



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

**JULY VILLAGE MEETING**

July 16, 2024 – 7:30pm – Hybrid platform  
 (Zoom instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) \*Approval of June Minutes  
 \*Treasurer’s Report \*Permits\* Village Streetlighting

**CALENDAR (2024)**

- July 4: 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Block Party  
6pm (rain or shine)
- July 16: Village Council Meeting  
7:30pm (hybrid)

(No Council meeting in August)

- Sept 12: Curbside Donation, Clothing  
Donation Nation
- Sept 13: Curbside Donation,  
Furniture/Non-Clothing Items
- Sept 14: Bulk Trash Pick Up
- Sept 17: Village Council Meeting  
7:30pm (hybrid)
- Oct 15: Village Council Meeting  
7:30pm (hybrid)

**VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES**

**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](mailto:nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org) or #301.654.7084.

**Permit Reminders:** Summer is a great time to refresh your home and yard, but before you begin any exterior improvement project, please contact the Village office for information and to determine what permits may be required. There are county and Village building regulations that may apply.

For additional information, please visit the Village website ([northchevyCHASE.org](http://northchevyCHASE.org)), or contact the Village Manager at [nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org) or #301-654-7084 to verify any requirements.

**Services Offered:** Village management is looking to re-establish a list for residents’ referral on our website. This would include pet

**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](http://www.northchevyCHASE.org)

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.

**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.

**Pesticides for Your Yard:** A reminder that synthetic pesticides for lawns are banned in Montgomery County. Learn more at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns/law/](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns/law/).

Mosquito spray services are not illegal, but the sprays used affect all insects, including pollinators and the insects that birds need to survive during nesting season. Try simple do-it-yourself bucket dunks, which target only mosquitoes. Learn more at <https://moco360.media/2020/04/23/welcomin-g-nature/5/>

**“Petiquette”:** Please see below for helpful reminders for pet owners. Not every homeowner is a pet owner, so please be a responsible pet owner and be respectful of private property. Avoiding private property is the best way to be a courteous neighbor.

- **Keep your pet on a leash.**
- **Do not allow your pet to wander onto other resident's property.**
- **If your pet has to go, make sure it does so on common areas,** like the curb grass closest to the street. Do not venture into homeowner's yards.
- **Pet urine kills plants and flowers.** Please be mindful of the community landscaping and your neighbors landscaping.
- **Keep our common areas clean,** by picking up pet waste and disposing it in your trash can at your home or in Village trash receptacles.
- **Please note:** that the Village fine for not properly disposing of pet waste is \$100 for the first offense and \$500 for subsequent offenses.

## **GENERAL INTEREST**

### **Planning Board recommends zoning changes in single-family home zones**

The Montgomery County Planning Board unanimously approved recommendations to the County Council for zoning changes in single-family home zones, which the council will have to vote on. If approved, the changes would allow (but not mandate) duplexes, triplexes and small apartment buildings to be built in single-family neighborhoods.

The County Council has not announced when it will vote on the recommendations.

The recommended zoning changes are meant to address the county's "missing middle" of affordable housing that middle-income residents can afford to buy or rent. In Montgomery County, middle-income is defined as a family of four earning an income three to five times the poverty level (\$31,200 for a family of four), according to Montgomery Planning.

### **School board appoints Taylor as new MCPS superintendent**

The county school board voted unanimously to appoint Thomas Taylor to a four-year term as the new head of Montgomery County Public Schools after a four-month search that followed the resignation of the former superintendent.

Taylor, who graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in 1996 and also attended Somerset Elementary School in Chevy Chase and Westland Middle School in Bethesda, was first announced as the board's selection for superintendent June 17.

The announcement marked the culmination of a four-month, nationwide search after former MCPS Superintendent Monifa McKnight resigned on February 2. It was the board's second superintendent search in the last three years.

Taylor has nearly 25 years of experience in public education, including six as a superintendent. He holds a doctorate in education from the University of Virginia and a business administration master's from the College of William and Mary.

Taylor most recently served as superintendent of Stafford County Public Schools, the eighth-largest school district in Virginia. Stafford features 33 schools, more than 31,000 students and more than 4,300 employees, according to its website.

In Montgomery County, Taylor will oversee Maryland's largest school district, consisting of 211 schools, approximately 160,000 students and about 25,000 employees

### **Council confirms department veteran as new county police chief**

Marc Yamada will be Montgomery County's new police chief after the County Council unanimously voted to confirm his appointment.

Yamada was an assistant police chief with the department and will replace Chief Marcus Jones, who retired on July 1. Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich nominated Yamada, a Japanese American and a county

police department veteran, in May. The father of a county police officer, Yamada will be the department's 18th police chief and the first Asian American to hold the post.

