



## VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025

### **JANUARY VILLAGE MEETING:**

January 21, 2025 – 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 \*Sanitation RFP \*Streetlighting

### **CALENDAR (2025)**

January 21: Village Council Meeting  
February 18: Village Council Meeting  
March 13-14: Donation Nation Pick-Up  
March 15: Bulk Trash Pick-Up  
March 18: Village Council Meeting

### **VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES:**

**NEW RESIDENTS:** The Village warmly welcomes new residents:

- **8911 Clifford** – Kaitlin Bushkoff Harmon and Kevin Harmon

The Village Office keeps track of residents who move out of and into the Village. If you know of a home for sale or are planning to move, please let the Village Office know at [nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org).

### **Snow Removal:**

With snow expected from **Sunday, January 5 to Monday, January 6**, Village management will notify residents via email when snow removal is scheduled. The snow removal contract includes automatic mobilization when snow accumulation reaches 2 inches.

Residents are reminded that they are responsible for maintaining the sidewalks in front of their properties, ensuring they are reasonably safe for pedestrian travel. This includes removing snow and ice, or applying

sand or calcium magnesium acetate if the snow/ice has hardened, within 24 hours of snowfall cessation.

To assist with snow removal and the application of salt, residents are kindly asked to park their vehicles in driveways, if possible, or on the even side of the street.

### **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)**

**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.

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.

**Recycling:**

To help improve the efficiency of the Village dual-stream recycling, Management kindly asks that **all cardboard boxes be broken down** before placing them in the recycling bins. This will ensure that the materials are properly processed and can be recycled effectively. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and your continued commitment to keeping the Village clean and environmentally friendly.

**Services Offered:**

Village management is looking 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).

**Tree Ordinance Notification:**

This is to inform residents that the Village Council will be actively enforcing the provisions of the Village Code of Ordinances concerning tree maintenance and related issues, specifically **Section 5-205B** regarding potential obstructions to traffic control signs, devices, or signals.

The Council has acknowledged the importance of ensuring that all trees, shrubs, and similar

vegetation are properly maintained to avoid blocking the visibility of traffic signs, signals, or devices. As part of this initiative, Village Management will be following up on any concerns or specific issues that may arise related to this matter.

Additionally, **Section 3-205** of the Village Code addresses the height and location of fences, including hedges that function as fences. Please be advised that these regulations will also be enforced as needed to maintain safety and visibility for all residents.

We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines and contributing to the safety and well-being of our community. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Village Office at #301.654.7084 or email: [nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org](mailto:nccinfo@northchevyCHASE.org).

**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:**

**Village Residents Welcome In NCC CONNECTIONS' Activities**

Heard of the Halloween Block Party Parade or the Fall Music Fest on the lawn of NCC Christian Church?

Fun events like these are free offerings sponsored by **North Chevy Chase CONNECTIONS, Inc.**, a seven-year-old locally-organized, independent 501 (c) (3) nonprofit open to all residents in the Village as well as over 2,000 households in our specific area.

The goal of this all-volunteer organization is for neighbors of all ages to get to know each other and be mutually supportive as urbanization and change advance. A free, monitored listserv exclusive for neighbors is a popular service to join. Dogs have been found, information shared and plumbers located. Among the many

programs advertised in our monthly email digest are regular outings at restaurants and a weekly walking group. Neighbors pay \$50 annual dues per household to access services like needed rides to appointments or they join just to invest in the work toward a stronger community.

For more information visit [www.northchevyconnections.org](http://www.northchevyconnections.org) or call 240-343-2446.

### **County Council Elects New President and Vice President**

On December 3, 2024 Montgomery County Council elected Councilmember Kate Stewart as president and Councilmember Will Jawando as vice president. Both will serve one-year terms.

Council president Stewart, who represents District 4 (North Bethesda to Silver Spring – [including the Village](#)), just completed a one-year term as vice president and continues to chair the government operations and fiscal policy committee and audit committee. She is also a member of the council's transportation and environment committee.

Council President Stewart outlined her agenda in remarks to the Council, including an initiative to make sure mental health services are treated the same as physical health. Her other priorities include advancing climate, transportation, housing and economic goals and ensuring all residents can live safely and with dignity in the community regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or immigration status.

Council vice president Jawando represents the entire county as an at-large member. He is chair of the education & culture committee and is a member of the planning, housing, and parks committee.

### **Proposed removal of development cap in downtown Bethesda**

At a public hearing on Monday, the county Planning Board recommended the removal of a development cap in the downtown Bethesda area in its draft [Bethesda Downtown Minor Master Plan Amendment](#). The draft amendment is part of an update of the community's master

plan, the [2017 Bethesda Downtown Plan](#). The current development cap is 32.4 million square feet of development.

