

About me

Sheila and I moved with our two girls to 202 Ridge Rd in 1991. I have played an active role in the Washington Grove community, including as a Town Councilor 3 years (1996-1999) before serving 9 years as Mayor (2000-2008), and again as Town Council (2017-2018 and 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 2022 Annual Town Meeting and budget adoption process.
- Adoption of the 2022 Comprehensive Plan.
- Successful transition from employing a Maintenance Supervisor employee to using contracted landscaping and maintenance services.
- Completion of an attractive electric vehicle charging station on Center St. by Pepco.
- Progress on the 15% engineering phase of the shared use pathway by MCDOT.
- Negotiated a plan from the USPS to make post office boxes free to residences in the Grove.
- Contracted awarded to recommend a stormwater/floodwater management plan which will be used to construct infrastructure to mitigate damage and problems in the West Woods and part of residential Washington Grove. This project is funded from \$710,000 in funds awarded to the Town by the state and federal governments.
- Support for sustainability initiatives to facilitate resident use of renewable energy.
- Passage of Resolution 2023-01 "Acknowledging Washington Grove's Racially Exclusionary Past".
- MD legislation allowing the Town to initiate removal of illegal restrictive covenants from deeds.

Some of my ambitions for the coming year:

- Award of a contract to construct infrastructure to mitigate damage and problems in the West Woods and part of residential Washington Grove. This project will be funded from \$710,000 in funds awarded to the Town by the state and federal governments.
- Confirm with the County that the Shared Use Pathway between Brown Street and Crabbs Branch will follow the contoured route previously approved, and completion by MCDOT of the 15% and 35% engineering design phases of the route.
- Develop plans with the City of Gaithersburg for a shared use pathway connecting Brown Street to Washington Grove Lane.
- Consideration and adoption of ordinances allowing accessory dwelling units in town.
- Confirm that residents are committed to a) meeting climate change goals for the Town and b) residential conversion to the use of renewable energy sources. Implementation of a pilot incentive program to promote such conversion.
- Implement technology to make possible in-person and virtual (hybrid) meetings in McCathran Hall.

My name is Rob Gilmore, and I'm running for a three-year Town Council seat. I've lived here in Washington Grove with my wife, Emily Cavey, and our four kids (Sophie, Bella, Jude and Eli) since April 2007. I previously served on the Town Council from 2018-2020, and have served by appointment to fill Darrell Anderson's seat since December of last year.

Emily and I have been incredibly blessed that our kids could grow up in such an amazing town. I'm running for Town Council to make sure that Washington Grove's best qualities-- its neighborliness and civility, its natural and architectural beauty, its amenities and activities -- are not just preserved, but enhanced, and that the town continues to be a welcoming and attractive place for people to raise a family. To do that, we must make a concerted effort to nurture the qualities of this town that are its most compelling, while adding to what the town offers to existing and prospective community members.



As a Town Council member, I will work with you on the following priorities:

1. Committing to civility and transparency: Washington Grove is first and foremost *a community* - neighbors linked by the shared experience of being so fortunate to live in this wonderful town. Our town's government must reflect and embody this sense of community. I'll work with anyone in the town in good faith to bridge gaps. Where we have to agree to disagree, I'll act with courtesy and forthrightness, expecting that from others, too. I'm committed to ensuring that the lines of communication between the town government and people are clear, and that information is conveyed in a timely and accurate manner.

2. Promoting and improving Washington Grove's amenities and dynamism: When I previously served on the Town Council, I promoted "Grove 2023"—part of the town's 150th anniversary celebration—an inter-committee/commission task force that would hold well-publicized, public meetings, to identify the town's priorities in this regard, and then work with the Town Council to realize those priorities. I also have been a strong supporter of the shared use path, the dog park, community vegetable gardens, and augmenting the playground, because features like these make our town an even more attractive choice for new residents (particularly families). I will continue to advocate for these and other amenities.

3. Cooperating with the broader community: I'll fight to preserve Washington Grove's tranquility, seclusion, uniqueness, and to be vigilant about threats to those qualities. But at the same time, we must leverage our town's location, amenities, and human talent and energy, to work with the broader community towards realizing our collective goals. Two ideas: (1) joint town hall events with members of the surrounding community to build communication and understanding about our shared interests and concerns, and (2) working with our local public schools through volunteering and joint town-school activities, to show that Washington Grove offers good educational options for families.

I look forward to earning your support and trust, and working with you on the exciting challenges and opportunities Washington Grove faces.

Forty years ago, I moved to this place called Washington Grove. My plan was to renovate and flip #1 The Circle. My mom thought I was crazy to spend \$87,000 on “that shack.” It didn’t take me long to realize that I could never find a better place to live. And I feel the same way today.

Unlike most communities where your ‘home’ is the box you live in, all of Washington Grove is my home and its residents my family. We may bicker about the small things such as a dog park or bike path but, when a neighbor is in need, all else is forgotten.

Why Counselor? For me it is a natural progression. I have been on the Planning Committee for 10 (?) years and chair for the last 4. I was also a founder of the Border (Gateway) Committee and chair since inception. I work with the Rec Committee on Music Weekend, am working on SITP, and am co-chair of the 150th Anniversary Committee. And lastly, I began CircleFest three years ago and it continues to grow in popularity and scope. (See you on the 27th!).



My background is in adult business education (Executive Director of American Management Association’s Federal Institute; Executive Director Federal Leadership Institute; VP Human Capital, MicroSystems; and Principal, International Centre for Certification). I look forward to bringing this knowledge and experience to the Town government, especially my training in Change Management and Outward Mindset.

I do not have a platform. I believe an elected official should be actively listening to residents’ concerns and supporting those concerns. I think I can be very helpful in guiding the Town into a future where new ideas are not threatening, and we create an environment that is attractive and welcoming to all people.

My Grove Bucket List: Be part of creating a group home for Grove seniors so they can live out their years in the place they love; Complete a walkway around the lake that allows access to the spring I always hear about but have never seen; Build a small bridge on the West Woods trail so people can safely cross the little stream; Get bathrooms at the lake; and lastly, finally have that Margarita Crawl that I have been talking about for the last ten years. 😊

I have lived in Washington Grove since 2011. John and I share our home with our four dogs. When I moved here as a 45-year resident of Washington DC I could not believe my good fortune in finding this community. I often remarked to friends that I met more people in my first two months here than I did in 15 years on a DC street. The beauty and serenity of our town and the amazing community spirit continues to enrich my life.

I have been a practicing physician for over 40 years but like many, the pandemic led me to an earlier than expected retirement. Since then, I have been involved in various volunteer activities including with Montgomery Hospice, Red Cross, a local food bank, and Gentle Giant Draft Horse Rescue. It is timely for this opportunity to join the town council as I have the time, the energy and the enthusiasm to serve.

Although I have never held office in the town, I have served on many town committees, including Lake, Emergency Preparedness, Border and Dog Park. It was my bright idea to envision a dog park for the town and I worked diligently to see this accomplished. I also helped to bring pickleball to the Grove. I am AED coordinator for the town.

My hope for my time on the council would be to help to foster a renewed wave of volunteerism and community spirit. So many new families moved to town during the pandemic and did not get to experience the full Grove initiation that I remember when we first arrived. I see a new opportunity to encourage involvement and to generate enthusiasm in community activities.

I believe that our town government should represent all of us. I would hope to be available to hear residents' views and to effectively reflect these in council business.

When we first moved to the Grove my three grown boys came to visit. As they walked around town one of them remarked, "I wish we had grown up here!". I would hope that the future of our unique town would have many saying "I'm so lucky to have grown up here!"