



## VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2019

### OCTOBER VILLAGE MEETING

**October 15, 2019; 8 PM;** NCC Christian Church  
\*Approval of Sept Mtg Min \*Treasurer's Report \*  
Permits \*Capital Expenditures

### IMPORTANT NOTICES

**Recycling** - The Village moved to dual stream recycling on October 2. The Village Council approved the procurement of approximately 32-gallon wheeled, recycling containers for all residents. They will likely be delivered to all households in the Village around mid-November. In the meantime, residents should use whatever bin(s) they have been using for recycling. If residents do not have 2 containers, they can put mixed paper in a cardboard box, paper bag, or tie the material together. Please note that the recycling contractor uses 2 different trucks to pick up the recycling at different times of the day on Wednesday so plastic/glass/aluminum will be picked up separately from mixed paper products. Flyers were distributed in the previous newsletter as well as via the listserv clarifying what products can be recycled. **Please note that plastic bags and soft plastic should never be placed in recycling containers, as they damage the machines at the recycling facility.** Recycle plastic bags at a local grocery store. Additional

information can be obtained from the following website:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/SWS/recycling/blue-bin-items.html>

**Leaf Removal** – The Village has started leaf pick up services. The Village's contractor should be coming through the Village on a weekly basis from now through December 31 (contract may be extended depending on weather and need). Residents are requested to place leaves curbside and ensure the leaves are accessible by truck. Leaves are not to be shredded. Sticks, trash, rocks

#### VILLAGE COUNCIL

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and other debris will not be collected. The Village will attempt to notify residents via the listserv the day(s) each week that the contractor intends to come through the community but weather often limits the contractor from committing to specific day(s) each week.

**Curb Painting** – For those interested residents, the Village has arranged for a contractor to paint the house numbers on the front curb. The style would be 6-inch, black numbers with a white background. The fee is \$15 per house. If you are interested, please send an email to or call the Village Manager and mail a check to the Village of North Chevy Chase, to be received by **November 30**. Only those houses where residents have contacted the Village Manager and submitted payment by the deadline will receive the service. Curb painting will be scheduled for some time in December.

**Bulk Trash** – For future bulk trash pickups, the Village is looking into having a donation truck come through the Village the Friday before bulk trash for discarded items that are in good condition. Other items would be picked up by the Village's contractor the next day (Saturday).

**Tree maintenance** – Village management completed a walk through the Village with its arborist. A survey of Village trees will be posted on the web and circulated via the listserv soon. The Environment Committee will be providing additional details on the trees and looking into options for mapping them. The arborist noticed that numerous trees were being covered with too much mulch and soil. It is important that the root ball of any tree is not covered and only a very thin layer of mulch is placed near the tree, avoiding any "volcano mulch". If there are water shoots around the base, it indicates that the tree was buried and not receiving sufficient water.

**Housing and Building Maintenance**– Village management has been requested to remind residents of the Montgomery County Code related to housing and building maintenance standards (Chapter 26), which applies to the Village. The Code states: "Section (b)(3) All exterior surfaces must be adequately protected from water seepage and against decay. All exterior surfaces must be free of flaking, peeling, or loose paint. (5) Each lawn and other land not covered by a structure must be reasonably free of erosion or gullying. Any grass or weeds must not be allowed to grow more than 12 inches high where required by Chapter 58. Shrubbery, trees, vines, hedges, and other vegetation, including dead trees and branches, must be maintained so they do not pose a danger to health or safety."

**Purple Line** - According to a Bethesda Beat article on September 20, 2019 – based on a semiannual project update to County Councilmembers - "Purple Line officials are planning a staggered debut for the 16-mile light-rail line, with some tracks slated to open by the end of 2022 and full service planned by April 2023....None of those first tracks are expected to open in Montgomery County....The south entrance of the Bethesda Station on Elm Street, another active construction site... is expected to fully reopen by 2022....The Montgomery County Department of Transportation also plans to allocate resources toward tree replanting."

**Village listserv** - Village management has sent a number of notifications to residents via the new Village listserv (Sept newsletter, agenda for Sept Council meeting, updates on leaf removal and recycling). For those who have not received these emails, residents are strongly encouraged to provide their contact information to the Village Manager, as the listserv will be used to provide time-sensitive information that residents should receive in between the monthly newsletters.

## **SUSTAINABLE LIVING: DEALING WITH CHANGE ON A LOCAL LEVEL**

(Courtesy of the Environment Committee)

Change is occurring on a global level. Annual temperature averages are rising; polar ice caps are melting; sea level is rising; more storms of greater intensity are occurring; greenhouse gas levels are climbing; and animal and plant life are struggling to keep up with habitat change and loss. This is just a partial list.

Does North Chevy Chase have a role in addressing the changes? The answer is, most definitely! It is important to understand that every action, regardless how small, when done by many, provides the collective impact necessary to support climate action. The list of recommendations below is not meant to be exhaustive but doable and consciousness raising.

