

Email [manager@chevychase5.org](mailto:manager@chevychase5.org) Web site  
[www.chevychase5.org](http://www.chevychase5.org)

VOLUME 41

NUMBER 1

MARCH 2007

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Andrew Smith, Chairman; Ira Rosenbaum, Vice-Chairman; Margy Abbott, Treasurer; Farooq Hussain, Secretary; Peter Gray, Building Inspector.

TAX TIME AGAIN, REMEMBER TO WRITE IN:  
"Section 5"  
On your Maryland Tax Return

Section 5's largest source of revenue is a portion of the State income tax paid by Section 5's residents. Unfortunately, Section 5 will not get its share of income tax unless its name appears on the Maryland income tax form in the box marked, "City, Town or Taxing Area". Also, remember to write "Montgomery" in the "Maryland County" box. A sample of the form appears below. Please don't forget to complete these sections when filing your taxes and if someone else prepares your taxes, please remember to instruct that person to complete those two lines

#### SAFETY

Out of concern for safety, the Council asks residents for their assistance in discouraging children from playing in the street.

Representations were recently made to Council regarding the Section's liability for damage to a home from a tree felled by a storm. As a result of the legal inquiry that the Council made, safety issues related to the basketball hoops placed on the strips in front of some homes became a cause for concern. The Council wants to remind residents that the streets were constructed and are maintained for vehicular transportation and were not designed to provide a safe place for children to play.

#### SECTION 5'S GENEROSITY EXPRESSED

As usual Section 5 residents were very generous this year when they contributed to the holiday collection for Montgomery County Sanitation and Recycling Company, the town's trash company. The town collected over \$2,500 to be

distributed among the company's collectors. The collectors extend their heartfelt thanks to the town's residents for their generosity.

#### BUILDING AND FENCE PERMITS

A REMINDER TO RESIDENTS: A Section 5 permit is required to erect any dwelling or other building or to make any material structural alteration or addition to an existing building. Also, there is a Section 5 ordinance requiring a permit for the erection or replacement of a fence. Fences must be built so that they are in compliance with the town's fence ordinance. Residents are also required to show a copy of their fence plans to their abutting neighbors. A copy of the ordinance is available by calling the manager or on the town's web site <http://www.chevychasesection5.org/regulations/fenceregs>

#### COUNTY CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH VERIZON

At the regular December Council meeting Section 5's Council voted to approve the Cable Franchise Agreement negotiated by the County with Verizon. This agreement applies to new FIOS cable television and related broadband services that Verizon is planning to install across many of its service areas—including Montgomery County—and it is modeled after the County's existing cable franchise agreements with Comcast and RCN Communications.

Section 5 approved this agreement because it is an incorporated municipality and the County agreement does not apply within Section 5 unless it is explicitly adopted by and agreed to by Section 5. Now that it has been accepted, the County will enforce the agreement as to Section 5 and the rest of the County in the same way as it currently does for other cable franchise agreements. The agreement accepting the County's franchise agreement has been prepared by legal counsel representing independently-incorporated municipalities (such as Rockville, Tacoma Park, and the other Chevy Chase towns) and the negotiating process that led to this agreement included representatives of Section 5. Terms include a modest franchise fee that will be paid to Section 5, County-driven quality of service

processes, and a raft of other provisions that generally track those of the existing Comcast and RCN franchise agreements.

The approval of this agreement will lead to installation of yet another set of overhead wires in Section 5, and with them, access to new services that may well benefit the town's residents. Verizon will bring

competition to the delivery of cable TV services, and will also be able to offer additional, very high speed broadband services. Importantly, the agreement also preserves the rights of the Town to manage the way in which wires and related facilities associated with this new service are installed within Section 5's rights of way.

#### KEEP CLEARING OUT YOUR USED BOOKS FOR BCC HIGH SCHOOL

The now famous BCC High School PTSA Used Book Sale wants you to clear out those bookshelves and donate all your loved but no longer used books—foreign languages, cookbooks, children's books, fiction, non fiction, hardcover and soft cover—to the BCC HS book sale which will take place on Sunday March 25, 2007. They cannot take encyclopedias, magazines or textbooks. Call Peggy McIntosh at 301-951-8605, or [peggy\\_hsieh@yahoo.com](mailto:peggy_hsieh@yahoo.com). Book drop off is on Sundays, 10 AM – 2 PM, at B-CC Chelton St. entrance Jan. 7, Jan. 28, Feb. 11, Feb. 25, March 4 and March 11. Tax receipts are available. They also need boxes with lids or filing boxes.

