



# The Quarterly

JUNE  
VOLUME 46

2014  
NUMBER 2

Chris Richardson, Vice-Chair; Greg White, Secretary; Tim Hanlon, Treasurer; Nancy Pines, Building Inspector; Scott Livingston

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### Highlights of Section 5's Actions in FY 2013-14

## Inside this Issue

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### COMPOSTING

### A REMINDER TO DOG OWNERS

### SAFE WALKING HABITS

### SECTION 5 COUNCIL MEETINGS

### SECTION 5'S TREES INSPECTED EACH SPRING

### WATCH FOR THIRSTY TREES

### FACTS ABOUT TREES

### HOUSEHOLD ENERGY AUDITS SUBSIDIZED BY PEPCO

### NEW TREES IN SECTION 5

### SHARE WHAT YOU NO LONGER NEED

### OP SHOP

### HELP A CHILD LEARN TO READ

#### \* Three changes to the Charter were adopted:

1. The date of the Annual Meeting was postponed from the first Tuesday in April to the first Tuesday in May.
2. To affirm that Section 5 is empowered by State law to pass or adopt zoning or land use ordinances or regulations.
3. To elect two Council members in even-numbered years, and three Council members in odd-numbered years.

#### \* Two amendments were made to Section 5's ordinances:

1. Voting hours for electing Council members were changed from between 7 and 9 pm to between 6 and 8 pm.
2. The Driveway ordinance was eased to permit any resident to replace less than 50% of an existing driveway without the need to obtain a permit.

\* A revised contract was signed with the Montgomery County police for supplemental police patrols, with greater emphasis on traffic control.

\* A property tax credit of \$900 was provided to each resident household and to La Ferme.

\* Following a review of three competing proposals, a consultant was engaged to perform a land survey of Section 5 during FY 2015.

## COMPOSTING

### Why Compost?

Composting transforms your yard and garden trimmings--grass clippings, leaves and pruning material--into a dark, crumbly, sweet-smelling material that naturally enriches the earth.

When you compost, you create an environment for microscopic organisms to break down dry, carbon-rich "brown" material, such as fallen leaves and wood chips and wet nitrogen-rich "green" material, including grass clippings and flowers.

Along with air and water, the carbon and nitrogen materials decompose and create a high-nutrient compost to use for your lawn and garden.

### **Beautify Your Lawn**

Compost improves soil structure, texture, and fertility so your plants and lawn thrive. It also improves water retention by holding almost twice its weight in water.

### **Protect the Environment**

Compost protects our waterways by slowing runoff from rain and melting snow, preventing soil erosion, and trapping sediments and chemicals. And unlike many commercial fertilizers, it won't leach chemicals into the ground.

### **Cut Costs**

Composting reduces the need to buy commercial fertilizers, and lawn care service providers may charge less if you ask them to stop collecting your yard trim and pass the savings on to you

### **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.

### **SAFE WALKING HABITS**

Pedestrian Safety is a Shared Responsibility

Residents are often seen walking in the streets of Section 5. In order to increase pedestrian safety, please familiarize yourself with the "rules of the road" for pedestrians:

- State law requires pedestrians to use the sidewalk where one is provided and otherwise available.
- When a sidewalk is absent and pedestrians must walk on the roadway, State law requires pedestrians to walk on the left side of the street--facing oncoming traffic.

It is not only the law, but it is common sense for your safety. This is an especially important rule for those who listen to electronic devices as they walk; these devices reduce a walker's ability to hear and perceive approaching cars, trucks, and bicycles.

### **SECTION 5 COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Section 5 Council meetings are held every **second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.** in the Village Hall located at 5906 Connecticut Avenue. The Council Meeting Agenda is posted on Section 5's web site [www.chevychase5.org](http://www.chevychase5.org). **The next meeting will be June 10, 2014.** Please feel free to contact Section 5's office at least two weeks in advance of the meeting if you would like to place an item on the agenda. Copies of minutes from previous Council meetings may be found on Section 5's web site.