According to Montgomery planning, the development cap was reached in September 2023, six years into the 2017 plan, making the approval of future projects in the downtown area uncertain.

Planning staff held a December 12, 2024 work session to revise the draft amendment before it was sent to the Planning Board for approval. The board's final draft of the amendment is expected to be sent to the County Council and County Executive for review and consideration by the end of 2024. Once the County Council votes its approval, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will adopt the amendment.

No dates have been set for final action by the County Council or Planning Board.

### **County launches portal for reporting hate bias incidents**

A [new website portal](#) designed to make it easier to report hate crimes and bias incidents in Montgomery County is now open. Anyone who has been a victim or witnessed a hate or bias incident is encouraged to report by visiting [montgomerycountymd.gov/report-hate](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/report-hate) or by calling the County's 311 Call Center from 7 a.m.–7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The portal consists of an online [reporting form](#) that is available in hundreds of languages. Victims and witnesses of hate bias incidents can fill out a report, anonymously if they prefer. A completed form is sent directly to a staff member with the county police department's community engagement division for review to determine whether the department will investigate.

The form is not for reporting emergencies or crimes; however, officials said incidents that are reported may be investigated as crimes. Types of incidents filers may choose to report could include hate-motivated graffiti, speech or threats.

Not all incidents will be handled by police. Law enforcement will become involved if there is evidence of a crime or another reason for a police officer to get involved. Other types of

incidents may be handled by other county departments or officials, depending on their nature.

### **Montgomery County Department of Transportation's Ride on Bus Service Changes to Begin on Sunday, January 12**

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will adjust 27 Ride On bus route schedules starting Sunday, **January 12** to improve efficiency and on-time performance.

The changes reflect a shift of resources to allow for more reliable service where demand is higher.

#### Route changes include:

- Twenty-seven (27) bus routes have timetable changes: 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 18, 27, 38, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 54, 55, 56, 74, 90, 96, 97, 98, extRa Lime Route, Flash Blue Route, and Flash Orange Route
- Twenty-Five (25) bus routes have trip adjustments: 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 18, 38, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 54, 55, 56, 74, 90, 96, 97, 98, Flash Blue Route and Flash Orange Route
- One (1) bus route has frequency adjustments: 27
- One (1) bus route has an extended service span: Ride On extRa Lime Route which began on Sunday, November 17, 2024

Ride On bus fare is only \$1 and monthly passes are \$22.50 using SmarTrip, cash, or tokens. Seniors age 65 or older, persons with disabilities and youth ages 18 and under all ride free using specialized SmarTrip cards.

Riders can plan trips online using the free Ride On Trip Planner App.

For the most up-to-date service information available at [rideonbus.com](http://rideonbus.com).

### **MCPS Superintendent Taylor Explains the Boundary Study**

MCPS Superintendent Thomas Taylor has released a video explaining the school district's new boundary study.

The study, which will cover roughly three-quarters of MCPS's high schools and middle schools, is necessitated by three new capital projects about to come online.

If your family includes an MCPS student, you should watch this video. Here is the link -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Al4d8pXieFs>.

### **Free Fitness Passes Continue in 2025 for Montgomery County Residents**

Montgomery County Recreation's RecFit passes will continue to be free for Montgomery County residents in 2025. This will be the third year for the free passes, which were first offered in 2023. The free RecFit pass provides access to fully equipped fitness rooms, open gym (drop-in) activities and game rooms at any community recreation center during regularly scheduled hours.

Residents can sign up for the pass in-person at any County [recreation center](#) during regular business hours. The pass can then be used at any of the County's recreation centers. Proof of residency (a valid photo ID with an address or a photo ID with a current utility bill) must be provided by County residents to receive the free pass, and for annual renewal. Passholders must also have a photo on file.

The free RecFit pass does not include access to Recreation's aquatic centers.

For more information visit <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/memberships/centerpasses.html>

### **Two free summer camp fairs**

Montgomery County Recreation is hosting two free summer camp fairs this month, on **January 5** and **January 11**, to help families plan summer activities for their children.

The fairs offer families a chance to explore camp options and meet with recreation staff and instructors to ask questions. At the fairs will be arts, crafts, games and snacks, all similar to those offered at Recreation's summer camps.

You can view camp descriptions online at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/activitiesandprograms/camps/>

The camp fair on **January 5** will be at the Germantown Community Recreation Center (18905 Kingsview Road). The fair on **January 11** will be at the East County Community Recreation Center (3310 Gateshead Manor Way) in Silver Spring. Both will be from 1 to 4pm.

The summer camps fill up quickly. Registration begins **Tuesday, January 21**, at 6:30am.

