



Town Bulletin

OCTOBER 2001

Town Council Notes

Next meeting: Monday, November 12, 7:30 p.m., McCathran Hall.

The public is invited to attend. September/October Council actions included:

- approved reappointment of **Bob Evans** to Planning Commission
- adopted Ordinance No. 2001-04 Establishing a Historic Preservation Commission and Clarifying Existing Building Permit Regulations
- adopted Resolution No. 2001-05 Endorsing Master Plan Guidelines for Town's Eastern Boundary

Council Adopts Ordinance Creating Historic Preservation Commission

Following a September 6 public hearing and adoption of several clarifying amendments, the Town Council enacted Ordinance 2001-04 establishing a Historic Preservation Commission at its meeting on October 8. Creation of a Historic Preservation Commission is intended to promote preservation of both the Town's historic character and architecturally significant structures. This ordinance, drafted with the help of Town attorney **Bill Roberts**, creates a Commission with advisory responsibilities.

The Commission will help property owners, the Planning Commission and the Town Council address historic preservation issues by reviewing from a preservation perspective plans submitted for building renovations, demolitions, variances, subdivisions, zoning changes and changes in neighboring jurisdictions. The ordinance does not change the criteria for approving any of these activities, but does require that the Historic Preservation Commission have an opportunity to comment where appropriate.

The ordinance amends the Town Code of Ordinances for the purpose of:

- Establishing a Town Historic Preservation Commission to safeguard the heritage of the Town by encouraging the preservation of the historic nature of the Town and the elements of its cultural, social, economic and architectural history; to stabilize and improve property values; to foster civic duty; to strengthen the Town's economy; and to promote the preservation and appreciation of the historic nature of the Town as a whole and specific sites and structures within the Town for the education and welfare of residents of the Town and others.
- Adopting provisions for the appointment of members of the Historic Preservation Commission, including staggered terms for initial appointments;

- Requiring prior review and comment by the Historic Preservation Commission on applications for certain building permits, variances, special exceptions, subdivision plans, zoning reclassification of property, and revisions to the Town's Master Plan;
- Providing a source and repository of information, expertise and guidance regarding issues of historic preservation within the Town; and
- Clarifying the existing Code of Ordinances to expressly include the demolition of any or all of a structure as requiring a building permit from the Town.

Copies of the entire ordinance including an explanation are available at the Town Office. The ordinance becomes effective 30 days after enactment if no petition for referendum is filed.

Historic Preservation Commission Nominees Sought

Mayor John Compton is looking for a few good women and men to volunteer to serve on the Town's new five-member Historic Preservation Commission. Each member should possess a demonstrated special interest, specific knowledge, or professional or academic training in such fields as history, architecture, architectural history, planning, archeology, anthropology, curation, conservation, landscape architecture, historic preservation, urban design or related disciplines. One member may also be a member of the Planning Commission.

Each member shall be a resident of the Town of Washington Grove and shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the Council. Members will be appointed for a three-year term. For the appointment of the first members of the Commission after adoption of the Ordinance, one member shall be appointed for a one-year term, two members shall be appointed for a two-year term, and two members shall be appointed for a three-year term. As initial terms expire, all subsequent appointments shall be for three years. Please call **Mayor Compton** at 301-330-8264 to volunteer or to suggest a candidate. Specify your preference for a one-, two-, or three-year term. Thanks!

Purchase Your Mousetrap Concert Tickets Now!

Treat yourself and a friend to Mousetrap tickets ? Top caliber performers in an intimate setting -- not to be missed!

Mousetrap Concert Series

McCathran Hall, Sundays, 3:00 p.m.

October 28, 2001: Pro Musica Choral Ensemble

November 18, 2001: Zurab Ninua, Tenor

March 17, 2002: Lumina String Quartet

April 14, 2002: Juliette Kang, violin; Thomas Kraines, cello

Adult tickets: 4 Concert Series (\$50), single concert (\$15)

Children: 4 Concert Series (\$40), (under 12) single concert (\$12.50)

Programs recommended for children only 7 and older. Call **Alice Negin** (301-926-2858) or **Ann Briggs** (301-926-6347). Seating is limited.

Pro Musica Choral Ensemble

Sunday, October 28, McCathran Hall, 3 p.m.

The mixed voice choir from Columbia Union College, under the direction of Dr. James Bingham, appears in major concert halls, cathedrals and churches around the world. Pro Musica opens the 2001-2002 Mousetrap Series with some of the best vocal music of the past three centuries. See ticket information above.

Kids' Halloween Parade and Party

Saturday, October 27, 2-4 p.m.

