



Washington Grove Town Bulletin

February 17, 1999

Council Notes

The next meeting will be Monday, March 8, 7:30 p.m., M^cCathran Hall.
The public is invited to attend.

Phil Andrews Invited to Address Council -- County Council member Phil Andrews will address the Council beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 8. Phil represents District 3 which includes Washington Grove.

Enforcement of Town Ordinances -- Following an inquiry by a representative of the commercial corner, the Town Attorney, William J. Roberts, advised the Mayor and Council that, with the recent closing of the meat market in the commercial corner, such use may not be continued by a new tenant. In addition, since the catering business was allowed only as an ancillary use to an operating meat market, that use may no longer continue under Town ordinances. The attorney has notified owners of the corner and the catering business.

Planning Commission

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 pm, Town Hall. Note that this is a change from the regular meeting schedule.

Grove Web Site Debuts

Grove Webmasters Allan Janus and George Paine have the Town's web site up and running. Sailor, Maryland's Online Public Information Network, provides free web site hosting services to Maryland's local governments. The Grove web site may be reached at:
sailor.lib.md.us/washgrov/

Board of Zoning Appeals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE
Date: March 24, 1999
Place: M^cCathran Hall
Time: 7:30 PM

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 12.32 and 11.31 of the Washington Grove Code of Ordinances, a public hearing will be held to determine if a variance should be granted to allow the construction of a fireplace/chimney on the western side of the Murphy residence at 203 2nd Avenue.

The construction of the chimney violates the setback requirements of Article VII, Section 9. Schedule of Standards.

The Board may grant a variance if the Board finds on the basis of preponderance of evidence that the seven conditions as presented in Article VII, Section 12.2(a) exist.

The Board will take written and oral testimony from the applicant, residents or other interested parties in advance of, or at the public hearing. The Board will render its decision as soon thereafter as practical.

Voter Registration

To vote in Town elections, you must be currently registered to vote with Montgomery County at an address in Washington Grove. To verify your registration with the County, please call County Voter Registration Information at (301) 217-8683 or visit their web site at <http://www.co.mo.md.us/services/elections/>. If you need to register, please call them soon so you will be eligible to vote at Town elections and at Town Meeting on Saturday, June 12.

Town Elections

Persons may be nominated for elective office in the Town by filing a certificate of nomination on or before the second Monday in April with the chairman of the Supervisors of Elections, Mary Kay DuBois, 119 Maple Avenue, 301-926-8941. The certificate of nomination must be in writing and signed by at least two qualified voters of the Town. No person may file for nomination to more than one elective Town public office. All nominees must be qualified voters of the Town. Councilors must have resided in the Town for at least one year immediately preceding the election. The Mayor must have resided in the Town for at least two years immediately preceding the election. The following terms expire in June:

- Mayor -- 1-year term
- Town Councilor -- 3-year term
- Town Councilor -- 3-year term

Think Spring! Two Special Collections Planned

- Wednesday, March 31
- Wednesday, April 28

Collection may include furniture, appliances (but not those with Freon), rugs, large toys, small auto parts, etc. Materials may not include construction by-products, large automotive parts, or tires. Items must be placed curbside.

Income Tax Reminder

Remember to fill in "Washington Grove" under "City, Town or Taxing Area" on your Maryland tax return. This does not increase your taxes, but does help ensure that the Town receives its proper share of local income tax revenue.

Semiannual Property Tax Payment Plan Available

Taxpayers may choose to pay their property taxes in semiannual payments. The semiannual plan applies only to those properties designated as "owner-occupied" and only to the Direct Tax (*ad valorem*) part of the tax bill. Instructions will be included with the Town tax bill in July, however you must notify your mortgage company 60 days before July 1 if you choose the semiannual plan.

Spring Leaf Collection

U.S. LAWNS will make two service visits during the last two weeks of March, weather permitting.

Town Walkways and Parking (4th Avenue and Wade Park)

The Town is well underway with its project to regravel walkways in need of resurfacing and to clarify, to some extent, our walkways as public pedestrian throughways.

4th Avenue between Acorn Lane and M^cCauley Street: We expect to work on this portion of 4th Avenue within the coming month. We will replace gravel on the walkway and widen it where safely possible by reducing the depth (not the number) of some parking spaces.

Wade Park (at the signed entrance to Wade Park): Four parallel parking spaces will be maintained in this area. Shrubs and/or other plantings will be installed to eliminate end-in parking intrusion into the park. As the weather warms up, a short, flat macadam-type walk will be put down to indicate the entrance to the park. We hope that cars will park clear of this walk when completed.

