



Town Bulletin

www.washingtongrovemd.org

301-926-2256

September 1, 2022

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Town Council News

Next meeting: Monday, September 12, 2022, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom meeting](#) (or dial in to 301-715-8592 using meeting ID: 297 850 640 and password 074385).

Actions at the August 8th Town Council Meeting

- Introduction of Resolution 2022-07, adopting the 2022 Comprehensive Plan
 - Approval of various amendments to the 2022 Comprehensive Plan.
 - Scheduled a public hearing on the amended 2022 Comprehensive Plan for August 29, 2022.
 - Scheduled a Special Town Council meeting to adopt the 2022 Comprehensive Plan to follow the Public Hearing on August 29, 2022.
 - Approval of new signage for the kiosk on the Woodward Park playing field.
-

Mayor's Kudos

- To Bruce Rothrock for road repairs at the entrance to Maple Lake.
- To Meredith Horan and Steve Werts for facilitating repairing the gate to Woodward Park.

Actions at the August 29th Special Town Council Meeting

- Approval of various additional amendments to the 2022 Comprehensive Plan.
- Adoption the amended 2022 Comprehensive Plan by passage of Resolution 2022-07; Adopting the 2022 Comprehensive Plan.

2022 Comprehensive Plan Adopted!

A town-wide sigh of relief could be heard earlier this week after the Town Council unanimously approved adoption of the 2022 Comprehensive Plan (CP). The planning authority granted to Washington Grove by the State of Maryland requires that we revise our Comprehensive Plan every 10 years. The new 2022 CP replaces (updates) the Town's 2009 Master Plan. It addresses growth, private property use, and public property and facilities in the Town and serves as a roadmap for our future.

The CP is the result of literally thousands of man-hours of review and thoughtful expression by dozens of resident *volunteers since 2019*. **Kudos galore to everyone involved!** And for their dedication and time volunteered, special acknowledgement and appreciation goes to Georgette Cole, who guided the complex three-year process for the Planning Commission, to the Planning Commission itself, and to the Historic Preservation Commission.

[You can access the adopted 2022 Comprehensive Plan here.](#)

Woodward Park News

The parking area of Woodward Park is closed to vehicles between sunset and sunrise. Currently the gate is being closed by volunteers, and we are now relying on early-morning walkers to open the gate at sunrise. So, if you happen to see the gate still closed in the morning, please do us a favor and swing it open. (The gate is not locked.)

We are also looking for a few more volunteers to help close the gate at night. This an easy task — simply closing the gate; no need to go into the park — and could be done by someone who regularly takes an evening stroll. If interested, please contact Eva Patrone at counciloreva@gmail.com.

Even if you are not an official volunteer, if you happen to notice the gate still open after dark, feel free to close it. Although we rarely have trouble in the park, it does happen, and having the gate closed at night is a good deterrent. Thank you!

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News from Grove Boards and Commissions

Historic Preservation Commission News

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 7:30 pm. The public is invited to attend this virtual meeting via Zoom. For a copy of the agenda, email Chair Bob Booher at booherfamily@comcast.net.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

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Planning Commission News

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 7:30 pm. 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 these meetings [by Zoom videoconference](#), or dial in to 301-715-8592, meeting ID: 881 3713 5118 and following the audio instructions.

Please make sure your name is associated with your zoom device in order to be admitted from the Waiting Room.

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.

Building Permits Approved in August

- None

Public Ways & Property Permits (PW&PP) Approved in August

- Approved use of Town land at the tennis courts for the new edible garden.

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News from Grove Committees

Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee News

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 22, 2022, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 862 4782 7870

September is National Preparedness Month -- Are you ready?

National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. Please visit the Ready.gov website at: <https://www.ready.gov/september> for more information about making and implementing plans for a wide variety of disasters and emergencies.

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.

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Forestry & Beautification News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 7:30 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

It's time for fall tree planting. The meeting will take place on Zoom at 7:30pm at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2289422486>. 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).

What are Those Yellow Tapes For?

If you have noticed yellow tapes attached to some of the newer trees around town, you might be interested to learn why they have been marked by Forestry & Beautification. As a tree matures it

needs to have its canopy thinned out to encourage balanced, healthy growth. The thinned canopy will also allow the tree to better cope with high wind and winter weather.