Costumed children should meet at the playground in Woodward Park. A parade will be followed by treats and games. Those interested in helping should call **JoAnn Suzich** at 301-869-9638 or **Susan van Nostrand** at 301-216-1385. Come watch the parade!

Halloween

Trick-or-Treating, Wednesday, October 31, 6-8 p.m.

Washington Grove Film Society Presents

"Daughters of the Dust" 1992, USA, color, 113 min

Sunday, November 4, McCathran Hall, 7:00 p.m.

In a film that takes place during a single day in 1902, director Julie Dash examines the lives of three generations of women of the Gullah culture living on the gorgeously scenic Sea Islands of South Carolina.

Tickets available at the door for \$7. Call **Birgit Henninger** at 301-670-0146 to purchase a series subscription for \$20.

Labor Day Kudos

Belated but sincere thanks to **Craig English, John Hutchinson, Joli McCathran, Birgit Henninger, Linda Baim, Phil Adams** and all the other volunteers who made the Labor Day weekend so memorable. Congratulations to this year's SUPER GROVE **Molly Debelius**!

A History of the Woman's Club of Washington Grove

This comprehensive history, lovingly compiled by **Sylvia Tate Horan**, is available for \$20. Please call **Kitty Vogan** at 301-840-9416 or copies are available at Town Office.

Leaf Pickup to Begin

New and long-time residents alike are reminded that the town contracts for the removal of leaves in bulk each autumn. U.S. Lawns will make regular but unscheduled pickups of leaves raked or blown into windrows within six feet of any walkway or roadway, excluding Railroad Street, 2nd Avenue, 3rd Avenue, 4th Avenue, 5th Avenue, and Boundary Street. This service begins November 1 and ends January 1, 2002, or as soon thereafter as we agree that the work is complete. This is your opportunity to have leaves removed without the additional work and expense of bagging.

Weather frequently effects this process, as rain can restrict movement of large trucks on the avenues. Also, one or two spectacular fall weekends in November or early December usually see most of us raking at the same time. As the contractor will time pickups based on the availability of full truckloads for vacuuming, if you rake when most other people rake the windrows will probably disappear relatively quickly. If you feel that a particular pile has been ignored for an inordinate amount of time, please call **Nick Suzich** at (301) 869-9638 or, preferably, e-mail at nicksuzich@aol.com.

Please place your windrows with an eye towards traffic visibility and flow, and don't include brush or limbs that foul the vacuum. Happy raking! It's a rite of autumn, particularly in a town graced by so many beautiful deciduous trees.

Planning Commission to Hold Work Session on Master Plan Review

Thursday, October 25, at 7:30 p.m., Council Room

This work session will be held to organize the required six-year review of the Town's Master Plan.

Family Disaster and Emergency Preparedness

Saturday, October 27, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Want to be prepared for any type of emergency, explosion, winter storm, hurricane, hazardous material evacuation or gas leak in your neighborhood? Learn things you and your family can do to be better prepared. Be confident that your family's needs are taken care of in case you and your neighbors are without power or water. Learn how to put together a family plan for community emergencies, how to manage your own utilities, and where to call for help, radio stations to listen to, etc.

Sponsored by the Office of Emergency Management, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service. Location: Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Call Luy Ong at 240-777-2300 for further information or to register by October 24th.

Relax Your Body and Center Your Spirit

Yoga Classes Continue

Come relax your body and center your spirit with yoga classes led by Integral Yoga instructor Terry Strother. Classes are held at McCathran Hall from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday except for October 31 (Halloween) and December 12. Bring a mat and towel or blanket and \$10 in cash or check made out to Town of Washington Grove.

Hazardous Materials Disposal

Sunday, November 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Shady Grove Transfer Station

Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, November 6, 7:30 p.m., Council Room. The public is welcome to attend.

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. The Town must first sign off all applications for County-required building permits.

Building Permits Issued:

- Bailey Thompson LLC, 338 Ridge Road, new house
- Holley Ave Inv Group, 340 Ridge Road, new house
- Neumann, 402 4th Avenue, renovation
- Pacchione, 128 Chestnut Avenue, garage
- Poblete, 334 Ridge Road, addition

Recreation Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 7, 7:30 p.m., Council Room

Rent the Woman's Club House!

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!!

Mom's Club -- Come Sing Along!

The Mom's Club of Great Seneca will host music time for children at McCathran Hall on Wednesdays, October 17 and November 14 at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendars! All Grove children are invited to participate. Please call **Lawren Selby** at 301-963-7073 for more information or if you plan to attend.

Kudos

To the thoughtful organizers and participants in the Candlelight Vigil for victims of the September 11 attack.

To **Rev Patrick Malone** and the Washington Grove United Methodist Church for service to our community.