Building Permits

If you are going to erect a building or structure (including fences), make structural alterations to, or move any existing building or other structure, you must first obtain a building permit from the Washington Grove Planning Commission. The Town zoning ordinance governs setbacks, lot coverage, and height. Applications are available at the Town Office at 301-926-2256. Please allow at least 10 days for review by the Commission. Call John M^cClelland at 301-963-3328 if you have questions about zoning code requirements. Interior renovations which involve electrical, plumbing, or load-bearing changes generally require a County permit. County Building Permit information is available online at <http://www.co.mo.md.us/services/permitting/bc/nfbp.htm>. All applications for County-required building permits must first be signed off by the Town.

Building Permits Issued

- Clark, 402 Grove Avenue, porch and room
- M^cConnell, 17051 Railroad Street, new house
- Seymour, 506 Brown Street, fence

Hazardous Materials Disposal

Sunday, March 7 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Shady Grove Transfer Station.

Lake Committee

The first meeting to plan the 1999 summer season will be held on Wednesday, February 24, in the M^cCathran Hall Council Room at 7:30 p.m. For information call Sharon Hurst at 301-948-2424.

Moms Club

Tuesday, March 2 -- 10 a.m. at M^cCathran Hall. Please call Martha Crews at 301-527-8273 to sign up.

Her Business is Picking Up! Kudos to Jean!

The Town would like to thank Jean Potmesil of the Town maintenance staff for her hard work and dedication to keeping Washington Grove beautiful. Jean has spent endless hours filling large plastic bags with trash and litter from along Railroad Street and Washington Grove Lane. Her diligence in this task is greatly appreciated. It helps the Town look good and worth coming home to. Grove residents are reminded that if they see litter they too can pitch in and help make the Grove a place in which we can all be proud to live.

Attention residents, taxpayers, visitors . . .

New Asphalt Tennis Court a Welcome Addition After enduring a crumbling asphalt tennis court for many years, the hard court was resurfaced this past fall using a stone dust/multiple layer asphalt overlay process. After considerable research, this approach was recommended and the project was supervised by a tennis court consultant. Competitive bids were sought and the court was resurfaced at a cost of \$14,580. With proper care and maintenance, the Town hopes to have this court last for many years. We need your help. Please treat the tennis courts with respect. They are for tennis only. Recent rollerblading and tricycling has marred and damaged the new surface. Please use the multi-purpose black-top basketball court for rollerblading etc. If folks are using the courts inappropriately, your help in reminding them would be appreciated! Clay courts are closed til further notice.

TENNIS COURTS ARE FOR TENNIS ONLY
NOT for roller blades, tricycles, OR WHEELS OF ANY KIND

Time Capsule

The Town is looking for suggestions and contributions of items of significance to be placed into a "time capsule" which will be included as part of our 125th year celebration in the new maintenance building addition. Suggestions, contributions or questions can be directed to Town Councilors, Dave Gumula at 301-869-5118 (email banddgumula@erols.com) or Chris Pacchione at 301-963-7787.

"Spring Cleaning?"

Woman's Club Yard Sale Remember the annual yard sale to benefit the Woman's Club when you do your "spring cleaning". The sale will be held on Saturday, June 12. If you have items to part with now (no clothing please), call Mary Kay DuBois at 301-926-8941 or Kitty Vogan at 301-840-9416.

Recreation Committee Meeting

Please come to a meeting on Thursday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Room at M^cCathran Hall. Topics will include the April 18 petting zoo, Music Weekend, and the Millennium party planned for December 31, 1999.

Woman's Club Meeting -- Thursday, March 18

POTTERY DEMONSTRATION program: home/studio of potter Virginia Crim 203 Bryan Avenue, Gaithersburg, 7:30 p.m. (Carpool from Kathi Higdon's) refreshments/meeting: home of Kathi Higdon 103 Brown Street, Washington Grove, following the program

Rent the Woman's Clubhouse! -- Planning a surprise birthday bash, family reunion, graduation gala, wedding reception, small retreat or business meeting? For information and reservations call Kitty Vogan at 301-840-9416 or Brenda Gumula at 301-869-5118.

Summer in the Parks 1999

Come to an organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 9 at Joli M^cCathran's, 2 Circle, at 7:30 p.m. to help plan the Town's summer program for children ages 4-11. This relaxed program of creative projects, sports, nature activities, and fun at the lake meets at M^cCathran Hall. The program runs from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for four weeks in July. Resident fees are \$70 for the first child, \$55 for a second, and \$40 for a third child in the same family. For more information call Joli at 301-869-5358.

