



# Washington Grove Town Bulletin

May 18, 2000

## Council Notes

The next meeting will be Monday, July 10, 7:30 p.m., M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall. The public is invited to attend. May Council actions included:

- approved Mayor's appointment of Bob DeFilippis to the Local Fire Board
- amended conditions attached to an application for rezoning of the WSSC parcel to approve four houses rather than five
- awarded 3-year contract for refuse and recycling to Waste Management
- accepted the [Tree Advisory Committee Report](#)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
Amending Conditions to Rezoning Request  
to Allow  
Construction of Four Houses on WSSC Parcel**

**Date: Monday, June 5  
Place: M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall  
Time: 7:30 p.m.**

At its May meeting, the Town Council voted to amend the conditions attached to a developer's request to have the WSSC property rezoned. The developer has requested that the Town rezone the property from RR-3 to RR-1C. This would allow the developer to construct five houses instead of the three allowed under current zoning. Conditions on the rezoning include prior Planning Commission approval of the design, size, configuration and placement of all buildings to be erected on the property. The Council voted to seek a compromise to permit four houses to be constructed with conditions attached. The developer's agreement to this amendment will be sought. **Action on the rezoning application is anticipated at the Council meeting immediately following the public hearing.**

## Special Council Meeting

Monday, June 5, 7:30 p.m., M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall, to take action on the proposed annexation of Washington Grove Hills and the application to rezone the WSSC parcel from RR-3 to RR-1C. (See above)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
PROPOSED ANNEXATION**

**Date: Tuesday, May 30**  
**Place: M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall**  
**Time: 7:30 p.m.**

The Town Council will take public comment on Resolution No. 2000-06, proposing annexation of approximately 13.55 acres of land including the Washington Grove Hills subdivision, Parcel 238, Parcel 303, and the Ridge Road right of way extending approximately 1,444 feet from its end at Bounding Bend Court to Washington Grove corporate limit. Resolution No. 2000-06 provides that the Town extend its services to the annexed properties beginning on the first day of the month following the date the annexation becomes effective, that any use or structure within the annexed property lawfully existing pursuant to the provisions of the Montgomery County Code at the effective date of the annexation which may not comply with the requirements of the zone assigned to the annexed property by the Town Council may continue as a lawful non-conforming use or non-complying structure pursuant to the provisions of Section 5, Article VII of the Code of Ordinances of the Town, and that the annexed properties will be subject to the Town of Washington Grove municipal taxes and annual dwelling fee for fiscal year 2000-2001, prorated from the date annexation becomes effective. The proposed annexation would include Ordinance No. 2000-07 classifying the property in the Town's RR-4 Zone (residential, one family, minimum lot size 18,000 square feet).

## **Town Meeting**

The annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 10, at 8 p.m. in M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall. Party to follow! Annual Council reports highlighting activities of the past year and plans for next year will be available at the Town Office beginning June 5.

## **Planning Commission**

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 6, 7:30 p.m., M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall.

## **Building Permits Issued**

- none to report

## **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 240-777-8683. 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 10.

## **Town Elections**

Town elections will be held on Saturday, June 10, from 4-7 p.m. at M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall. The nominees are:

- Mayor (1-year term): John Compton
- Council (3-year term): Darrell Anderson
- Council (3-year term): Nick Suzich

## **Council Recommends FY2001 Budget**

The Town's anticipated income and recommended expenditures for the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001) are included on the attached Town Budget summary. **No increase in the real property tax rate or the dwelling tax is recommended.** The FY2001 budget is a major focus for the June 10 Town Meeting. Questions, explanations and discussion of budget items by the Town are important to set the course for the coming year. If you have questions about this budget before the Town Meeting or would like a copy of the budget detail, call the Mayor, a Council member, or leave a message on the Town answering machine (301-926-2256)

## **PARTY! PARTY! PARTY!**

After Town Meeting on Saturday, June 10, join Town friends and neighbors in toasting outgoing Town officials and meeting new ones. Stay on and party after the meeting!

## **Special Council Meeting**

Monday, June 19, 7:30 p.m., M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall, to swear in new Councilors, authorize year-end financial transfers, and finalize Council assignments.

