



## VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

### NOVEMBER VILLAGE MEETING

**November 21, 2023 – 7:30pm** – hybrid platform (Zoom instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list): *\*Approval of October Minutes \*Treasurer’s Report \*Permits \* Composting\* Snow Removal\* Tree Policy\* 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration*

note that sticks, trash, rocks and other debris will not be collected and leaves should not 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. Leaf pickup is scheduled through December 2023.

### CALENDAR (2023 - 2024)

November 11:	Veterans Day
November 21:	Village Council Meeting
November 23:	Thanksgiving
December 14:	Donation Nation, Clothing
December 15:	Donation Nation, Furniture/Non-Clothing Items
December 16:	Bulk Trash Pick Up
December 19:	Village Council Meeting
January 1:	Happy New Year – 2024!
January 16:	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:

**REMINDER:** Leaf collection is underway. While the contractor is making every effort to come through the Village by Monday or Tuesday each week, the day of the week may change due to inclement weather. Some weeks the vendor will (and has) come multiple days. Please note that leaves are to be placed curbside and made accessible for leaf pick up by truck. Please also

#### VILLAGE COUNCIL

Chair: Adrian Andreassi  
[chair@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:chair@northchevyCHASE.org)  
 Vice Chair: Brian Hoffner  
[vicechair@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:vicechair@northchevyCHASE.org)  
 Secretary: Maury Mechanick  
[secretary@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:secretary@northchevyCHASE.org)  
 Treasurer: Olga Joos  
[treasurer@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:treasurer@northchevyCHASE.org)  
 Member: Jon Macy  
[member@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:member@northchevyCHASE.org)  
 Manager: Susan Theis  
[nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto: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**

#### Donation Prior to Bulk Trash Pick Up:

Donation Nation will be coming through the Village prior to the Saturday, December 16 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, December 14** and non-clothing and furniture will be picked up on **Friday, December 15**. 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/>

### **Bulk Trash:**

Bulk trash pickup is scheduled for **Saturday, December 16**. Items must be at curbside by 7am. 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 items: 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.

### **Native Village Tree Plantings:**

Stadler Nursery has planted 7 of the 18 trees ordered from the Village for the right-of-way. It is anticipated that all of the remaining trees will be planted by mid-November, when the trees are dormant. By the time this newsletter has been delivered, residents should already have received via Constant Contact an email with the current list of planned native tree plantings at various right-of-way locations throughout the Village. Residents will continue to be notified in the coming weeks regarding the planting schedule.

### **Village Trees:**

Please be reminded that the Village right-of-way extends approximately 25 feet from the center of the street onto a property (50 feet along Kensington Parkway). If there is a tree in that space, please check with the Village Manager prior to undertaking any maintenance or removals. The Village maintains village trees through a certified arborist and will follow up on tree assessment or maintenance needs that property owners identify.

### **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, please 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, please 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.

### **Permits:**

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

- 8823 Kensington Parkway – driveway (10/18/23)

**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](http://www.northchevyCHASE.org) or contact the Village Manager at [nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org) to verify any requirements.

**Protecting your Car from Theft and Break-ins:**

In our area, there recently has been another upsurge in car break-ins, thefts from cars, and in some cases, theft of cars themselves. Here are things you can do to prevent this from happening to your vehicle:

- Always lock your vehicle, even if stepping away for only a few minutes.
- Close the windows.
- Remove all valuables, including electronics and money, from your vehicle.
- Remove the keys from your vehicle, and don't hide a spare key in or near the car. Car thieves know all the hiding places.
- Park in a well-lit area.
- Don't leave your purse, keys/key fob or wallet inside your home by the door; take them to the bedroom.

Report suspicious activity around your car to police immediately: call emergency 911 or non-emergency 301-279-8000, as appropriate.

**Services Offered:**

Village management continues 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@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org) as we revive this opportunity.