Promote an increase in appropriate vegetation. Plant heat absorbing, CO2 sequestering trees. Plant deciduous trees on a house's south side to block the summer sun and evergreens on the west side to help shelter against cold, winter winds. Where possible, replace grass lawns with drought resistant native plants and ground cover to reduce water as well as fertilizer and chemical usage. Buy wood or wood products that have come from sustainably harvested sources.

Reduce house-related greenhouse gas emissions. Switch to renewable energy suppliers. Turn off unneeded lights. Raise the thermostat A/C and lower the heat settings. Buy Energy Star appliances. Turn off the marginally convenient Standby settings. Don't leave water running. Clothes dryers, gas or electric, use a great deal of energy. Consider setting up a retro clothes line.

Retain and increase outdoor pervious surfaces.

Check out the County Rainscapes program, rainscapes.com. This is also a source for native plant suggestions.

Reduce the Waste Stream: Cut back on food waste. Recycle what and where possible. Compost what could and should be composted. Extend the useful life of items. Buy available, serviceable 2nd hand goods. Pay attention to packaging.

Adjust food habits. Eat seasonal, local foods. They taste better, are nutritionally healthier and buying them supports the continued survival of local agriculture. Avoid excessively packaged, processed food shipped over long distances. Cut down on meat consumption. Aside from any personal feeling about eating animal flesh, growing animals for consumption constitutes one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas production.

Reduce automobile usage. Simply put, the more cars, the more greenhouse gases and heat production and the need for more roads. Where and when possible, walk, bike and use public transportation. Over long distances, where practical, use buses or trains instead of airplanes.

House building: Before tearing down a house and converting it to waste, think about remodeling, adding to and landscaping.

Finally, make demands of government at all levels. Speak out for sustainable energy, public transportation, green construction, updated waste management practices, healthy school lunch menus, creating more public parkland, and establishing runoff water controls. Most important, actively involve those who are going to bear the brunt of potentially irreversible consequences if nothing is done -- our children.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER COUNCIL

**MEETING** (Please note that official minutes will be approved at the next Village mtg and will be posted on the website after)

Meeting Minutes July 2019 – approved. Treasurer’s Report: Fiscal year to date revenues have exceeded expenses by \$21,531, however, this is simply due to timing considerations relating to receipt of revenues from State and County tax proceeds. Total current assets as of August 31, 2019, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, come to \$1,462,306.

### Permits:

- 8911 Kensington Parkway – Shed in backyard – approved.
- 8802 Montgomery Avenue -- replacement fence, approved (Council noted agreement of adjacent property owner, and may consider modification of permit application process for replacement fences to allow for more streamlined approval in the future)
- 3804 Inverness – Home renovation/new addition – architectural drawings still being developed. Will be considered in upcoming meeting.

**Kensington Parkway Pedestrian Signs** – In an effort to enhance pedestrian safety across Kensington Parkway, the Village Council approved “State Law: Stop for Pedestrian” signs at the intersections of Kensington Pkwy/Montrose and Kensington Pkwy/Kenilworth – to replace the yellow pedestrian arrow signs. At the Kensington Pkwy/Montrose, the signs will have a pedestrian-activated, flashing light. Village management is obtaining bids on the signs.

**National Flood Insurance** –The Council approved the Village applying for coverage in the National Flood Insurance Program, administered by FEMA. This was based on requests from Village residents who were prevented from obtaining individual flood insurance coverage because the Village was not covered by the national program. There is no cost

to the Village for joining the program, and this has no negative affect on Village residents, for whom the decision whether or not to secure such coverage on their individual residences is entirely up to them. The Village is only one of three municipalities in the entire State of Maryland that is not currently a participant in the program. Village management will keep residents informed of application approval.

**Tree Maintenance/Replacements** – The majestic red oak at 3704 Inverness will be removed soon, as multiple arborists have confirmed the trunk is hollow and the tree cannot be salvaged. For those areas where Village trees were removed in the past 18 months, the Village has reached out to impacted residents to get input on tree replacements. The Village is ordering new trees from Stadler Nurseries, which come with a 1-year warranty.

**Capital Expenditures** – The Council agreed to procure a replacement street light for the portion of Montgomery Avenue between Kenilworth and Dundee Driveways, and to obtain bids and proceed with the replacement of the asphalt sidewalk currently running along a portion of the SHA right-of-way on the 3800 block of Inverness Drive.

### CALENDAR (2019)

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|---------|---|
| Oct 15: | 8 PM - Village Council Meeting                                  |
| Nov 19: | 8 PM – Village Council Meeting                                  |
| Nov 30: | Checks due (\$15) for those interested in address curb painting |
| Dec 17: | 8 PM – Village Council Meeting                                  |