### **SECTION 5 TREES ARE INSPECTED EVERY SPRING**

The manager, Lew Bloch, a licensed arborist, Mark Peyton, our tree maintenance person, Sabooh Hikim, the State Forester, and Dan Landry, Pepco's arborist meet in the spring and inspect all Section 5's trees to determine which trees need to be removed and which ones need pruning. If you have a concern about a particular tree, please call Section 5's manager so that your concern can be investigated. Report storm-

related damage to Section 5's office as soon as possible.

### **WATCH FOR THIRSTY TREES**

Please keep your eyes on Section 5's public trees--especially the smaller ones. If they look thirsty, please turn on your hose at a slow trickle and give them a much-needed drink.

#### **FACTS ABOUT TREES**

- Garden earthworms are not indigenous to the U. S. They hitchhiked in soil brought over on the colonists' boots and crops. They help keep the soil aerated around the trees.
- One key to sustainable landscapes is plant diversity. More varieties can mean less insect and disease pressure, leading to healthy plants.
- The emerald ash borer, an exotic pest that will eventually kill all untreated ash trees in the U. S., has recently been identified in Gaithersburg and D. C. Treatments are very effective; if you have an Ash tree, be certain to have it treated.
- Regular tree maintenance can be extremely beneficial and prevent storm damage. Don't turn your back on your trees!

### **NEW TREES IN SECTION 5**

If you have a location that you think would be well served by the addition of a new public tree, please call or email the manager. Our arborist will evaluate the request and determine the feasibility of planting at that site.

### **HOUSEHOLD ENERGY AUDITS SUBSIDIZED BY PEPCO**

Is your home leaking heat and driving up fuel costs? While living in a Section 5 home has its charms, losing heat to leaky windows, doors, attics and basements is definitely not one of them. PEPCO is subsidizing household energy audits to the tune of \$200-\$300. Homeowners pay only \$100 of the audit costs (which can be as much as \$400.) Once completed, the audit will identify a series of follow up actions to address major problems, like inadequate insulation in the attic and basement, and energy inefficient appliances. PEPCO will subsidize up \$2,750 of these home improvements in rebates. To access the subsidy, go to the [PEPCO website](#).

### **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. These donations will help these people get back on their feet. **Call 301-657-1010** to donate; visit [www.awidercircle.org](http://www.awidercircle.org) to learn more.

### **OP SHOP**

The Opportunity Shop, affectionately nicknamed the "Op Shop," has been a Bethesda Fixture for over 60 years.

Donations are welcome any time someone is in the Shop to receive them. Remember-if you are moving or downsizing or just clearing out belongings you no longer need, you may donate them. Donations are tax-deductible and the Shop has a constant need for merchandise.

The Shop is located at 4504 Walsh Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, 301-654-4999.

### HELP A CHILD LEARN TO READ

Can you share one hour each week with a student who is struggling to read? *Reading Partners* is a nonprofit organization that recruits and trains community volunteers to provide one-on-one literacy tutoring to students who are struggling with reading. Devoting just one hour each week to a student can make a tremendous impact. Last year, 99% of Reading Partners' DC students improved their rate of learning in reading, and 90% narrowed their achievement gap. *Reading Partners* is partnering with 11 local district and charter elementary schools and is opening opportunities for 600 students living in economically disadvantaged communities. To learn more, please call 202-701-9110 or email [kala.saadeh@readingpartners.org](mailto:kala.saadeh@readingpartners.org).

### HOW TECHNOLOGY CAN SUPPORT YOU IN A STORM

In our increasingly digital world, a mobile phone or other portable device is often a one-stop communication device. Phone calls, text messages, social media and even radio and television can all come from the same gadget. However, when the power goes out, these gadgets can quickly become stylish but useless objects and you are on your own. Here are some tools and tips to try to keep you connected longer.

#### **Five ways to keep your phone charged in a power outage.**

- **Battery Chargers:** Be certain you have a backup charger for your phone or tablet which can keep you linked in longer.

