



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024

NOVEMBER VILLAGE MEETING

November 19, 2024 – 7:30pm – hybrid platform (Zoom instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list): **Approval of October Minutes *Treasurer’s Report *Permits * FY24 Village Audit* Snow Removal* Street Lighting*

The Village Office attempts to keep track of residents who move into and out of the Village. If you know of a home for sale or are planning to move out of the Village, please let the Village Office know at nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org or #301.654.7084.

CALENDAR (2024 - 2025)

November 5:	Election Day
November 11:	Veterans Day
November 19:	Village Council Meeting
November 28:	Thanksgiving
December 12:	Donation Nation, Clothing
December 13:	Donation Nation, Furniture/Non-Clothing Items
December 14:	Bulk Trash Pick Up
December 17:	Village Council Meeting
January 1:	Happy New Year – 2025!
January 14:	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:

New Residents:

The Village warmly welcomes the following new residents!

- 3605 Kenilworth Driveway – Alisa Hoffman

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

Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative:

On October 16, the Village Council submitted a letter to the County Council stating the Council’s opposition to the Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative (AHSI). The Village Council’s letter details concern with the AHSI recommendations and makes specific requests of the County Council. The letter can be

viewed on the Village website or by requesting a copy from the Village manager.

Village management will continue to monitor developments related to the AHSI and is actively meeting with neighboring communities to maintain a strategic response to the AHSI recommendations.

Thank you to all the residents who submitted letters to the County Council last month. Residents may continue making their views known to members of the County Council, and are asked to copy the Village Manager (nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org) on any correspondence submitted.

Leaf Pick Up:

REMINDER: Leaf collection is underway. Please note that leaves are to be placed curbside and made accessible for leaf pick up by truck. Please also 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 2024.

Donation Prior to Bulk Trash Pick Up:

Donation Nation will be coming through the Village prior to the Saturday, December 14 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 12** and non-clothing and furniture will be picked up on **Friday, December 13**. 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 14**. 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 will be planting 27 trees ordered from the Village for 17 residents who responded to the free native tree offer provided by the Village Council. It is anticipated that all trees will be planted in mid-November, when the trees are dormant. Residents will continue to be notified in the coming weeks regarding the planting schedule.

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:

- 3702 Kenilworth Driveway – driveway (10/23/24)

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 or contact the Village Manager at nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org to verify any requirements.*

Thefts:

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.

The Village recently learned that thieves are following FedEx/UPS/Amazon drivers around neighborhoods and picking up packages that have just been delivered. If using Amazon, you may consider having your packages delivered for pick up at the Amazon Fresh on Manor Road or delivery to lockers at the Kensington Safeway, as well as other locations in our area.

Residents please be alert to any unusual activity in the Village and if you see something contact the Montgomery County Police Department at #240-773-6700 immediately.

GENERAL INTEREST:

Marylanders Can Order Free COVID Tests to Be Sent Via Mail

Marylanders can now order another round of free COVID-19 nasal swab tests that will be delivered directly to their homes. Each household can get four tests through COVIDtests.gov.

Forms to apply for the kits can be accessed at <https://special.usps.com/testkits>.

Updated rapid tests are expected to be able to detect newer variants just as a new COVID variant, XEC, arrives in Maryland. It is a member of the Omicron family.

The availability of free at-home tests comes just after the Food and Drug Administration approved two updated COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is urging everyone 6 months or older to get a new shot this fall since last year's shots were geared toward a strain that is no longer around.

As flu and RSV season approaches, health officials recommend residents stock up on tests and update all vaccinations.

Downtown Bethesda park to reopen soon

Caroline Freeland Urban Park, at 7200 Arlington Road, will have a reopening celebration on **Saturday, November 9, 2-3:30 pm**. It will include free activities, such as pumpkin-decorating, instructor-led barre workout class, and refreshments.

The park now has a larger playground, separate play structures for younger and older children, wheelchair-accessible entrances, pathways and play equipment, a central lawn, picnic tables, and a variety of seating areas. Still to be done is planting more trees and installing handrails and benches.

