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

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The Quarterly

SECTION 5 BUILDING PERMITS ARE REQUIRED, COME SEE US FIRST!

Construction plans? Section 5 has its own building regulations that must be met, along with County building requirements. Call Section 5's office at 301-986-5481 to discuss the permitting process before you contact the County.

SECTION 5 TRASH HOLIDAYS

There are 6 holidays which Section 5's trash hauler celebrates: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. When these holidays fall on a Monday, the recycling will be collected on Tuesday, the regular household collection day. Also, recycling will not be collected on Martin Luther King's Birthday which, of course, always falls on a Monday because the County's collection center is closed; recycling will be collected on Tuesday.

AVOID OVER MULCHING TREES

Did you know that mounding up of mulching materials at the base of trees can be fatal to the trees? Make certain that you don't place too much mulch around public trees or your own trees and do not allow your landscape service to mound mulch around Section 5's trees. Section 5 has employed a landscape company to remove the excess mulch from the town's trees.

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. Also, please make certain to clean up after your dog. Please help us keep our sidewalks and yards clean from dog waste.

NO TAX REBATE THIS YEAR

It has been reported in several Washington newspapers about the falling average income levels in Montgomery and surrounding counties. This is certainly not surprising given what we have seen over the past few years regarding Section 5's revenues. Section 5 receives about 80% of its income from State income tax but has suffered a drastic drop in its share of the State income tax over the last three years. For example, in 2008-09 Section 5 received \$603,000 in State income tax whereas last year 2010-11 we received only \$352,00. In addition to the substantially reduced income tax revenue Section 5 has seen its interest from its CD's and money invested in MLGIP (Maryland Local Investment Pool) decrease from \$42,000 in 2008-09 to \$11,000 in 2010-11. It is this sort of drastic reduction in revenues which caused Section 5's Council to decide against giving a real estate tax rebate to its residents this year.

WATCH YOUR PARKING PLEASE

Please remember when parking on the street to be considerate of your neighbors and use only one space instead of two. When possible, place your car in your driveway.

GOODBYE TO RATS IN SECTION 5

It is good to report that with many helping hands--WSSC crews, the County Health Inspector, smoke bombs and new lateral sewer lines- the rats on Underwood St. are gone.

If you see sink-like holes, particularly around water meters elsewhere in Section 5, please call Section 5's office, 301-986-5481. Remember do not place dog food outside

and clean up wood piles and overgrown ivy patches. Clean up excess bird seed on the ground and dog excrement--even that's a popular food for rats. While it is impossible to completely eliminate rats, we can certainly do our best not to provide a sanctuary for them.



NEW WATER MAINS IN SECTION 5

The water mains in Section 5 were installed between 1919 and 1948 and are at the end of their useful life. The water main on Thornapple St. east of Brookville Rd. will be replaced with new Ductile Iron Pipe (DIP) in the Spring of 2012.

This work will be conducted during weekdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. WSSC will work closely with residents to assure the project is completed on time, while minimizing disruptions to traffic and environment. Temporary water service will be provided where needed; interruptions will be minimal and limited to 8 hours a day. Residents will be notified in a timely manner before any service interruption. Some trees and plantings may be disturbed in the course of the work and will be replaced during the restoration of the area.

FIRE HYDRANTS: KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!

Remember to give fire hydrants a wide berth. Do not park in front of or in close proximity to them. The fire department needs easy access to hydrants in case of a fire. If they are unable to access a hydrant close to a fire, it wastes precious time needed to put out the fire and to prevent the spread to surrounding houses.



NEW TREES IN SECTION 5

Thirteen new trees and seven public trees were planted in Section 5 this November as part of Section 5's Urban Reforestation Program. Section 5's Council considers the trees in our town to be one of our most important assets. The trees maintained by Section 5 and the trees in your yards continue to give us an atmosphere that makes living more pleasant and keep our property values increasing. In recent years all of us have learned that our trees make a substantial contribution to a healthy environment.



CONNECTICUT AVENUE PEDESTRIAN ACTIVATED LIGHT

Several residents have contacted Section 5's office complaining about the pedestrian activated light on Connecticut Ave. between Woodbine St. and Williams Ln. because it is being activated by something other than a pedestrian. A County representative advised that Ride-On bus drivers are able to activate this particular traffic light from a device inside the bus which allows the bus driver to get out onto Connecticut Ave. Some two months ago a relay burned out and it causes the light to change without a pedestrian or a bus driver. The County is trying to locate the burned out relay and hopes to have the situation remedied soon.

SECTION 5 CRIME UPDATE

A car on Underwood St. was stolen in September and the investigating police officer told the resident that if the car was not found within two or three days, the chances for it being found were very slim. However, the car was found in the District of Columbia a month later and returned to the owner with no damage to the vehicle. Several cars on Thornapple St. were rifled during September. Also two cars were broken into on Leland Ct. during October **Be certain to lock your car.**

FIRE BOARD APPOINTMENT

Susan Harvey, an Underwood St. resident, and a long time member of the Chevy Chase Fire Board has agreed to serve another term. Congratulations go to Susan for her re-appointment and a special thanks to her for her service to Section 5 residents.

