



TOWN BULLETIN

www.washingtongrovemd.org

301-926-2256

1 July 2021

(before the November 8, 2021 Town Council meeting).

TOWN COUNCIL NEWS...

Next meeting: Monday, July 12, 2021; 7:30pm

The public is invited to attend this virtual meeting via ZOOM at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/297850640?pwd=czh3ODBEEdEpTeXdkRTc5bDFmLzN2UT09>

Or Dial-in to 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 297 850 640

Password: 074385

Actions at the June 14th Meeting Included:

- Approval of Resolution 2021-09; Budget Transfers
- Approval of the following Mayor’s appointments:
 - Charlie Challstrom – Board of Zoning Appeals
 - Peter Nagrod – Planning Commission
 - Bob Booher – Historic Preservation Commission
 - David Stopak – Historic Preservation Commission
- Awarded road work contract to AB Veirs

Outcome of the Special Town Council Meeting

The Washington Grove Town Council held a Special Town Council Meeting on June 30, 2021 where they considered action in response to the Shared Use Bike Path Petition. The Town Council adopted 5 actions. The complete motion may be found at the end of this Bulletin.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Mayor and Town Council welcome volunteers to serve on the Shared Use Bike Path Connection Taskforce. You may review the charge to this committee above where the *Task Force Mission* and the *Task Force Actions* are described.

Please note you will be committing to complete the work of the Task Force and present the findings to the Town Council within 4 months of starting work

Interested individuals should contact Mayor John Compton at 240-432-5700 or email johncompton@me.com. It will be helpful if you provide a brief statement of your specific interest in the shared use path *connection* issue, and your commitment to the mission of the Task Force.

The Mayor, with concurrence of the Town Council, expects to appoint 9 town residents to the Shared Use Path Connection Taskforce at the July 12th Town Council meeting.

Planning Commission News...

Next meeting: Wed., July 7, 2021; 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend this virtual meeting via ZOOM. As part of the Town’s response to the COVID-19 crisis, this Planning Commission Meeting will be conducted online, rather than in person.

Residents and the public may access using Meeting ID: 781 347 688

By dialing in to 301-715-8592 and following the audio instructions.

OR by joining the Zoom videoconference at: <https://zoom.us/j/781347688>

Building Permit Submission Deadline

The deadline to submit a building permit application for approval by the Planning Commission and review by the Historic Preservation Commission is *the 2nd Wednesday of the month* prior to the PC meeting at which the permit will be reviewed (this will be in the following month). This timing ensures the HPC will be able to complete a formal review before the PC meeting as this review is required for the PC to approve the permit in a timely fashion. If you are considering any renovation or building project at your house, be sure to get a copy of the procedures to apply for a Town Building Permit which will help you through the Town’s process.

Permits Up for Approval in July:

- 206 Chestnut Ave. Demo Greenhouse, add exterior stairs on garage
- 203 2nd Ave. Shed
- 114 Ridge Road 2nd Story Bathroom

Permits Approved in June:

- 202 Grove Ave. Porch Roof
- 128 Chestnut Ave. Fence

2021 Comprehensive Plan

It's a milestone! The 2021 DRAFT Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Washington Grove has been submitted for review to the Maryland Department of Planning!

A public hearing has been set for Thursday September 2 at 7:30pm.

The newly formatted 2021 Comprehensive Plan is available on our Town website at: <https://washingtongrovermd.org/government/government-overview/comprehensive-plan/comprehensive-plan-2019-21/>

Residents are encouraged to review the plan and send comments to the Planning Commission if you have feedback. It's about 9 weeks until the public hearing and the record will remain open for comments for at least 6 weeks after the hearing. The Planning Commission will also get feedback from the Maryland Department of Planning and may hear from the Montgomery County Planning Department and the Gaithersburg and Rockville Planning Commissions.

