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

# The Quarterly

## INCOME TAX TIME DON'T FORGET TO WRITE "SECTION 5" IN THE BOX MARKED CITY, TOWN OR TAXING AREA

As a municipality in the State of Maryland, the major source of revenues for Section 5 comes from a share of income taxes which every resident pays to the State. In order for Section 5 to receive this revenue sharing, you must write "**Section 5**" in the box marked "City, town or taxing area" on your Maryland Income Tax Form 502. This assures that a portion of your tax dollars comes back to Section 5 to provide you with services. This money helps support our municipal budget for trash collection, recycling, leaf collection, street cleaning, snow removal, tree care, and the many other municipal services that are administered by Section 5. If you did not live in a municipality, the County Council would determine how your tax dollars are spent. Because you live in Section 5, you are able to determine how your tax dollars are spent through Section 5's Council.

## SNOW! SNOW! SNOW!

As the snow continued to fall and fall and fall on the sidewalks and streets in Section 5 on January 21st and 22nd Mark Peyton and his crew were out plowing our streets. At the same time Mike Cousins and his crew were shoveling the snow from our sidewalks. By the time the snow had stopped Section 5's sidewalks and streets were completely clear of snow and ice. The manager has received many calls from residents to say thanks to the Council for assuming the cost of shoveling our sidewalks.

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### **GENEROUS RESPONSE FOR HOLIDAY FUND**

Section 5 residents were very generous with their contributions to the holiday fund. This money is divided among the four men according to their seniority with the company and the number of trips they make in our town. The men pick up our trash, yard debris and recycling throughout the year. Nelson Galvez and Raul Diaz man the household trash truck twice a week whereas George Hernandez and Trinidad Mejia man the recycling truck once a week. Each worker received a very generous check in time to shop for the holidays. They have expressed their gratitude to Section 5 residents for their generosity.

### **MARTIN LUTHER KING FOOD COLLECTION**

Congratulations and thank you to donors and helpers.

This was our 3rd annual Section 5 participation in the MLK food drive. In case you missed us, we so far, have only enough volunteers to cover Thornapple Street, Dalkeith, Thornapple Place and Underwood Streets.

Our group of very helpful and energetic children collected a large amount of canned foods for Manna, the Montgomery County Food Bank.

We collected as part of the Martin's Addition Project which collects all year long. Each year volunteers from Martin's Additions go into their town to collect food for MLK Holiday and then have a collection site in their town's office all year long. This year Section 5's volunteers collected 550 lbs

of food in just one day toward Martin's Additions yearly goal of 5000 lbs.

We will collect again next year in Section 5 and ask you to put it on your calendar to donate nonperishable food. We welcome your children as well as adults to spread the collection activity to all the remaining streets of Section 5. It takes a very short time, a wagon, a few kids and willing adults setting a good example to make this a success.

Our span of ages of collectors went from 7 years old to 17 years old this year - not including the spry adults. Please join us next year MLK Holiday Food Collection.

### **SECTION 5 SERVICES**

The following services are just a few for which are provided in Section 5.

**Yard Waste, Trash and Recycling:** Section 5 contracts for the collection of all household trash, recyclables, yard debris, and bulk trash from our private residences within Section 5's boundaries. Section 5 currently has a contract with Montgomery Sanitation and Recycling, Inc. for these services. The Council is required by a provision in its Charter to put this contract out to bid because the contract exceeds the \$10,000 limit. Currently, Section 5 has a multiple year clause with this company in its contract which allows the Council to have a longer contract than just one year.

**Trees and Public Right-of-Way Care:** Section 5 is responsible for planting, maintaining and removing trees in the public right-of-way which

occupies the stretch of land between the curb and the public sidewalk. On those streets where there is no public sidewalk the public right-of-way usually extends six to eight feet from the curb. The manager with the help of a State licensed arborist and Mark Peyton oversees the pruning, mulching, stump removing and planting of our trees. Mark Peyton has been caring for our trees for more than thirty years. He also vacuums the leaves in the fall.

