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums starting July 1, 2024.
- Prohibit use of gas-powered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums starting July 1, 2025.
- Authorize a rebate program to partially offset the cost of replacing a gas-powered leaf blower or leaf vacuum with an electric leaf blower or leaf vacuum.
- Exempt the use of gas leaf-blower equipment for agricultural producers.
- Maintain noise ordinance limits for leaf blowers and leaf vacuums not to exceed 70 decibels at 50 feet.

County Council passes Safe Streets Act of 2023

The Montgomery County Council voted unanimously to approve the Safe Streets Act of 2023 ([Bill 11-23](#)), and County Executive Marc Elrich is expected to sign it into law.

The legislation aims to advance the county's [Vision Zero](#) goals of eliminating serious and fatal crashes by addressing specific transportation initiatives. It prioritizes pedestrians by enhancing walk times at crosswalks and prohibits right turn on red at busy intersections in downtown areas. Council President Evan Glass said Monday that he expects the right turn on red changes to be made "as soon as the signs are made" and that traffic controls should be added quickly as well.

In 2022, 19 pedestrians and bicyclists were killed and 541 people seriously injured on county roads. The county has had 11 fatalities and 404 pedestrians and cyclists seriously injured in collisions thus far in 2023.

Montgomery County is one of the first county governments in the United States to initiate a

Vision Zero plan, with the goal of eliminating all traffic-related deaths by 2030.

The bill also requires the County Executive to provide a comprehensive automated traffic enforcement plan, which must be updated and resubmitted to the County Council annually.

New Laws for the Fall

There are several new Maryland laws which went into effect on **October 1st**. Here's some of the new laws and what they mean:

Gun Safety Act of 2023

This law prohibits people with concealed-carry permits from bringing firearms into some public spaces. These include public and private schools, government buildings, polling places, hospitals, stadiums, museums, places that serve alcohol and/or cannabis, and any private property where the owner has not given permission for the firearm to be on premises. The bill was sponsored by Montgomery County-based **Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher (D-Dist. 18)** and former Sen. Susan Lee (D-Dist. 16), who is now Maryland's Secretary of State.

Repeal of the Spousal Defense of Rape

Marriage will no longer be considered a valid defense for rape. Prior to this, the law prohibited prosecution against someone who raped their legal spouse. Now, an individual accused of rape can be prosecuted regardless of whether they were married to the survivor. The bill was sponsored by Montgomery County-based legislators Del. Charlotte Crutchfield (D-Dist. 19) and Sen. Ariana Kelly (D-Dist. 16) and Anne Arundel County Sen. Pamela Beidle (D-Dist. 32).

The Josh Siems Act

Hospitals will be required to test specifically for fentanyl when conducting drug screenings. The law is named for Josh Siems, a Baltimore resident who died of a drug overdose but was never tested for fentanyl. Hospitals typically do not test for synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. The bill was sponsored by Montgomery County-based Del. Joe Vogel (D-Dist. 17), Charles County Sen. Arthur Ellis (D-Dist. 28) and Prince George's County and Anne Arundel County Sen. Jim Rosapepe (D-Dist. 21).

Civil Remedy for Hate Crimes

This law will allow a victim of a hate crime to bring civil action against the perpetrator. Under the law, a crime can be classified as a hate crime if it was committed against the victim due to their race, ethnicity, religion, disability status, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation or housing status. The bill was sponsored by Montgomery County-based legislators Sen. Benjamin Kramer (D-Dist. 19) and Crutchfield.

The Child Victims Act of 2023

Under this law, there will no longer be a statute of limitations when it comes to taking civil action against perpetrators of child sexual abuse. Previously, people could not sue for child sexual abuse once they reached the age of 38. [The Baltimore Sun reported](#) that the Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore is already debating filing for bankruptcy in anticipation of a potential onslaught of lawsuits from people claiming child sexual abuse from priests and other church leaders once the law is officially on the books. The bill was sponsored by Montgomery County-based Sen. Will Smith (D-Dist. 20) and Charles County Del. C.T. Wilson (D-Dist. 28).