- **"Juice Packs"** may be bought for \$100 or less (Mohie, for one, makes them for Apple and Android devices). Many of the chargers double as protective cases for your smart phone or tablet. Alternately, batter-powered backup chargers like the **Zagg Sparq** can provide several full charges for your mobile devices after the usual electrical options are gone. You may even find **chargers that use solar power**. Therefore, as long as you have a dry spot and at least a brief break from the rain, Mother Nature can help bail you out.
- And don't forget about your **car charger**, assuming you have one. Your car's battery will be dependable long after your phone's battery has died.
- **Power Inverter:** Convert DC Power into AC Juice. If you need to power up something a little bigger than a phone, a power inverter might be a useful tool. If you want to be able to use a laptop or desktop computer during an outage, this may be the way to go. The inverter can be **used to convert DC power from your car battery into AC juice** for things usually plugged into a wall outlet.

Places like *Batteries Plus*, as well as most computer stores, usually have these around with a wide range of power. Ask an employee how much of a charge you need for whatever project you are planning.

Here are some other tips if you don't have the option of buying new chargers:

- **Laptop as Back-up Generator**

This one seems obvious--once you've thought about it. But it's the sort of thing that can slip your mind when there's a lot of other preparation to be done. While there's time, fully charge your laptop (or, best case, laptops). Then don't use them. When other power sources go out, you may plug your phone or tablet into the laptop, via the USB port, for the extra juice.

- **Stop Running Apps: Conserve Juice**

Check your phone's settings. Some apps quietly run in the background even when you are not using them, causing your battery to drain faster. Wi-Fi and Bluetooth are two examples, but there are plenty others. Texting burns less power than a phone call, therefore, go that route when you can. Turning down your screen's brightness will also help conserve juice.

- **Use a Battery-Life App**

Several free apps for iOS (Apple) and Android devices promise to help you extend your phone's battery life. One such app is **Carat**, which observes how you use your smart phone and makes personalized suggestions about power-sucking apps to delete.

- **Other Gadgets that Have Great Potential**

A recent article in the Wall Street Journal provided information about a sun powered battery device that takes some planning (obviously there is no sun during a storm) called the

**Eton's BoostSolar Charger.** It weighs just 12 oz. and measures 6 sq. inches. The device has a removable battery so you may charge it in the sun ahead of time and give your gadgets power later, even on cloudy days. Go to [etoncorp.com](http://etoncorp.com) for more information on some very helpful and innovative alternate power devices!

### **WHAT TO DO IF YOU SMELL NATURAL GAS**

Natural gas is non-toxic, colorless, odorless and combustible. For detection and safety, we add an unpleasant odorant known as mercaptain to natural gas delivered through Washington Gas' distribution system.

If you smell natural gas, **do not attempt to locate the source of the odor.** Evacuate the area immediately and call **911** or the **Washington Gas Emergency Leak Line** at **703-750-1400.**

### **COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

The Montgomery County Board of Elections needs Election Judges to serve in the upcoming Gubernatorial Elections. The Primary is June 24th and the General is November 4th. This is a great opportunity to serve your community by participating in the electoral process as well as seeing all of your neighbors.

The Board of Elections is looking for registered voters in the State of Maryland, who read,

write and speak the English language. A volunteer must be at least 17 years old before or on November 4, 2014.

To volunteer or for more information, please visit our website at [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org) and click on *Election Judge* or you may call our office at 240-777-8533.

### **WHO REPRESENTS YOU?**

*Come Find Out at County Candidates Forums.*

The 2014 primary elections for Montgomery County offices may not seem of primary concern to you right now. But winners in contested party primaries often go on to win in the general elections. And elected County officials go on to enact legislation that strikes very close to home: zoning, building development, master plans, as well as funding for schools, libraries, parks and transportation.

Become informed at a nonpartisan forum cosponsored by a dozen neighboring communities. Decide which candidates for County Council and County Executive would represent you best, then vote in the primaries on June 24th before choices are narrowed in the fall general elections. Early primary voting takes place June 12 to 19.

Save the date:

- **Sunday, June 8, 2 PM**

All County Executive candidates will come together for a debate

at the 4H Center, 7100 Connecticut Avenue.

Charles Duffy, host of "Political Pulse" on Montgomery Municipal Cable TV, will moderate, focusing on issues of primary concern to our communities.

