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

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**SEPTEMBER 2011**  
**VOLUME 46 NUMBER 3**

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# *The Quarterly*

## TRAFFIC QUESTIONNAIRE REPORT

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During January, 2011, all residents were sent a questionnaire designed to elicit their views on traffic speed, volume, and various traffic control proposals. By February 11, 2011, 126 responses to the questionnaire were received, a 58% response rate based on 218 occupied houses. A summary of these results follows:

#### SUMMARY

1. Based on the overall response rate (58%), the survey fairly represents the views of the majority of Section 5's residents.
2. While residents on some streets expressed concerns about traffic speed and volume, there is disagreement on the severity of such problems. In aggregate, a majority of respondents thought traffic speed was a moderate (37%) to serious (21%) problem; while (42%) did not think that it was a problem. 52% of respondents thought traffic volume was not a problem; 28% thought it was a moderate problem; 15% a serious problem; 5% no opinion.
3. For those who are concerned about traffic speed and/or volume, most blamed cut-through traffic. This reflects well on the self image of Section 5 residents.
4. Despite concerns about traffic speed by a majority of respondents, 52% were opposed to exploring the installation of speed humps; 32% were in favor; 14% were undecided; 2% had no opinion. Increased police enforcement of speed limit and stop sign violations could alleviate the problems.
5. On the question of exploring turn restriction signs, 52% were opposed, 26% were in favor, 13% were undecided, and 9% had no opinion.
6. The Council will continue to consider some unique issues concerning Leland St.

### **REQUIESCAT IN PACE**

Helen Erickson, a long time resident of Alden Lane, died in April after a long illness. We will all miss her and extend our deepest sympathies to her family.

### **PEPCO TREE TRIMMING UPDATE**

Certainly part of Pepco's responsibility in providing electrical service to Section 5 is to ensure that their transmission lines and other infrastructure are free from obstructions that could cause power outages. However, Pepco in its effort to remove tree branches near its lines had planned to trim more from Section 5's trees this spring than was necessary to protect the power lines. As a result of this proposed vigorous tree trimming effort Section 5 appealed to the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) asking the PSC to intervene with Pepco. Section 5's Council has proposed to the PSC that Pepco trim Section 5's trees on a two year cycle rather than a four year cycle. The PSC has agreed to hear the appeal and the case is still pending.

### **CHEVY CHASE LIBRARY**

#### **Did you know . . .**

that everyone who sent letters and emails protesting the proposed cuts to Chevy Chase Library really made a difference! In a unanimous vote, the County Council nixed the "neighborhood library" concept, which would have meant deep cuts in services: fewer staff or even no staff to answer questions, fewer items, particularly reference materials, available; and fewer, perhaps no, children's programs.

The Friends of the Library, Chevy Chase Chapter and the Library Advisory Committee at the Chevy Chase Library would like to thank all of you who emailed, sent post cards to, and/or phoned members of the County Council to let them know how much you cherish the Library and how strongly you opposed the proposed changes.

### **CHEVY CHASE AT HOME**

**Sept. 14th, Wed.** Noon to 2:00 pm  
Melanie Choukas-Bradley, an Audubon naturalist and author of the most interesting "City of Trees of Washington D.C." will speak. Please bring your own brown bag lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

**Sept. 20th, Tues.** 2:00 to 4:00pm  
OMG gues whoz LOL? Alan Fern (age 80) and Jack Arnholz (age 14) are going to teach us a fascinating, new language, sometimes referred to as techno talk. If you pay close attention, you may soon find you have sufficient vocabulary to actually converse with your grandchildren and their friends. Come and enjoy the fun. We promise there won't be a test.

### **CRIME ALERT**

Two cars were rifled on Thornapple Place during the week of August 8th. PLEASE remember to remove all valuable items from your car and also to lock your car. On the night of August 21st a car was stolen from 3700 block of Underwood St.

### **MD 355 (Wisconsin Ave.) Repair Project**

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) will soon begin a safety and resurfacing project on

approximately one mile of MD 355 (Wisconsin Ave.) between the DC line and MD 191 (Bradley Boulevard) in Bethesda-Chevy Chase. The project should be complete in the spring of 2012, weather permitting.