The Planning Commission and various Town committees and work groups have been working on the plan for over two years now. We have at least 60 Town volunteers on this project, and either you are one of them or probably know someone who is. In addition to the Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission, we had helpful input from (alphabetically) the Bike Path Working Group, Border Committee, Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee, Forestry and Beautification Committee, Housing Element Work Group, Interjurisdictional Work Group, Lake Committee, Lighting Committee, Racial and Social Equity Committee, Stormwater Management Committee, Sustainability Committee, and Woods Committee.

There will be no regular work session in July. The next work session is tentatively set for August 18 at 7:30 pm.

Recreation Committee News...

The 4th of July in Washington Grove!

Grovers - Yes! You read that right.

We are doing our Grove 4th of July... in person!



Date: July 4 - Sunday

Time: 10:45 am

Place: The ballfield

We will have the following:

- 11:00 am -12:00 pm - Judging of your fourth attire, costume, crazy outfit, whatever you choose
- Noon – Flag Raising, Musketry and modified parade in the ballfield
- 1 pm - Picnic with hotdogs provided. Bring your own “other stuff”

Be there or be square!
Rec Committee

Need more information? Contact Sam Beres (515-450-9167 or Emily Cavey (240-838-1840).

Historic Preservation Commission News...

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 20, 2021; 7:30 p.m.

The public is invited to attend this virtual meeting via ZOOM. For a copy of the Agenda, email Chairman Bob Booher (booherfamily@comcast.net).

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3440199688>

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

NEW THIS MONTH.....

This month, we share the brief history of indigenous people of Washington Grove environs that Town resident Ann Philips has researched and compiled with information contributed by Sarah Hedlund, Montgomery County Librarian/Archivist, and Heather Bouslog, Montgomery County Parks Archeologist. The generous collaboration of resident Wendy Harris and former resident Clare Kelly proved equally invaluable to Ann, who undertook this project with an eye towards eventually including it in Washington Grove's Wikipedia entry.

Indigenous People of Washington Grove Environs

The land where **Washington Grove** now stands, and all of Montgomery County, was traveled and inhabited by indigenous people from around 10,000 BCE. Members of the Massawomeck, Susquehannock, Seneca (Iroquois), and Piscataway-Conoy tribes lived in the area at the time of 17th century contact with Europeans, primarily using the land as crossover territory toward rock shelters, encampments, and sizable villages near the Potomac River (1) (2) Tribal boundaries were fluid. By 1700 most indigenous tribes had suffered rapid population decline due to infectious diseases and wars and had been forced out by English colonists. (3)

12,000 years ago, an era colder than today's climate, PaleoIndian people moved together over the evergreen-covered landscape in small groups, adapting to changing seasons as they hunted bison, giant beavers and mammoth using poles tipped with fluted points made from worked stone. Points have been found in the area where Seneca Creek flows into the Potomac River. (4) (5) (6)

9000 years ago, the climate warmed and plants and animals similar to today's species spread along the Potomac. Signs of human occupation can be found along the Potomac near Dickerson and other areas. (4)

Around 3500 years ago, tribes settled more permanently although still moving seasonally across woodlands, streams, and rivers. Seed collecting led to agriculture, and pottery making began. A settlement near Potomac Maryland dated from this period included burial sites for both humans and their dogs. (4) (6)

In the environs of Washington Grove is a steatite (soapstone) quarry site listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, possibly dating from this Late Archaic time period. The presence of flaked stone tools suggests that Native Americans conducted quarrying here prior to the site's use by local farmers and Washington Grove residents. (7)

By 1300 AD, indigenous people began to establish large settlements along the Potomac River, its islands, and uplands. They named the area *Cohongoroota*, "The Land Above the Falls". The Piscataway people built longhouses ten feet high and twenty feet long, with barrel-shaped roofs covered with bark or woven mats. Villages were surrounded by palisades for protection, and outside were fields of maize, beans, squash, and leaf vegetables such as *Chenopodium* (goosefoot), *Amaranthus* and other plants. The bow

and arrow were commonly used in hunting and warfare. A rock shelter in Gaithersburg near Seneca Creek (the Hargatt-King Rockshelter) contained a blue bead, suggesting contact with Europeans. (4) (6)