**The Village is turning 100!**

Save the date: **April 27, 2024!** Do you have a story to share? Are you a long-time resident? Do you have old photos of the Village or know the history of your home? The Village is looking for volunteers to assist with our 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration and would greatly appreciate your time and talent to make this event a success. Volunteering is a great way to benefit our community and a great way to get to know your neighbors. Please contact the Village Manager at [nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org) if you are interested in helping. Thanks for considering!

**GENERAL INTEREST:**

**County to provide \$300,000+ to religious communities for increased security**

The Montgomery County Council and County Executive Marc Elrich fast-tracked \$311,700 in nonprofit security grant funding for Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and Zoroastrian communities in Montgomery County to enhance their security measures.

Since the outbreak of violence in Israel and Gaza, there has been concern that these communities have been, or will be, threatened by violence and other crimes motivated by hate and bias. The grant awards will provide immediate assistance to the organizations to invest in security measures to protect their communities and facilities.

**Montgomery County Council passes Pedestrian Master Plan**

**First-of-its-kind vision will guide government to improve pedestrian safety**

New sidewalks, direct routes and safety measures for street crossings will be installed to help improve pedestrian safety as part of the Pedestrian Master Plan the Montgomery County Council unanimously passed. 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 Pedestrian Master Plan is part of Vision Zero. The 298-page document includes policy recommendations, prioritization of pedestrian

and bicyclist zones, ways to eliminate barriers to walking in the county, and includes analysis from surveys done of county pedestrians. The plan went through work and revisions in Montgomery Planning and County Council work sessions.

The plan encompasses four goals outlined by Montgomery Planning:

- Increase walk rates and pedestrian satisfaction
- Create a comfortable, connected and convenient pedestrian network
- Improve pedestrian safety
- Build an equitable and just pedestrian network

The Pedestrian Master Plan is one of many steps the county government is taking in an effort to eliminate traffic-related deaths. Last month, the council passed the Safe Streets Act, a bill that will make infrastructure and policy changes to the county's streets.

The Safe Streets Act will eliminate right turn on red specific intersections designated by the county's Department of Transportation, as well as add new traffic control devices to downtown intersections and town center areas.

These smaller plans are intended to work in tandem with the Pedestrian Master Plan as a guide.

### **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.

### **Public meeting on improvements to the Capital Crescent Trail**

The upcoming meeting will provide an opportunity for Capital Crescent Trail users to share their ideas for renovations to the 3.5-mile portion of the trail in Montgomery County from downtown Bethesda south to the DC line. [The portion of the trail between downtown Bethesda and Silver Spring is closed and detoured due to construction of the Purple Line light rail system. It is expected to reopen in 2027.]

The meetings will be listening sessions. Montgomery Parks staff will describe the intent of and long-term vision for the project and collect ideas and other feedback from the public about the future trail renovation. Here are the particulars:

**Wednesday, November 8, 12-1:30 pm**, via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86535826119>

Registration is optional but encouraged. Registered attendees will be updated on future project developments. Register at: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DB4GqcokHEy-\\_wObuMBYFkR6\\_4fFZdRHr2tPTbux\\_xZUQTQ0R1pVUTFKWUxNNFFPNFBaN1JINVZLVC4u&wdLOR=c7D1AE9A0-8A2C-4C25-9A09-A2364C4E015C](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DB4GqcokHEy-_wObuMBYFkR6_4fFZdRHr2tPTbux_xZUQTQ0R1pVUTFKWUxNNFFPNFBaN1JINVZLVC4u&wdLOR=c7D1AE9A0-8A2C-4C25-9A09-A2364C4E015C)

### **Veterans Day: County Joins 'Operation Green Light,' for Tribute to County Veterans**

As Veterans Day approaches on **Saturday, November 11**, Montgomery County has joined the national "Operation Green Light" salute to veterans and the County's Commission on Veterans Affairs is seeking additions to its virtual tribute to County veterans. For those who want to attend ceremonies on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, several will be held around the County.