Forestry & Beautification decided to engage a licensed arborist to prune trees planted in the last eight or nine years. One of the problems of our older trees -- mostly planted by Mother Nature -- is that they have not received healthy pruning, making them vulnerable to blow down in high winds. Once the newer trees have received the attention of the arborist, we will take a closer look at some of the older trees for canopy pruning as needed.

Audrey S. Maskery

Co-chair, Forestry & Beautification

[See the latest item, "Tree of Heaven," in the *Trees in the Grove* series from Jay Everhart.](#)

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Gateway Committee News

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 15, 2022, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

The second of the three Welcome to Washington Grove signs is now in place welcoming travelers as they enter the Town via Aitchison's Crossing (across from Roberts Oxygen). The third sign will be installed shortly at the Commercial Corner to welcome travelers as they enter Town via East Diamond Avenue. Walkway signage is presently being installed on Grove, Chestnut, and Fourth Avenues to compliment recently installed Identity Fencing. Efforts to improve the appearance and safety of the West Woods side of Washington Grove Lane have begun with the County clearing back brush to improve signage visibility.

The Committee met with several other committees at Center Street/Washington Grove Lane to strategize on a design that would convert the entrance into an attractive walkway while also addressing the runoff (water) problems. Next steps include placing bollards at the entrance (similar to Brown/Hickory entrance); soliciting consulting support for water control designs; F&B plans for planting of trees; and improved signage.

The removal of the Commercial Corner dumpster is making progress. The Town is awaiting a proposal from Bell Properties (owners) that would eliminate the need for the larger dumpsters and relocate waste storage to a less obvious location.

Identity fencing will continue to be installed along Washington Grove Lane and RR Street; Welcome signage is being installed at the walkway between the Grove and Shady Grove Crossing; and signage at the Chestnut Ave. and McCauley Ave. entrances is being updated.

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Lake Committee News

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 15, 2022, 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

The Lake Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:30 via Zoom, until we can meet at the Town Hall. Here's the [Zoom link](#) for the meetings. New members welcome and encouraged! Call John Hutchinson or Tom Land if you have any questions or suggestions.

Swim at Your Own Risk

We are fortunate to have some lifeguards at the Lake but are unable to staff as sufficiently as we have in the past. Therefore, we are not planning to have a diving board. Parents are responsible for their children and should always watch them when they are in the water.

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Lighting Committee News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 961 798 0177

Questions, ideas or concerns? Please contact Virginia Quesada at 301 706-7933 (cell) or vq@qmediainc.com, or Robert N. Johnson at rnj@elecdev.com.

We meet the fourth Wednesday of every month. All are welcome to attend!

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Racial and Social Equity Committee

Next meeting: Sunday, September 11, 2022, 2:00 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 832 8090 2543

Accessory Dwelling Units Programs

The Racial and Social Equity Committee will sponsor a series of three informational programs about accessory dwelling units (ADUs). The 2022 Comprehensive Plan suggests that the Town explore the possibility of permitting ADUs. What would that mean for our Town within a Forest? Let's learn more and ask questions.

Each program will feature a different speaker and all programs begin at 7:30 pm via Zoom on the following dates: September 22, October 26, and December 1. More information can be found on the website.

[Join the meetings on Zoom.](#)

Meeting ID: 854 1546 5840

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Recreation Committee News

Next meeting: TBD

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 838 5854 5352

Labor Day Schedule of Events

Friday, September 2

- 6pm @ the Tennis Courts: Pickleball

Saturday, September 3

- 10am @ Woodward Park: Field Games
- 3pm @ Woodward Park: Softball Game

Sunday, September 4

- 10am @ the Tennis Courts: Tennis Adult Doubles Mixer
- 2pm @ Dog Park: Pet Agility Course Bring your furry friends!

Monday, September 5

- 10am @ Woodward Park: Bike Races (bike helmets mandatory for all racers)
- 3pm @ Woodward Park: Croquet Tournament
- 6pm @ McCathran Hall: Potluck Dinner and Awards

Email Alison Faupel at alison.faupel@gmail.com for more information.

The 14th Annual Washington Grove

"BLUESTOBER FEST!"

Saturday, October 1, 2022, 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Please come out and enjoy a fun musical gathering with family and friends as we celebrate the autumn season with acoustic sounds from 6-7pm and then enjoy the high-energy funky blues from **The Billy Thompson Band** from 7:30-10pm. This event will be held at the Gazebo (McCathran Hall if it rains). This event will be BYO Picnic and BYOB! We also hope to have the Town popcorn machine and snow cone machines working!