Yamada, 60, will take over a department that has the highest vacancy rate of sworn officers in 10 years, according to a memorandum presented in March by the County Council's Public Safety Committee. In recent years, the department also has been dealing with a reported increase in crime, including carjackings and auto break-ins and thefts, in the county.

According to county officials, Yamada has 35 years of experience with the county police department. An assistant chief for three years, Yamada is in charge of the Field Services Bureau, overseeing department services and divisions ranging from special operations, SWAT and K9 to traffic operations, school safety, community engagement and crisis response, according to Elrich's office.

During an interview with the council, Yamada said he's ready to tackle hot-button issues such as filling officer vacancies, creating a more diverse workforce and improving the department's performance when it comes to racial equity and social justice. He also said he wants to bolster mentoring programs to improve officer retention and limit turnover.

When asked about his proudest accomplishments in 35 years with the department, Yamada pointed to his involvement in the [Drone as First Responder program](#).

A pilot program operating in Silver Spring and Wheaton was considered so successful by county officials that it was expanded to Bethesda, Gaithersburg and Germantown in the fiscal year 2025 operating budget.

**Retiring police chief Marcus Jones appointed as MCPS security chief**

Just hours after the Montgomery County Council commemorated his retirement with a proclamation, county police Chief Marcus Jones was appointed as chief of the Department of Security and Compliance for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).

The school board voted unanimously to appoint Jones, who retired on July 1 from the county police force.

The board voted on Jones' appointment about two hours after he received accolades from the council and other county leaders during the council meeting, including an official county proclamation commending his service.

Jones, 59, announced his retirement in January after serving in the police department for 38 years.

Jones joins the school system as it deals with growing concerns in the MCPS community about safety and security in the district's more than 200 schools. The school year that ended June 13 was also marked by lockdowns related to threats and also of incidents of weapons discovered in schools.

**County to build nation's biggest zero-emission bus depot**

The county's goal is to reach a 100 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2035. To advance that goal, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, County Council members and others recently broke ground in Derwood on what will be the nation's largest renewable energy powered zero-emission bus depot for county-operated buses.

This microgrid project will feature electric bus-charging and on-site green hydrogen production powered by solar and battery energy storage.

Construction of the microgrid is expected to be completed in 2025, when the system will begin sending renewable energy back to the grid and be able to power zero-emissions buses.

By 2035, the depot is projected to accommodate 200 zero-emissions buses, most of which will be hydrogen fuel cell electric. Powered by hydrogen and oxygen, the buses will emit only water.

**Sale of gas-powered leaf blowers banned as of July 1**

Montgomery County passed legislation in 2023 to address the environmental, noise, and health concerns related to gas-powered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums.

Effective July 1, 2024, the sale of handheld, backpack, and walk-behind gas-powered leaf-removal equipment is banned in Montgomery County. Effective July 1, 2025, their use also will be banned.

There is one exemption under the law: agricultural producers working on agriculturally zoned properties.

**Weekend traffic closure on Beach Drive stretch extends to Fridays**

The 2.2-mile stretch of Beach Drive from Knowles Avenue in Kensington to Cedar Lane in Bethesda will be closed to vehicle traffic from Friday through Sunday year-round.

The Montgomery County Planning Board voted unanimously June 13 to approve the permanent expansion of the weekend closure as part of Montgomery Parks' Open Parkways Program. The modifications also included eliminating a 0.7-mile segment of road – from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Avenue – from the program.

The Open Parkways Program was first initiated by the parks department in 2020 as a way to provide more outdoor recreational space during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program closes portions of Beach Drive and the Sligo Creek and Little Falls parkways in the county to vehicles on weekends.

Now, Beach Drive from Knowles Avenue to Cedar Lane will be closed to motor vehicles from 9 a.m. Fridays through 6 p.m. Sundays in the spring and summer and from 9 a.m. Fridays to 4 p.m. Sundays in the fall and winter. Cedar

Lane to Connecticut Avenue will be open again to motorists on the weekends.

According to Montgomery Parks, “more than one million pedestrians and cyclists have taken advantage of the Beach Drive Open Parkway.”

#### **Increased Metro fares are in effect**

Metro's previously announced fare increases -- up 12.5% -- went into effect on Sunday, June 30. The last general fare increase was in 2017.

Regular Metrobus fares went from \$2 to \$2.25. Metrorail fares on weekdays went from \$2 to \$2.25-\$6.75, depending on the distance traveled. Metrorail flat fares after 9:30 pm and on weekends increased from \$2 to \$2.25-\$2.50.

Metro Access fares rose to \$4.50. Reduced fare programs such as MetroLift and senior discounts will continue to be 50% off regular fares.

#### **New digital library card online application** **Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL)**

now has an online application for obtaining a full-service digital library card, eliminating the need for in-person visits to county library branches to apply. You can get a full-access digital card at <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/library/service/s/card.html>.

