



THE QUARTERLY

JUNE 2020 | VOLUME 52 | NUMBER 2

Section 5 Council

Greg Chernack, Chairman
Josh Galper, Member
Philip Giordano, Member
Maryann Luongo, Member
Patricia Xeller, Secretary

Important Section Dates

- ◆ Sunday, June 14
Community Paper Shred Event
- ◆ No Council Meetings in July or August
- ◆ Tuesday, September 8,
Town Council Meeting

Important Message From The Town Council Regarding The Fourth of July

The Section 5 Council has made the difficult decision to cancel this year's traditional Fourth of July parade and party due to COVID-19. This was not an easy decision for us to make. However, in accordance with current Montgomery County restrictions that prohibit large gatherings, as well as disallow buffet or self-serve food and drink stations, we believe it is in the best interest of our residents. Since this event is typically attended by a broad spectrum of our community, it is important that we do our part in limiting the opportunities for local transmission of the virus.



We are hopeful that residents will find new and fun ways to celebrate with their family, and we very much look forward to a time when we can gather together again safely!

Annual Meeting News

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 12. The Council recommended a budget of \$589,150 in expenditures (based on projected revenues of \$689,843.) The budget was voted on and unanimously approved as proposed. Copies were distributed by mail to residents in April.

In addition to the budget, a vote was held regarding the property tax rate for Section 5. Residents again approved the recommendation of the Council that the tax rate be set at zero.

There were two open Council seats up for election this May, and we had two candidates run for these seats so no voting election was held. Incumbent Maryann Luongo will serve an additional two year term, as well as a new Council member, Josh Galper. Josh takes the spot vacated by Scott Livingston, who decided to step down this year. Scott has been a dedicated member of the the Section 5 Council for many years. The Council is grateful to him for his willingness to serve.

Important Property Tax Bill Information - Please Read

As longtime residents are aware, at the close of each Fiscal Year the Town Council reviews the Section's financial reports and determines whether the Section is able to provide residents with a credit/rebate for that year. **This year's vote occurred at the June 9 meeting, and the Council has decided to give each household a \$700 credit.** The credit is distributed through a rebate to each resident's upcoming year's property tax bill (these bills will be received by residents in July 2020).

In most cases, property tax payments are made for a resident through a mortgage escrow account. If this is the way you make your payment, there is nothing further you need to do, and you will automatically receive the \$700 rebate.

However, if you pay your property tax bill directly to the County (not through a lender) it is important that you subtract \$700 from the total amount listed on your PAPER BILL. Do not use the amount listed on the online bill. Please refer to the paper bill. This often leads to confusion and possible late fees and penalties.

Sidewalk Work

The Section is in the final stages of completing our 2020 sidewalk project. The goal of this project was to target areas that tend to hold water or were otherwise in poor condition. We also focused on replacing larger areas of sidewalk (typically driveway apron to driveway apron) instead of individual blocks here and there. As residents on the streets selected for work are undoubtedly aware, this was a large, and at times, messy and loud project. Thanks to all for your patience and cooperation. We are excited to see and enjoy the finished product for many years to come!

SIGN UP for Section 5's Email Notification List

If you are new to Section 5, or you are not receiving regular email notices and reminders from the Town Manager, please take a minute to make sure we have a current email address on file.

Notices and reminders are sent out on an as needed basis.

Email the Town Manager with any questions.
manager@chevychase5.org

Police Beat

Crime in Section 5 remains very low, but we continue to see occasional thefts from cars. The thefts usually occur when a car is left unlocked.

Most residents report only loose change being taken, but occasionally, a car is left unlocked and also has a key in it, and the car is stolen. This tends to happen with cars that use key fobs only - so there is not an actual key. Thieves can quickly detect if a key fob is in your car by pushing the start button.

Please remember to lock your car every time you park, and remove any spare keys. Residents are also encouraged to lock up or move any bikes or other valuables to sheds, garages, or even to the backyard so they are out of sight. We will also continue to have our officers regularly patrol during the overnight hours.

It is important to file a police report for all incidents. For your convenience, our Section 5 officers are willing to do this over the phone. No visit is necessary. Please contact Captain Jason Cokinos at 240-876-1478 to file a report.

