

Town Council News

Next meeting: Monday, March 8, 2004; 7:30 p.m., in the Council Room.
The following actions will be formalized in an ordinance to be enacted at the March Council meeting:

voted to hold public record on Town Ordinance Revisions open for additional comments.

voted to delete Article I, Section 12 from the Code of Ordinances.

adopted Article III, Sections 4 & 11 to the Town Code of Ordinances as proposed at the public hearing.

adopted Article IV, Section 1.c as proposed.

adopted Article IV, Section 2.a.5 with the addition of "as specified by the Planning Commission".

voted to add Section 2.a.10, Square Footage Requirements, to Article IV.

adopted Article IV, Section 2.b with the addition of, "A copy of the approved Montgomery County permitted plans must be provided to the Town and also any amendments thereto".

adopted Article VII, Section 3.328.b with the addition of "of the pavement".

adopted Article VII, Section 3.329 (new section) as amended.

voted not to revise the definition of a basement.

voted to accept the definition of a Commercial Vehicle, dormer, front yard, and a new definition of an Open Porch.

adopted Article VII, Section 9, Maximum Height for Main Buildings, Accessory Buildings and Structures.

voted to remove the following from consideration at this time;

Article VII, Section 3.326.

Article VII, Section 3.328.

Building Height definition.

Floor Area Ratio definition & formula.

Article VII, Section 5.31.

Floor Area Ratio Limitations in the Schedule of Standards

ICC Meeting Re-scheduled

The Mayor and Council have re-scheduled a meeting to discuss the Inter-County Connector with a State Highway Administration person and a private consultant for Monday, February 23rd 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.

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

Oxbridge must submit, and have approved, a new storm water management plan before their development proposal can be scheduled for presentation to the Planning Board. The plan could go for final review in March but is more likely to go in April. Use of the Legacy Open Space field is an issue again. A letter stating the Town's position on this and other areas of concern has been prepared.

Shady Grove Master Plan

The Planning Board is under pressure from both the property owners and the County Executive for higher density (5-6K units vs. planned 3K) near the Metro. The new Chairman raised the question as to why the Legacy Open Space field shouldn't have active recreation rather than passive. We are told that the staff will be responding to this request at the M-NCPPC Board work session in April. We must engage in a renewed Legacy Open Space defense, and individual and collective support letters may be required before this.

Planning Commission News

Next meeting: March 2, 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:

344 Ridge Rd. New Home
207 Grove Ave. Repairs

Historic Preservation News

Next meeting: March 16, 2004, 7:00 p.m. Council Room.
The HPC wrote reviews for the renovation at 207 Grove Ave. and the new construction at 344 Ridge Road. Summaries are as follows;

207 Grove: Two story addition and entry porch facing Grove Road. This project follows a previous alteration which was badly damaged by a fallen tree during Hurricane Isabel in 2003. The project is visible from various public rights of way and the building is a contributing structure as are neighboring structures. The HPC made two recommendations which might make the planned rear porch more compatible with existing unique and historic portions of the rear elevation facing Grove Road. The owner plans to use siding to match the original.

344 Ridge Road: Construction of a one-story brick home with multiple gables and Spanish roof tiles on a newly subdivided lot. The design is a creation of the owners/future residents. The house will be partially visible from Ridge Road. Neither this, nor any of the adjacent homes, is considered contributing structures. As the design is original, and the materials somewhat different, the new structure may be in welcome contrast to recent new construction on Ridge Road. Large open porches mentioned in the plans

will make the house compatible with the overall architectural tenor of the Grove.

Recreation Committee News

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

The public is invited to attend.

Storyteller Coming in March

The Recreation Committee's annual spring children's program will be held on March 14th at 3:00 p.m. in McCathran Hall. This year's performer will be Native American storyteller Dovie Thomason. The Kiowa Apache and Lakota tales she heard as a young child were "lessons intended to teach proper behavior without punishment or confrontation". The characters faced the same choices in their lives as she did in her own. Passing on these "blueprints" for establishing values and making choices comes naturally for Dovie as she gently dispels false images of the First Nations People of North America and replaces them with traditional stories to which all cultures can relate. Her stories are captivating for children of all ages. Please bring a friend (of any age) and join us!

Art Classes for Children

Two sections of art classes for children from first through eighth grade will be offered on Fridays during April and May. Classes will be taught by Grove artists. Registration forms are due by March 31st. Please see attached flyer for all the details.

Summer In The Parks Will Happen!

Tami Williams has volunteered to co-direct the Summer In The Parks program this year. A co-director is still being sought. The schedule will be Monday - Friday from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; July 5th - 29th with the traditional overnight campout on the evening of July 30th. The fee is \$100.00 per child for the 4 week session. An extension of the program hours that would accommodate working parents is being considered. Please contact Tami Williams to discuss the idea of extending the hours 301-869-8541. This will more than likely involve an additional fee. Parents who wish to be involved in the decision making and planning of the program are encouraged to attend our monthly meeting. Volunteer support is needed from all parents of children who attend the program. Our next two meetings will be on Sunday, Feb. 22nd at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Shelley Winkler and on March 21st at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Tami Williams. Please call ahead if you plan to attend.

