

Town Council News

Next meeting: Monday, Feb. 9, 2004; 7:30 p.m., in the Council Room.
The public is invited to attend.

ICC Meeting Set

The Mayor and Council have scheduled a meeting to discuss the Inter-County Connector with a State Highway Administration person and a private consultant for Tuesday, January 27th at 7:00 p.m. in McCathran Hall. The public is encouraged to attend. This is your chance to voice your concerns about this controversial project.

Proposed Ordinance Revisions

The Mayor, Council and Planning Commission have proposed changes to the Ordinances of the Town of Washington Grove. Copies of the complete proposed changes will be available in the Town Office on January 23, 2004. A summary of the changes is as follows;

Article I, Sec. 12: clarification of penalties for Ordinance violations.
Article III, Sec. 4 & 11: increased parking fine, clarification of weight regulations for vehicle traffic allowing pickup and delivery of goods.
Article IV, Sec. 1 & 2: added requirements for removal and demolition of structures and added requirements for building permit applications.
Article VII, Sec. 3, 4, 5, 7 & 9: clarification of carport requirements, clarification of limits on obstructions at intersections, a new ordinance addressing open porches, definition of certain terms, clarification of alterations of non-complying buildings, addition of restrictions for parking and/or storing of commercial vehicles, changes to the schedule of standards regarding building height restrictions and floor area ratio.

Tax Reminder-Washington Grove - 1612

Please fill in Washington Grove 1612 in the appropriate box on your State income tax form. If someone else prepares your tax forms, include this notice with your tax information and if you file electronically; be sure to select Washington Grove under City, Town or Taxing Area. This does not increase your taxes, but does help ensure that the Town receives its proper share of local income tax revenue. Thanks for you help!

Casey Field

Residents of Ridge Road recently received the newest revision of the plan for the Oxbridge Development (Casey Property at Mill Creek). M- NCPPC is still expressing concerns about the environment, about road-calming devices and about storm water management. Mayor Compton will send a letter to the Planning Board that will outline the Town's position concerning the density of the development, the impact on Washington Grove, the preservation of the character of the Town and the size of the buffer.

New Plans for the Casey Industrial Land

The Mayor and Council met with the latest contract purchaser of the property previously proposed for development by KSI (project since withdrawn). They discussed a development plan that would involve 1) a land swap with the County to move a County service park (likely DPWT) from Crabb's Branch Way to the site adjacent to Robert's Oxygen and the Town, 2)

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approx. 65 town homes sited along this side of I370, 3) approx. 300 residential units between I370 and Shady Grove Road. This plan requires a zoning change, (I-1 to I-3a), as proposed in the revised Master Plan now before the Planning Board and agreement to the land swap by the County Council and County Executive. Stay tuned.

Planning Commission News

Next meeting: Feb. 3, 2004; 7:30 p.m. Council Room.

The public is invited 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. The permit fee is \$10.00, payable to the Town of Washington Grove. Interior renovations, which involve electrical, plumbing, or load-bearing changes, generally require a County permit. A shed requires a County permit as well. The Town must first sign off all applications for County-required building permits. The Historic Preservation Commission will review most permits as well.

Building Permits were issued for the following:

346 Ridge Rd. Renovation

Historic Preservation News

Next meeting: February 17, 2004, 7:00 p.m. Council Room.

The HPC wrote a review for the renovation at 346 Ridge Road.

Recreation Committee News

Next meeting: March 3, 2004, 7:30 p.m. Council Room.

The public is invited to attend.

No Summer In The Parks

Unless more people step forward to help organize the program, there will be no Summer In the Parks this year. An organizational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 1st at 1:00p.m. at the Williams/Hodges home. The address is 213 Grove Avenue. The meeting agenda will include setting dates, organizing people to hire the teachers and to do the other necessary tasks to have a successful program. Past volunteers have put together a comprehensive, step-by-step, manual to help with the process. If you have eligible children (must be 4 yrs. old by July 31st through the 5th grade) and are interested in being a part of this valuable program, you are urged to attend this meeting.

A Tribute to Yoga by Judy Mroccka

Bogus reasons for not going to yoga. Washington Grove style: "I'm not flexible enough, I've never done it before, People will laugh at me, I don't have time, I can't afford it." There is only one legitimate reason

for not going; "I hate being relaxed". I was a yoga flunkey; having tried it when I was in my twenties and giving it up because I wasn't flexible enough. Trust me when I tell you that my flexibility did not improve on its own between my youth and now. Two devotees of the Terry Strother's yoga sessions convinced me to try it. "It's like taking your mind on a mini-vacation", one said. Anticipating my next concern - the embarrassment factor - she added, "We all take our glasses off and the lights are down low." And, Terry is adept at explaining the poses, offering hands-on assistance when needed. The sessions are in McCathran Hall on Wednesdays from 7 - 8:30 p.m.. Wear comfortable clothes, bring a mat, a blanket and \$10 (or talk to Terry), and prepare for that mini-vacation of the mind, unless you are one of those people who actually do hate being relaxed.