Photos Sought for Grove History

Phil Edwards is looking for pictures from the era 1937-1987 to include in the second volume of the Grove history. Of special interest are:

- Events in or outside of the auditorium.
- The first 4th of July with the tractor (1955?).
- Early Maple Lake, before the berm had grass.
- Early Maple Lake island, with trees.
- Waiting room and outhouse at the tracks.
- Any Mayors or councilmen together in action or group poses.
- Aitchison Crossing before signals.
- Hershey's, Bowling's, Reck's, Whisman's, the OK Grill, other early commercial corner.

Originals will be carefully handled, copied, and returned, but lender beware! Photos may be left for Phil at the Town Office.

Apples for the Students Plus

Just clip and save the bottom portion of your Giant Food receipt tapes. Receipts collected by [Washington Grove Elementary School](#) will be exchanged for computers, books, microscopes and other educational tools. Receipts may be brought to the Town Office or taken directly to the school. Program ends March 1, 1999.

Dramatic Changes on Washington Grove Lane

The City of Gaithersburg just completed a traffic survey of vehicles using Washington Grove Lane after the addition of the traffic-calming speed humps and the changes are dramatic. The survey showed that southbound traffic (Mid-County Highway to the Washington Grove Post Office) slowed from an average of 45 mph to 30 mph (the posted speed limit) while the number of vehicles using the road dropped 15% from about 5,200 to 4,400 vehicles per day. The northbound traffic slowed to 30 mph from an average of 40 mph while the number of vehicles dropped almost 12% from 5,700 to 5,000 vehicles per day. The Town would like to thank the City of Gaithersburg for conducting the survey.

Breakfast to Welcome Newcomers

Saturday, March 20 M^cCathran Hall, 8:30 a.m. Haul out of bed, bring breakfast food to share, and help to give a rousing Grove welcome to the new folks who have joined us over the last couple of years. The Mayor and Council members will be donning aprons to flip pancakes. Coffee, juice, pancakes and table service provided. Children especially welcome!

AUCTION UPDATE

Saturday, March 27
M^cCathran Hall
7:30 PM

Volunteers have begun gathering great goods and services from Grove residents and area businesses. Just a few of the items already donated include an antique pocket watch, an airplane ride, acupuncture, a massage, and Grove memorabilia.

Proceeds will go to a supplementary fund for students at [Washington Grove Elementary](#) and La Escuela Primaria de Fundacion in the Dominican Republic.

If you have something to donate, please call Missy Yachup (947-4159), Mary Kay DuBois (926-8941), Diana Talbert (926-5283), or Doris Gordon (926-8603).

Grove auctions are not to be missed, so mark your calendar, invite some friends and plan to attend.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

The Town's 125th Committee is planning a "Roaring 70s" baseball game to cap the year's celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Town. The game will be played using rules from 1873. The committee needs team managers and players and, of course, other volunteers to support the superb players in their valiant efforts to vanquish the opponent. Please contact Dave Gumula (email banddgumula@erols.com), Chris Pacchione or the Town office (email washgrove@erols.com) to express your interest in playing.

Prowler Spotted

On Friday evening, February 5, a prowler was spotted along Grove Avenue and police were called. Be certain that windows and doors are securely locked and report any suspicious activity immediately to the police by calling 911.

Public Safety Committee to Meet

If you have an interest in public safety or ideas you feel would improve safety in the Grove, please join Councilor Allen Winter at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 28 in the M^cCathran Hall Council Room.

Help Wanted

Planning Commission Secretary Needed

This is an urgent plea to fill the job of Secretary for the Town's Planning Commission. The seven-member Commission meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. The secretary is responsible for taking the minutes and preparing them for approval the following month. Kudos to Mary Kay DuBois who has served the Town admirably in this capacity for several years! If you are interested in this job, please call the Town Office at 301-926-2256 (email washgrove@erols.com) as soon as possible.

Town Choir Director Sought

A huge hole is waiting to be filled. When Grove Singers director Kathy Lehman announced her retirement after 17 (count em!) years, the Town met this news with a combination of incredible gratitude for those 17 years but also a sense of loss. Those who appreciate the Grove's musical tradition, singers and listeners, would like to continue the musical bond that Kathy worked so hard to build. If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested in directing the Grove Singers, please call the Town Office at 301-926-2256 (email washgrove@erols.com) or Alice Negin at 301-926-2858.