In 1608, John Smith identified 166 tribes, including the Algonquian-speaking tribes of the Powhatan group in Virginia, the Piscataway in Southern Maryland, and the Nachotank (Anacostia) near the Anacostia River. Montgomery County was ringed by non-Algonquian speaking groups who were often hostile but were also trading partners: the Iroquoian-speaking Susquehannock's near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay (Susquehanna River), and the Siouan-speaking Monocans and Mannohoac west of the fall-line below the Potomac River. The Potomac River Valley was a major corridor in and out of the region. The tribes most prevalent in the area of Montgomery County just prior to European arrival were the Piscataway Conoy and the Susquehannock. (8)

In the late 1600's, on Conoy Island near Point of Rocks, 150 Piscataway-Conoy people retreating from colonists' discrimination built houses in a palisaded village, speaking an Algonquian language now extinct. By 1722 the tribe had lost two-thirds of their population. (9)(4)

Fearing further encroachment and hostility, the Piscataway-Conoy people left the area, some moving into Pennsylvania and farther north. Today, descendants of the northern migrants live on the Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation reserve in Ontario. Some members moved to Virginia and a few families stayed in their traditional homeland in Maryland. The three groups have identified as the Piscataway Indian Nation and Tayca Territory, the Piscataway Conoy Confederacy and Sub-Tribes, and the Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians. (10)

As of December 2017, three tribes are recognized by the State of Maryland: The Piscataway Indian Nation, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, and the Accohannock Indian Tribe. None of the tribes are federally recognized. (11)

As of the 2020 census, 40,000 Maryland residents self-identify as Native American. (12)

References

1 "Tribes and Cultures", National Park Service. Retrieved April 20, 2021. <https://www.firstnationsseeker.ca/Level3.html#anchor46875>

2 “First Nations Across North America Map”, National Park Service. Retrieved April 20, 2021.

<https://www.nps.gov/cajo/learn/historyculture/tribes-and-cultures.htm>

3 “Native Land”, Native Land Digital. Retrieved April 10, 2021 <https://native-land.ca/>

4 “Native American Heritage Trail Guide”, Sugarloaf Regional Trails.org, 2016.

5 Walston, Mark, “The Montgomery County Story”, Montgomery County Historical Society, February 1986.

https://mchdr.montgomeryhistory.org/xmlui/bitstream/handle/20.500.12366/269/mcs_v029_n1_1986_walston.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

6 Maryland Archeological Conservation Lab, 2002. Maryland.gov. Retrieved April 12, 2021.

<https://apps.jefpat.maryland.gov/diagnostic/PrehistoricCeramics/prehistoryinMD.html>

7 National Register Nomination document (2020) Retrieved April 12, 2021.

<https://washingtongrovemd.org/residents/our-history/wg-historic-district/>

8 Dent, Richard (1995). *Chesapeake Prehistory*, New York: Plenum Press.

9 Wikipedia: Piscataway Indian Nation and Tayca Territory, Retrieved April 20, 2021

10 “Piscataway Conoy Tribe” website Retrieved April 21, 2021.

<http://www.piscatawayconoytribe.com/history>.

11 “Tribal Consultation”, Maryland Historical Trust. Maryland.gov. Retrieved May 19, 2021.

12 “U.S. Census website”, United States Census Bureau. Retrieved April 22, 2021.

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/MD>

Racial Equity Committee...

Next meeting: Sunday, July 18, 2021; 2:00 p.m.

All are welcome! Folks who would like to attend should email racialequitywg@gmail.com to get the Zoom link. If you would like to learn more, you can find information on how to join the committee, our goals, past meeting minutes, and historical resources here: <https://linktr.ee/RacialEquityGrover>.

Lake Committee News...