#### WARNING REGARDING STORE GIFT CARDS

If you buy gift cards from a display rack that has various store cards, you may become a victim of theft. Crooks are now jotting down the card numbers in the store and then waiting a few days and calling to see how much of a balance THEY have on the card. Once they find the card is "activated", they then go-online and start shopping.

You may want to purchase your gift cards from a customer-service person, where they do not have the gift cards viewable to the public.

#### SERIOUS CHANGES IN FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

The sidewalk in front of the Hecht's site and the Metro entrance has been closed for demolition of the old  
Page 4 March Newsletter

department store. Both the sidewalk and Metro entrance will remain shut until the entire project is completed in about two years. By that time, the Metro entrance will have a roof and Wisconsin Avenue will have an additional southbound lane and a new median with trees.

The Metro buses are again operating out of the open-air terminal off of Wisconsin Circle, in accordance with long established plans. County Ride-On buses are also there.

## A POWER OUTAGE COULD HAPPEN

Pick up the phone and call Pepco! Call 1877-PEPCO62 and let them know. It's an annoying automated answering machine, but if you don't call, they won't know the extent of the outage.

How to prepare for a power outage:

- Have flashlights, fresh batteries, a battery-powered radio and/or television set and batter-powered clock.
- If you use candles, never leave them unattended and make sure children and pets do not knock them over.
- Store blankets and sleeping bags.
- Close drapes at night. Keep them open during the day.
- Have a first-aid kit and a supply of prescription drugs.

## B-CC AMONG TOP PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE NATION

Our neighborhood high school, Bethesda-Chevy Chase (B-CC), ranks 34<sup>th</sup> among public high schools in the country, according to the May 8, 2006 issue of Newsweek magazine. The ranking is based on the number of Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) tests taken by students at a school, divided by the number of graduating seniors. According to the magazine, the list "recognizes schools that do the best job of preparing average students for college."

Did you know?

- The class of 2006 had a graduation rate of 98.9 percent
- 75 percent of the class went to four-year colleges, 20 percent to two-year colleges;
- Among County public schools, B-CC has the highest percentage of students enrolled in at least one honors course (92 percent);
- B-CC remains one of the most ethnically and economically diverse schools in the County. Students come from more than 55 countries and 64% of the students are Caucasian (non-Hispanic), 16% are African American, 14% are Hispanic, and 6% are Asian.
- Enrollment has increased from 1,061 ten years ago to 1703 today, comprising Seniors - 439; Juniors - 439; Sophomores - 427; Freshmen - 398
- The school chess team is the reigning State Champion.

- The school fields more than 25 outstanding sports teams. The B-CC Girls Field Hockey team coached by legendary Amy Wood reached the state final in 2006 for the 12th time in 13 years, having won a total of 11 state titles including 9 in succession. The Boys basketball are the ranked No. 18 in the area in a recent Washington *Post* Top 20 list.

#### CRIME ALERT

During the first week of January there was an attempted break-in on Pomander Lane in Rollingwood. The attempt was not successful.

#### WEB SITE

The section's website is being maintained and further developed with the assistance of student interns from B-CC High School's Media and IT Department. Working a few hours a month, the site's content and functionality will be continue to be improved throughout the year. Details are posted on the website. Please check out the site and give us your feedback.

Thus far roughly half of the houses in the Section are subscribed to the discussion group. The purpose of the group is to facilitate interaction between the residents, Council and village Manager on subjects of interest/concern to the community.

You can subscribe or unsubscribe on the site [www.chevychasection5.org](http://www.chevychasection5.org) or directly at

<http://groups.google.com/group/chevychasection5>

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Andrew Smith, Chairman; Ira Rosenbaum, Vice-Chairman; Margy Abbott, Treasurer; Farooq Hussain, Secretary; Peter Gray, Building Inspector.