Digital library cards provide a more convenient and efficient way to access MCPL's extensive collection of digital resources, including e-books, audiobooks and online databases and programs.

New and existing library customers can add their library card to a smartphone digital wallet. New customers who sign up with the updated online application form will receive a link to do so in their confirmation email. Current cardholders should go to <https://mcpl.aspendiscovery.org/get-digital-smartpass> and log into their account to add their existing library card to their smartphone wallet.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE COUNCIL**

**MEETING** (Official minutes will be posted to the website)

#### **Secretary's Report for May 2024 Council and Annual Meeting** (Mechanick) – Approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report for April and May 2023**

(Joos) –Results for April and May 2024 included combined income of \$88,029.62, and combined operating expenses of \$52,284.03 (including waste removal, street lighting, sign/street maintenance, landscaping and mowing, trees, wages and taxes, professional fees, membership and dues, office and communication, July 4th picnic and miscellaneous). Current fiscal year to date revenues through May 2024 came to \$483,495.01 and current fiscal year to date operating expenses came to \$288,703.55. No capital expenditures were incurred during April or May 2024 and none have been incurred for FY 2023 to date. Total current assets for as of May 2024, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including ARPA funds received, came to \$3,045,036.65.

#### **Compost Crew Presentation**

Dan Israel from Compost Crew made a presentation reviewing the importance of and benefits to be derived from composting in today's environment, key features of the service to be provided by Compost Crew, and the sign-up procedures with respect to the one-year pilot project that is being undertaken by the Village, starting July 1st. As the Council had previously decided, the costs for the services provided will be covered by the Village at no expense to individual participating residences. The Council expressed its appreciation to Mr. Israel for his presentation and encouraged all residents to take advance of the composting service that will be offered.

## **Action Items:**

**Village Street Lighting** – The Council noted the status of ongoing discussions with PEPCO primarily focused on the status and potential improvement of overhead street lighting throughout the Village. PEPCO has provided a list of all street light installations within the Village along Village Manger is in the process of reviewing that to confirm accuracy. This listing, once confirmed, will then provide the starting point for negotiations with PEPCO regarding street lighting improvements. The Village Council is continuing efforts with the outside consultant (Scott Watson) to develop a plan for the procurement and installation of pedestrian street lamps along Kensington Parkway. Both of these measures could be covered, to the extent of funds availability, by the ARPA funds that the Village has received from the federal government.

**46<sup>th</sup> 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 at the same general location as last year, and expressed its appreciation to those residents who already have volunteered as well as those who will be volunteering their time and effort to support this activity. The Council noted that information about the on-line sign-up sheet for volunteers to assist with the event has been distributed to all Village residents.

**Sandy Spring Bank Accounts** – The Council authorized transfers of funds from current banking arrangements to Sandy Spring and further exploration of investment opportunities available to the Village.

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING:** (Courtesy of Environment Committee)

## **HELPING YOUR TREES BEAT THE HEAT**

Hotter summer temps are here. So how do trees manage that heat, and how can homeowners help their trees continue to thrive

### **How Does Heat Affect Trees?**

Just like humans, trees operate most efficiently at certain temperatures. Too cold or too hot, no

matter what climate or growing zone they are in, there are always thresholds where trees begin to decrease functionality. With the heat extremes we're seeing now — and duration of these extremes — it's important to look at the effects in the tree canopy.

Too much heat for extended periods can cause excessive transpiration, leading to a loss in water within the plant. Ultimately, that can lead to death of the tree.

### **How Do you Know A Tree Is Experiencing Stress From Heat?**

Heat stress in trees can look like a lot of things: drooping branches, browning leaf tips, small or unusually shaped leaves, or even dieback of branches (particularly high in the center of the tree crown). In heat stress situations, trees are losing water faster than they are absorbing it.

### **How Do Tree Protect Themselves From Too Much Heat?**

Trees aren't complicated things. They handle heat stress in their environment just like humans do. We call it sweating, and trees call it transpiration. The process is almost identical, though. Simply replace skin and pores with leaves and openings called stomata. Trees move water throughout their branches and allow it to escape onto the outside of their leaves and are cooled by the evaporation process.

Trees in higher-temperature climates have adapted over time by growing smaller leaves with less surface area to transpire from.

### **What Can Homeowners Do To Protect Their Trees In Extreme Heat?**

Water. Long, irregularly timed waterings around the base and drip line of a tree is regarded as the best method to encourage deep root growth and provide sufficient water to the root zone. Also, apply a 2- to 4-inch thick mulch layer around the drip line of the tree. This helps reduce evaporation from the soil while preventing the soil from absorbing and radiating excess heat. If possible, wind blocks in certain areas can help as well — stopping hot, dry air from sweeping through your trees and drying the leaves.