Toddler Group On Wednesdays

When: Wednesday mornings, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Where: McCathran Hall

This group is open to all toddlers/preschoolers in Washington Grove as long as they are accompanied by an adult. Activities will include music, singing, dancing and, of course, playing. The first meeting will be January 7, 2004. Come join the fun!

Annual Chili Supper/Fundraiser

February 27, 2004 in McCathran Hall from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m..

Come join the fun! Volunteers are needed to help with this event. For more information or to volunteer, please call Jessica Jones at 301-869-5036.

W. G. E. S. Needs Your Help!

Between working parents and busy older siblings, some young children just don't have much contact with adults. Washington Grove Elementary School is looking for adult volunteers to provide conversation and companionship to children. If you have time to help, please call the school at 301-840-7120 and ask for the Principal or the Counselor.

Neighborhood Watch News

Report Crimes & Suspicious Activity!

Mont. Co. Police non-emergency: 301-279-8000

Town Office: 301-926-2256

Betsy Klinger: 301-977-3517

Your block captain will be distributing forms to collect information on which residents have special skills or training (such as CPR), and also which residents may have special needs such as difficulty using stairs, fragile health or other impairments. These reports are purely voluntary but we encourage residents to fill them out, if relevant, so that we can be more helpful during emergencies or other special situations. We plan to share the information with emergency dispatchers as well. The form also asks you for your suggestions on ways the WG Neighborhood Watch can be more useful and relevant.

Tip of the Month:

Outside lighting placed near entryways is always a good idea. Lights that turn on at dusk and off at dawn are available at local home improvement

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stores. For more information about the Neighborhood Watch, call Chris Kirtz at 301-990-7935 or e-mail at ckirtz@hotmail.com.

Second Chance Wildlife

If you come across an injured wild animal (bird, squirrel, chipmunk etc.) and would like to help it, you can take the animal to Second Chance Wildlife at the dead end of Barcelona Drive just off of Rt. 124. Their phone number is 301-926-9453.

Washington Grove Film Society Presents

Blossoms of Fire; Directed by Maureen Gosling; February 1, 2004, 7:00p.m. . The Zapotec people of Juchitan, Oaxaca, represent one of the few surviving indigenous cultures of Mexico. In this colorful, exuberant documentary, Gosling explores the lives of its strong and confident women. With telling images and lively folk music, the film both informs and entertains.

Yard Waste

As per our contract, yard waste recycling pickup by Waste Management on Wednesdays is suspended until the beginning of March. If you have yard waste that needs to be picked up, Town Maintenance will take care of it. Please place your manageable yard waste piles (not bags!) "curbside" so that they can easily be seen and reached. If you feel that you have been missed by Town Maintenance, please call David Stopak at 301-330-6446 or Jim Fletcher at 301-963-5850.

Leaves

Leaf pickup is over for the season. U.S. Lawns will make a service visit at the end of March. Watch for more details in the February Bulletin.

Trash Reminder

Please retrieve your empty trash cans and recycling containers promptly after trash/recycling collection. Cans and bins in the road make it even harder to navigate our narrow streets. Problems with trash & recycling collection should be reported to Tom Land 301-869-4334 and the Town Office 301-926-2256.

Water Main Replacement Coming

The water mains on 4th Avenue from The Circle to McCauley Street and on Brown Street from Ridge Road to Grove Road were installed in 1926. In July 2004, WSSC will begin a project that replaces these lines. There will be a disruption in service and roadway disturbances as well. WSSC will schedule meetings with residents in the spring to define the scope of this project. WSSC will also send letters to residents who will be affected by this project. The Mayor and Council would like to thank you in advance for your patience with this necessary work.

Belated Thanks to Trick-or-Treaters

Thank you to the following Grove kids for Trick or Treating for UNICEF:

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Myles Ambrose, Sarah & Samantha Brown, Ann Hilpert, Joy & Max London, Jered Lottes, Michael Rapkivian, Sarah & Eli Stopak, and Timothy Suzich. The kids collected \$63.71 which could provide 1,000 packets of salt tablets to help children severely affected by dehydration. Thank you to all the residents who made this contribution possible as well.

Leila Farmer (1911-2003)

Mrs. Leila H. Farmer, formerly of 104 Pine Avenue died at the Wilson Health Care Center on Dec. 25, 2003 at age 92. In addition to being a resident of the Grove for 42 years, Mrs. Farmer was also a long-time member of the Washington Grove United Methodist Church and a relative of another old Grove family, the Hershey's.

Clerk's Corner

F I F T E E N ! Residents are reminded that the new speed limit applies to you as well as the cut through drivers. Please be aware that police enforcement is coming.