



**VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2023**

**DECEMBER VILLAGE MEETING:**

December 19, 2023 – 7:30pm – hybrid meeting in-person and Zoom (instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) \*Approval of November Minutes \*Treasurer’s Report \*Permits \*Composting\* Tree Policy\*

**CALENDAR (2023-2024)**

- December 14: Curbside Donation – bagged clothing
- December 15: Curbside Donation – Non-clothing, furniture
- December 16: Bulk Trash Pick Up
- December 19: Village Council Meeting  
7:30pm Virtual
- December 19 & 20: Voluntary tips for waste/recycling collection (can be taped in envelope on underside of waste receptacles)
- January 16: Village Council Meeting
- February 20: 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 16th 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 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 14th** and non-clothing and furniture will be picked up on **Friday, December 15th**. 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/>

**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**

**Bulk Trash:** Bulk trash pickup is scheduled for **Saturday, December 16th**. 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: 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 trash and/or recycling receptacle for pick up on **Tuesday, December 19th and/or Wednesday, December 20th**. Please note that the recycling crew are Francisco Perez and Amado Baten. The trash crew are Carlos Carillo and Oscar Martinez.

**Holiday Waste Pick Up:** Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Mondays this year therefore, yard waste will be picked up on the following day, **Tuesday, December 26th and January 2nd**. 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 end the last week of December. 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.

### **Services Offered:**

Village management continues to 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).

### **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.

### **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](http://www.northchevyCHASE.org) or contact the Village Manager at #301.654.7084 to verify any requirements.*

### **GENERAL INTEREST:**

#### **Bill introduced requiring businesses with public restrooms to provide free menstrual products**

Most facilities and businesses with public restrooms in Montgomery County would be required to supply free menstrual products if Bill 42-23 introduced in the County Council is passed.

The bill applies to “places of public accommodation” that are required by law to provide restroom facilities to their customers, such as restaurants, hotels, movie theaters, concert and entertainment venues, sports arenas and recreational parks. The legislation does not propose designated county funds or grants to help cover the cost of purchasing menstrual products.

Montgomery County would be one of the first local jurisdictions in the country to enact such legislation. At least 17 states, including Maryland and Washington, D.C. have passed laws requiring that menstrual products be free in public schools.

A public hearing on the legislation will be held on **December 5th**. It would go into effect six months after being signed into law.

### **The Purple Line - Bethesda/Chevy Chase Area: Jones Mill Road**

On or about **December 13th**, crews will implement new traffic pattern on Jones Mill Road. Traffic will be shifted to the newly completed eastern half of Jones Mill Road between Jones Bridge Road and Coquelin Terrace.

A new work zone will be established for approximately one year on the western half of the roadway to complete the underpass. A newly constructed sidewalk established along the northbound travel lanes will be available for pedestrians. Please follow onsite signage.

### **Montgomery County High School Students Can Now Apply to Vision Zero Youth Ambassadors Program to Improve Traffic Safety**

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is seeking up to 30 County high school students to serve as “Vision Zero Youth Ambassadors.”

The project-based learning program teaches teens leadership skills, outreach and engagement techniques to address traffic safety needs in their community. Applications are now being accepted. The deadline to apply is 11:59pm on **Friday, December 15th**.

Interested public, private and home-schooled high school students can [learn about the program and apply online](#).

The County’s Vision Zero Initiative’s goal is to eliminate traffic-related severe injuries and deaths. Youth Ambassadors have an opportunity to help the County work toward the Vision Zero goal by becoming road safety leaders in their communities.

Learn more about the [County’s Vision Zero effort](#).

For more information on MCDOT programs and services visit [montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot).

### **Maryland State Highway Administration Work to Improve Surface of I-495 in County Will Lead to Extensive Lane Closures Through End of Year**

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration has started a project to maintain pavement and improve ride quality on I-495 (the Capital Beltway) that will impact Montgomery County drivers through the end of the year. The work will be done five nights a week between MD 191 (Bradley Boulevard) and east of Linden Lane and between east of Northwest Branch Anacostia River and US 29 (Colesville Road).