Park planners hope the renovated park will be a destination for play as well as lunchtime meetings, yoga classes and community gatherings.

Registration for Recreation's Winter Programs Begins Wednesday, November 13

Registration for Montgomery County Recreation's winter classes and programs will begin at 6:30am on **Wednesday, November 13**, for County residents. Registration for senior programming (including Bone Builders) will begin at 9am.

Winter programs will become viewable online at [activemontgomery.org](https://www.activemontgomery.org) on **Friday, November 1**. Winter offerings include fitness, sports, visual and performing arts, therapeutic recreation and more. You will then be able to view the digital guide and explore dozens of programs and activities for a variety of interests, skill levels and ages.

To help ease the experience on registration day, start planning now. Log in to your ActiveMONTGOMERY account ahead of time to make sure all your information is up to date.

For more information about registration, visit the website at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/howto/registrationinformation.html> or call 240-777-6840.

Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade

The Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade will usher in the holiday season on **Saturday, November 16** 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>.

Montgomery County Council to Host Youth Town Hall meeting

The Montgomery County Council will host a Youth Town Hall meeting on **Wednesday,**

November 20 at 7pm at the Council Office Building in Rockville. This annual meeting with students promotes youth engagement in community and public policy issues and allows Councilmembers to hear directly from young people about their concerns and views.

Student Member of the Montgomery County Board of Education Praneel Suvarna will attend the Youth Town Hall and kick off the question-and-answer period. Superintendent Dr. Thomas Taylor will also join the town hall.

Information can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/dir.html>

All students must register to participate and receive their two student-service learning hours for advocacy.

2024-2028 Growth and Infrastructure Policy

For the last few weeks, the Planning, Housing, and Parks (PHP) committee has been combing through the 2024-2028 Growth and Infrastructure (GIP), which implements the provisions of the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance.

The Montgomery County Planning Board only approves new development after determining that the surrounding infrastructure can meet new and changing needs. Therefore, the GIP guides how the Planning Board makes that determination by setting standards for evaluating public infrastructure and the impact an individual development may have on it.

The Planning Board transmitted the GIP to the Council on July 25, 2024 and the County Council has until November 15, 2024 to make a final decision about the resolution. The Council took preliminary straw votes on the recommendations from the PHP committee and will be taking final votes in the coming weeks.

Council enacts bill to reduce excessive vehicular noise

The Montgomery County Council voted today to enact legislation that would establish a Vehicle Noise Abatement Monitoring Pilot Program that includes installation of three automated "noise

camera" devices at locations chosen by the Montgomery County Police Department. The goal is to help enforce existing state exhaust noise by reducing excessive noise from defective or altered mufflers and exhaust systems in vehicles.

Under Maryland law, vehicles must not exceed a sound limit of 80 decibels. When the volume is detected at least five decibels above that standard, the camera would capture a video of the vehicle causing the noise for identification.

MCPD will issue a warning notice for the first offense of exceeding the current noise level and a fine not to exceed \$75 for the second offense. The pilot program is expected to sunset on June 30, 2026.

County Council considering a ban on plastic shopping bags

The Montgomery County Council is considering a near-complete countywide ban on plastic shopping bags under the "Bring Your Own Bag" bill (Bill 24-24), introduced on October 15.

The bill would prohibit retail establishments from providing plastic shopping and carryout bags, with some exceptions, such as for prescription drugs, dry cleaning items and to hold perishable items such as meat. Newspaper mailer bags also would be allowed.

The bill would allow retail establishments to provide paper bags at a 10-cent tax each. (The current bag tax is 5 cents.) Retailers could keep half of the 10-cent tax collected per bag to cover administrative and implementation costs but would be required to remit the other half to the county.

Any retail establishment found in violation would first receive a written warning. An additional violation would be subject to a \$500 fine. Further violations would be subject to a \$750 fine and potential legal proceedings. If the council's proposed legislation is passed, the county ban would go into effect July 1, 2025. Neither a public hearing nor a vote on the bill has been scheduled.