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

The meeting began with a presentation by Kate Stewart, the Montgomery County Council Representative for District 4, who made a presentation highlighting her experience to date as a Council Representative and the major initiatives undertaken by the Montgomery County Council, including significant legislation dealing with pedestrian and child safety. The Village Council expressed their appreciation for her presentation and her willingness to work with and help support the Village in any way that may be required going forward.

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

Treasurer's Report for June, July and August 2023 (Joos) –Approved.

Results for June 2023 (FY23) included income of \$74,707.22, and operating expenses of \$27,130.51 (including waste removal, street lighting, landscaping and mowing, trees, wages and taxes, professional fees, office and communication and miscellaneous). Fiscal year revenues for Fiscal Year 2023, which concluded on June 30, 2023, came to \$659,207.41 and Fiscal Year 2023 operating expenses came to \$291,127.93. No capital expenditures were incurred during June 2023. Total capital expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023 came to \$6,225. Total current assets for Fiscal Year 2023 (as of June 30, 2023), consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to \$2,858,643.87. Results for July and August 2023 (FY24), constituting the beginning of Fiscal Year 2024, included combined income of \$59,877.97 (\$1635.14 + \$58,242.83), and combined operating expenses of \$49,184.06 (\$26,083.43+ \$23,100.63) (including July 4th picnic, waste removal, street lighting, landscaping and mowing, trees, wages and taxes, membership and dues, insurance and bond, professional fees, office and communication and miscellaneous). No capital expenditures were incurred during July or August 2023. Total current assets as of August 2023, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to \$2,877,698.47.

Permits:

- **8809 Montgomery Avenue** – permit application for screened-in deck approved

Action Items:

Leaf Collection – Following submissions made in response to an RFP conducted by the Village, the Village Council decided to award to Bethke Landscaping a contract for leaf removal services, covering the time period from October through December for each of the upcoming three years (2023-2025).

Fall 2023 Tree Order – Based on the efforts to secure resident approval for planting of additional canopy trees in various locations throughout the Village within the Village right of way area, a total of [17] new trees will be planted over the next several weeks.

Village Composting – In light of renewed interest in the possibility of Village-supported composting services, the Village Manager will contact potential suppliers of composting services to identify possible options for Village sponsorship in some fashion of the provision of composting services.

Village 100 Year Celebration – The Village Council endorsed the idea of holding a 100-year celebration commemorating the establishment of the Village in 1924, possibly to held in conjunction with an Earth Day celebration similar to the one that the Village sponsored last year.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING:

(Courtesy of the Environment Committee)

Montgomery County hires a new climate change officer

The county has hired Sarah Kogel-Smucker as the new climate change officer. Her previous job was leading the climate change division of the Washington, D.C. Office of the People's Counsel.

The climate change officer will lead the county on its climate goals and will work with various county departments on climate change planning, implementation and management of climate-related initiatives and programs.

Village of North Chevy Chase
Composting Survey 2023

To better understand the needs of the Village and how the Council can support environmentally friendly programs, we are sending out this survey to ascertain the interest of a Village supported composting program.

This survey is not intended to be a document meant to make a final decision but more of a way for the Council to gauge interest and further explore opportunities to provide services to Village residents that the majority would be willing to support.

Village Composting Survey 2023

1. Is your household interested in composting food scraps and other organic/biodegradable material that would go in protective bins for weekly pick up?
 - a. Already compost
 - b. Yes
 - c. No

 2. Would your household be interested in participating in a commercial composting service if participating households in the Village received a discount? This would mean a monthly fee of approximately \$20-\$25 per month.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

 3. Would you support the Village subsidizing the monthly costs for each household that participates in a compost program?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

If yes, at what percentage?

 - a. 50%
 - b. 100%

 4. Would you be open to supporting the Village subsidizing the program and reviewing the program on a yearly basis.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- Additional comments:
- Name:
- Address:
- Email Address:
- This brief survey will also be sent to residents via the Village list serve, Constant Contact. We ask that you only complete one survey per household.
- Please return to the Village of North Chevy Chase, P.O. Box 15887, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 or email: nccinfo@northchevychase.org
- If you have any questions, please contact the Village Manager at #301.654.7084 or nccinfo@northchevychase.org.