**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 15, 2021, 7:30 pm
Via ZOOM Video Conference**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72385740859?pwd=WGJKVEUzUEk3ckRubWwyQnlHODZkdz09>

Meeting ID: 723 8574 0859

Passcode: 123321

Lake Committee Meetings:

Third Thursday of each month **via Zoom** until we can meet at the Town Hall. We need to plan for making the lake even better for this summer. New members welcome and encouraged!

Call or e-mail John Hutchinson if you have any questions or suggestions or want to be put on the notification list.

Cell 240-997-5820; hutchjm@gmail.com

Woods Committee News...

The next meeting of the Woods Committee (WC) will be held on **Tuesday, July 6 at 7:30 p.m.** in recognition of the federal observance of the Independence Day holiday on Monday, July 5. The WC meeting will be held by remote access via Zoom Video Conference.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82405334979?pwd=WG9YdVR1U2lSWDlXMHpWaflyNzRXdz09>

By Phone 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 824 0533 4979

Passcode: 016125

Our meetings are regularly held on the first Monday of each month. The August meeting will be on Monday, August 2, 2021.

The WC continues to manage non-native invasive (NNI) plants in our Forest Preserves. Our IPC contractor worked in mid-June to treat NNI (wisteria, mile-a-minute, and wavy leaf basket grass) off the trails in the East and West Woods. They also assisted us in clearing a short section of green briar to re-route a damaged area of the Challstrom trail near “Bradfield Crossing.” Once completed, this new trail section will replace the old stream crossing which is becoming increasingly unsafe to use. We hope the ongoing walking trail improvements will make your forest preserves experience safer and more enjoyable.

A reminder: please stay on the walking trails to avoid understory vegetation where tick populations are predicted to be abundant this season. Here is a timely news article on tick encounters and tick-borne diseases for your information: https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/wellness/ticks-protect-lyme-deer-dog-lonestar/2021/05/22/6c41bb40-ba54-11eb-a6b1-81296da0339b_story.html

Stay healthy and safe and enjoy the beauty of nature in our East and West Woods.

Film Society News...

Nothing this month. Stay tuned....

WG United Methodist Church News...



Washington Grove United Methodist Church is meeting at the

church at 9:30 AM Sunday mornings!

We are again meeting at the Church, Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. Weather permitting, we will be outside, under the maple tree. Otherwise, we'll be socially distant in the sanctuary. Everyone should plan to wear a mask.

If you prefer, you can still join us over Zoom. Please just contact Pastor Andrew Peck-McClain at rev.apeckmclain@gmail.com to be included.

WGKids! is a monthly gathering for children, a ministry of the Washington Grove UMC. We meet the fourth Sunday of the month on Zoom, from 4:00-4:30 p.m. We sing, learn about a Bible story, and make something kid crafty. Please email Pastor Andy with questions or to be a part at rev.apeckmclain@gmail.com.

We continue to collect non-perishable food donations to support the St. Martin's food bank. Your contributions can be dropped off on the screened-in porch at Peggy Hansen's house, 201 Chestnut Avenue, in Washington Grove, or bring them when you join us on Sunday mornings.

Washington Grove United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation, which means we believe that each person is a precious creation of God and is of sacred worth. We welcome and celebrate persons of every gender identity, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, and physical or mental ability into

full participation in the life of this faith community. We celebrate the gift of love and affirm all loving relations and marriages.

Our mission is

To follow Jesus, worship God, and provide loving service to our community and the world.

Woman's Club News...

Calling kids of all ages to McCathran Hall, Saturday July 17th at 7:00 PM



Come join us to cheer for the chickens as they plot their escape from the Tweedy's farm! You'll want to see this original before the sequel is released! Invite your parents to join you and assure them it's Rated G! It runs about 84 minutes.

This first in-person event in over 15 months is co-sponsored by the Washington Grove Woman's Club and the Film Society.

We're Helping Out Where SNAP Leaves Off



As the desperate needs of those around us continue, we are collecting some of the much-needed items that SNAP (formerly

Food Stamps) doesn't pay for. We recently provided some of these much-needed items to the apartment residents of the Archway program.