**Streets and Sidewalks:** Section 5 has the responsibility for street maintenance, repair and replacement streets. Street maintenance includes sidewalks, curbs, gutters as well as streets. Road maintenance also includes filling pot holes and replacing damaged sidewalks. Section 5 has a policy of replacing all the road surfaces every twenty years. Street and traffic signs are closely monitored and replacement when needed. Section 5 contracts with Peyton Tree Service to clean the public rights-of-way. Mark also plows the streets and spreads sand and salt as needed. Section 5 also employs Colonial Landscape, Inc. on an ad hoc basis to shovel the snow from the sidewalks and spread salt when the snow fall exceeds two inches. Each year when the Council determines the budget for the next year the members vote if they will pay to have the sidewalks shoveled.

**Street Lights:** Section 5 has 83 street lights mounted on utility poles throughout the Section 5. These lights are owned, operated and maintained by Pepco. The bulbs are replaced when needed. The cost for operating the street lights is approximately \$800 per month; \$600 of this amount is paid to Pepco and about \$200 to Washington Gas Energy

Services, Inc. (WGES). WGES places an emphasis on the production of green energy. **Utilities:** Natural gas is provided for our residents by Washington Gas Light Company, electricity by Pepco and water and sewer services by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

#### **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.chevyCHASEsection5.org](http://www.chevyCHASEsection5.org). Please feel free to contact Section 5's office at least two weeks in advance if you would like to place an item placed on the agenda. Copies of minutes from previous Council meetings may be found on Section 5's web site.

#### **WATCH THAT SIDEWALK**

Please be careful not to 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.

#### **SECTION 5 TRASH HOLIDAYS**

There are 6 holidays which Section 5's trash hauler celebrates: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. When these holidays fall on a Monday, the recycling will be collected on the following Tuesday along with the regular household trash. **Also, recycling will not be collected on Martin Luther King's Birthday which, of course, falls on a Monday because the County's collection center is**

**closed; recycling will be collected on Tuesday.**

### **SECTION 5's INSURANCE RATING**

Section 5 has its insurance coverage with the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT), a company that insures almost all the municipalities in the State of Maryland. By banding together back in 1988 the municipalities were able to create this company that offers very low rates of insurance and also excellent coverage. If the Trust has money left over at the end of the year, it is divided among the municipalities according to the number of claims which the municipality submitted. These excess funds allows the Trust to reduce the insurance premiums for the following year. In 2013 Section 5 was acknowledged as a **Gold Star Member** because it did not submit any insurance claims during that year. This award will guarantee that Section 5 will pay a lower premium for FY 2014.

### **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.

### **WELCOME TO THE SENIOR FORUM**

Join Montgomery County Police Department for a morning of safety information, door prizes and a FREE movie.

Location: The Movies

At Westfield Montgomery  
7101 Democracy Blvd.  
Bethesda, Maryland  
Time: 9:30 a.m.

**February 5, 2014**

**March 5, 2014**

**Shakespeare in Love  
Ocean's 11**

With Gwyneth Paltrow  
With George Clooney  
(Drama/Comedy) R (123 min.)  
(Comedy) PG-13 (116 min.)

**April 2, 2014**

**May 7, 2014**

**42**

**Captain Phillips**

With Harrison Ford  
With Tom Hanks  
(Biography) PG-13 (128 min.)  
(Drama) PG-13 (134 min.)

**June 4, 2014**

**July 2, 2014**

**Lincoln**

**Blue Jasmine**

With Daniel Day-Lewis  
With Cate Blanchett  
(Drama) PG-13 (150 min.)  
(Comedy) PG-13 (98 min.)

This program is sponsored by the Montgomery County Police, The Movies Theatre and Westfield Montgomery Mall. Questions about the program may be directed to Officer Stroman at 240876-1277 or Officer Janney at 240-773-6728. To verify the film being shown, call the Movies at Montgomery Theaters at 301-469-5180.

