



THE QUARTERLY

DECEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 52 | NUMBER 4

Section 5 Council

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

Important Section Dates

- ◆ Tuesday, January 12
Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Tuesday, February 9
Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, March 6
Spring Bulk Trash Collection
- ◆ Tuesday, March 9
Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

A Message from the Town Council

What a year 2020 has been. Now more than ever, we are grateful to live in a community with friendly neighbors, beautiful tree-lined streets, and sidewalks for lots of walking! The Section 5 Council would like to wish all our residents a joyful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year!

New Section 5 Composting Program

Section 5 is partnering with the Compost Crew to offer and pay for a resident composting program. To learn more about composting, see the Compost Crew’s website <https://compostcrew.com/>.

As part of the program, Section 5 will pay for the cost of the 5-gallon bucket/collection bin that is required as well as the monthly service/collection fee per household. Each participating household will also receive one bag of finished compost each spring.

Pickup will occur every Tuesday. Buckets must be placed curbside and lids closed

tightly. Since collection may occur early, it is strongly recommended that residents put bins out the night before.

The sign up link is <https://compostcrew.com/chevy-chase-section-5/>. After you enter your address in step one, select the monthly, 5-gallon service plan, which will be free. When signing up, you will need to provide a credit card, which enables you to use the Compost Crew store and pay for any upgrades you select. Optional larger 12-gallon collection bins and indoor kitchen scrap buckets may also be purchased separately for a slight upgrade fee. If you do not select upgrades, your credit card will not be charged.

Once you sign up, Compost Crew will deliver your bin. All new bin deliveries occur on Friday. Any questions regarding sign-up, services, and collection should be directed to the Compost Crew at (301) 202-4450 or info@compostcrew.com. Existing customers will be contacted by the Compost Crew directly, but Section 5 will start paying your monthly collection fee in January.



SECTION 5 OF THE VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

Holiday Tips for Refuse Collection Crew

Traditionally, residents of Section 5 have expressed their appreciation to the employees of our refuse collection company, Montgomery Sanitation and Recycling, with contributions for the holiday season.

In lieu of collecting individual checks, the Section will instead make the full contribution on behalf of all residents. The main source of Section 5 revenue is derived from a percentage of our resident's income tax; therefore, the contribution truly does come from all residents. We understand there may be some that would like to give a gift directly to the crew, and of course, one should feel free to do so. We are thankful for the hard work of the crew all year, and especially this year!



TRASH COLLECTION HOLIDAYS

Because Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Fridays this year, there will be no regular trash collection those days and only one trash collection during these holiday weeks.

As in past years, holiday greens and trees will be picked up by our refuse collection company along with yard debris on Mondays starting December 28.

Trees need to be curbside and visible. Greens must be placed in paper lawn and leaf bags. Wreaths containing wires will not be accepted and should be disposed of in the regular household trash.

On a separate note, yard debris is collected on Mondays year-round.

Reporting a Loss of Power, Street Light Outage, or Downed Wire

With winter weather on the horizon, it is a good time to remind residents about what to do if you experience a power outage.

First and foremost, if you come across a downed power line, always assume it is energized and stay away. Immediately report the downed wire by calling 1-877-PEPCO-62 (1-877-737-2662).

If your electric power is interrupted, report it right away. Never assume someone else has done it! To report an outage you can:

- ♦ Call 1-877-737-2662
- ♦ Visit the Pepco website (pepco.com) and click on Outages.
- ♦ Download the free Pepco mobile app. To download the app, visit Pepco.com/mobileapp.

Additionally, street light outages can be reported the same way. It is fast and easy!

Sign Up For Montgomery County's Covid-19 Updates

For the latest information and updates from Montgomery County regarding the COVID-19 health emergency, be sure to sign up for their email alert system.

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDMONTGOMERY/signup/14849>

SECTION 5 OF THE VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

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@chevychasection5.org

Section Email Alerts and Notices

Please make certain the Section has at least one current email address for your household on file. Email is often used to communicate timely and important information. Additionally, it is used to distribute the dial-in information for the Council's Monthly meetings, which are now being held via GoToMeeting videoconference. Contact the Town Manager with questions.



Please Do Not Place Food or Regular Household Trash in Construction Dumpsters

Construction dumpsters are to be used for construction debris only. They are not public trash receptacles. Please do not place food or dog waste in them. Food in dumpsters leads to rodents in dumpsters, which often leads to rodents in your house. Additionally, please do not place trash in recycling bins.