## **Town Office Closed**

The Town Office will be closed from Monday, May 22 - Monday, May 29. In case of emergency, call Mayor John Compton at 301-330-8264 or the appropriate Councilor. See the first page of the Woman's Club Town Directory for Council areas of responsibility.

We want to hear from you . .

### **FUTURE OF COMMERCIAL ZONE**

#### **Joint Town Council/Planning Commission Meeting**

**Monday, June 26**

**M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall, 7:30 p.m.**

For years the Town has devoted a lot of volunteer time and financial resources to our small local commercial zone. The goal has been to facilitate commercial activities with minimal negative impact on the neighbors. In addition, the Town's Master Plan goals seek "an attractive and inviting entrance to the Town" and continuation of "a local post office which functions as one of the focal points for the community." Towards this end, the Town has been exploring ways to encourage renovation and compatible uses in the zone. An option under discussion is to re-zone the property with conditions to achieve mutually beneficial goals, including exterior remodeling and construction of a new façade. With the owner's cooperation, we are considering replacing the "commercial" zone with a "professional office buffer" zone with uses and standards acceptable to all existing businesses, and including enforcement provisions. Negotiated conditions to be attached to the re-zoning would include specific renovation plans and timetable. Architectural renderings of the proposed

façade will soon be on view at the Town Office for anyone interested, but the Town encourages architects, especially, who may wish to comment. A reminder: the public hearing record on the Planning Commission proposal to clarify and expand commercial zone uses remains open until June 4 for those who wish to submit written comment. Comments may be mailed to P.O. Box 216 or dropped off at the Town Office.

## **MAPLE LAKE NEWS**

### **New Lake combination numbers**

Thank you to all the tireless volunteers who helped at Lake Clean up on April 28th. As usual, a great job was done and we'll soon be ready for the new swimming season. Our dredging contractor speedily removed the pile of mud, and the sand has been delivered and spread on the beach and in the shallow end. The very bad algae bloom will be treated as soon as the water level returns to full depth. The combination lock number has been changed as of May 9th. Please call Sharon Hurst at 301-948-2424, Dodie Tippens at 301-869-1682, or Barbara Winter at 301-926-1839 for the new number.

### **Maple Lake Opens for Season**

Maple Lake will open for swimming on Saturday, May 27 and will be open weekends through Sunday, June 11, with a lifeguard present from noon to 5 p.m. Beginning Thursday, June 15, the lake will be open daily through Labor Day with a lifeguard present from noon to 5 p.m.

The next Lake Committee meeting will be held at the Lake on Tuesday, May 23 at 7 p.m. In case of rain, we'll be in M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall.

### **Swimming Lessons**

Lessons will begin Monday, July 3 and end Friday, July 28. Please fill out a registration form (available at Town Office) and return it to Sharon Hurst, P.O. Box 336. You may sign your children up even if you will be away part of the month. Lessons are free to Grove residents.

### **Summer-in-the-Parks Sign-Up Extended to May 31**

This relaxed program of creative projects, sports, nature activities, and fun at the lake for children ages 4 through 11, meets at M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for four weeks, beginning Monday, July 3. To ensure a place for your child, send the enrollment form along with the registration fee, to Nancy M<sup>c</sup>Cullough, P.O. Box 102, by May 31. Please make out checks to "Town of Washington Grove". Resident fees are \$80 for the first child, \$65 for a second, and \$50 for a third child in the same family. Call Karen Kelly at 301-987-9529 for more information. Enrollment forms and program guidelines are available at the Town Office. Applications will not be accepted after May 31.

### **ATTENTION ALL TENNIS PLAYERS!**

Tennis lessons will again be offered during the month of July for both children and adults. Our instructor this year is Grove resident Linda Baim. Classes for children will be scheduled around

swim lessons for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings beginning July 5-28 (except for July 14). Adult classes will be held from 6-8 p.m. as follows:

WTh (7/5-6)  
M-W (7/10-12)  
M-W (7/17-19)  
MT (7/24-25)

Cost of lessons for both children and adults is \$35. To register, call Barb Leng or sign up during the Baroque Breakfast on June 18.