For more information on the event, please contact Lawren Selby at [\(703\) 203-1643](tel:(703)203-1643) or Eric Selby at [\(703\) 203-8100](tel:(703)203-8100). We can sure use your help with set-up and clean up so please e-mail or call us if you are willing to help or have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you as we gear up for the 14th Annual Washington Grove "Bluestober Fest!" And, of course, the event is "Lederhosen Optional."

Holiday Show

The weather may still be warm, but it's never too early to start thinking about our annual Holiday Show! We're planning on a live show this year, but we have a Plan B if needed. If you can join us this year, put on your calendar that our organizational meeting will be **October 9th from 2 PM to 4 PM** at McCathran Hall. If you can't be there but you want to be part of this year's show, let Judy Mroczka (mrascal107@gmail.com) or Marilyn Frey (marilynnf@comcast.net). As always, we need performers and backstage help!



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Sustainability Committee

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

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Woods Committee News

Next meeting: Friday, September 2, 2022, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 838 6395 4125

Passcode: 486800

Our meetings are regularly held on the first Monday of each month. The September meeting was rescheduled because of the Labor Day holiday. Our October meeting will be held on Monday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Deer Management

The Town Council has approved continuation of the deer management program in the East and West Woods with our volunteer Bow Hunter Fire Fighters of Maryland (BHFFMD) this Fall-Winter season. The season runs from Friday, September 9, 2022, until Tuesday, January 31, 2022. The BHFFMD are skilled archers. They will be hunting at sunrise and sunset. Signs will be posted at the entrances to the Woods. There is no danger to hikers using the forest trails at any time during this hunting season. The East and West Woods will be open during this archery season. Please contact Joan Mahaffey or Patty Klein.

Stormwater Management

The Woods Committee and Mayor met with representatives of Montgomery County Department of Environment (DEP) and Department of Transportation to evaluate stormwater damage in the West Woods and potential mitigation efforts. Our next step will be to search for a professional environmental engineering contractor to assist with West Woods stormwater management. We welcome assistance in developing the 'request for proposals' (RFP) from Town residents with any stormwater management experience. Please contact Patty or Joan. Stay healthy and safe and enjoy the beauty of nature in our East and West Woods Preserves.

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News from Other Grove Organizations

WG United Methodist Church News



Please join Minister Margie Matthews and our congregation in person or over Zoom Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM.

Weather permitting, we will be meeting outside, under the trees, on Sunday 11th. If it rains, we'll try for September 18th.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 964 361 1456

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Woman's Club News

Upcoming Events

Auction and Raffle – October 22nd

Our Auction Format is Designed to Engage Everyone

Now that you've already put Saturday, October 22 on your calendar, we want to share a little about the exciting, unique format for this year's **Auction**. Come early, come late, or stay for an entire afternoon and evening of fun!



Raffle for Kids of All Ages

Beginning at 4 pm, children and adults are invited to stop by the Woman's Clubhouse and participate in a "**Penny Raffle**," (which is just a little misnomer 😊). Multiple items and grouped items valued at under \$25 will be raffled off. Tickets are \$1 each, or \$10 for 12 tickets. Raffle goers may place a ticket or tickets in a container designated for the item they are interested in. The Penny Raffle will close at 5 pm, at which time the drawings will be held. Light refreshments will be available.

Silent Auction Feature to Feature Creative Baskets and More

Also beginning at 4 pm in the Clubhouse is the **Silent Auction**. Items valued at more than \$25 will be displayed, along with bid sheets. Here you'll find lovely gift baskets, yummy baked goods, small antiques, services donated by townspeople, and much, much more. Stop by between 4 and 7 pm to place your bids on the bid sheets. The Silent Auction winners will be announced at 7 pm. Light refreshments will be available.

And then, the Fun Begins with the Live Auction!

At 7 pm, come to the Clubhouse and browse the **Live Auction** items. Grab a cocktail and some nibbles, mingle with neighbors, and get ready for some wild and crazy bidding! The bidding will begin immediately after the Silent Auction winners are announced. Several of our local artists have already pledged donations of their handiwork, and other donations promise to be equally intriguing!

Donations and Volunteers Still Needed

Wanting to donate to the auction or volunteer? Contact Auction Co-Chairs Wendy Weisbard, wwg26@hotmail.com, or Arlene McCrehan, mccrehan@gmail.com.

