



# The Quarterly

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**Section 5 Council:** Chris Richardson, Chairman; Greg White, Vice-Chairman; Tim Hanlon, Treasurer; Scott Livingston, Secretary; Nancy Pines, Building Inspector.

## 2015 A BUSY YEAR

On June 30, Section 5 will close out its 93rd fiscal year and it was a particularly good one.

The 2015 Annual Meeting was held on May 5th and residents again approved the recommendation of the Council that the tax rate be set at zero. About 10 years ago the residents voted to set the real estate tax rate at zero and each year they have continued to set it at zero.

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The Annual Meeting also saw a contested election for three vacant Council seats. The three incumbents, Tim Hanlon, Nancy Pines and Greg White were reelected. The fourth candidate was Greg Chernack of Thornapple St. Thank you to all candidates for running for election. An election campaign is always a good and healthy event for a municipality.

For FY 2015/16 the Council approved a budget for \$341,300 in expenditures based on projected revenues of \$416,000 and a net income \$74,700. Copies of that budget as well as of the expenditures for the past 3 fiscal years were distributed to the residents before the meeting.

The only two major variations from the budget approved last year were for Snow Removal and Donations. We all know the kind of winter we had and that certainly explains the reason for the high cost of snow removal this past year. The Donation expense was made at the request of B-CC Rescue Squad that we help them in the purchase of a new emergency vehicle. Section 5 joined with the Town of Chevy Chase to help with the cost of this needed equipment. The Rescue Squad is the volunteer unit that responds to emergency calls from area residents including Section 5 residents and the Council was unanimous in its support and gratitude for the work of the Squad.

Fiscal year 2015 also saw the completion of the survey of Section 5's boundaries and rights-of-way. While the metes and bounds of Section 5 were identified in 1922 when Section 5 was created, they have never been marked by a survey. In addition the rights-of-way in Section 5 had never been surveyed and this often created expensive ad hoc surveys of a single segment of a street or sidewalk when an issue arose.

It was this situation that prompted the Council to seek a survey of the border and the rights-of-way.

The survey is now finished and we expect it will greatly aid in the administration of the town for many years to come. Note, however, that this was not a survey of

the individual privately owned lots in Section 5.

The Council has also purchased new street signs for Section 5. They are particularly attractive and should be installed very soon. The Council believes that they will spruce up the neighborhood.

### **COMINGS AND GOINGS IN SECTION 5**

We must bid a sad farewell to Marilyn Lucas and Kurt Osuch who are moving to Texas where Marilyn has a new job.

Gregory & Julieane Clevenger who are renting the house at 3712 Thornapple St. are moving to a house that is just outside the boundaries of Section 5 to a house on Connecticut Ave. We will miss the Clevengers.

Section 5 extends a hearty welcome to Allyson Barford. She has just purchased Marilyn and Kurt's house at 7205 Connecticut Ave.

### **ARE YOUR HOUSE LIGHTS ON?**

The police officers who patrol our streets have said that Section 5 residents should turn on their outside front lights and leave them on during the dark hours. These lights will help keep our streets brightly lit and discourage anyone who might come into our town with the intention of breaking and entering our houses.

### **CAN EMERGENCY PERSONNEL FIND YOUR HOUSE?**

Many houses throughout Section 5 have hard-to-see house numbers, even during daytime hours. According to the National Ambulance Service, small house numbers "can cause a delay in reaching patients as crews struggle to locate the address where help is needed". Montgomery County requires new house numbers to be at least 5"

tall and older homes are required to have house numbers that are at least 3.5" tall. The numbers should be on a contrasting background, with an unobstructed view from the street and be sufficiently lit as to be visible at night. The house address should be represented in numbers, not letters, and be on a forward part of the house. Front doors or porches are often too far from the roadside to be read quickly. Not sure about your house? Next time you are out at night, make certain to note what your house numbers look like from the street. In addition to ensuring that your house number is readable, make certain your house lights are turned on at night. This light will illuminate the house numbers, prevent hazards on your property and deter crime.

### **SECTION 5 COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Section 5 Council meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall located at 5906 Connecticut Avenue. The Council Meeting Agenda is posted on Section 5's web site [www.chevychasection5.org](http://www.chevychasection5.org). Please feel free to contact Section 5's manager to place an item on the agenda. Copies of minutes from previous Council meetings may be found on Section 5's web site.

The next Council meeting will be held June 9, 2015, at the Village Hall located at 5906 Connecticut Ave. at 7:30 PM.

### **A REMINDER TO DOG OWNERS**

The County animal control code requires that you keep your dog on a leash whenever your dog is not on your property. Please make certain to clean up after your dog. Help us keep our sidewalks and public strips clean from dog waste.