**B-CC HIGH SCHOOL  
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Education Foundation invites you to "**An Evening of Wine, Chocolate and Cheese with heavy Hors d'oeuvres**" Thursday, March 13, 2014, 7 - 9 pm, Woman's Club of Chevy Chase, 7931 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, Maryland. RSVP by Sunday, March 9th. Tickets: \$50 per person (estimated ticket value \$30)

Highlighting Academic Excellence at B-CC High School and the Foundation Programs That Help Our Students Succeed.

#### **CHEVY CHASE AT HOME**

Meet Your Neighbors, Bring a friend to the Brunch Bunch, 2nd Thursday each month. 10 am - 11:30 a.m., Olympia Cafe, 7021 Brookville Rd.

Saturday, May 17, 2014 *What's It Worth? Trash or Treasure*

Please save May 17th from 1-5 p.m. Sloans & Kenyon experts will be on hand at Chevy Chase Village Hall to help solve the mystery of those interesting items that have been inherited or were picked up at the flea market.

Join the New & Thriving Walking Club

At members' urging, CC@H has begun a Walking Club for members, volunteers and Friends of CC@H. Call the office or send email to register the first time. Short (0.5 mile), medium (1.5 mile) and brisk (2.75 mile) walks leave promptly at 10 am every Friday from Brookville Market.

#### **HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF USED COOKING GREASE**

The Washington Post reported that during 2013, the Washington

Suburban Sanitary Commission experienced over 130 sewer overflows, 40 of them were grease related. Eighty percent of grease-related overflows happened near residences. Overflows send millions of gallons of untreated wastewater into local creeks and rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay.

Incorporating hot water and/or liquid soap into the grease isn't enough to counteract the effects that used cooking grease can have on the sewer lines. Down in the cold drain, hardening at 50 to 55 degrees, the grease turns into a sticky blob, catching all other food products and plugging the line.

How is one able to properly dispose of used cooking grease? Once it has reached room temperature, used cooking grease should be transferred to a container and placed in your regular household trash receptacles. Used cooking grease should never be used in compost because it attracts wild animals.

#### **DOES YOUR WATER BILL SEEM HIGH?**

Some residents have voiced their concerns about their WSSC water bills. With the installation of new water meters throughout Section 5 it is not unreasonable to think that perhaps the new meters might be a part of the problem. Here's some information to check out possible problem sources. New meters provide new readings. What might appear to be extraordinary water usage based on new meter readings could also reflect previously unrecorded water usage. Call WSSC at 301-206-4001 and ask to speak to a customer care representative and get more info on your particular concerns.

Meter readings can differ in terms of the billing periods covered. Some measurements may cover 3 months; others extend to almost a half year. Check your bill to see if you can determine if the billing periods are comparable.

### **ADVICE IN PROTECTING YOUR HOME**

The following are useful tips from the police on identifying and preventing crime.

#### **IMPORTANT THINGS TO LOOK FOR:**

- Someone looking into windows or parked cars.
- Abandoned cars.
- Property being taken out of houses where no one is at home.
- Someone shouting for help.

#### **CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:**

- Have a trusted neighbor check on your house periodically when on vacation.
- Put indoor lights on timers when not home.
- Use outdoor lights to eliminate hiding spots near entry points.
- Always lock car doors and close windows.
- Do not leave electronic devices visible in cars.

The police encourage you to be alert and to report any suspicious activity by calling 911 (emergency) or 301-279-8000 (non-emergency).

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

Don't throw it away! A **Wider Circle** charity, which is located in Bethesda, would be delighted to have your household goods. This wonderful nonprofit charity, which comes to pick up items, serves needy people who have very little get back on their feet. Call **301-657-1010** to donate; visit [www.awidercircle.org](http://www.awidercircle.org) to learn more.