SECTION 5 OF THE VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

Welcome To New Residents

Section 5 extends a special welcome to new residents:

- ◆ Geoff Brown -
3604 Thornapple
- ◆ Jamie and Trevor Matese -
3703 Thornapple
- ◆ Jacqueline and Richard Renz -
3705 Underwood

We also said goodbye to two long-time members of the Section 5 community. Thornapple resident, Doug Jackson, passed away on March 1 after an extended illness.

Seymour Dubroff passed away on May 25 at age 94.

The Section extends our heartfelt sympathy to Marie and the Jackson family, as well as Guity and the Dubroff family.

Building Permit Notices

Building Permits Issued:

- ◆3609 Glendale - Install a wooden play set in backyard - Permit Approved
- ◆3604 Thornapple - Place temporary storage POD in driveway - Permit Approved
- ◆3709 Thornapple Street - Install wooden play set in backyard - Permit Approved
- ◆ 3709 Thornapple Street - Remove existing front walk and replace it with brick walkway and front steps - Permit Approved

Tree Permit Removals

- ◆7504 Brookville Road - Private Tree Removal
- ◆3808 Thornapple Street - Private Tree Removal
- ◆3613 Underwood Street - Private Tree Removal
- ◆3709 Underwood Street - Private Tree Removal
- ◆3713 Underwood Street - Private Tree Removal
- ◆3720 Williams Lane - Private Tree Removal
- ◆3802 Williams Lane - Private Tree Removal

Do I Need a Section 5 Permit?

- The majority of renovations
 - Sheds or accessory buildings
 - Fences - including replacements and/or substantial repairs
 - Driveway projects
 - Patio projects
 - Right-of-way projects
 - Dumpsters or PODS
 - Drainage projects including sump pumps and new downspouts
- ALL REQUIRE A PERMIT**

Looking to take out a tree?

Most public and private tree removal also **REQUIRES** a permit.

Please contact the Town office before you begin. We will work with you to make sure you have the necessary information and avoid a costly mishap.

SECTION 5 OF THE VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

Recycling - When In Doubt, Throw It Out

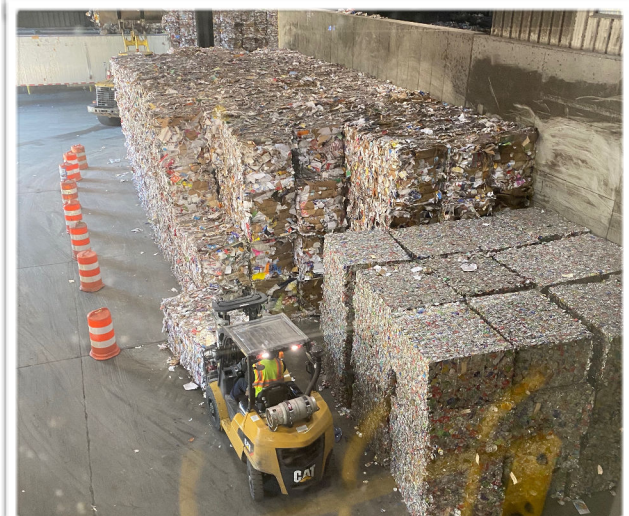
Earlier this year, area municipal managers were invited to tour the Montgomery County Recycling Facility. It proved to be very informative.

The facility is old and well past its prime. The sheer amount of recycling received daily is overwhelming, and the conditions of the facility, including limited climate control, and cumbersome sorting methods were eye-opening. There are numerous stations where workers hand sort different items, and in many cases remove items that are not recyclable. The tour manager said the first two stations alone serve to catch and remove plastic bags, which are not recyclable at this facility.

It was a reminder of the importance of being very conscientious about what we do, and do not, put into our recycling bins. The facility stresses the motto, "When in doubt, throw it out." It is often best to stick to the basics when choosing to recycle. Enclosed is a leaflet that details the items that are accepted by the Montgomery County facility, as well as items that are not accepted.

If you are unsure of whether an item can be recycled, please do not put it in the bin. Placing a non-recyclable item in the recycling bin often results in the ENTIRE BIN being tossed in the trash. Please also ensure that all materials are clean and dry. This also contributes to contamination and makes the items not suitable for recycling.