Donations are appreciated, or if you would rather give us a check, please note that it's for SNAP Plus.

- Similac – especially the blue boxes of powder
- Pedialyte – any flavor
- Diapers – sizes 3 and up
- Diaper wipes
- Toilet paper
- Feminine hygiene products

Helping Archway's Kids and Their Families...

This year, our Club has added helping the Archway families as one of our Outreach Programs. Archway is part of the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, and it serves families who have experienced chronic homelessness, which means they have been homeless for at least 12 months and they have a family member who has a diagnosed disability.

Archway's clients live in apartments rented from private landlords throughout Montgomery County.

Their social worker works with these families to prevent them from falling back into homelessness. A family accepted into this program does not pay rent or utilities.

Archway is having great success with the children of these families, with one going to UMBC on a full scholarship this fall, and another is entering a middle school magnet program! But summer presents yet another challenge to these kids, since it's not easy for their families to get them to the library and they can't afford books. This makes it far too easy for them to fall behind over the summer months. So, this summer, we are starting a **Summer Reading Club**, but we need NEW (or very gently used) books for children from ages 2 to 16. Having books would mean the world to these kids! The kid's goals will be based on their individual abilities, and we will give prizes as they reach those goals. We will begin July 1st. One of the greatest gifts we can give is a love of reading!



For the Archway families, we need 6 things for them each month, or more if we can give more. Most needed are non-snap items like toilet paper, paper towels, soap, clothing detergent, toiletries. Or we need treats for the kids. There are 12 kids in the program, ranging in age from 2-18 and a 9 month old baby. The social worker likes to bring them something when she does her visits. The past two months we have had treats and non-snap items and books for the kids. Our goal is at least one treat and one non snap item a month. There is also a family at the Archway program that would like plastic silverware. Please consider donating the plasticware that comes with your take out food. They don't care if it doesn't all match 😊.

If you want to give a check, mark it for Archway or for Shelter Projects.

The WGES Supply Closet Needs Restocking!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES CLIPART



Many stores put back to school supplies on sale around the 4th of July. One of the Club's outreach programs is to keep the teachers supply closet well stocked. Without this community support, the teachers end up buying needed supplies for the less fortunate children out of their own pockets! As always, checks are also appreciated, just mark them for the Supply Closet.

Where to Drop Off Your Donations



Monetary donations should be made out to the Woman's Club with a notation in the Memo line if you want it to go towards a specific project. All donations can be dropped off either in the boxes on the Clubhouse porch or in the painted can on Wendy Weisbard's porch at 119 Grove Road.

Lighting Committee News...

Next Meeting will take place in September via ZOOM Video Conferencing. We will continue to meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month. All are welcome to attend!

After months of work in research, outreach and response to Pepco revised multi-year plan case 9655 - TWG Lighting Committee and all the affected municipalities are waiting to hear the response from the Maryland Public Service Commission. During this hiatus, it was decided that we could possibly take a summer break and not meet in July and August and reconvene in September. If there was a response from Pepco that needed our attention TWG Lighting Committee would re-group. The next TWG Lighting Committee meeting is currently scheduled for September 22, 2021 at 7:30pm via ZOOM.

The TWG Lighting Committee has two other updates. First, the bollard lights that were picked by the TWG Lighting Committee and approved by the Town Council will be installed on the outer path by McCathran Hall in the next few weeks. Secondly, Charlie Challstrom reported that the LED bulbs that we converted our streetlights to have held up very well. None have needed to be replaced after over a year and a half of use.

Questions, ideas or concerns please contact Virginia Quesada at:
301 706-7933 cell. vq@qmediainc.com Or Robert N. Johnson rj@elecdev.com

Washington Grove Cares News

Town residents can reach Washington Grove Cares to make requests for neighborly assistance in 3 ways:

- Email _____ us _____ at washingtongrovecares@gmail.com.
- Fill out a request form on our website at washingtongrovecares.org.