### **LEAF BLOWERS**

Now that spring has finally arrived people will begin using leaf blowers to clean

their yards. They emit a tremendous amount of noise and some of your neighbors find this noise irritating. Please be aware of the level of noise that your leaf blowers make and limit the amount of time that they are used.

#### **WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT...**

When a power outage occurs, it is important for all residents to call the following number: **PEPCO AT 1 (877) PEPCO62 (877-737-2662)**

If the power is restored and goes out again in a matter of minutes, the above phone call must be made again so the new outage is registered.

#### **BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU PARK**

Please be a courteous neighbor and park your car in your driveway if at all possible and save the street parking for those residents who don't have driveways. Also do not park across the sidewalk when you park in your driveway. Pedestrians, baby strollers, and bikers are forced into the street when they can't pass the obstruction of your car.

#### **FIRE HYDRANTS: KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**

Remember to give fire hydrants a wide berth. Do not park in front of or in close proximity to them. The fire department needs easy access to hydrants in case of a fire. If they are unable to access a hydrant close to a fire, it wastes precious time needed to put out the fire and to prevent the spread to surrounding houses.

#### **STREET PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

Remember the following restrictions when parking on the street:

- Park at least 35 feet from an intersection.
- Park at least 30 feet from a stop sign.

- Park at least 15 feet from a fire hydrant.
- Park at least 5 feet from a private driveway.

#### **SECTION 5 BUILDING PERMITS**

Making construction plans? You need a permit from Section 5 as well as Montgomery County before any work may begin. Please contact the Section 5 manager with any questions at 301-986-5481 or email her at [manager@chevychase5.org](mailto:manager@chevychase5.org).

#### **RECYCLING COLLECTION HOLIDAYS**

When a holiday falls on a Monday, recycling collection will be on Tuesday along with the household collection. Trash collection holidays are **New year's Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.**

#### **RECYCLING BINS**

Please take a look at the inside of your recycle bins, especially the green one and if the residue from your recyclables has collected there, please wash it. Our trash hauler can refuse to collect the recyclables if the bins are soiled.

#### **SHARE WHAT YOU NO LONGER NEED**

Don't throw it away! A Wider Circle, a charity located in Bethesda, would be delighted to have your usable household goods. This wonderful nonprofit charity serves needy people who have very little, to get back on their feet. They will pick up items at your home free of charge. Call 301-608-3504.

## **NATURAL GAS SAFETY**

Washington Gas delivers natural gas to more than one million customers throughout the District of Columbia, parts of Maryland, northern Virginia and much of the Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia. We are committed to providing safe and reliable service, monitoring and inspecting our pipelines regularly and responding around the clock to natural gas emergencies.

**RECOGNIZE!** natural gas is non-toxic, colorless, odorless and it is a combustible fuel. For detection and safety, Washington Gas adds an unpleasant, distinctive odor called mercaptan to natural gas delivered through its distribution system.

**REACT!** If you suspect a natural gas leak or other gas emergency and are unsure of its severity or what to do, evacuate the area immediately and call **911** from a safe location. If you smell natural gas, do not attempt to locate the source of odor. Call **911** or the Washington Gas Emergency Leak line at 703-750-1400 or 1-800-752-7520 outside the local calling area. If the odor is very strong or you hear a blowing or hissing noise, vacate the building or area immediately leaving doors unlocked as you go. Do nothing that could create an ignition source. Do not light a match or use any type of phone or battery powered equipment. Do not start your car.

**RESPOND!** When notified of a natural gas leak, Washington Gas dispatches trained technicians to the scene 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If a leak poses an immediate threat, the company takes quick action to make the area safe.

### **NATURAL GAS LEAKS AND EMERGENCIES**

Washington Gas: Washington, D.C.  
Metropolitan Region 1-800-752-7520

## **SHOPPING FOR ELECTRICITY**

Do you know you can purchase electricity from a supplier other than Pepco?

Pepco handles both the supply and delivery of your electricity, however, a customer has the opportunity to choose a competitive supplier to provide a person's electric supply.

By shopping a customer may be able to save money or buy environmentally friendly electricity. Before enrolling, with any supplier, make sure that you compare supplier offers. Start by knowing the current price per kilowatt-hour (kWh) that you pay Pepco for electric supply. Your Pepco bill provides this information under "Supply Charges" and the dollar amount of your total supply charges is listed as "Total Electric Supply Charges" Whether you choose to stay with Pepco as your electric supplier, or choose another supplier, Pepco will continue to provide safe and reliable electric distribution service. Pepco also will continue to restore service in the event of any disruption, such as weather related events.