Section 5 requires residents to use the traditional green or blue bins to store their curbside collection. You may also purchase larger similar rolling bins privately if you prefer, but please do not use plastic recycling bags. Although they are labeled as recyclable, our County facility is not able to accept them because they get caught in the shredder. Recycling placed in these type of bags will not be picked up by our refuse contractor.



COVID-19 And Rodents...

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted a notice in May regarding rodents in relation to COVID-19. With most local restaurants and commercial establishments closed, or allowing only limited service, the rodents that rely on them as a regular source of food and waste are having to look elsewhere for sustenance. Unfortunately, this includes moving more aggressively into neighborhoods. To date, Section 5 has not received any such reports, but it is prudent to remind residents to take steps to eliminate conditions that may attract and support rodent presence. Preventive actions include:

- ◆ Sealing up access into homes.
- ◆ Removing debris and heavy vegetation.
- ◆ Keeping garbage in tightly covered bins.
- ◆ Removing pet and bird food from yards.

Additional information on controlling rodents can be found here: www.pa.gov/rodenticides

Trimming Town Trees

The Section hires a private contractor to trim all Town trees (trees located between the sidewalk and street.) If you believe there is a Town tree that needs attention, please email the Section manager.

Additionally, the Section also has a consulting arborist, Dr. Tolbert Feather. Dr. Feather is available to look at both public and private trees at no cost to the resident. Email the Town Manager for more information.



Section 5 Private Listserv

In case you missed it, Underwood resident, Lyric Winik, has set up a private listserv through groups.io for Chevy Chase Section 5 residents only.

The listserv was created to serve as an information forum to communicate local news, requests, and community events. This group is for Chevy Chase Section 5 residents only. The purpose of the group is for residents to be able to communicate with each other, to request assistance such as snow shoveling, yard care, or errands, or offer assistance, such as babysitting, lawn/snow/errand help; to post regarding items to be donated; and very limited community news. Posters will refrain from offering professional services, any political posts, any fundraising efforts, and for now any goods for sale.

How to Join:

1. Send an email to ChevyChaseSection5+subscribe@groups.io
2. You will receive an email from ChevyChaseSection5+subscribe@groups.io in response. You must respond to this email (from the moderator) and confirm your name and address.
3. Once the moderator receives that information, you will be approved for membership.

Email Lyric Winik at lyricwinik@mac.com with questions.

The Section 5 Council and manager believe this is a great resource for our community and encourage interested residents to join.

Please note: This listserv is not affiliated with the municipal government of Section 5, nor will it replace any of the other methods the Section Council and Town Manager use to communicate with Section residents.

Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety On Connecticut Avenue

Please remember, and remind your children, that even signal-lighted crosswalks, such as the one on Connecticut Avenue between Williams and Woodbine, should always be approached with care. Given the heavy traffic on Connecticut Avenue, one should never assume that all cars will stop.

When crossing, be certain to look both ways before stepping into the street. If you see a car driving fast, do not step into the street until they completely stop.

Drivers and pedestrians should always make eye contact.

Never text or play on your phone while walking across the street.

Remember and appreciate that drivers can be unpredictable!

Census 2020 - Section 5's Current Response Rate Is 85.9%

There is still time to fill out the 2020 Census! If you have not already done so, take a few minutes to help the Section reach 100%!

You may respond in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail.

For more information, visit www.2020.census.gov

CORONA CHRONICLES

The Chevy Chase Historical Society is documenting the history Chevy Chase residents are all making during COVID-19. Add your story to the CCHS Corona Chronicles!

They are collecting photos, videos, journal and diary entries, voice and audio recordings, and other digital evidence of life in our community during this unprecedented time.

To learn more and find out how to participate, go to www.chevychasehistory.org

Section 3 Farmers' Market Open!

The Section 3 farmers' market is back. Due to COVID-19, there are a few new restrictions. You must wear a mask, and the number of people under the tent at one time is limited.

The Farmers' Market is every Saturday and located on Taylor Street (near the Brookville intersection). Parking is available at La Ferme restaurant.

8a.m. to 9:00 a.m. - Open to vulnerable shoppers only (older residents or immune compromised neighbors)

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Open to all.

Stop in for farm fresh eggs, delicious organic vegetables, and fruit. Most weeks the delicious Crepes Parfait truck is also there serving breakfast!

For more information, contact the Section 3 Manager at villagemanager@chevychasesection3.org.