



**VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2024**

JANUARY VILLAGE MEETING:

January 16, 2024 – 7:30pm – hybrid meeting in-person and Zoom (instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) *Approval of December Minutes *Treasurer’s Report *Permits

CALENDAR (2024)

January 16:	Village Council Meeting
February 20:	Village Council Meeting
March 14-15:	Donation Nation Pick-Up
March 16:	Bulk Trash Pick-Up
March 19:	Village Council Meeting

8905 Kensington Parkway
 3806 Montrose Driveway
 3708 Kenilworth Driveway
 3704 Kenilworth Driveway
 3709 Kenilworth Driveway
 8901 Montgomery Avenue
 8911 Montgomery Avenue
 8915 Montgomery Avenue
 8917 Montgomery Avenue
 3703 Inverness Drive

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES:

The Village is turning 100!

Save the date: April 27, 2024

Did you know that Kensington Parkway was called Connecticut Avenue? Did you know a trolley ran down Kensington Parkway (formerly Connecticut Ave) between Chevy Chase Lake and Kensington? We will be sharing a lot more about the history of North Chevy Chase at the Centennial, but we need your help.

Do you have a story to share? Do you have old photos of the Village or know the history of your home? We are especially interested in history of the following homes:

8801 Kensington Parkway
 8805 Kensington Parkway
 8809 Kensington Parkway
 8813 Kensington Parkway
 8819 Kensington Parkway
 8904 Kensington Parkway

Please contact Olga Joos at treasurer@northchevychase.org with any photos, history, or simply just names of

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

previous owners as this information may help in the search for Village history.

In addition, the Village is looking for volunteers to assist with our 100th 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 if you are interested in helping.

Taxes: Please be sure to include the Village of North Chevy Chase as your “city” at the top of your State Tax Return. In the past, Village residents’ income taxes have been sent to other municipalities in error due to misfiling. For electronic filers, the Political Subdivision Code for North Chevy Chase is **1618**.

Yard Waste Pick Up: Christmas trees can be left curbside for pick up any Monday during the month of January. Please be sure to remove your tree’s stand, all decorations, lights, tinsel, garlands and any plastic.

Instead of tossing your tree, consider cutting off the branches and putting them in your yard, where outdoor critters can use them for foraging and protection, or chop up the tree and add the pieces to your compost pile.

If you have an artificial tree, you no longer want, and it is still in usable condition, consider offering it for reuse on your neighborhood email list, Craigslist, local Freecycle group or similar places.

Street leaf pick up has ended for the season. Residents should place yard waste in paper yard trim bags or a reusable container for collection on Mondays. Brush can be bundled with twine. Branches or tree limbs should not exceed 4 feet in length and 4 inches in diameter and each bundle must be 30 inches or less in diameter and no more than 45 pounds.

Snow Removal: Village management will notify residents via the email distribution list when snow removal is scheduled. The snow removal 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 (or spreading sand or calcium magnesium acetate if snow/ice has hardened) within 24 hours of snow cessation. Residents are also requested to park their vehicles in driveways, as feasible, or on the even side of the street to facilitate snow removal and application of salt.

Pet Waste:
A number of residents continue to face challenges with pet waste being left on their property. Residents are required to dispose of pet waste properly. Waste is to be bagged and placed in Village trash receptacles or the pet owner’s household waste. Pet waste is not to be placed in neighbors’ trash receptacles, including yard waste and recycling containers. Please note that the Village fine for not properly disposing of pet waste is \$100 for the first offense and \$500 for subsequent offenses.

Services Offered:
Village management is continuing 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 as we continue to revive this opportunity.

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 #301.654.7084 to verify any requirements.

GENERAL INTEREST:

NCC Connections 5th Anniversary Rooftop Celebration: Sunday January 21, 2024 from 2-4pm

Help NCC Connections celebrate five amazing years since they officially launched the community of neighbors helping neighbors. Join them on the elegant rooftop of The Claude building in the new Chevy Chase Lake development.

There will be delicious food and drink and a lively musical performance by the barbershop quartet Now or Never, which includes our neighbor Marilyn Levitt.

Registration is Required. Please go to: <https://www.northchevychaseconnections.org/vent-details/nccc-5th-anniversary-rooftop-celebration/form>

The Purple Line: Bethesda/Chevy Chase Area

Jones Mill Road Traffic Shift

Update: On or about January 11, 2024, 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.

Utility Work Continues on Chevy Chase Lake Drive

Reminder: Crews continue utility work on Chevy Chase Lake Drive. This work will, at times, require temporary lane closures on Chevy Chase Lake Drive. However, access will be maintained at all times for both vehicles and pedestrians around the work zone. On-street parking directly adjacent to the work zone will be limited. Please follow the posted signage.