- Call and leave a message, and someone will return your call shortly. Our telephone number has recently changed. The new number is **301-944-2962**.

Please correct our telephone number on page 3 of your 2020-2022 Washington Grove Directory.

We will deliver Washington Grove Cares refrigerator magnets, updated with the new telephone number. To request one, call us at 301-944-2962, leaving your name and street address.



Climate Action News...Sustainability Group

Next meeting: July 13, 2021, 7:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3440199688>

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

Home Energy Audits

Our homes in the Grove tend to fall into three categories when it comes to energy efficiency. Those built originally as summer cottages with no insulation, those built with little concern for retaining heat or cooling before energy codes began requiring insulation, and a few built after the 1970s with ever increasing levels of insulation and efficiency. Many of the first two groups have made gradual improvements in insulation, storm windows and doors, efforts to deal with air leakage, and more efficient heating and cooling.

- How can you know how well your house is performing?
- How can you tell how much the improvements have helped?
- How can you determine whether there are more worthwhile improvements to make?

For those of us without that expertise, the first step is an Energy Performance Assessment or Home Energy Audit. You can research and contract one on your own or take advantage of

Pepco’s assistance in procuring the services. Their website offers 3 paths: <https://homeenergysavings.pepco.com/residential/energy-assessments>

The first is a free Virtual Home Energy Checkup where you fill out a questionnaire and receive an assessment and review without a site visit. It also then offers various free energy products including LED light bulbs, low-flow shower heads, pipe insulation, and power strips.

The second is a free Quick Home Energy Checkup with a home visit by a technician who will visually examine doors, windows, furnace, AC, water heater, lighting etc. The technician will provide a report with recommendations and also the free products above. They also provide lists of approved contractors that can do some of the recommended work.

The third is the Home Performance Assessment with EnergyStar Program. These are done by your choice of professionals certified by the Building Performance Institute from their ample approved list. The best firms do a thorough investigation of your heating and cooling equipment, doors and windows, insulation levels, ventilation, attics, crawl spaces, basements, pipe and duct insulation, water heater, humidifiers, appliances, and lighting. A test for air leakage is done with a blower door device that pressurizes the house and infrared cameras that detect gaps in insulation. A report and recommendations are provided along with targeted advice as to which best fit your circumstances.

Rebates for many of the recommendations are available from Pepco and they will do the paperwork to secure them. Pepco will cover up to \$7500 of work. Many of the technician companies also execute some or all of the work or make recommendations of those that do. The audit is generally a \$400 - \$600 value but Pepco picks up all but \$100.

Energy audit guidance is also available from the DC Consumer Checkbook and, if you join, assessments of companies:

<https://checkbook.org/washington-area/energy-use-consultants/>

These two sources can be used together of course, to select the best company to meet your needs. Or you can contact us (Bob Booher 240-688-8611) with any questions or recommendations of your own. Remember that there are tax credits for much of the

work as well. We will be providing info on those later. Let's start moving toward Net Zero.

TIP. This July 4th, declare **your energy independence from fossil fuels**. Ditch the disposable partyware and plastic water bottles; use real tableware and glasses instead for your backyard party. Try a vegan barbecue. Compost your party's food scraps. Reduce, reuse, and recycle!!

Emergency Preparedness Committee News...

Next Meeting Time: July 29th, 2021 07:30 PM Via ZOOM Videoconference

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86969013210?pwd=UXISkZkZGpUUDZUks0anVQUUJrZz09>

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 869 6901 3210

Passcode: 511370

Happy Independence Day! We wish everyone a joyous and safe holiday. Please be mindful that fireworks seriously injure thousands of people each year, and that private possession and use of fireworks is illegal in Montgomery County. Enjoy the thrill of fireworks put-on by the pros! For a list of Fourth of July celebrations throughout the state, please visit: <https://www.visitmaryland.org/article/4th-of-july-celebrations>.

