

Washington Grove's Candidate Forum Saturday, May 7 at 3:00 pm, via Zoom

Come to the annual Candidate Forum! Your neighbors who are candidates in the upcoming Town elections will introduce themselves and answer your questions. Other town officeholders will also be attending.

This forum will take place one week before the election and the Town Meeting. It has been organized by an ad hoc group of residents in order to give voters an opportunity to better know the candidates.

The Zoom link for the event is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2289422486>. To access the forum by telephone, dial 301-715-8592, and follow instructions to get to Meeting ID 228 942 2486.

In addition, candidates were asked to submit one-page statements with a photo, which follow.

Candidate for Mayor John G. Compton

About me

Sheila and I moved with our two girls to 202 Ridge Road in 1991. I have played an active role in the Washington Grove community, including as a Town Councilor before and after nine years as Mayor (2000-2008), and again as Mayor since 2018.

Mayor's "platform":

I'm asking for your support as Mayor with confidence that I will continue to effectively manage Washington Grove's affairs. These include oversight of the excellent financial and operational status of the Grove, and maintaining the existing spirit of cooperation, effectiveness, and accomplishment among elected and appointed officials. Importantly, I will support and promote the many volunteers who contribute time and effort as the Town's unpaid "staff" and who are essential to sustain the Town's amenities and the quality of life associated with our natural beauty and community activities.



Of note over the last 12 months:

- The successful virtual 2021 Annual Town Meeting and budget adoption process.
- The safe and effective conduct of our 2021 annual election by mail-in voting.
- The 2022 Comprehensive Plan is now in its final review and adoption phase by the Town Council. The Planning Commission concluded over 3 years of meetings and work on the Plan that involved input from numerous town residents.
- Jean Moyer had a seamless transition year as the new Town Treasurer.
- The Town Council confirmed lower Brown Street as the preferred location for the shared-use pathway entry to the Grove after the Shared-Use Pathway Taskforce delivered a report evaluating the connection options and a Special Town Meeting.
- Washington Grove was a recipient of \$250,000 for stormwater management from the State through the Legislative Bond Initiative process, and was awarded of over \$460,000 from the federal government's American Rescue Plan.

In the coming year:

The coming year offers prospects to further transition away from the severe COVID-19 health crisis towards more normal social life at home, and the resumption of many traditional Grove community gatherings and activities. The Town Meeting in a few weeks will again be in-person and voting in-person will be possible in the coming election. Accomplishing Town business in official and volunteer committee meetings is likely to continue to utilize the convenience of virtual participation. Following retirement of Maintenance Supervisor Steve Werts, Town maintenance needs will be provided by a combination of contracted services and volunteer efforts.

Some of my ambitions for the coming year:

- Adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Completion of an attractive electric vehicle charging station on Center St. by Pepco.
- Significant progress on the design phase of the multiuser path by MCDOT with participation of our Shared-Use Pathway Liaison Committee.
- Progress on one or more stormwater management projects using funds awarded by the state and federal governments to mitigate damage and problems in the West Woods and elsewhere.
- Supporting sustainability initiatives to facilitate resident use of renewable energy.

Candidates for Town Council

Darrell Anderson, Patrice Klein, Eva Patrone

Vote for two

Darrell Anderson

My name is Darrell Anderson and I'm asking for your vote to return me to the Town Council. I have served three terms on the Town Council and three terms as Mayor. Recent initiatives I have supported and worked to resolve include: my vote for the Brown Street connection of the Shared-Use Path and support for the Taskforce and the mitigation Workgroup; my support for the process that resulted in the Resolution for the installation of EV charging stations; the creation of the three-year paving RFP which simplified the Council's decisions about road repairs; my work with Steve Werts on many major projects as Council liaison for maintenance; and the production of a maintenance RFP which will take us to a new model for maintenance in the future.



In 2007 I was elected to the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee and served as Chair from 2016 to 2018. I earned a B.S. in Natural Science from the University of Tennessee and a Masters' degrees from American University in Biology (Genetics) and Environmental Science plus a Masters from the University of Maryland in Special Education (science teaching). I taught science in MCPS for twenty years and then became a contractor for the NIH managing the National High Blood Pressure Education Program for six years and then became the project manager for the National Cancer Institute (Division of Cancer Prevention) and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

I am retired and spend my time focusing on Town initiatives, my garden, and reading. As former Mayor my proudest accomplishment was taking the hand-off from John Compton to complete our legal battle against the Maryland National Parks and Planning Commission and securing ownership of the Conservation Meadow.

I believe that a clear vision, compromise, and decisiveness are key requisites for an efficient Town Council. My vision for the future includes: protecting our borders from incompatible and unsustainable development, maintaining the historic features of the Town as described in the National Historic Register, working to increase communication with neighboring communities, especially Emory Grove as they work to re-establish their community, bringing a positive tone to Town meetings, and encouraging new residents to participate in Town committees and activities.

As some of you know, I have had health issues, but they have not and will not impede my participation or actions on the Town Council. As always, the Town will face challenges in the future. I have the skills, knowledge, and experience to meet those challenges. I look forward to serving our community again if you so choose.

Patrice N. Klein

There is an expression by Teddy Roosevelt that guides me, “People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.” And I care about representing your interests and needs through a transparent and democratic Town government process to ensure all voices are heard, and all options are considered in deciding what is best for the town, now and into the future. It is what I have done and plan to do to support, improve, and further those issues you care about that really matters. In my two terms on the Town Council, I have worked diligently on a number of issues, all focused on ensuring that Washington Grove flourishes as a great place to live.