### **Open house on the future of the American Legion bridge and I-270 corridor**

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) will hold a series of open house meetings November 13-16 to get public feedback on the future of American Legion Memorial Bridge and the I-270 corridor. Bridge and corridor travelers, project neighbors and other stakeholders are encouraged to participate and directly engage with MDOT program representatives.

The open house in our area will be on **Monday, November 13, 6:30-8:30 pm**, at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Meeting materials will be available beginning November 6 at [www.americanlegionbridge270.com](http://www.americanlegionbridge270.com).

### **County is finalist for 2023 U.S. Broadband Awards**

Montgomery County is a finalist in the 2023 U.S. Broadband Awards in the "best municipal connectivity" program. The county, which was recognized for having one of the best broadband infrastructure efforts in the nation, was the only local jurisdiction -- county or city -- to be a finalist. The winners will be announced during the inaugural U.S. Broadband Summit on **November 16** in Washington, D.C.

### **Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade**

The Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade will usher in the holiday season on **Saturday, November 18** from 10am to 12pm. 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 2023 Council Meeting** (Mechanick) – Approved.

### **Treasurer's Report for September 2023** (Joos) – Approved.

Results for September 2023 included income of \$7589.23 and operating expenses of \$19,602.36 (including waste removal, street lighting, landscaping and mowing, trees, wages and taxes, membership and dues, professional fees, office and communication). No capital expenditures were incurred during September 2023. Total current assets as of September 2023, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to \$2,867,977.94.

### **Permits:**

- **3705 Inverness Driveway** – addition/modification over 250 sq. feet approved, with anticipated start date of first quarter 2024 noted, and execution of Site Management Agreement deferred until closer to the actual start date.
- **9009 Kensington Parkway** – driveway expansion and retaining wall approved.

### **Action Items:**

#### **RFP For Snow Removal/Winter 2023-24** –

The Village Council approved issuance of RFP for snow removal services for upcoming year and beyond, with a decision to be taken at November Council meeting.

**Fall 2023 Tree Order** – The Village is proceeding with planting of 19 additional trees in Village right-of-way. Plantings will be spread over October and November as specific trees become available from Stadler Nurseries.

**Village Bookkeeping** – The process for transition of bookkeeping services from an outside vendor to the Village Manager are beginning, with Emily Medina (former assistant to Jon Cohen/CMA Business) agreeing to continue to provide transitional bookkeeping services in support of this effort through the end of the 2023 calendar year. The Village will also consider retention of a payroll specialty firm specifically to handle payroll matters. The Village Manager was authorized to procure a new Village laptop computer and smart phone in support of this transition, as well as necessary software needed to support bookkeeping functions.

**ARPA Funds** – Efforts are continuing to secure additional information regarding possible installation of pedestrian street lights on Kensington Parkway and upgrade of pole lighting throughout the Village as the most appropriate projects to be funded using ARPA funds, supplemented by Village funds as necessary. The Village Manager will liaise with neighboring municipalities for recommendations for lighting experts to advise on these efforts.

**Village 100 Year Celebration** – The Village Manager was requested to continue with preliminary planning efforts for the Village 100 Year celebration, with an anticipated date of April 27, 2024, and with celebration to be based in NCC Church parking lot. The Village Council set a provisional budget of up to \$15,000 for this event.

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING:**

(Courtesy of the Environment Committee)

**Montgomery County Council Enacts Legislation that will Prohibit Sale and Use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers**

The Montgomery County Council enacted legislation that will prohibit the sale and use of combustion engine-powered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums in most areas of the County to address environmental, noise, and health concerns. Bill 18-22, Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment – Amendments, as enacted by the Council, the effective date of the ban on the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers and vacuums will be July 1, 2024. The ban on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and vacuums will go into effect on July 1, 2025.

**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, 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 (70 dBA) at a distance of 50 feet." Many models exceed the county limit which 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.

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 everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday! 😊**