Maryland State Tree Nursery Now Taking Orders for Spring 2025 Planting

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources' John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery is accepting orders for spring planting. The online tree seedling catalog can be found at nursery.dnr.maryland.gov.

All trees planted help Maryland's canopy spread and count toward Maryland's 5 Million Tree Initiative, which aims to plant 5 Million Trees by 2031.

This year's catalog features more than 55 species. Property owners can contact their local forestry office at <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/contacts.aspx>, with questions about site conditions, species selection, and financial incentives for which property owners may qualify.

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 2024 Council Meeting – Approved.

Treasurer's Reports for September 2024

(Joos) –Results for September 2024, included combined income of \$62,964.75, and combined operating expenses of \$22,979.52 (including Village street lighting, waste removal, composting services, trees, landscaping and lawn mowing, membership and dues, wages and taxes, professional fees, and office and communication). No capital expenditures were incurred during September 2024. Total current assets as of September 2024, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including ARPA funds received, came to \$3,084,549.92.

Action Items:

Fall 2024 Village Tree Order -- At the July meeting the Council decided to offer residents the opportunity to have up to two native canopy trees planted on their properties at Village expense, subject to a commitment by the resident to assume responsibility for tree maintenance thereafter via a Tree Planting Agreement form. At the September meeting a

list of eight different native shade canopy trees were selected to offer residents. The Village Manager disseminated information about the program via Constant Contact and in the October 2024 Newsletter with a deadline of October 14. The Village Council approved the request from 17 residents for 27 trees to be purchased and planted by Stadler Nursery for an estimated cost of \$13,710. The Village Manager will contact Stadler Nursery to place the order and coordinate with residents in advance of the plantings in mid-November 2024.

Snow Removal Services: Winter 2024-25 -- In September 2024, the Village manager contacted Snow Central about a contract for this winter and was informed they would no longer be providing services due to old equipment. The Village manager reached out to neighboring municipalities for recommendations. The Village manager wrote a scope of work for snow removal services and is awaiting several responses from contractors. The Village Council approved issuance of additional bids and the Village manager will compile and send to the Council for review, with a decision to be taken at November Council meeting.

Village Street Lighting –The Village Council has formulated, in consultation with the Village’s outside consultant (Scott Watson), a plan for the installation of 23-26 pedestrian pole mounted street lights to be placed along Kensington Parkway, the expenses for which would be covered, to the extent of funds availability, by the ARPA funds that the Village has received from the federal government. A lighting a mock-up was held on the evening of October 5 to show samples of two lanterns (Holophane/Granville and Spring City/Bryn Mawr) in front of the North Chevy Chase Christian Church on Kensington Parkway for residents to view and vote prior to proceeding with final procurement commitments. The Spring City Bryn Mawr lantern received 11 votes vs. 3 votes for the Holophane Granville lantern. The Village Council approved the cast iron support poles (Newbury Port) for the lighting fixtures also from Spring City and has arranged, in consultation with our lighting

consultant, to work with recommended engineer to begin the process.

Attainable Housing Strategies -- The Village has sent residents information about the proposed strategy and likely zoning changes that would be as broadly as possible throughout the Village. The proposal under consideration will have a significant impact on the entire Village. Village residents have been encouraged to send their questions or concerns about this proposal to the County Council through email as well as through the AHSI website portal for feedback. The Village Treasurer said she would draft a letter to send on behalf of the Village Council in opposition as well as draft a letter for residents to edit and send before the October 18 deadline so as to be included in the county’s initial report.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING:

(Courtesy of the Environment Committee)

RainScapes rebates available to residents

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is now accepting RainScapes Reward Rebate applications from county residents and businesses who take measures to reduce stormwater runoff from their individual properties and may be eligible for refunds of up to \$7,500 for residential properties.

A Rainscape is a landscape or design technique that helps reduce stormwater runoff from individual properties and that prevents pollutants, chemicals, oils and heavy metals from washing directly into the local waterways.

Additional information on the rebates and the application are available on the RainScapes on the website at

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/property-care/rainscapes/rainscapes-application-primer.html>.

**Wishing everyone a safe and happy
Thanksgiving holiday! 🍂**