Summer Opportunities

Enjoy working with children? Looking for a responsible position that will look great on your resume? Teachers (certification preferred but not required), aides (ages 14 & up), and volunteers (ages 12 & up), are being sought to help with Summer In The Parks. Volunteer hours will qualify for service learning hours. The hours will be Mon. - Fri., 1:15 - 4:45 p.m. for volunteers & aides and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. for teachers. Interviews will be conducted for all positions beginning in March. For more information, or to be considered for a position, please call Tami Williams at 301-869-8541.

Woman's Club News

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.

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

The following items were reported to Neighborhood Watch:

Several garages along Chestnut Road were hit with paintballs during the night. A police report was filed.

Dogs running loose and chasing deer near the McCauley St. entrance to Town.

Tip of the Month: Use your personal judgment when folks you don't know come to your door. Most are likely on the up and up. Some may not be. How to tell the difference? Who knows? My recommendation is to trust your gut instinct. For more information about the Neighborhood Watch, call Chris Kirtz at 301-990-7935 or e-mail at ckirtz@hotmail.com.

Spring Brings New Equipment

Our new piece of playground equipment has been purchased and will be delivered soon. We need volunteers to help prepare the site & to help with the installation. If you can help with this long awaited project, please call David Stopak at 301-330-6446

Washington Grove Film Society Presents

The Day I Became a Woman, directed by Marziyeh Meshkini; March 7, 2004 7:00 p.m.. Simple yet rich, this film relates three tales of Iranian women in different stages of life. A girl must don a chador for the first time; a young wife, riding in a bicycle race, tries to escape her life's restrictions; an elderly widow goes on a shopping spree. Each story has the timeless quality of fable, and each protagonist exhibits stoic defiance in the face of patriarchal traditions.

Spring 2004 Leaf Pickup

Per our contract, U.S. Lawns will make a service visit during the last week of March to be completed by April 1, 2004. Watch for more details in the March Bulletin.

Recyclable Yard Waste Collection Starts

Per our contract, recyclable yard waste pickup will resume on Wednesdays beginning March 3, 2004. Bag it! (Place leaves, grass, brush and other yard trimmings in the large brown paper bags available at grocery and home improvement stores.) Can it! (Use reusable containers such as trash cans with appropriate stickers or marked "recycling".) Bundle it! (Brush can be

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tied in bundles not larger than 30" in diameter, 4' in length with pieces not to exceed 4" in diameter.)

Bulk Trash Pickup Scheduled

A bulk trash pickup is scheduled for Saturday, March 27th. Collection may include furniture, appliances (not those with Freon), rugs, large toys, small auto parts, etc. Materials may not include construction by-products, large automotive parts, or tires. ALL ITEMS MUST BE "CURBSIDE" BY 7:00 a.m. .

Hazardous Materials Disposal

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

Recycling News

Do you shred your mail and other papers? Waste Management says that you CAN recycle it. Shredded paper will be picked up but it must be in paper bags or CLEAR plastic bags. It will not be picked up if you put it in any other type of container. Shredded paper makes a fairly light bag so please be careful on windy days. You can also give your shredded paper to the local SPCA. Evidently, our little furry friends just love it! Call 301-928-4266 for more information.

Arbor Day is Coming Soon

Washington Grove's annual Arbor Day is scheduled for April 24, 2004. Mark your calendars, dust off your shovels and plan to come to this event. More details will be available as the date gets closer.

We Need YOU!

Town elections will be upon us in a very short time. 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 Supervisor 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.

Wanted: McCathran Hall Scheduler

McCathran Hall scheduler Jenny Long is leaving her post. The Town needs to hire someone to take her place. This is a paying job (\$7 per hour) and could require 4 hours per week. Responsibilities include: handling all inquiries about availability; showing potential renters the facility; maintaining the calendar for hall rental and handling rental agreements, deposits and payments. Interested persons should call the Town Office at 301-926-2256.

Thanks to the Trash Patrol!

Many thanks go to the volunteers who have taken on the "yucky" project of trash pickup on Washington Grove Lane.

Thanks to Dan Tutas who faithfully picks up trash along Railroad Street, as well.

SPECIAL FORUM

Presenting Father Robert Drinan, S.J. (Former Congressman from Massachusetts now a Georgetown Law School Professor)

Discussing: "Human & Civil Rights-- Here & Abroad-- Post 9/11"

Sunday, March 14, 2004 7:30 p.m. McCathran Hall

Sponsored by GROWPeace

Clerk's Corner

To those who have remembered to slow down, thanks! To those who haven't, give it a try, it's hard but it doesn't hurt at all ;-)