



September 2015
VOLUME 47 NUMBER 3

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The Quarterly

A GREAT LOSS TO SECTION 5

On July 1, Frances Higgins, long time manager of Section 5, passed away at her home on Dalkeith Street. Frances succumbed to cancer after a long and valiant struggle.

Frances served as Manager from 1993 until her death. She was well known and loved by everyone in Chevy Chase for her pleasant approach to all she met and for her dedication to our community.

Frances had two part-time jobs – one as our Manager and the other as the Latin teacher at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney. She had retired from the teaching position in 2014 after 25 years of service. As a part of her duties as Section Manager, Frances represented Section 5 with Maryland Municipal League and the Montgomery Municipal Cable.

Frances is survived by her husband John, their three children, David, Beth and Jack, and 11 grandchildren.

We will truly miss Frances. May she rest in peace.

Frances passing creates a vacancy in the Manager position. Because her death came in the middle of the summer, the Council decided to await the end of the summer vacation period to announce the position. In the interim, Frances husband, John, has served as Manager.

Residents should have received notice of the vacancy and information on how to apply for the position. If you would like to review a copy of the Position Description, you can contact John at 301-986-5481 and arrange to pick one up.

While residency in Section 5 is not required for the position, it is preferred because the incumbent is expected to maintain the town office in his/her home.

Any questions, please contact John or any of the Council Members.

The vacancy is open until October 9, 2015

FALL BLOCK PARTY

Our traditional Fall Block Party is scheduled for September 27 from 4-7 PM on Underwood Street. All residents are welcome.

In addition to the Moon Bounce and other children activities, there will be music. Dinner is being catered by Uncle Julio's. The Good Humor man will be there beginning at 5 PM.

Please let us know if you are coming and the size of your party so we can be sure that there will be enough food. Call the Town Office and leave a message with your reservation. 301-986-5461 or send an e-mail to manager@chevychase5.org.

John needs help monitoring the children's activities and with set up and clean up. Can you help? Call him and leave your name.

LELAND STREET TRAFFIC PROPOSAL

As the Council meeting agenda indicated, there is a county proposal to restrict weekday west bound traffic on Leland Street from Brookeville Road between 6:30 and 9:00 AM. They have asked for Section 5's approval because a portion of Leland Street (just west of Glendale) is a Section 5 street.

The Council is most concerned about the effect that this proposal would have on our other streets and is going to retain our own traffic engineer to study the proposal. The County study is being put on the Section 5 website so you can read it there.

We will keep you informed of developments and will have an open meeting to discuss this subject after our study is completed and before the Council takes any action.

TIM HANLON STEPPING DOWN

Well respected Council member Tim Hanlon has decided to resign from the Council effective with the appointment of a successor. Tim has served us all very well as Treasurer of Section 5 and his wise counsel will be missed.

Under the provisions of the Charter, the Council has authority to fill mid-term vacancies.

If you have interest in being considered for a position on the Village Council, please advise the manager.

FIRE BOARD VACANCY

The Board of Directors of the Chevy Chase Fire Department is composed of representatives of the municipalities it serves. Section 5 has three seats on the Board and one of these is now vacant. Pat Blum and Susan Harvey currently fill the other seats.

If you are interested in being considered for appointment to the Fire Board, please contact the manager.

LEAF VACUUMING WILL BEGIN SHORTLY

It won't be long before the leaves begin to fall and the Council has recently contracted with Lee Peyton to vacuum our leaves. Lee is Mark Peyton's son and owner of Lee's Tree Service.

Vacuuming will be on Mondays. It will start on October 19 and continue until December 7, 2015.

SPECIAL TRASH PICK-UP

The semi-annual special trash collection will be conducted on Saturday, October 10, 2015. You will receive a flyer shortly that will describe what can and cannot be picked up.

URBAN REFORESTATION

Section 5 has a long history of working to preserve our tree canopy. One way we do this is by giving residents well developed shade trees. You will shortly receive information about how you can obtain a free tree.