## **Hazardous Materials Disposal**

Sunday, June 4  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Shady Grove Transfer Station

## **MUSIC WEEKEND**

Friday, June 16 -- M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall, 8:00 p.m.  
GROVE SINGERS PLUS . . a variety of vocal and instrumental performances

Saturday, June 17 -- Gazebo, 8-10 p.m.  
CRITTON HOLLOW Bring a picnic to enjoy before the concert! (If rain, held at M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall)

Sunday, June 18 -- Gazebo, 10:30 a.m.  
BAROQUE BREAKFAST TRIO Bring a breakfast goodie to share. Beverages and table service provided. (If rain, held at M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall)

## **Fourth of July Festivities**

The much-loved hot dog picnic will happen again this year thanks to Nick and JoAnn Suzich who have stepped forward to coordinate the event. If you can help to purchase supplies, would like to help cook or assist with set up or clean up, please call the Suzich's at 301-869-9638.

## **Muskrat Band Needs You!**

If you play a band instrument and would like to march with the Muskrat Band in the Washington Grove July 4 parade, call Eric Selby at 301-963-7073.

## **Scheduling M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall**

Planning a SPECIAL EVENT, Town Activity, committee meeting, public function? Please call Jenny Long (301-869-3824) to get your EVENT, ACTIVITY, meeting, or function on the MONTHLY CALENDAR for M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall. Jenny is now the POINT OF CONTACT (Scheduler) for ALL M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall use/rentals.

Please mail contracts and checks to:  
Jenny Long  
P.O. Box 732  
Washington Grove, MD 20880-0732

Looking forward to working with you, and scheduling your events in M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall.

## **Special Trash Collection**

Wednesday, June 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.

## **. . . a little MADNESS in the Spring . . .**

Woman's Club Flower Show 2000  
Sunday, May 21  
The Woman's Club  
Chestnut Road and Miller Drive  
12:30 to 4:00 p.m.

free admission, door prize, refreshments

## **New Grove Tee Shirts Debut at May Flower Show**

Beautiful new tee shirts will be available at the Woman's Club Flower Show on May 21. Adult shirts are \$15; Children's shirts are \$10.

## **DON'T MISS . . .**

### **Annual Woman's Club Yard/Bake Sale**

Saturday, June 3, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Clubhouse, Chestnut Road and Miller Drive

Come and enjoy one of the Grove's biggest social events! Delicious baked goods and innumerable treasures! Donated items may be left on the Clubhouse porch or a volunteer will be at the Clubhouse to accept items May 30 through June 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. If you have time to help with the sale which benefits Woman's Club projects, please call Kitty Vogan at 301-840-9416.

**WE LOVE YOUR DOGS, BUT PLEASE DO NOT BRING DOGS TO THE YARD SALE!!**

## **Woman's Club Meeting**

Thursday, June 15

At the Woman's Clubhouse, 7:30 p.m., Chestnut Road and Miller Drive

## PRAIRIE TALK

Pete Kollasch will speak about the Midwestern prairie and show slides of wildflowers.

## Mixed Paper Recycling Coming to Town July 1

The Town begins a new contract with Waste Management in July and mixed paper is added to the new contract. In addition to newspaper, other mixed paper should be put in paper bags and/or small boxes at roadside:

- Magazines
- Corrugated cardboard
- Cereal and other boxes
- Telephone books
- Computer and office paper
- Newspaper inserts
- Unwanted mail
- Paperback books
- All other clean and dry paper

All empty cardboard boxes will be flattened and tied with twine in a bundle not larger than 3 feet by 3 feet and not thicker than 6 inches in height for each bundle. Grove residents are strongly encouraged to participate in this effort to meet recycling goals.

## Town Information

Office/Clerk-Treasurer

Phone: 301-926-2256  
Fax: 301-926-0111  
Email: [washgrove@erols.com](mailto:washgrove@erols.com)  
Web: [www.washgrove.sailorsite.net](http://www.washgrove.sailorsite.net)  
Mail: P.O. Box 216  
Washington Grove, MD 20880-0216  
Town Hall: Center Street & Chestnut Road  
Washington Grove  
Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Closed Wednesday mornings  
M<sup>c</sup>Cathran Hall Scheduler Jenny Long  
301-869-3824  
Maintenance 301-963-5850  
County Animal Control 301-279-1066

## Rent the Woman's Clubhouse!

Planning a surprise birthday bash, family reunion, graduation gala, wedding reception, planning session or business meeting . . . consider the charming wooded setting, spacious main room, screened porch, kitchen and restroom facilities of the Woman's Club House. For information or reservations call Kitty Vogan at 301-840-9416. **Heat and air conditioning!!**

## Town Directory

Published by the Woman's Club, directories are available for \$4 from the Town Office or Mary Kay DuBois at 301-926-8941.