We are actively seeking new committee members. One committee goal is to promote a shared sense of preparedness, vigilance, and resilience to help strengthen our community. We welcome your input

and ideas on how to achieve this and any other goals related to preparedness and safety. Please join us at our next meeting.

Border Committee News...

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 8, 2021; 7:30 p.m. Via ZOOM Videoconference. This Committee meets the second Thursday of each month. All are welcome. Contact Peter Nagrod (pnagrod@msn.com) for information on how to join the meeting.

Forestry & Beautification News...

Forestry and Beautification Committee is on summer break. The next meeting will be Wednesday September 8 to plan for fall tree planting. Don't forget, if you have a suggestion for where a new tree is needed, please contact one of the F&B Co-Chairs Georgette Cole (georgettewg@gmail.com) or Audrey Maskery (trees.beautification@gmail.com) or our Council Liaison Barbara Raimondo (baraimondo@me.com).

Now that the cicadas are retiring for another 17 years, it's a great time to plant a new tree. Keep in mind that Montgomery County has a free tree planting program. Tree Montgomery will plant and help maintain a shade tree in your yard. (<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/trees/tree-montgomery.html>). The new tree will be a nice substantial one and they have tools to help you choose the right tree for your space. Grovers are already taking advantage of this great program and you can too!

COMING EVENTS CALENDAR (All meetings via ZOOM Conference)

July 5	Woods Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
July 7	Planning Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
July 8	Border Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
July 12	Town Council	7:30 pm	ZOOM
July 14	BUILDING PERMIT SUBMISSION DEADLINE		
July 15	Lake Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
July 17	Family Movie/"Chicken Run"	7:00 pm	Town Hall
July 18	Racial Equity Committee	2:00 pm	ZOOM
July 20	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
July 29	Emergency Preparedness & Safety	7:30 pm	ZOOM
Aug 2	Woods Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM

The following motion was passed by the Town Council on June 30, 2021:

Washington Grove Shared Use Bike Path Connection Proposed Town Council “Act Favorably” Response to the Petition

The Town Council, acting on the Shared Use Bike Path Petition (Exhibit A) [not attached here, but at this link: https://washingtongrovemd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SharedUseBikePath_Petition-corrected.pdf] adopts the following actions:

I. The Mayor will establish a Task Force to examine potential shared use path connections to the Town of Washington Grove.

A. *Task Force Mission*

The Task Force will evaluate options for shared use path connections to the Town and will present its findings in a report to the Town Council and to Town residents. Study of the options by the Task Force should include fact-based evaluation of short-term and long-term effects on the Town of each potential connection using criteria such as:

1. Overall safety
2. Impacts on specific areas of the Town
3. Environmental and historic impact
4. Legal implications of the Town’s responsibilities regarding maintenance and liability
5. Ease of access to Metro by Town and neighboring communities
6. Recreational value of a shared use path
7. Social equity implications
8. Potential impact mitigations needed for each connection
9. Projections of 10 year use from MCDOT or other sources for this shared use path connection, considering all available data for similar shared use paths.

B. *Task Force Actions*

The Task Force will consist of nine members proposed at the July 12, 2021 Town Council meeting by the Mayor with Town Council concurrence. It will:

1. Hold an organizing meeting.
2. Share information with residents about steps that have been taken thus far in the connection planning process.
3. Conduct open meetings to accept input from Town residents
4. Consider all relevant issues
5. Present findings to the Town Council at the Town Council’s November 8, 2021 meeting or at a Special Town Council meeting scheduled for presentation of their report.

- II. A Special Town Meeting will be scheduled within 60 days of presentation of the Task Force report to the Council. The purpose of the meeting is for the Task Force to present its findings to the Town.
- III. The Town Council commits to taking a vote on a shared use path option at a date after the Town Meeting during which the Task Force presents its findings to the Town.
- IV. Upon passage, the Mayor will inform the County in writing of this Motion and the process the Town is proceeding with.
- V. It is the position of the Town Council that the passage of this motion, in whole or in part, constitutes “act[ing] favorably” under Town Charter section 15(c).