Thrive Montgomery 2050

At the October Section Council Meeting, we discussed Thrive Montgomery 2050. Thrive Montgomery 2050 is the long-term policy document being proposed by the Montgomery County Planning Board to guide the future growth and development in the county over the next 30 years. The updated General Plan includes recommendations for land use, housing, the economy, equity, transportation, parks and open space, the environment, historic resources, urban design, and arts and culture. The full plan can be found here

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Hearing-Draft-Plan-Thrive-Montgomery-2050-final-10-5.pdf>

The Section joined 27 other area municipalities and unincorporated communities in reviewing the plan. After a series of meetings and discussions, the coalition of communities prepared a response letter for the Planning Board's consideration. The letter can be viewed here

<http://www.townofchevychase.org/DocumentCenter/View/3163/TM-2050-Coalition-Response-Letter-11-17-20>

The Planning Board is holding a series of work sessions this month to review and amend the draft plan. Once the plan is approved by the Planning Board (likely early spring 2021), the Planning Board's recommended plan will be submitted to the County Council. The Council is expected to hold Public Hearings followed by a series of committee work sessions in the spring and summer. The County Council is slated to adopt the plan prior to its August 2021 recess.

SECTION 5 OF THE VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

Building Permits

- ✦ 7205 Thornapple Place - Construct an addition, deck, and front porch with stormwater drainage plans / Permit Approved
- ✦ 3703 Thornapple Street - Drainage work / Permit Approved
- ✦ 3703 Underwood Street - Remove metal fence on property / Permit Approved
- ✦ 3712 Williams - Demolish an existing addition, construct a new addition with stormwater drainage plans / Permit Approved
- ✦ 3820 Woodbine Street - Replace part of backyard fence / 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.

Tree Removal Permits

- ✦ 3701 Thornapple Street - Private Tree Removal

WSSC Water Main Replacement and Trees

As mentioned in an earlier Section email, WSSC is contacting residents directly regarding possible tree removals and/or pruning as part of the upcoming Brookville Water Main Replacement project. WSSC has also reached out to the Section directly. Section 5, along with our arborist, Dr. Tolbert Feather, will work closely with WSSC to discuss all the trees involved and keep residents in the loop. If WSSC contacts you directly, please refer them to the Town Manager. The earliest this project will begin is November 2021.

Free Tree Program 2020

Section 5 had a fantastic response for its Annual Free Tree Program this fall. Forty-five new trees were planted in residents' private gardens or the Town public strip.

The trees when planted are dormant and do not require further care until the spring. In April, the Section will distribute 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. When leaves emerge, you will fill the bag once every ten days. During periods of very hot dry weather, residents should water the tree one day per week. It is important not to overwater.

A big thanks to Dr. Feather for assisting residents with questions and overseeing the plantings. It is a lot of work, and we are grateful to have him as a resource.

Snow!

Section 5 is ready for winter. Rolling Acres will once again be responsible for our streets with salt and sanding during winter conditions.



Michael Cousins and his crew at Colonial Landscaping will also help with public sidewalk shoveling when necessary.

Residents are responsible for the regular treating (salt and sanding) of sidewalks near your home. As a reminder, Section 5's crew will shovel the public sidewalks (those that run in front of your home) if snowfall reaches more than two inches. In the case of freezing rain mixed with snow, the decision may be made NOT to shovel since snow mixed with ice provides much more traction than straight ice.

Shoveling will start once snowfall ceases. If snowfall stops early to late evening, crews will be out first thing the next morning. In the case of heavy snow, this may take time.

Montgomery County requires that property owners clear their walkways and entrances to their homes within 24 hours of the end of a snowstorm. Residents are also encouraged to help neighbors who may not physically be able to do so.

If the snowfall is deep, please clear a safe path to your household trash or leave household trash curbside on trash collection days.

Snow Emergency Parking

During a snow event, the BEST place to park your car is in your driveway. If you must leave your vehicle on the street, please park on the EVEN house-numbered side of the streets. Signs will be posted accordingly. These two small steps go a long way in helping the snow and sanding plows do their job!

Calling All Snow Shovelers!

Able-bodied snow shovelers are always in high demand. If you are a Section teen who would like to be added to the list of Community Helpers for this Winter, please email the Town Manager. Babysitters, lawn help, and pet care are also welcome. The Section will maintain a master list and share it upon request.

General Street Parking Reminders

With the Section's narrow streets, it is especially important to be careful where you park. Parking directly across from someone's driveway, or too close to a stop sign or intersection is both bothersome and dangerous.

Please take care to observe the following Montgomery County parking laws.

- ◆ Park at least 35 feet from an intersection.
- ◆ Park at least 30 feet from a stop sign.
- ◆ Park at least 15 feet from a fire hydrant.
- ◆ Park at least 5 feet from a private driveway.
- ◆ Park facing the way traffic flows. This is an important point.