



**VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2026**

JANUARY VILLAGE MEETING

January 20, 2026 – 7:30 PM – Hybrid
(Zoom instructions will be sent to the Village’s email list) *Approval Dec minutes
*Treasurer’s report *FY26 Budget Adjustment *Permits *Intersection safety study *Tree Maintenance *Sidewalk repairs
*Village-wide survey *SMS Service

CALENDAR (2026)

Jan 20	Village Council Meeting	7:30 PM (hybrid)
Feb 17	Village Council Meeting	7:30 PM (hybrid)
March 12	Donation Nation Clothing	
March 13	Donation Nation Non-Clothing	
March 14	Bulk Trash Pick Up	7:00 AM curbside
March 17	Village Council Meeting	7:30 PM (hybrid)
April 21	Village Council Meeting	7:30 PM (hybrid)
May 5	Village Elections and Annual Meeting	7-8 PM voting; 8 PM mtg
June 16	Village Council Meeting	7:30 PM (hybrid)

VILLAGE-SPECIFIC NOTICES

Welcome New Residents: The Village warmly welcomes the following new families:

Jason and Amanda Light and their one-year-old moved from Bloomingdale in NW DC to 3605 Inverness Dr.

Kevin Fornal and Lily Polskin and their two children, ages three and five, moved to 9009 Montgomery Ave.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

Chair: Adrian Andreassi
chair@northchevyCHASE.gov

Vice Chair: Maury Mechanick
vicechair@northchevyCHASE.gov

Secretary: Brian Hoffner
secretary@northchevyCHASE.gov

Treasurer: Geetika Sripathi
treasurer@northchevyCHASE.gov

Member: Jon Macy
member@northchevyCHASE.gov

Manager: Dana Peterson
manager@northchevyCHASE.gov

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: <https://northchevyCHASE.gov>

Leaf Collection: Please note that Village leaf collection has ended, as has the current leaf collection contract. The Village will issue a new bid in the next few months, including improvements to communication on planned days of service. 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 not exceed 45 pounds.

Christmas Tree Pickup: Residents can leave their Christmas trees curbside for pickup every Monday throughout January. Please be sure to remove your tree's stand, all decorations, lights, tinsel, garlands, and any plastic.

Composting: The community is having a real impact on waste reduction! Compost Crew collected 34,948 lbs of food waste from the Village in 2025, saving 19 tons from sitting in a landfill. Residents can still sign up for the free Village service with Compost Crew. Please go to the Village website at northchevyCHASE.gov and click on the link for Compost Crew under the Services tab or contact the Village Manager.

Connecticut Ave/Kensington Pkwy/Jones Bridge Intersection Safety Study: The Village anticipates that Brudis & Associates will provide a final draft of its report prior to the January 20 Council meeting and will share the key findings/conclusions at the meeting. On December 17, Council Vicechair Maury Mechanick attended a District 18 State Delegate town hall addressing traffic safety, at which he flagged the municipality's significant concerns about safety at the intersection and noted that the Delegates would be receiving a traffic engineering

report with findings and recommendations to improve the intersection in early 2026. The Village also plans to circulate the report to County Councilmembers as well as the County Executive's office and other stakeholders to support action.

Capital Improvement Plan: Clark/Azar and Associates has updated its assessment of the Village's roads, sidewalks, curbs, and storm drains (which are County-owned). The team used visual observation and found most infrastructure to be in good condition. Most Village infrastructure was classified as fair to good or better. Clark/Azar recommended grinding trip hazards on sidewalks and replacing some sidewalk panels this fiscal year (\$27,000 estimate), and resurfacing some roads in FY28 (\$400,000 estimate), with the goal of timing the milling and overlay work to avoid subgrade failure. While Kensington Parkway was identified for milling and overlay in FY32, the Council discussed potentially accelerating the resurfacing of that street to remove the center lanes and accommodate bike lanes.

Sidewalk Snow Removal/SSL Hours: Please be reminded that residents are required to clear their sidewalks from snow/ice. If a resident would like assistance with this, please contact the Village Manager. Related to this, if any MCPS students in the Village would like to earn SSL hours by helping neighbors with snow clearing on Village sidewalks, please contact the Village Manager. Residents can also make arrangements with Miller Landscaping, the Village's contractor for street snow removal, at (301) 587-1454 or via email at nweber@millerlandscapes.net and/or info@millerlandscapes.net.

Village SMS Service: The Village is initiating an SMS service for important, time-sensitive notifications (i.e., street snow removal updates, emergency utility repairs,

event reminders) to supplement email communication. Residents will receive a link soon in an autogenerated message via Constant Contact to “opt in” to the service. Please note that the Village will not be sending out marketing or promotional materials through this service.