To the dedicated Casey Field Volunteers, who have created information packets, circulated petitions, conducted tours for public officials, met with planners and politicians and kept the focus on this project of vital importance to Washington Grove.

To super craftsman **Ed Mroczka** for repairing Town Hall doors.

To **Peggy Booher** for using her Spanish-speaking ability and excellent people skills to explain Town rules for using Woodward Park fields.

To **Marida Brinkworth** for the fresh professional new format of the Town Bulletin.

Website Happenings!

Mary Vitek has joined Web Coordinator **Diana Talbert** in helping to keep Grove residents informed via the web. Check out the transportation info link! We are also grateful to **Nathaniel Klinger** for his assistance.

Applicant Sought for Board of Zoning Appeals

If you are interested in serving on the Town's Board of Zoning Appeals, please call **Mayor John Compton** at 301-330-8264. The Board is authorized to grant variances from strict application of certain zoning regulations, and to hear and decide requests for Special Exceptions. The Board consists of three members and an alternate, all appointed for three-year terms. Meetings are infrequent and held on an as-needed basis.

Washington Grove Lane Clean Up

Saturday, October 27, 9:30 a.m.

As part of Community Service Day, Town volunteers plan to pick up trash and debris from the section of Washington Grove Lane that runs through the Grove. **Amy Porter**, Woman's Club volunteer coordinator, is organizing this campaign which we hope will have a continuing benefit to the Town. Please bring gloves and come to the Town Hall at 9:30 a.m. Trash bags and safety equipment will be supplied. We hope to have two teams of adults and young adults. Please call Amy at 301-977-6768 if you are able to help on October 27 or would like to help on a future pick up date.

The Nutcracker at the Holiday Concert

All children of Washington Grove are invited to dance in the “Trepak” scene from the Nutcracker Suite at the December 15 holiday concert. Rehearsals will be on Saturday, November 3, 10, & 17 and December 1, 8, & 15 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in McCathran Hall. **Carolyn** and **David Rapkivian** (301-519-2021) will lead this activity but it will be a group effort ? please plan to help your child participate, volunteer to make costumes, etc. You must call Carolyn by November 3 if you cannot come to the first rehearsal because each child will be given a specific role in the dance choreography.

South Mountain Creamery Delivery to Grove?

If 50 Grove families are interested in having milk, eggs and other dairy products delivered to their homes, South Mountain Creamery has agreed to deliver. Call them at 301-371-8565 or visit them on the web at www.southmountaincreamery.com for more information. Hormone and preservative free dairy products.

Speed Hump to be Removed

After almost three years of trying to find a solution to problems caused by the first speed hump on Washington Grove Lane, a decision to remove the hump has been made jointly by Montgomery County and the Town. Trucks and other vehicles traversing the hump cause the house at 125 Washington Grove Lane to shake. It's possible that the hump will be removed this fall.

Woman's Club Chili Supper Fundraiser

Friday, November 9, McCathran Hall, 6-8 p.m.

Please support Woman's Club projects and enjoy delicious chili with cornbread and coleslaw. Adults - \$6, children 2-14 - \$4, under 2 - free! Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up. Please contact **Kathi Higdon** at [Kathi @ md-realestate.com](mailto:Kathi@md-realestate.com) or call 301-948-8004.

Church Fall Luncheon, Craft & Bake Sale

Saturday, November 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.,

Washington Grove United Methodist Church, 305 Chestnut Road. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ham, chicken salad and all the trimmings!

Daylight Savings Time to End

Turn clocks back one hour Saturday night, October 27.

\$\$ Found Along Grove Road Near Split in Road

Call Town Office at 301-926-2256 to tell **Mary** how much you lost.

Contractor Generated Yard Waste

Please ask your contractor/landscaper to take away yard trimmings generated from their work. Town maintenance staff is not equipped to handle the large amount of debris from this kind of activity. Thanks for your cooperation.

Firewood Opportunity

A huge dead oak was taken down by the Town at the corner of Oak Street and Chestnut Road. Residents are welcome to cut and haul away the wood.

Woman's Club Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.

Come to the Clubhouse to hear speaker Janet Maltbie from the Montgomery County Commission for Women Career and Counseling Center.

Your Letters Have Been Noticed!!

Many thanks to all those who expressed themselves so eloquently to the Planning Board on preservation of the field adjoining Ridge Road and related planning issues. It is clear that this subject is close to the heart of Washington Grove residents.

Mayor's Report on Casey Fields Activity

Delay in the presentation of the LOS proposal for Historic Resource Class II status for part of the Casey property.

