



THE QUARTERLY

SEPTEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 52 | NUMBER 3

Section 5 Council

Greg Chernack, Chairman
Patricia Xeller, Vice-Chairman
Maryann Luongo, Treasurer
Josh Galper
Philip Giordano

Important Dates

- ◆ Saturday, September 26
Bulk Trash Collection
- ◆ Monday, October 5
Deadline for Section's Free Tree Program
- ◆ Tuesday, October 13
Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
via conference call
- ◆ Monday, October 19
First Fall Leaf Collection
- ◆ Tuesday, November 10
Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
via conference call
- ◆ Saturday, December 5
Bulk Trash Collection

Town Council - Block Party Cancellation

The Section 5 Council has made the official decision to cancel this year's annual fall block party due to Covid-19. The ongoing health crisis makes it difficult to gather in large numbers, and it is important that we do our part to limit the spread of the virus. We are hopeful that the situation may improve next spring or summer and that we can perhaps hold it then instead. Until then, we wish you and your families a happy and healthy fall!

Free Tree Program 2020

Section 5 will once again offer residents free trees this year to be planted in their private gardens. The Section will plant either small trees such as Redbud or Dogwood, or large trees such as Red Maple or Oak, depending on an owner's preference. The Section arborist, Dr. Tolbert Feather, will assist in choosing and siting the tree. The Section will pay for both the cost of the tree and its planting. The only cost to you will be to water it. The Section will also provide gator bags to assist in watering. The bags help to slowly and evenly deliver a high volume of water directly to the root system of a newly planted tree or shrub with no run-off or evaporation.

[The deadline to request a tree is Monday, October 5](#) The trees will be planted in November. Please email the Town Manager if you are interested in obtaining a tree.

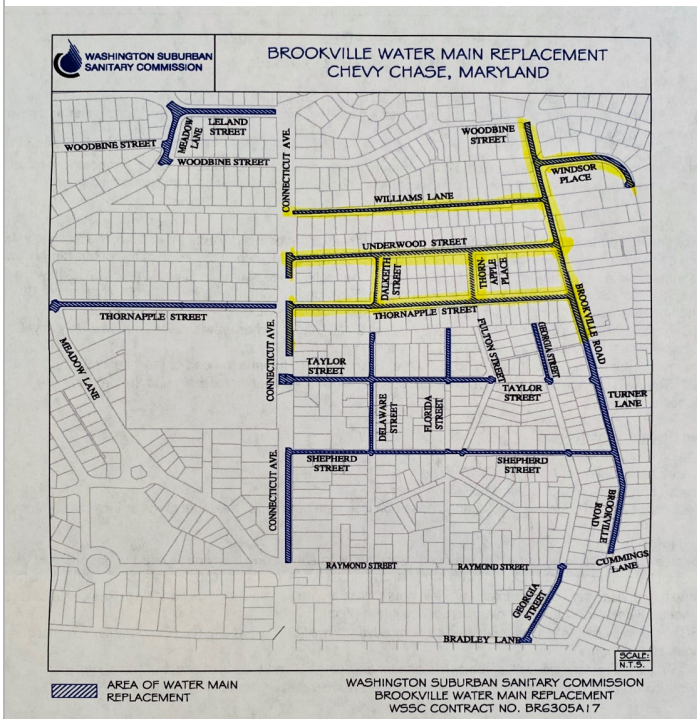
NEW TO SECTION 5?

If you are new to Section 5, welcome! We would love to greet you properly, and make sure you have all the information you need regarding Section services and events. Please take a minute to email the Town Manager at manager@chevychasesection5.org

Looking Ahead: WSSC Brookville Water Main Replacement

WSSC has notified Section 5 that several streets in our municipality will be part of a water main replacement project. WSSC advises that the earliest the work would begin is November 2021. The Section streets affected include Brookville Road, Connecticut Avenue, Dalkeith Street, Thornapple Street, Thornapple Place, Williams Lane, Windsor Place, and limited parts of Woodbine Street. See the map below for exact locations.

The purpose of the project is to replace the current water mains that were installed up to 100 years ago and are near the end of their life cycle. This work is similar to the Washington Gas project done in parts of the Section in 2018. Section 5 will meet with WSSC in advance of the project and keep residents informed.



Possible Chevy Chase Library Project -Montgomery County is Seeking Community Feedback

Several residents have inquired about the possible plans by Montgomery County to refurbish the Chevy Chase Library at 8005 Connecticut Avenue. The County has set up a website to answer questions about the project and also allow the public to leave feedback.



Initially, the County planned to host a community forum to discuss the proposal. However, in light of Covid-19 and the inability to currently hold an in-person meeting, the County is instead encouraging the community to provide feedback via the website. All input received will be posted for review. To provide feedback, go to the link below and click on the “Comment’s” tab.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dgs/opd/ChevyChaseLibrary.html>

The County’s Department of General Services will not make any recommendations until the community has had ample opportunity to provide input. They add that there are no decisions pending or imminent at this time.

Interested residents are strongly encouraged to provide feedback.

Understanding the Town Right-of-Way?

What is the Town right-of-way?

The Town right-of-way (ROW) is the area that runs in front of your home between the sidewalk and street. In the case of corner homes, it is both the front and side areas between the sidewalk and street. If you do not have a sidewalk in front of your home, the exact ROW measurements vary, but it is usually about the first 20 feet from the curb extending toward your home. As a general rule, a Town ROW is an easement for public travel. (An easement is a privilege or a right to use in some way the land of another.) The ROW also usually encompasses the roads, sidewalks, utilities, street trees, storm drains, etc. that fall within this area.

