

Noise Control Ordinance



TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
MAY 11, 2010

Background of Noise Control



- Residents across Town expressed a dissatisfaction with the amount of noise within boundaries.
- The Town wants to maintain the peaceful, quiet nature of the community while respecting lawn care needs.
- Town Council tasked the Environment Committee to conduct research on how to address the issue.
- Committee and staff found that one cause of noise was landscape equipment (lawnmowers, leaf blowers, etc.).
- Met with residents and County officials to look at possible next steps.

Background, cont.



- Discovered that limiting hours of operation would be more effective than further restricting decibel levels.
- Montgomery County Noise Control Ordinance applies in the Town, which regulates decibel levels.
- Town Council held public hearing on proposed ordinance which has support of many Town residents.
- Council passed Noise Ordinance and became effective March 20, 2010.

Town Noise Control Ordinance- Quiet Hours



Weekdays:

CONSTRUCTION WORK	LANDSCAPE WORK
QUIET HOURS 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. No construction activities No horns, back-up beepers, unless for emergency	QUIET HOURS 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Limited to non-powered tools, unless for emergency No horns, back-up beepers, unless for emergency
7:00 a.m. Construction activities may begin	8:00 a.m. Landscape activities using power equipment may begin
WORK HOURS 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m	WORK HOURS 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m
7:00 p.m. Construction activities must end	7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. One piece of powered landscape equipment allowed

Town Noise Control Ordinance- Quiet Hours



Weekends and Federal Holidays:

CONSTRUCTION WORK	LANDSCAPE WORK
<p>QUIET HOURS 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. No construction activities No horns, back-up beepers, unless for emergency</p>	<p>QUIET HOURS 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. Limited to non-powered tools, unless for emergency No horns, back-up beepers, unless for emergency</p>
<p>9:00 a.m. Construction activities may begin</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Landscape activities using power equipment may begin</p>
<p>WORK HOURS 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>WORK HOURS 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>7:00 p.m. Construction activities must end</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Landscape activities using power equipment must end</p>

County Noise Ordinance



- **During Town Quiet Hours, the acceptable noise levels outlined in the County Noise Ordinance still apply:**
 - The maximum allowable noise level at a receiving property line is 65 dBA.
 - Leaf blowers may not exceed 70 dBA at a distance of 50 feet at anytime.

Education Efforts with Residents



- Residents have been informed of the new regulation using various means:
 - Town meetings
 - Monthly newsletter articles
 - Listserv messages
 - Special mailings
- Noise complaint forms were made available to each household and can be downloaded on the Town website.
- Town staff will follow up on all noise complaints.

Penalties/Fines



- Citations will be issued to repeat offenders. A citation will be issued if a police officer witnesses a violation and/or if the Town receives written complaints from at least 2 witnesses, who are not residents at the same address, of a noise disturbance. Two complaints verify that there was in fact a violation of the noise ordinance.
- The person in violation of the noise control ordinance could be issued a warning instead of a fine if the Town does not receive two written complaints.
- The contractor and/or the homeowner(s) will be responsible for paying the fines.
- Any person or persons guilty of this municipal infraction can be fined the following amounts:
 1. First violation \$200.00
 2. Second violation \$400.00
 3. Third violation \$1,000.00

QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU FOR COMING!

Noise Pledge



PLEDGE to be NOISE RESPONSIBLE- *This information will be posted on the Town of Chevy Chase website to enable residents to choose Landscape contractors who are committed to being Noise Responsible.*

Business Name:

pledges to make a special effort to decrease noise as we work in the Town of Chevy Chase (TOCC) Owners and/or employees will :
(Check all of the actions listed below that you commit to doing.)

_____ Know and meet all requirements of the Montgomery County and TOCC Noise Ordinances.

_____ Train all employees on a continuing and consistent basis to know and meet all County and TOCC Noise Ordinance requirements.

_____ Insure that all leaf blowers my company uses do not exceed 70dBA (A-weighted decibels) at a distance of 50 feet. (The standard required by the County Noise Ordinance.)

_____ Make ALL employees aware that residents of the Town are concerned about excessive noise, and greatly appreciate efforts they can make to WORK QUIETLY.

Noise Pledge, cont.



IN ADDITION, we also pledge to take the following steps to reduce noise:

- _____ Operate no more than 2 lawnmowers and leaf blowers at the same location.
- _____ Use the lowest possible leaf blower throttle speed to do the job.
- _____ Use nozzle attachments that help reduce sound (see your operator's manual.)
- _____ Regularly check condition of the leaf blower muffler, air intakes and air filter.
- _____ Purchase and use sound-reduced blowers when upgrading equipment. (Blowers are now available that are as much as 75% quieter than older blowers, and work at decibel levels below the County standards.)
- _____ Use electric rather than gas lawnmowers, leaf blowers, trimmers. (Ask owners if you may use their outdoor outlets.)
- _____ Work with manual instead of powered tools whenever possible. (Rakes, clippers, etc.)

Signed: _____

Owner or Owner's representative

Date: _____

Business Address:

Business Phone/Email