For more information, visit [pepco.com](http://pepco.com) or the Maryland Public Service Commission website at [psc.state.md.us/ecm/home.cfm](http://psc.state.md.us/ecm/home.cfm).

## **GIVING THE GIFT OF ENERGY**

A Gift of Energy is a program through which you may share with someone special. You may purchase a Gift of Energy for a Pepco customer at any time during the year. Gift of Energy payments will be accepted in the form of cash, check or credit. Make a payment on that person's account and receive a free greeting card to give that person, compliments of Pepco.

## **STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION TO SHIFT LANES ON ROCKVILLE PIKE IN BETHESDA**

In February, SHA crews shifted traffic lanes on MD 355 (Rockville Pike) for a new traffic pattern at the West Cedar Lane intersection. Traffic on MD 355 between North Drive and Locust Hill Road will shift

to the west side of the road where widening of MD 355 recently took place.

While SHA will maintain three through lanes in both directions during peak travel times, drivers should remain alert for a changing traffic pattern at the intersection.

SHA removed the concrete median at the MD 355/Cedar Lane intersection. This work will allow crews to construct a new underground culvert beneath northbound MD 355 travel lanes. Most of this work will occur in the median of MD 355, requiring SHA to restrict left turns from northbound MD 355 to West Cedar Lane. This temporary left turn lane restriction will be in place through the remainder of the overall project.

Turning movements from West Cedar Lane onto northbound and southbound MD 355 will not be impacted by this phase of work and nearby sidewalks and trails will remain accessible. Later this year all traffic will shift to the east side of the road to continue the culvert work.

This \$13.8 million intersection improvement at MD 355 at Cedar Lane involves widening northbound and southbound MD 355 (Rockville Pike) at the Cedar Lane intersection to provide new travel and turn lanes. New traffic signals will be in place at the MD 355 intersections with Wilson Drive, North Wood Road, Elmhurst Parkway and Cedar Lane. Additional improvements include sidewalk and a bike path. Weather permitting, construction will be complete in late summer 2016.

**DISTRACTED DRIVING IS  
DANGEROUS:  
PUT IT DOWN AND DRIVE!**

What is distracted driving?

Anything that diverts a motorist's attention away from the primary task of driving results in distracted driving. There are 3 basic forms of distraction: visual

(taking your eyes off the road), manual (taking your hands off the wheel) and cognitive (taking your mind off driving). While all distracted driving is dangerous, those activities that involve all three forms of distraction are the worst such as:

- Texting (reading, writing and sending a text)
- Using a cell phone or smartphone
- Eating or drinking
- Reading, including maps
- Manipulating GPS, radio, CD player or other device

**HOW BAD IS THE PROBLEM?**

Here is what we know: distracted driving kills 9 people and injures 1,060 every day in the U.S. (NHTSA). As grim as these numbers are, the scope of the problem is likely much larger. The National Safety Council has completed at least one study which shows that distracted driving is woefully underreported. Motorists are texting (reading, sending), emailing, and talking on the phone while driving at alarming rates. We see it everywhere every day. Some people appear to be nearly addicted to their electronic devices. Don't be one of them. Stop it. Just drive.

**REMEMBER TO: LIGHT IT UP AND  
LOCK IT UP!**

Today, many of us are busier than ever before, and we don't always think about security habits and crime prevention. Thefts from autos and burglaries (where a house is entered) are the two most prevalent crimes in the County, and they have increased. These property crimes are indeed crimes of opportunity, and we should take reasonable steps to reduce these crimes:

- Light up your house. Specifically, every home should have **two exterior lights** (one in the front and one in the rear) turned on through **all hours of darkness**.

Dusk-to-dawn or time-controlled lights turn on automatically and can continue doing so when you are away from home. Turning on outside lights can reduce dark areas while simultaneously enabling police to see someone who may be lurking at night.

- **Lock up your house. Doors and windows should be locked**--not just at night and when you are away from home, but at all times. A burglar may attempt to enter your home when you are inside--they may not know or care that you are home.
- **Lock up your car.** Never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running, and **always lock your car** when you **park**. **Additionally**, all **valuables** must either be **removed** from your vehicle (this is preferable), or at a minimum, valuables--and any related accessories--should be **completely hidden** from view.
- **Call the police immediately when you see or hear anything suspicious.** Residents are sometimes reluctant to call the police (or delay calling) for various reasons. The police want to hear from you right away when something happens so that they can respond and investigate whatever you've seen or heard. Call the police, that is what they're here for.

#### **BURGLARIES IN SECTION 5**

On April 17th there was a burglary in the 3600 block of Thornapple St.

Also, in April there was a burglary in the 3800 block of Underwood St.