CHEVY CHASE FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

The annual Open House at the Chevy Chase Fire Department is scheduled for October 10th from 10am to 2pm. There will be demonstrations, rides on the fire engine and refreshments. Be sure to stop by.

CHEVY CHASE LIBRARY – 50 YEARS OLD

On October 3rd, the Chevy Chase Library will mark its 50th birthday. The program will have events and exhibits from 10:30am to 5:00pm. Be sure to stop by and thank the staff for the wonderful services they provide us.

POST OFFICE DELAY

Our apologies for the late arrival of the recent Section 5 mail to you.

The Notice of the Council meeting, the Block Party flyer and the announcement of the Manager vacancy were printed by our printing company and delivered to the Post Office on September 1. For some reason, the envelopes were not postmarked until September 4 and then not delivered until September 8.

Our printing company has formally complained about this matter. Hopefully we will not ever have a recurrence.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAKES MAJOR CHANGES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT TORT CLAIMS ACT

Maryland's Local Government Tort Claims act (LGTCA) underwent major changes in the General Assembly's 2015 Legislative Session. The changes impact not only the State tort liability limits of local governments, but also the period of time in which a claimant can put the local government on notice of a claim.

As with all legislation, some believe the changes made by the General Assembly were long overdue; some believe just the opposite. Regardless of one's personal views of the changes, they are now the law (or will be as of October 1), so we may as well understand them.

The basic purpose and structure of LGTCA remain unchanged. The LGTCA was enacted in 1987 to provide a remedy for members of the public who are injured by tortious acts of employees of local governments. It requires that local governments in Maryland defend lawsuits resulting from torts committed by its officers and employees within the scope of employment. In exchange for this obligation to defend and indemnify employees, liability limits were established in the LGTCA. Since 1987, the liability limits for local governments have been \$200,000 per an individual claim, and \$500,000 per total claims that arise from the same occurrence. After 28 years, however, those limits have been now changed by the General Assembly. Effective October 1, 2015, the new State tort liability limits for local governments will be \$400,000 per an individual claim and \$800,000 per total claims arising from the same occurrence.

The second major change made by the General Assembly concerns the notice provision in the LGTCA. For decades, the LGTCA required claimants to provide notice of their claims to local governments within 180 days of the date of injury. This was to enable local governments to investigate claims while the evidence was still fresh and the recollection of the witnesses was undiminished by time. Effective October 1, however, claimants will be given one year in which to provide written notice of their claims.

REBOOT IN ROCKVILLE

Have extra computer equipment sitting around? That equipment could be transformed into useable computers for low income students and adults. The risk of academic failure rises greatly when a student does not have access to a computer. **Project Reboot in Rockville** accepts old computers, monitors and printers to refurbish and distribute the computers to schools, non-profits, and individual citizens. Where do you take items? Their warehouse is at 4 Choke Cherry Rd., Rockville, MD. Phone: 301-330-0034. Open Mondays from 1:00 - 5:00 pm and Wednesdays 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Questions? Email them to: reboot@projectreboot.org.

MVA ON WHEELS

Maryland's Motor Vehicle Admin. (MVA) offers a mobile service bus which visits the Friendship Heights Village Center (4433 South Park Ave.) between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on the following dates (all Mondays): September 28, October 19, November 23, December 21, 2015. The bus parks on Friendship Blvd. adjacent to the Village Center. For more information about the services offered, go to

www.mva.maryland.gov/locations/bus.htm or call 410-768-7000.

HELP SOMEONE IN NEED: RECYCLE OLD CELL PHONES!

Don't throw it away! Your old cell phone and charger can help a needy person. Drop phones off at the Communication Center of Chevy Chase Village Hall (5906 Connecticut Ave.). Police Chief Fitzgerald will deliver them to the Sheriff's office. Phones will be re-programmed for victims of domestic violence or senior citizens so they may call 911 to report an emergency situation. They cannot be used for any other function.

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.chevychase5.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 October 13, 2015, at the Village Hall located at 5906 Connecticut Ave. at 7:30 pm.

SECTION 5 BUILDING PERMITS

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