## Watering Help Asked for Arbor Day White Oaks

Twenty-five new white oak trees were planted around Town as part of the Arbor Day celebration. If you are willing to adopt one, please do so. Questions may be directed to Carol Uhlendorf at 301-926-1933.

## Eastern Tent Caterpillar

Webs of the eastern tent caterpillar are a common sight in spring wherever wild cherry trees are abundant. The unsightly webs in the forks of trees are an early sign of this insect's presence. The caterpillars hide in the webs at night and feed among the leaves during the day. During the dormant season twigs with egg masses can be pruned out and destroyed. If chemical control is essential, use B.t. as soon as the silk tents are observed in early spring.

## Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

This County agency helps seniors and disabled citizens to understand and manage their medical insurance. SHIP provides free counseling on Medicare, Medigap, and Long Term Care insurance but also, when necessary, helps seniors and disabled citizens to file medical insurance claims and appeals. Counseling is available at many locations including Gaithersburg Regional Library and the Gaithersburg Senior Center. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 301-590-2819.

## Before Planting on Public Property Please Call

Though planting on and caring for public property in the Grove has long been encouraged, approval must be obtained first. The Forestry Committee has begun a multi-year tree planting program and consideration has been given to placement, species and maintenance requirements.

**Before you plant, trim or remove plant material, please call the Forestry Councilor or the Mayor to get a go-ahead.**

## Kudos!

- To Charlie Hawk for representing Washington Grove on the local fire board
- To Karen Kelly, Clare Cavicchi and Tom Appleby for adopting barrels and planting flowers
- To Kathie Evans for devising the Hall Scheduler position and for organizing hall coordinators
- To Joli M<sup>c</sup>Cathran and the Tree Advisory Committee for their extensive examination of the Town's residential area trees and forest and their [report with suggestions for the future](#)

## 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 McClelland 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. All applications for County-required building permits must **first** be signed off by the Town.

## **Warm Weather Crime Alert**

A stolen lawnmower and attempted car theft have recently been reported. Please call 911 if you see suspicious behavior and report crimes to the police and public safety Councilor Chris Pacchione at 301-963-7787.

## **Humpback Bridge to Close for Repairs**

County has instituted a partial closure of the B&O bridge pending repairs. The bridge will be completely closed from June 1 through early September for deck replacement and major rehabilitation.

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## **Protecting Historic Property**

Our little town of cottages nestled under big trees faces a threat not anticipated years ago. As development spreads around us, land values have increased to the point where our historic structures are threatened. Although the Town possesses a zoning authority, there is nothing to keep historic structures from being destroyed by large tear-downs or remodeling projects. Two structures may be razed and their large lots subdivided in the near future.

The Town is listed on the National Register of Historic Places but this designation affords little protection. At the time the Town sought and obtained inclusion in the National Register, some thought was given to the matter of protecting our own resources (like Gaithersburg and Rockville). An alternative scenario would be to join the County Historic Preservation Commission.

Rather than allow a county-wide oversight committee or add to our own code of ordinances by creating a formal body for historic protection, we chose to establish a Heritage Committee to raise Town residents' awareness of the issues and opportunities associated with our historic status.

Circumstances change, however, and it is time to reexamine the model we have chosen to protect our historic status. We have already lost several historic structures. The Town has no review process for the destruction of historic property. In fact, we are the country's only municipality listed on the National Register to lack an enabling ordinance for historic preservation.

The simplest and least intrusive measure would be to require a demolition permit for historic structures (those listed on the National Register as historic structures in Town). A permitting and review process for demolitions would allow time for alternatives to be considered, or at least to

ensure that significant aspects of our cultural heritage are recorded (through photos or drawings) before being lost. It might also allow an opportunity to encourage the reuse of architecturally significant components that might otherwise be lost when a structure is torn down or burned by the Fire Department.

We ask the Mayor and Council to take the first step in considering this matter by placing it on the agenda of this year's Town Meeting and then to take steps to enact protection of Town historic properties - so that we can survive as a historic town.

-- George Paine and Kristin Perry