The work will be performed nightly from 9pm-5am, Sundays through Thursdays. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year, weather permitting. At times, as many as three lanes will be closed in each direction.

The State Highway Administration said it is aware that lane closures are inconvenient, but are necessary to maintain a world-class transportation system. Drivers are asked to stay alert, stay focused, look for reduced speed limits and driving pattern changes. They must slowdown in construction zones.

Motorists in need may dial #77 on their mobile devices for roadside assistance.

For a list of all major State Highway Administration projects, visit the homepage at [roads.maryland.gov](http://roads.maryland.gov). For a look at real-time traffic conditions, go to [md511.maryland.gov](http://md511.maryland.gov).

### **Montgomery Parks hires New Director**

Miti Figueredo will take the helm of Montgomery Parks as parks director in the new year, according to a press release from the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).

Figueredo was selected by and will report to the Montgomery County Planning Board. She's charged with overseeing the department's \$148 million operating budget and \$296 million six-year Capital Improvements Program. She will also oversee at least 1,145 staff members when she begins on January 1, 2024.

Figueredo was selected after a national search and will be the first Latina to hold the position. She currently serves as Parks Deputy Director for Administration, a position she has held since 2019.

Figueredo will replace Mike Riley, who is retiring at the end of the year after 38 years of service with M-NCPPC.

### **Zoning measure introduced to promote housing near transit hubs**

Montgomery County Council President Evan Glass, Vice President Andrew Friedson and Councilmember Kristin Mink introduced a zoning text amendment, (ZTA) 23-10, that would encourage the development of housing, including affordable units, near transit corridors. The measure is co-sponsored by the entire council.

The proposed zoning measure would eliminate parking requirements within a half-mile radius of a Metro and Purple Line station and within a quarter-mile radius of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations. It generally amends sections of the Montgomery County zoning ordinance as it relates to parking, queuing and loading of vehicles near transit.

A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for **January 16, 2024** and a vote has not yet been scheduled.

### **Pepco Prepares Energy Grid for Winter Weather and Encourages Customers to Prepare Too**

As winter approaches, Pepco is readying the local energy grid by performing essential work to help meet increased customer demand and keep homes and businesses warm and bright all season long.

The company is working to harden the system and increase reliability and performing maintenance and inspections ahead of potential severe winter storms.

Pepco also continues to install smart technologies to improve system reliability, such as specialized equipment that can automatically restore service faster or isolate damage.

Just as Pepco prepares, the company encourages customers to also be ready for severe weather and offers the following tips:

- Assemble an emergency storm kit. Include battery-powered radio, flashlight, a first aid kit, blankets, battery-powered or windup clock, extra batteries, medications, multipurpose tool and list of important/emergency phone numbers.
- Have a supply of bottled water and easy-to-prepare, non-perishable foods available to last at least 72 hours.
- Keep a flashlight with fresh batteries on each floor of your home.
- Identify an alternate location for you and/or your family in case of an extended outage.

In addition, customers can visit [pepco.com/alerts](https://www.pepco.com/alerts) before winter weather grips the region and sign up to receive updates on their energy usage and information regarding power outages via text, email, or phone, including when power is out, when service is expected to be restored, or when power is restored.

More tips and storm preparedness information is available at [pepco.com/StormPrep](https://www.pepco.com/StormPrep).

### **Are You Winter Ready?**

With the cold temps approaching, it's never too early to start to be winter ready. Take a look at these tips to help you winterize.

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

For more tips, visit [wsscwater.com/winterready](http://wsscwater.com/winterready).