An important thing to note is that most ROWs also extend about a foot to two feet in from the sidewalk. While this area may appear to be private yard, it is often actually part of the public ROW.

What part of the Town right-of-way does the Section maintain?

The Section is responsible for the regular maintenance of the infrastructure within the ROW such as the roads, curbs and gutters, sidewalks, and street trees. To a limited extent, the Section also helps facilitate utility upgrades including electricity, water, and gas that fall within the ROW.

What maintenance role do residents play in the right-of-way?

Montgomery County regulations stipulate that residents are responsible for the regular care and maintenance of the grass or plantings in the ROW, (this does not include the Town trees.) It is important that residents ensure that all public sidewalks surrounding your property are clear of low-hanging branches, overgrown bushes, and vines that may present safety hazards. In the winter months, residents must also clear their walkways of snow and ice, and regularly treat them with sand or salt.

Why are permits required for right-of-way work?

For the most part, any work in the ROW outside of laying sod, grass seed, mulch and/or other low-growing ground cover may require a permit.

This includes, but is not limited to, permanent structures such as hedges, bushes, retaining walls, walkways, lighting, irrigation systems, sump pump discharge, or other physical structures. This also includes temporary structures such as construction dumpsters and moving PODs.

The foremost reason for this is safety. If you place a bush or hedge in the ROW, it may impede sight lines and become a potential pedestrian danger. If you place a hedge next to a sidewalk and it encroaches on the sidewalk, it makes it difficult for pedestrians to get by. If you place an irrigation system within the ROW and it is damaged by utility work, the utility company may or may not replace it. If your sump pump discharges on to the sidewalk or street in the winter and it freezes over, this can be very dangerous.

The Section's goal is to cooperatively work with residents to allow for approved ROW structures through the permitting process.

New Recycling Bins

Replacement recycling bins are available in both green (plastic/glass) and blue (paper). While the Section provides small bins only, residents are allowed to use larger containers if purchased privately. Please make sure that the containers are specifically made for recycling so that they can be easily identified as such. Email the Town Manager with questions.

Tree Permit Removals

- ◆ 7505 Connecticut Avenue - Private Tree Removal
- ◆ 3609 Thornapple Street - Private Tree Removal
- ◆ 3604 Underwood Street - Private Tree Removal
- ◆ 3717 Underwood Street - Private Tree Removal
- ◆ 3805 Underwood Street - Private Tree Removal
- ◆ 3712 Williams Lane - Private Tree Removal
- ◆ 3800 Woodbine Street - Private Tree Removal
- ◆ 3808 Woodbine Street - Private Tree Removal
- ◆ 3809 Woodbine Street - Private Tree Removal
- ◆ 3814 Woodbine Street - Private Tree Removal
- ◆ 3820 Woodbine Street - Private Tree Removal

Reminder to Dog Owners

Please be a courteous neighbor and do not allow dogs to defecate on another resident's private property. The public grass strip (between the sidewalk and the curb) is the appropriate place.

Additionally, dogs should not be allowed to roam off-leash for any reason. Unless your dog is in a designated dog exercise area/dog park, Montgomery County considers a dog at large if it is outside the owner's premise and not leashed. Failure to follow these rules can lead to a \$100-\$500 fine.

Fall Leaf Vacuuming Begins October 19

Leaf vacuuming occurs on Mondays starting on October 19 with the final collection in mid-December.

- ◆ Leaves should be raked to the edge of the curb, not in the street.
- ◆ Please do not place leaves in bags. Take care that limbs, rocks, and any other heavy objects are removed.
- ◆ If it rains on our regular vacuuming day, leaves will not be vacuumed that day.
- ◆ If there is a heavy rainstorm, it will take at least two days for the wet leaves to dry sufficiently for vacuuming. Wet leaves clog the vacuuming machine.
- ◆ Vacuuming will start on Williams Lane. Residents on Williams are asked to park their cars in their driveways or off the street when possible. The narrowness of the street makes it difficult for the leaf machine to pass otherwise.

Leaf Blower Reminder

Just a reminder about leaf blowers. Please be courteous and thoughtfully choose your work hours. As you clear leaves from your property, please take care that you are not transferring them to your neighbors. If you have a lawn service that handles your leaves, please make sure they are also aware.



Building Permit Notices

Building Permits Issued:

- ✦ 7410 Brookville Road - Re-grading of a yard that includes sedimentation control - Permit Approved
- ✦ 7505 Connecticut Avenue - Replace an existing fence - Permit Approved
- ✦ 7605 Connecticut Avenue - Addition of front gates - Permit Approved
- ✦ 7205 Thornapple Place - Install roof-mounted solar panels - Permit Approved
- ✦ 3709 Thornapple Street - Replace an existing fence - Permit Approved
- ✦ 3703 Underwood Street - Construct a one story addition plus a stormwater management plan - Permit Approved
- ✦ 3713 Underwood Street - Construct a new walkway and permeable driveway pad that includes drainage control - Permit Approved
- ✦ 3808 Underwood Street - Construct a one story addition plus a stormwater management plan - Permit Approved
- ✦ 3538 Woodbine Street - Install a new fence - Permit Approved
- ✦ 3705 Woodbine Street - Install a shed with appropriate drainage controls - Permit Approved

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.