I care, as you do, about learning our local history to inform us on moving forward with open hearts and minds in the realization that we are all more similar than different. Sharing our common hopes, fears, and joys brings us together to build respectful relationships as a diverse and inclusive community. My upbringing and the many years spent working internationally in Central and South America, India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and Africa have made me grateful for those cultural experiences, and thankful for our multicultural neighborhood. I try to exemplify those ideals in my daily service to the Town.

I care, as you do, about the historic preservation of our Town and its National Historic Registry designation honoring our unique heritage and architecture. This extends to the preservation of our vintage street lighting and pursuing town ownership rights in discussions with Pepco and State Legislators. As we strive to uphold these legacy features, I believe we should respectfully balance these traditions without undue constraints on private property owners. As your Councilor, I have worked with the HPC, the PC, and the Lighting Committee to find the best solutions.

I care, as you do, about preserving our natural world and its biodiversity. We are fortunate to live in “A Town Within a Forest” surrounded by 80 acres of East and West Woods, a Conservation Meadow, multiple Parks within the Town, and Maple Spring – a natural water source contributing to Maple Lake. Our town is a sanctuary for native wildlife and we are blessed to share our lives with our wild neighbors. Many of you know I am always available for wildlife in need of veterinary care and to resolve ‘human-wildlife conflicts.’ As your Councilor, I use my experiences in the USFWS, the Humane Society of the United States, and Second Chance Wildlife Center to help guide our town on such issues.

I care, as you do, about our climate crisis and the need for each of us to do our part to reduce our carbon footprint. In my current role in the U.S. Forest Service, I help to develop national plans to mitigate climate-based environmental impacts. Six years ago, I converted my home oil furnace to a geothermal HVAC system, eliminating my dependency on fossil fuel. I am working to support our town’s efforts to establish a “Green Team” and participate in the Sustainable Maryland program. Also, to continue our efforts to plant native trees and restore our Woods Preserves to improve carbon sequestration (trees, vegetation, soils). I will work on the Town Council to find opportunities to transition to cleaner energy sources that will benefit the entire town.

I care, as you do, about the urgent need for stormwater management to protect Town and residential properties, and mitigate ongoing ecological damage in the West Woods. I worked with the Mayor and Woods Committee to secure State bond funds and ARPA funds towards developing a town stormwater management plan. My efforts have led to requesting County intervention to repair a broken culvert at the Town Crest boundary causing significant soil erosion and tree damage in the West Woods.

I care, as you do, about local public and pedestrian safety issues, and I am working with the EPSC, Woods Committee, and Border Committee on solutions. With my assistance, the Town notified the County about dangerous speeding vehicles along WG Lane and RR Street noting recent car accidents causing serious property damage, and requested a speed camera study and assessment for speed humps. I strongly advocate for street lighting at crosswalks and weather shelters at bus stops on those roadways. Because of my efforts as your Councilor, the County has scheduled repair of an obstructed culvert under RR Street causing Brown Street and Morgan Park flooding. As the Council liaison to the Border Committee, I am facilitating coordination with several town committees on common purposes to improve Town infrastructure as more welcoming, safe, and attractive.

In summary, I bring to the Town Council my 25+ years of federal civil service experience understanding that effective community service means putting the views and needs of others first. I also bring my unwavering commitment to volunteerism as a pro bono veterinarian at Second Chance Wildlife Center (20 years), a volunteer on multiple Town committees (Sustainability, Lake, Lighting, and Border Committees, EPSC, RASEC), the Women’s Club, and as a co-chair of the Woods Committee. I have served 2 terms as your Town Councilor and ask your support to continue my dedicated service to you on the Town Council.

As your Town Councilor, I vow to work tirelessly to ensure Washington Grove continues to be a great place to live. Working together, as neighbors and friends, with respect, compassion and a shared vision, our town and all its inhabitants will thrive for many more years. I love and care about this Town and all its special gifts.

Eva Patrone

My name is Eva Patrone, and I'm running for Washington Grove Town Council. With my skills of compromise and efficiency, I will work to keep Washington Grove a beautiful, inclusive, and family-friendly place to live.

My family and I moved to the Grove in 2018, and I continue to be in awe of the majestic trees, historic homes, and thriving community. I feel so lucky I get to raise my daughters (ages 2 and 5) in a town with an idyllic swimming lake, woods for hiking, and a year-long schedule of social and recreational activities. I know we wouldn't have these amenities if not for the efforts of our volunteer-run government.



When I first moved to Washington Grove, I started lobbying Montgomery County to install a crosswalk at Commercial Corner. I was so happy to see my hard work finally pay off! Last year I served on the Shared Use Path Task Force, researching the proposed pathway connection between Washington Grove and the Shady Grove Metro. As a member of the Task Force, I helped create and present a comprehensive, fact-based report so residents could make an informed vote about the pathway.

I have a B.A. in Psychology and Mathematics from The College of William & Mary and an MFA in Fiction Writing. A former high school math teacher (most recently the Science & Math Department Chair at The Siena School in Silver Spring), I now focus on my fiction writing and work as a writing coach.

As an educator, I am organized and always ready to learn new things. I recognize that everyone's time is valuable, and, if elected, I will work to make meetings run smoothly, with an eye to compromise and efficiency.

I am eager to help Washington Grove in preserving its history while also looking towards the future by making connections with surrounding communities and prioritizing environmental concerns.

As a member of Town Council, I will represent the whole community, while also bringing my personal insights as a parent raising children in the Grove, to ensure that our town continues to be a unique and wonderful place to live and play in the years to come.