LEAF COLLECTION

Mark Peyton's vacuum truck will continue to collect leaves every Monday with his last collection December 12th. All leaves should be raked to the public strip not into the street. Please make certain that your leaves are not contaminated by cans, sticks, bottles or rocks. These items will clog Mark's machine and in some cases put it out commission. In fact, on the Monday before Thanksgiving someone placed a bicycle chain in the leaf pile and it destroyed the blades on Mark's vacuuming machine.



HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR SNOW IN SECTION 5

Last winter was especially difficult with all the snow and ice. Please be certain to get your car off the

street and into your driveway when snow is predicted. This allows Mark Peyton to plow the streets from curb to curb. The plowing will begin when two inches of snow has fallen. **Again this year the Council has voted to employ a service to shovel Section 5's sidewalks.**

Mark has done a stellar job vacuuming all the leaves off the street this fall so that he won't need to push leaves as well as snow off the streets. A special thanks goes to Mark and his crews who clean our streets year after year.



SECTION 5 COUNCIL MEETING

The next Section 5 Council meeting will be held Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at the Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Ave. at 7:30pm. Contact Section 5's office if you wish to have an item considered for placement on the meeting agenda. The Village Hall has handicapped access. Everyone is welcome.

ENERGY TIP FOR BEING GREEN

Here's a great science project for kids: use a Kill-a-Watt meter to measure how much energy appliances are drawing even when they are not "on". You may borrow a Kill-a-Watt meter from the Library, plug it in, and check the display after a day. You'd be surprised how much energy these appliances draw. The average Marylander loses \$185 per year from

electronic devices that are plugged in even when they're off. Anything that has light, a clock, or is at all warm is wasting energy. Why not unplug those energy vampires? Plug them into power strips (few dollars at hardware stores) to make it easy to turn the power off.

**DON'T GO TO GAITHERSBURG!
DO YOUR MVA BUSINESS RIGHT
HERE!**

Need Motor Vehicle Express Office services? Pop over to Friendship Heights where MVA Mobile Office (a bus) is parked once a month on Friendship Boulevard next to the Village Center from 10 am to 2 pm. The services include driver's licenses and vehicle registration renewal, MD Photo identifications, disability placards, and tag returns. (All 4th Monday unless noted)

Jan. 23	April 23
Feb. 27 Mon.)	May 21 (3rd Mon.)
March 19(3rd Mon.)	June 18 (3rd Mon.)

PEPCO PROGRESS REPORT

Pepco is working to upgrade its reliability. In this effort Pepco is trimming trees, improving priority feeders, meeting increased customer demand for energy, installing advanced technologies, replacing aging infrastructure and selective undergrounding and supply line enhancements.

The two most important parts of these efforts are: 1) Replacement of electric power lines called feeders that distribute power to up 1,100 customers within a specific geographic area; 2) Installation of advanced control systems that allow the electric system to identify

problems and perform switching automatically. These advanced control systems identify failed pieces of equipment and restore service within minutes of the failure.

The Pepco website has launched a Reliability Progress map where you can enter your ZIP code to review what is going on in the neighborhood. To visit the map go to www.pepco.com/energy/reliability and click on Reliability Map in the box on the left side of the page. You can see progress on improvements in feeder lines, new advanced technology installation and substation improvements.



**COMBAT SOLDIERS RECOVERY
FUND**

Combat Soldiers ' Recovery Fund has a simple mission: put spending money in the hands of soldiers, marines and sailors wounded in the line duty in order to speed their recovery. The amount of money each wounded warrior receives seems small--only \$300--but the impact is quite powerful. Section 5 gave a donation to this organization this year.

CHEVY CHASE AT HOME

Chevy Chase At Home is seeking a part time Executive Director. The new paid position emphasizes member

service, managing office and volunteer services, program planning, and fund raising. For a detailed job description and application procedure go to the web site <http://www.idealists.org/view/job>.

CONNECTICUT AVENUE CORRIDOR COMMITTEE

The County Council has delayed the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan process for several months. The Council took this action at the request of Chevy Chase Land Company, which recently hired new staff and formally announced they were hitting the "reset" button on their proposal for development at the site. The Land Company had originally proposed a development of 4.3 million square feet at the site with several buildings between 15 and 19 stories tall. They now say that proposal is off the table. In contrast, the County's Planning Staff released an outline for the area that called for 1.2 million square feet of development capped at approximately 6.5 stories tall.

Members of the Connecticut Avenue Corridor Committee (CACC) of which Section 5 is one, have agreed to meet with the Land Company to see if there are ways the group can help shape the Land Company's new plans. Section 5's Council will keep its residents apprised of any developments.

PROPOSED SIDEWALK ALONG WISCONSIN AVENUE

On Wednesday, October 5, representatives from the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) District 3 and Headquarters held a public meeting in the Chevy Chase Village Hall with residents in the surrounding jurisdictions to discuss preliminary design plans for a proposed sidewalk along Wisconsin Avenue. The purpose of this meeting was to receive community feedback on the plan. The sidewalk would be located on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue from Grafton St. north towards Bradley Ln. and would be fully funded by SHA. Based on the feedback received at the meeting, SHA will be reviewing the possibility of weaving the sidewalk between trees while staying within the current State Highway right-of-way. There will be a second public meeting soon.

If the design and approvals are received in a timely fashion SHA anticipates construction on the sidewalk could begin as early as the late spring or early summer 2012. If residents have any further questions about this project, please contact SHA Assistant District Engineer for Project Development, Kate Mazzara at 301-513-7346 or kmazzara@sha.state.md.us.

