



THE QUARTERLY

DECEMBER 2023 / VOLUME 55 / NUMBER 4

SECTION 5 COUNCIL

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Greg Chernack, Chair
Josh Galper, Vice-Chair
Maryann Luongo, Treasurer
Sean Downey, Member
Philip Giordano, Member

IMPORTANT SECTION DATES

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- Tuesday, January 9
Town Council Meeting at
7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall
 - Tuesday, February 13
Town Council Meeting at
7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall
 - Saturday, March 9
Spring Bulk Trash Collection
 - Tuesday, March 12
Town Council Meeting at
7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall
 - Tuesday, April 9
Town Council Meeting at
7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall

A Message from the Town Council -

As 2023 comes to a close, the Section 5 Council would like to wish all our residents a joyful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year!

Update on the Possible Leland Street Turn Restriction

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation held a virtual hearing on December 6 to discuss the proposed Leland Street access restriction. A link to the full hearing video and all the project documents, including the original study can be found here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Traffic/Studies/LelandStreet.html>

The Section 5 Council sent a follow-up letter to MCDOT on December 11 with additional comments after the hearing which can be found here: <http://www.chevychasesection5.org/pdf/LelandStreetRestrictionLetter-2023dec11.pdf> A copy of the December letter is also included with this newsletter.

The Council also sent a letter in September which can be found here: <http://www.chevychasesection5.org/pdf/LelandStreetRestrictionLetter2023.pdf>

Next Steps:

MCDOT continues to accept public comment until Friday, January 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.. Written testimony carries the same weight as oral testimony. Submissions can be made via email: trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov

Once the Hearing Record closes, the County Executive will issue a Statement of Decision. Based on the information received during the hearing process, the executive may revise the plan.

ATTENTION: Leland Court Residents – January 9 Council Meeting

As mentioned in our September newsletter, Section 5 is preparing to make necessary upgrades to Leland Court. The potential work includes new curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and street maintenance. The Section has identified a contractor and project management company, but no plans have been created.

As a first step, the Council would like to hold a listening session with Leland Court residents to hear specific concerns or requests that they believe should be considered as part of the project. Accordingly, the Council would like to invite Leland Court residents, as well as all interested Section 5 residents, to attend the January 9 Council meeting where this project will be listed on the agenda. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and is held at the Chevy Chase Village Hall located at 5906 Connecticut Avenue. The Town Manager will send out a reminder in early January. For residents unable to attend this meeting, there will be additional opportunities to provide comments.

SECTION 5 OF THE VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

Final Fall Leaf Vacuuming on Monday, January 8

Our leaf crews will come through to do leaf vacuuming one final time on Monday, January 8. As a reminder:

-Leaves should be raked to the edge of the curb, but not in the street.

-Please do not place leaves in bags. Take care that limbs, rocks, and 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.

Tree Removal Permits

- 7502 Glendale Road – Private Tree Removal
- 3601 Underwood Street – Private Tree Removal

Section's Free Tree Program

Section 5 continues to have a great response to its Annual Free Tree Program. In late December, thirty-one new trees will be planted in residents' private gardens or the Town public strip. When planted, the trees 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.

We are very fortunate to have our arborist, Dr. Feather, assist residents with questions and oversee the plantings. It is a lot of work, and we are grateful to have him as a resource.

Police Beat— Cold Weather Car Reminder

With winter weather finally here, many residents like to warm their cars up before heading out in the mornings. Our Section 5 officers would like to remind you to NEVER leave the keys in the car and unattended. Always lock your car or use remote start. Our officers advise that thieves often come between 5 and 8 a.m. and look for fast targets. Cars left unattended and running are easy to spot.

Building Permits

- 7109 Brookville Road – Install a new shed with the appropriate stormwater management plans / Permit Approved
- 7502 Glendale Road – Replace part of an existing 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.

SECTION 5 OF THE VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE



Snow Reminders!

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.

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.

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!

Cleaning Up After Dogs

Please 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. Also make sure to place all dog waste in bags and in the appropriate trash receptacle. Recycling bins should not be used for dog waste.



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.

SECTION 5 OF THE VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

Reminder About Rodent Control

We have heard from a few residents about recent encounters with rodents. Obviously, this is not something anyone wants to experience! We are reminding residents to please be courteous neighbors and do their part to help deter rodents from making Section 5 their home.



For a detailed list of the County's policy on rodents, see below:

[Montgomery County, MD 311 - Answering to You \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](http://montgomerycountymd.gov)

Simple Rodent Prevention Tips Include:

Get Rid of Clutter

Clutter gives rats places to hide, sleep, nest, and reproduce. Cleaning up and getting rid of clutter is an easy and effective way to prevent rats.

- Remove (and recycle) piles of newspapers, paper bags, cardboard, and bottles.
- Clear out your basement and yard.
- Store items away from walls and off the ground.

Manage your Garbage!

- Rats only need one ounce of food each day. Do not make your garbage their food.
- Make sure you have enough garbage cans to hold trash between pickups.
- Secure trash in hard plastic or metal cans with tight fitting lids. (Same with composting bins.)

Keep Food Away

Rats are attracted to dog food and dog droppings, stored food, and seed, fallen fruit, garden vegetables, discarded food, garbage and recycling bins, compost piles, and natural fruits such as mulberries, black cherries, crabapples, apples, and pears. Rats are also attracted to seed spilled from bird feeders. You can use a catch tray under the feeder.

- Keep all food in tightly sealed containers.
- Do not put food out for stray cats, pigeons, or squirrels.

Control Weeds & Shrubs

Rats are often found in burrows under bushes and plants.

- Keep tall grass, bushes, shrubs, and mulch away from building foundations.
- Pull out ivy around burrows.
- Keep ground bare six inches from buildings, and trim under shrubs.
- Make space between plants, and avoid dense planting.
- Keep gardens free of weeds and trash.

Seal, Fill and CLOSE

Rats chew holes into buildings, and can squeeze through cracks and holes as small as one-half inch. To keep rats out permanently, seal all holes and cracks in foundations, walls, floors, underneath doors, and around windows. Most repairs can be done by a pest control professional or home repair person. Materials are inexpensive and available at most hardware stores.