The LOS proposal intended for the Planning Board agenda on September 20th, was withheld when Sami Totah and Oxbridge Development expressed their intention to the Park and Planning staff (as told to me by Malcolm Shaneman) to revise their development plan, moving housing "away from the Town." In addition, he was told this would include "giving 10-13 acres" to

Washington Grove!??? I received the same message from lawyer Steve Kaufman communicated via our lawyer Bill Chen, and also was told something similar by Peggy Erickson in Councilperson Nancy Dacek's office (16 acres this time!). Apparently the P&P staff would prefer not to bring the LOS proposal to the Board if the revised development plans meet the intent of the proposal.

Preliminary subdivision plan filed by Oxbridge Development

Citing a need to meet a deadline of some sort, Mr. Totah filed a preliminary subdivision plan in late September which was identical to the pre-preliminary plan already reviewed and criticized by the Development Review Committee (DRC). Review of this submission will NOT proceed, however, until Oxbridge submits a significantly revised plan expected in a matter of weeks. This plan is presumably the one that will leave more open space between the Town and the development. Mr. Shaneman told me that the revised plan would be scheduled for another DRC session (at which we will participate!), and the rest of the review process at Park and Planning.

Affordable housing at Airpark receives OK

The County's first productivity housing complex, which is intended to provide rental housing for people who make below the County's median income level of \$85,600, has been given approval to be built near the airpark in Gaithersburg. According to the builder, the target market is income levels between \$26,000 and \$36,000, potentially serving teachers, policemen and workers in the Airpark. The 106-unit complex will be built on about five acres of land. The County Board of Appeals, which had to approve the zoning change from light industrial to residential, determined that the need for affordable housing outweighed noise concerns. KSI Services Inc. plans to build productivity housing (about 900 units) on the Casey industrial tract which is located generally between Shady Grove Road and Roberts Oxygen.

Development plans for the I-1 zoned Casey property

A Natural Resources Inventory for the Casey industrial property was filed in early September. As yet, no development plan has been submitted. The Town adamantly maintains that development plans for both Casey parcels should be reviewed as a whole, and not piecemeal.

"Preserving the Historic Character of Washington Grove" packet prepared for distribution

A bound illustrated document has been assembled by resident volunteers to use to educate decision-makers and others about the threat to the Town of dense and incompatible development (by **Dave Stopak, Bob Booher, Shelley Winkler, Chris Brown**, and others...). This packet presents the case for protecting Washington Grove from development of the Casey property through a significant open space buffer. It includes brief sections on the following topics: Town's borders; architecture and layout; community life; the Legacy Open Space proposal for Historic Resource class II status for the upper field; Washington Grove history; placement on the National Registry of Historic Places; an evaluation of the inadequate Master Plan process for this property; and importantly, a list of the potential effects of inappropriate neighboring development on Washington Grove.

Meetings with County Council members

Informational meetings have been held with five of the nine County Council members or their staff since September 12. Town representatives expressed concern over development in the Casey field, cautious optimism for the planning process protecting the Town, and recognition that the County Council might become our last resort. The **Mayor** with **Dave Stopak** met with Mr. Andrews and with Mr. Berlage, spoke to Mr. Subin's aide Lou D'Ovidio (with Darrell Anderson), and the Mayor met with Mr. Silverman. **David Stopak** and **Tricia Knox** met with Mr. Leggett. Each Council member was presented with the "Preserving the Historic Character of Washington Grove" packet and a separate collection of drawings and letters from the Kids of Washington Grove.

Petition to preserve Ridge Road and the field is ready for presentation to the Planning Board.

County Council appoints new County Planning Board member

On September 25, the Montgomery County Council chose John M. Robinson of Kensington to serve on the County Planning Board. The five-member Planning Board currently chaired by Arthur Holmes, Jr. will ultimately approve development around the Grove.

Antique/Classic Car Buffs, Owners or Wannabes?

Antique/classic car buffs, owners or wannabes interested in forming a Grove Classic Car Club, please contact **John Tomlin** at 301-869-5854 evenings or weekends or by email at tomlinj@toad.net.

How's Your House Number?

Montgomery County's police officers and those who drive our fire and rescue equipment frequently think about house numbers. They'll tell you that hidden, unlighted or non-existent house numbers can be major time wasters when seconds count. When emergency equipment arrives on your street, properly displayed house numbers will help guide them to the house where their services are needed. Does your house number measure up to these simple guidelines?

- House numbers are large enough to be easily seen from the street
- House numbers are set on a background of contrasting color.
- When the house is some distance from the street or when the view of the house is blocked by trees or shrubs, house numbers should be on a sign attached to a tree, fence, gate or lawn stake.
- On a corner lot, the house numbers should face the street named in the address.
- House numbers should be illuminated OR easily visible at night.
- House numbers should be plain block numerals, not script or written numbers.