**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 2023 Council Meeting** (Mechanick) – Approved.

**Treasurer's Report for October 2023** (Mechanick for Joos) –Approved with the exception of the \$400 petty cash.

Results for October 2023 included income of \$41,489.64 and operating expenses of \$24,744.97 (including waste removal, leaf collection, street lighting, landscaping and mowing, trees, wages and taxes, membership and dues, professional fees, office and communication). No capital expenditures were incurred during October 2023. Total current assets as of October 2023, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to \$2,880,667.64.

### **Permits:**

- **3803 Montrose Driveway** – permit for backyard shed approved.

In light of an inquiry from a Village resident regarding installation of a handicap access ramp at a residential property, the Council indicated such a permit request would be eligible for "Fast Track" processing by the Village Manager, in the event that such a permit request is submitted and approved by Montgomery County permitting office.

### **Action Items:**

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

The Village Council awarded the snow removal services contract for upcoming year to Snow Central, the operator that the Village has used for a number of years and which has consistently provided excellent service.

**Composting Survey** – The Village received a very low response rate to the most recent composting survey (17 responses) compared to prior surveys, with a variety of views presented both pro and con regarding the desirability and appropriateness of the Village providing direct financial support for composting. From the Council's perspective, there was no merit in continuing to conduct surveys on this issue and time had come for a more definitive resolution on this matter. The numerous environmental benefits from composting seemed clear, and it

certainly constituted an activity that Village residents should be encouraged to consider; what form that encouragement should take, however, remained open to further discussion. One view expressed was that a sufficient number of residents had now indicated a willingness to consider composting from a commercial composting service provider if some form of Village subsidy were available, which would warrant implementing such a program, at least on a trial basis. Another view expressed was that partial subsidies were unlikely to have any real impact, and either the Village should make the services of a commercial composting service provider available at no cost to all residents or, as is the case now, should just continue to leave it up to residents to decide on their own whether to sign up for such a service. Related issues to be considered included how to address residents who already compost in their back yard without using a commercial service and the increasing availability of home composting devices not requiring the services of a commercial service provider. Lastly, if the Village were to consider an arrangement with a commercial composting service provider either on a partially or fully subsidized basis, there would be a need to conduct an RFP for selection of such a service provider and the status/treatment for Village residents that were existing customers of that commercial composting service provider would have to be addressed. The Council intended to resume further consideration of these issues at its December meeting.

**Fall 2023 Tree Order/Village Tree Policy** –

The Village is proceeding with planting of the remaining five trees in Village right of way. The Village Council will further address at its next meeting the issue of Village policies regarding circumstances in which canopy trees can be planted within the Village right of way and circumstances under which canopy trees on residential property can be taken down.

**Village Bookkeeping** – The process for transition of bookkeeping services from an outside vendor to the Village Manager has begun, with Emily Medina (former assistant to Jon Cohen/CMA Business) providing 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.

**Village 100 Year Celebration** – Pending final confirmation of the date, the Village Manager was authorized to take steps necessary to reserve the desired date with Talk of Town Events as a provider of a carnival themed activities such as inflatables, rides, games, concessions, etc.

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING:**

(Courtesy of the Environment Committee)

**Governor Moore Appoints First Chief Sustainability Officer and Chief Resilience Officer in Maryland's History**

Maryland Governor Wes Moore announced the appointment of Meghan Conklin as the state's first chief sustainability officer and Michael Hinson as the state's first chief resilience officer. According to Governor Moore, through a whole-of-government approach, the chief sustainability officer and the chief resilience officer will work to address climate change's current and future effects.

Due to a changing climate, communities face more frequent and complex disasters. Climate change drives a range of effects, from discrete events like extreme weather to longer-term impacts that vary by location, such as drought, sea-level rise, regional energy vulnerabilities, increased wildfires, habitat modification, and emerging diseases.

The chief sustainability officer will work to ensure Maryland meets the state's bold climate and environmental goals, while the chief resilience officer will ensure Maryland is prepared to adapt, mitigate, and recover from all hazards and emergencies, including disasters that have increased in frequency and intensity from climate change.

**WISHING ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY  
HOLIDAY SEASON!**