The Return of Saturday Morning Coffee and Donuts!

Co-Sponsored by the Woman's Club and the Sustainability Committee

On Saturday September 24th we will be resuming our very popular **Saturday Morning Coffee and Donuts** at McCathran Hall, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. This month's topic is **Residential Community Solar** - How you can have clean solar energy and save money without rooftop solar.

Please join your neighbors and friends for donuts, coffee to learn about a residential community solar energy option for your home.

We are a town within a forest, and many of our homes are not good candidates for rooftop solar. Learn how you can join dozens of your Grove neighbors who have signed up for another way forward: community solar.

With community solar, you still have an account with Pepco for delivery of electricity, but you source most of that electricity from a nearby solar farm owned and operated by another company. When you sign up, a fraction of the output of that farm is reserved for you. The electricity you buy from this farm is typically guaranteed to cost 5-10% less than what Pepco charges, and the savings are even greater for low- and moderate-income families.

Our speaker is Kevin Cheung. After a decade of experience working with utility companies, energy management firms, energy generators and energy efficiency firms, Kevin has developed a true passion for helping consumers navigate the ever-changing world of utility expenses. Kevin will explain further how community solar works, how you can sign up, how your bills will change, and more.

Outreach Programs

Here Comes Fall!

Our Club is collecting coats, hats, gloves and other outerwear for the Washington Grove Elementary School.

We are also collecting school supplies to help fill the Teacher's Closet. Without this help, teachers end up buying supplies out of their own pockets. Big Lots, Staples and Target, to name a few, usually have good back-to-school supplies sales.

Monthly Meals for Priscilla's House on the First Wednesday of Every Month

One of our most popular programs this year has been providing meals for the 9 residents and staff of Priscilla's House on the first Wednesday of every month, including one resident who is a vegetarian, but eats fish. We still need volunteers for **October** and **December**.

We've had individuals, families and groups of friends, volunteer to make a main course, a side dish, a dessert and to deliver the meals. If you would like to take part in this program and provide a meal for these women, [you can sign up here](#).

Donations for the Archways Kids and Their Families

Throughout the year, the Woman's Club collects food and supplies to put together in monthly care packages for the Archway families. Donations have slowed up recently, and our cupboards are beginning to look a bit bare. We need things like peanut butter, white rice; individual bags of cookies, packs of pudding and other treats; individually wrapped rolls of paper towels and toilet paper; sanitary pads; men and women's deodorant; toothpaste; liquid hand soap; and laundry detergent.

Our Club Helps Out Where SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Leaves Off

As the needs of those around us continue, our Club is collecting some of the much-needed items that SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) doesn't pay for. SNAP does not pay for things like Similac, Pedialyte, diapers and diaper wipes, and such things.

Where to Drop Off Your Donations

All donations can be dropped off either in the box on the Clubhouse porch or on Wendy Weisbard's porch at 119 Grove Road. Monetary donation checks should be made-out-to the Woman's Club (WCWG) with a notation in the Memo if you want the money to go towards a specific project. Checks can be dropped off with Cynthia Werts at 410 Oak Street or mailed to Cynthia at PO Box 354.

Our Outreach Programs can only happen with the continued support of our Little Town with the Big Hearts.

Follow The Woman's Club of Washington Grove:

- [on FaceBook](#),
- on Instagram at [@wgomansclub](#),
- and on [the Town's website](#) to learn about our special events.

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Coming Events Calendar

September 1	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
September 2	Woods Committee	7:30 pm	Zoom
September 6	Sustainability Committee	7:30 pm	Zoom
September 7	Planning Commission	7:30 pm	Zoom
September 8	Gateway Committee	7:30 pm	Zoom
September 11	Racial and Social Equity Committee	2:00 pm	Zoom
September 12	Town Council	7:30 pm	Zoom
September 14	Forestry & Beautification	7:30 pm	Zoom
September 14	BUILDING PERMIT SUBMISSION DEADLINE		
September 15	Lake Committee	7:30 pm	Zoom
September 15	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
September 17	Woman's Club/Sustain. Coffee and Donuts	8:30 am	Town Hall
September 20	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	Zoom
September 22	Emergency Prep. & Safety Comm.	7:30 pm	Zoom
September 28	Lighting Committee	7:30 pm	Zoom

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