Cosponsors include Chevy Chase View, Chevy Chase Village, Chevy Chase West, Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, East Bethesda, Edgemoor Citizens Association, Garrett Park, Rollingwood Citizens Association, Town of Chevy Chase, Town of Somerset, Village of Chevy Chase Section 3, Village of Chevy Chase Section 5, Village of Martin's Additions, Village of North Chevy Chase.

### **CHEVY CHASE CIRCLE RIGHT-OF-WAY RULES**

Each time there is a collision in "the Circle", a Chevy Chase Police Officer has to explain the right-of-way rules to involved motorists. Invariably, the at-fault driver (in this scenario, the exiting car is at fault) was unaware of the rules, and he/she often want to argue about the rules. Just in case you might be a bit fuzzy about the rules, the following rules are listed:

- A vehicle in the Circle has the right-of-way over any vehicle seeking to enter the Circle.
- There is no mandatory exit lane in Chevy Chase Circle.

Simply put, a driver may continue around the Circle without exiting.

- A vehicle that continues around the Circle within its own lane has the right-of-way over all other vehicles. And that means that vehicles continuing around the Circle within their lane of travel have the right-of-way over exiting vehicles.
- If a motorist within the Circle wants to change lanes/rings, he/she must yield the right-of-way to other vehicles, and he/she may change lanes only when it is safe to do so. It's just like changing lanes on any roadway
- With the exception of exits onto Connecticut Avenue, vehicles exiting the Circle must exit from the outer-most lane.
- Vehicles exiting the Circle onto Connecticut Avenue (northbound or southbound) **may** exit from any lane, however, vehicles exiting from the inner -most or middle lanes must grant the right-of-way to all other vehicles. Remember, in order for a car to exit the Circle from either of the 2 inner lanes, it must first change lanes and cross the outer ring(s). A car changing lanes does NOT have the right-of-way over other vehicles that are continuing around the Circle.

## **WSSC WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT**

During the summer WSSC will begin some important work in your neighborhood. This work will take approximately 320 days to complete. It is part of a broad WSSC program to modernize older sanitary sewer mains. Those mains that have started to show their age will be rehabilitated to eliminate points of age damage defects and to restore the carrying capacity of the pipeline.

The Sewer Mains will be rehabilitated using one of two methods; open cut excavation or lining. Customers that are connected to the sewer main being rehabilitated will be notified 48 hours in advance of said work. You will be notified at that time which method will be used.

In conjunction with the mainline work, it might be necessary to rehabilitate the individual sewer lateral connection to your home, from the mainline in the street to your property line. This can be performed by either using the same lining technique stated in the previous paragraph or by excavating the existing sewer lateral connection and replacing it with a new pipe. The method of rehabilitation will be determined after an evaluation of the current condition of the lateral connection. Each customer will be notified approximately 48 hours in advance of the pending work. If lateral replacement is the required method of rehabilitation, there will be some unavoidable impact to existing vegetation (i.e. trees, grass and shrubs) and paving (i.e. roadway, sidewalk and driveway apron). All impacted areas will be restored after construction to as close to existing conditions as possible. Trees in the public rights-of-way that are close to the location of the existing

lateral will most likely have to be removed due to root damage caused by the excavation. Replacement trees (saplings) are planted at locations further from the lateral connection alignment to prevent the occurrence of future intrusion into the lateral connections.

We are providing you with this notice to prepare you for the arrival of interesting equipment for a temporary stay in your neighborhood. Also, because some of this work has to be performed during the late evening and the early hours of the morning when customer sewage flows are relatively low. There may be some night time noise and bright lights associated with the "lining" process. On residential streets, the setup of this large and complex equipment may cause some adjustments

in parking and neighborhood driving patterns. But every effort will be made to minimize traffic inconvenience and to maintain appropriate signs to assure road safety in the vicinity of the Contractor's work area.

If problems develop in the course of this work you deal directly with the on-site representative, Inspector Forson Ayeh at 646-623-6208. If the Inspector is unavailable, please contact the WSSC office, 301-206-4002 weekdays, from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Should a problem arise after hours or on weekends, you should contact the WSSC Radio Room at 301-206-4002 (24 hours a day), and refer to "sewer lining" work. They will contact the appropriate personnel to rectify your problem.