Northchevychase.gov domain: The Manager and all Councilmember emails have migrated to @northchevychase.gov. Please see the text box on page 1 for complete email addresses.

Taxes: Please be sure to include the Village of North Chevy Chase as your “city” at the top of your State Tax Return. For electronic filers, the Political Subdivision Code for North Chevy Chase is 1618.

Permits: If considering any exterior work, please contact the Village Manager to determine what permits may be required.



Updated Village Trees Condition Assessment: The Village arborist has completed a maintenance and condition assessment of all 266 trees in the Village right-of-way. Per the assessment, the arborist recommends 13 Village trees be removed and 9 trees be pruned. The document will be uploaded next week to the Village website under “Services,” then scroll to Tree Planting and Maintenance. It is sorted by proximity to particular street addresses and clarifies assessment designations. The Village Manager will also send to all residents a copy of the document via Constant Contact. An updated version will be uploaded and

circulated semi-annually. The next inspection will likely be in late spring.

Residents can also use the following link for an interactive map of the Village trees: <https://app.arborprousa.com/viewer/SWPQk9jPXFfbpWwj>, clicking on specific trees for details on the species, condition, and current recommended maintenance. This link will also be available at the same location as the PDF document referenced above on the Village website.

Tree Maintenance Providers: The Village has posted a solicitation for bids for tree maintenance, with a closing date of January 9. It is envisioned that the Village will select 3-4 qualified companies with which to have retainer contracts and will then conduct “mini bids” when tree work is identified in order to ensure the most cost-effective service.

From the Village Arborist: Happy New Year! Thanks to everyone who attended the December Village Council meeting, where I introduced the updates to the Village tree inventory.

You'll probably have seen me around the Village working on removing old tree staking and water bags. An important thing to do with newly-planted trees is to remove any staking and wires after the first year (unless the tree has shifted at all since planting). This prevents future damage.

The active vascular system of a tree is relatively small in diameter in relation to the rest of the trunk. As the tree puts on additional growth rings each year, it can become constricted by anything wrapped around it. This can lead to structural and health issues, and possibly even kill the tree. We call this "girdling."



A tree trunk girdled by a wire and hose

Other items

can cause this girdling: hammocks, electrical cords, Christmas lights, or even the tree's own roots. To prevent some of this, I'll also be cutting any small, circling roots that are visible on Village trees before they are able to grow into a much larger problem. If you do have a hammock or other items attached to a tree, be sure to check them each year and loosen them if they are becoming too tight.



Girdling roots on a tree

As always, if you have any concerns about a Village tree, just reach out to the Village

Manager. I am also available for hire for tree assessments on private property at rjonesarborist@gmail.com

GENERAL INTEREST

County Plastic Bag Ban: Montgomery County's new "Bring Your Own Bag" law took effect on January 1, 2026. The law prohibits plastic carryout bags in most areas of the County and requires a 10-cent fee for paper bags.

MCPS Boundary Study Updates:

Superintendent Thomas Taylor will present his recommendation for the boundary studies in February, and the school board will vote on the recommendation on March 26. There are currently seven options for boundary adjustments related to the reopening of Woodward High School. All current options keep Silver Creek Middle School and Bethesda Chevy Chase High School as the designated schools for the Village; however, the Superintendent or Board of Education can make changes before boundary designations are finalized this spring. Residents can examine the options and complete a survey at the following site:

<https://sites.google.com/mcpsmd.net/woodward-boundary-options/home>.

DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING (*Official minutes will be posted to the website once Council approves - please note that some agenda items are addressed above*)

Treasurer's Report: Year-to-date (July-November 2025) income totaled \$273,719, with year-to-date expenses (\$145,275) at 30% of the annual budgeted amount. Village assets as of November 30 totaled \$3,311.372.

Proposed Permit Revisions: The Manager presented proposed permit revisions, including creating a user-friendly online permit application form and strengthening coordination with the County's Department of Permitting Services. Additionally, she mentioned reviewing fine schedules in neighboring municipalities and consideration of amendments to the Village Charter to align with state requirements.

Tree Management on Private Property: The Council discussed outreach efforts to residents about the importance of maintaining and expanding the Village's overall tree canopy and the need for a comprehensive tree policy for the municipality. The Council discussed tree management on private property, considering broader protection beyond municipal right-of-way and exploring the requirement for tree assessments and replacements for any removals, drawing upon policies in places like Takoma Park, DC, and the Town of Chevy Chase. The Village Manager will review tree policies in other municipalities and prepare a draft for the Council's consideration and community input. The Village noted that Richard would offer independent tree assessments on private properties, and proposed using Arbor Day as an opportunity for educational events about tree care.