Work Continues in the Jones Mill Road Area

Reminder: Crews continue work in the Jones Mill Road underpass area through January. Work includes utility relocations, construction of

retaining walls, and completing the east side of Jones Mill Road.

Work Continues in the Connecticut Avenue Station Area

Reminder: Work continues in the area of Connecticut Avenue Purple Line Station through January. Work includes utility

installations, retaining walls and station elements.

Work Zone Safety

Reminder: As work increases along the alignment, the Purple Line team remains committed to keeping everyone safe. Pedestrians and motorists are advised to follow construction signage and use the open sidewalk(s). For the safety of the public and our construction team, entry into construction work zones is not permitted.

For information on construction activities, schedules and other updates, please visit www.purplelinemd.com. For immediate construction concerns, please email outreach@purplelinemd.com or call (443) 451-3706.

New legislation will require gun retailers to distribute information about suicide prevention and firearm safety

Montgomery County Council approved legislation introduced by Councilmember Evan Glass that aims to reduce the number of gun-related deaths. The law will require gun retail establishments in Montgomery County to provide information on suicide prevention, firearm safety and conflict resolution.

The Suicide Awareness and Firearm Education (SAFE) Act (Bill 36-23) would require the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services to develop literature about firearm safety, suicide prevention and conflict resolution, require gun shops to display and distribute the literature, and generally amend the law regarding education about mental health and firearms.

“Access to a gun triples one’s rate of death by suicide – nearly six in ten gun deaths in the

U.S. are suicides, but we can – and must – reverse this deadly trend,” said Nick Suplina, senior vice president for Law and Policy and Everytown for Gun Safety. “Firearm suicide is a public health crisis; it must be treated like one and that begins with community education. By providing educational resources that could prevent someone in crisis from accessing the most lethal form of suicide, Montgomery County is taking a critical step to save lives.”

Maryland Minimum Wage Increases to \$15

All Maryland employers will have to pay their hourly employees a minimum wage of \$15 per hour starting **January 1, 2024**. This requirement stems from the enactment of Maryland Senate Bill 555 (SB555), also known as the Fair Wage Act of 2023, which was signed into law by Maryland Governor Wes Moore on April 11, 2023.

With most Montgomery County-based employers already required by County law to pay a minimum wage rate of \$15 or more per hour, the new State law will apply to Montgomery County employers with 10 or fewer employees who must raise employee wages from \$14.50 to \$15 per hour beginning January 1.

Employers in Montgomery County are obligated to comply with the State or County’s minimum wage, whichever is higher. Therefore, large employers in the County are required to continue paying their employees a minimum wage of \$16.70 per hour.

County minimum wages rates starting July 1, 2024, have not yet been set. If adjustments to the rates are mandated, County law requires the changes to be based on the Consumer Price Index for all urban wage earners and clerical workers in the Washington region from the preceding year.

For additional details regarding the minimum wage in Montgomery County, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/minimum-wage.

Postal Blues

Stamps:

The first-class price for Forever stamps will increase on **January 21, 2024** from 66 cents to 68 cents.

Shipping services:

The U.S. Postal Service filed a notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission that it will raise prices for shipping services, **also starting January 21, 2024**. Pricing rate increases include USPS Ground Advantage (5.4%), Priority Mail (5.7%), Priority Mail Express (5.9%), and Parcel Select (5.9%).

Other price hikes:

Increases are planned for post office box rental fees and some international mail services, including registered mail and international mail insurance.

Replacement, elimination of some blue postal collection boxes:

Earlier this year, USPS announced it was installing 10,000 new high-security blue collection boxes in what they described as “high-security risk areas.” Blue collection boxes may be eliminated altogether in locations where there is repeated crime target and/or mail density is very low.

In addition to more secure boxes, USPS is replacing old “arrow” locks with electronic versions. More than 6,500 of the old locks have been replaced. USPS plans to install 42,500 more of the electronic ones in coming months.

These changes are part of the Project Safe Delivery campaign launched this summer to crack down on postal crimes, including attacks on postal employees and mail theft.

Montgomery County’s Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Offers Tips to Prepare for Winter Storm Season

As the winter season begins, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich and the County’s Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security encourage residents to familiarize themselves with what to do before, during and after a winter storm.

This year, many forecasts for winter weather in the Washington, D.C. Region include above-average snowfall predictions. Winter weather may include freezing rain, ice, heavy snow, high winds or a combination of all these conditions. Residents are encouraged to be prepared, stay informed and have a plan to keep themselves and their loved ones safe, whether at home or on the road. From snow removal tips to guides on preparing emergency kits and information on where to seek shelter from the cold, Montgomery County is preparing to help residents get ready for winter storms and extreme cold.