### **NIH Blood Bank Seeks Donors**

The NIH Blood Bank needs both Blood and Platelet Donors. All blood products collected go to the children and adult patients at the NIH Clinical Center hospital. If you are interested in donating, please contact:

- Whole Blood Donation: #301.496.1048
- Platelet Donation: #301.496.4321
- Research Donation: #301.496.0092

You can also request your appointment online at [www.cc.nih.gov/blooddonor](http://www.cc.nih.gov/blooddonor) or email: [nihbloodbank@mail.cc.nih.gov](mailto:nihbloodbank@mail.cc.nih.gov) to request a recruiter to contact you for an appointment.

The NIH Blood Bank is on the first floor of Building 10, with reserved parking while you donate.

### **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](mailto: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)*

**Presentation by Michele Rosenfeld, Land Use Attorney** – Ms. Rosenfeld, who has been retained by a number of other neighboring municipalities for legal advice related to the attainable housing strategies initiative, made a presentation highlighting her experience with land use/zoning matters and the range of legal advisory services that she would be providing to other municipalities that have related her, and responded to questions from the Council and from those in attendance at the meeting. Based on her presentation, the Council decided to retain her for a range of legal services to be provided. Expenses for the advisory services that she will be providing will be shared among the various municipalities that have (or will in the future) retained her for such services.

**Secretary's Report for November 2024 Council Meeting** (Mechanick) – Approved.

### **Treasurer's Reports for November 2024**

(Joos) –Results for November 2024 included income of \$99,992.96, and operating expenses of \$27,740.57 (including street lighting, waste removal, composting services, leaf collection, landscaping and lawn mowing, membership and dues, wages and taxes, professional fees, office and communication, and miscellaneous). Total income for FY 2025 to date (July-November 2024) came to \$214,143.09 and total operating expenses came to \$124,293.96. No capital expenditures have been incurred to date for FY 2025. Total current assets as of November 2024, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including ARPA funds received, came to \$3,227,399.32.

**Action Items:**

**Permits:**

- **9009 Montgomery Avenue** – Permit application for construction of a new house at that location was provisionally approved, subject to execution of an appropriate site management agreement and payment of necessary fees and refundable security interest. Residents from two of the adjoining properties were present and were able to raise any concerns that they may have, which were addressed by the contractor (Francis Development). The Council noted specific concerns related to certain proposed tree removals and agreement was reached that will be reflected in the executed site management agreement requiring the involvement of a certified arborist and the development of an agreed tree protection plan in connection with the construction activities.

**Application of Code of Ordinance Section 5-205B** – The Council acknowledged the need for greater attention to be directed to the requirements of Village Code of Ordinances Section 5-205B, concerning potential obstructions to visibility of any traffic control sign, device or signal, and indicated that the Village would follow up, as appropriate, to address particular issues or concerns that might arise. Related to this are similar requirements set forth in Village Code of Ordinances Section 3-205 regarding the height and location of fences, including hedges that effectively function as a fence.

**Status of Consideration of Maryland Code Land Use Article, Section 20-509** – Coordination is ongoing among various municipalities including the Village and our respective House and Senate representatives representing affected areas, further supported by our outside legal counsel (Ron Bolt) concerning efforts to secure necessary modification of Section 20-509 of the Maryland Code to insure that any subsequent zoning changes that may occur do not deprive affected municipalities of their ability to maintain reasonable permitting regulations regarding new home construction.

**RFP for Sanitation Services: 2025-2027** – the Village has issued a RFP for sanitation services for the 2025-2027 time period, and will consider responsive bids at its January 2025 meeting.

**Village Street Lighting** –The Village Council approved proceeding with the plan for pedestrian lighting along Kensington Parkway and with PEPCO's replacement of all existing lights currently attached to PEPCO electrical poles throughout the Village that do not currently have LED lights installed. Specifically, the Council approved going forward with a contract with Baldwin Line for procurement and installation of 25 pole mounted lighting fixtures to be located along Kensington Parkway, and with seeking an appropriate service order with PEPCO for the installation of the replacement LED lights. Specifically, the Council approved going forward with a contract with Baldwin Line for procurement and installation of 25 pole mounted lighting fixtures to be located along Kensington Parkway, and with seeking an appropriate service order with PEPCO for the installation of the replacement LED lights. The Village is looking to complete formal agreement with Baldwin Line prior to December 31, 2024, consistent with the commitment deadline associated with the ARPA funding terms that the Village has received. The Village also approved extension of the consulting agreement between the Village and Scott Watson to continue to provide advisory services in connection with these projects through 2025.

**Manager's Report:**

- The Village has applied for renewal of its Tree City USA status for 2025.
- The Village has been selected for inclusion in Maryland's Information Security Officer Shared Service Program, participation in which should assist the Village in having in place proper measures to address potential cyber-security threats that the Village may face in the future. The Program is expected to start in February 2025.

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