SHA will grind and resurface all lanes of MD 355 and also:

- ❖ Patch the existing roadway
- ❖ Clean drainage pipes
- ❖ Install/replace new pavement markings
- ❖ Replace concrete curbs and gutters
- ❖ Upgrade the traffic/pedestrian signals at MD 355 and Willard Ave./Wisconsin Cir. to audible/countdown signals

Upgrade existing sidewalks and ramps to Americans with Disabilities Act standards. (Sidewalk access will be maintained on one side of MD 355 throughout the sidewalk upgrades.)

### **Join the Election Day Team**

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is currently seeking registered voters to serve as Election Judges in the upcoming 2012 Elections in order to provide voters with a courteous and friendly environment in which to vote.

The County needs volunteers who are willing to be trained to conduct fair and efficient elections. We need volunteers of all party affiliations; however, Republicans and Spanish speaking Election Judges are always in greatest need.

The Primary Election will be held on April 3, 2012, and the General Election will be held on November 6, 2012. Sign up today to add your name to our database. Training will begin early next year and we will send more information closer to that time.

You may also visit our website [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org) to get more information regarding our Election Judge Program. You may also email us [election.judge@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:election.judge@montgomerycountymd.gov) or call us at 240-7778533.

### **PEPCO SMART METERS**

Pepco will begin installing advanced digital electric meters, commonly referred to as "smart meters," in residential homes and businesses in Pepco's Maryland service area. This installation is part of the larger Advanced Metering infrastructure initiative, which was authorized by the Maryland Public Service Commission in August 2010. Pepco has received \$68.85 million in federal stimulus grants to help fund Pepco's smart meter program in Maryland. Benefits in the early stages will result in fewer estimated bills, faster outage detection capabilities and more tools to help residents better manage their energy use and help the environment. Pepco will send a letter to every customer one to four weeks before scheduled installation. Pepco's contractor, Scope Services, will be implementing the meter installation on Pepco's behalf. If you have questions, please call 202-833-7500.

### **Council Meetings**

The next Section 5 Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2011, at 7:30pm, at the Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Ave. The agenda will be sent in a separate flyer. The Village Hall has handicapped access. Everyone is welcome.

### **Brookville Road Repaving Work**



The Brookville Road repaving work went well as everyone has no doubt seen. The utilities (Verizon, Comcast, WSSC, Washington Gas, and PEPCO) and the Paving contractor (F.O. Day) coordinated the different parts of the work so that everything happened in the right order--a monumental task.

### **OVERGROWN HEDGES**

At this time of year Section 5 receives many complaints about shrubs and other plants growing onto sidewalks and streets. In an effort to address this problem, which affects pedestrian and motorist safety, Section 5 asks residents to ensure that vegetation on their property does not obstruct public rights-of-way. We thank you for your cooperation.

### **When Grocery Shopping is Difficult, Local Non Profit Delivers**



Anyone who finds it hard to grocery shop or who is struggling to care for a relative while managing other responsibilities will find a caring solution when they call local, non profit Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries. Top Banana was founded 29 years ago to help older adults get food and supplies when they had lost the strength and stamina to shop for themselves. Today, Top Banana delivers its supportive, essential service to help people of all ages and incomes throughout much of the metro area. Service remains personalized and easy to use:

- ❖ Talk to a real person! Orders are taken by telephone or fax.
- ❖ Choose from the full variety of name-brand items, fresh dairy, meats and vegetables, frozen foods, household, personal, pet items, and fresh-cooked foods.
- ❖ The drivers will deliver to your front door or kitchen. If needed, they will even unpack the bags, loosen jar lids, change a light bulb or perform other small tasks.

- ❖ Pay fair market prices for top-quality groceries. The low service fee (\$15 or less) is based on ability to pay. Credit and debit cards, cash, checks and food stamps are all accepted.

All Top Banana's staff and volunteers are dedicated people who are motivated by the part they play in helping people maintain healthy and independent lives in the community for as long as possible. Learn more about this program at [www.topbananagroceries.org](http://www.topbananagroceries.org) or email them at [info@topbananagroceries.org](mailto:info@topbananagroceries.org).

(Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries is partially funded by Montgomery County, DHHS.)