Visit the [OEMHS Winter Storms and Extreme Cold webpage](#) for detailed tips, tools and guides on preparing for and coping with winter storms.

MCDOT Promotes ‘Salt Wise’ Campaign, Using Less Salt and Keeping People Safe During Winter Storms

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection and MCDOT are emphasizing the impact excessive salt use can have on the environment. Salt runs off into storm drains, local streams and eventually, to the Potomac and Patuxent rivers. Those waterways are drinking water sources for 1.9 million residents in Montgomery and Prince George’s counties. Salt can corrode concrete and masonry, harm pets, damage surrounding plants and lawns and adversely impact the water supply.

Learn more about how you can play a part in protecting our waterways by being Salt-Wise at bit.ly/SaltWise.

How to Report Utility Issues

When a power outage occurs, residents should call the following phone number:
PEPCO at 1-877-PEPCO-62 / 1-877-737-2662

If the power is restored and goes out again in a matter of minutes, the above phone number should be called again to ensure the new outage is registered.

If you see a possible water main break (which are common during these colder months), please don’t assume it has been reported. Contact **WSSC** by phone **301-206-4002** or email EmergencyCallCenter@wsscwater.com, to report the location.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER 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 December 2023 Council Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer’s Report for November 2023 (Joos) – Results for November 2023 included income of \$144,672.71 and operating expenses of \$33,091.47 (including waste removal, leaf collection, street lighting, sign/street maintenance, 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 \$2,892,248.88. With regard to the balance sheet, the Treasurer noted ongoing efforts to rebalance various bank accounts consistent with dollar limits on FDIC insurance coverage for bank accounts at a single institution. Additionally, the Treasurer re-emphasized the need for the Village to firm up plans for use of the ARPA funds that had been allocated to the Village by the end of the first quarter of 2024, if possible, to ensure that the necessary commitments regarding expenditure of those funds were in place by no later than year-end 2024.

Permits:

- **8912 Montgomery Avenue** – addition/modification over 250 sq. ft. approved.
- **8817 Montgomery Avenue** – permit for front porch replacement approved.
- **3602 Kenilworth Driveway** – permit for screened-in porch deferred until later in

2024, given that construction will not start until the fall of 2024.

Action Items:

Composting – Based on numerous environmental benefits from composting, the desirability of facilitating composting on the part of all Village residents, and the provision of composting as a service offered to residents in neighboring municipalities, the Council decided to undertake, on a pilot project basis, an arrangement with a composting vendor, to be selected via a RFP process, to provide composting services to all residents of the Village generally at no charge to Village residents. The specific details of the pilot project, including arrangements for soliciting bids from potential composting vendors, will be further addressed at the January Council meeting. In deciding on this approach, the Village Council believed that any commitment to expend Village resources on this activity would be contingent on a sufficient number of Village residences actually utilizing this service,

and if a sufficient level of utilization does not materialize, this undertaking would be terminated upon the expiration of the pilot project time period. As part of this effort, the Village Council committed to taking the steps necessary to help educate all Village residents about the benefits of composting, as well as the specific arrangements that will be in place for signing up for the pilot project.

Village Tree Policy and Procedures – In recognition of the importance of maintaining adequate canopy tree coverage throughout the Village, the Village Council decided that amendment of the Village Ordinances to address specific policies regarding circumstances in which the Village may plant trees within the Village right of ways should be undertaken. The Council will also consider further addressing the circumstances under which canopy trees on residential property can be taken down. Specific text for revised Ordinances will be submitted for consideration at a subsequent Council meeting, as the first step required under the Village Ordinances for adopting amendments to existing Ordinances.

Possible Amendment of Maryland Code Land User Article Section 20-509 –

The Village Council will coordinate with our state congressional representatives as appropriate indicating support for measures that would clarify and confirm the ability of municipalities to have their permitting and related ordinances apply not only to single family residences but to all residences that may be erected or established within municipal boundaries.

Village Bookkeeping – The process for transition of bookkeeping services from an outside vendor to the Village Manager is continuing, 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 – The Council confirmed April 27, 2024, as the date for the Village 100-year celebration and authorized the Village Manager to reserve this date with Talk of Town Events as a provider of a carnival themed activities for the event, such as inflatables, rides, games, concessions, etc. It is envisioned in 2024 that there would be a total of three celebratory events sponsored by the Village, including the 100-year celebration, the Environment Committee/native plant celebration and the Fourth of July celebration. We look forward to seeing all residents celebrate together at these festive events.

***WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY
NEW YEAR!***