



Town Bulletin

www.washingtongrovemd.org

301-926-2256

November 1, 2022

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Town Council News

Next meeting: Monday, November 14, 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 October Town Council Meeting

- Disapproved Resolution 2022-08, Clarifying the Procedure for Performing Volunteer Work on Town Property.
 - Approved **[Resolution 2022-09, Closure of Cherry Avenue to Vehicular Access \(PDF\)](#)**
 - Mayor's Kudos:
 - To Peter Nagrod, Bruce Rothrock and Terry Cox for clearing vegetation as the first step to improving Grove and Sixth Avenue (beyond McCauley) as a walkway and entry to the Town.
 - To the Lighting Committee for time and effort engaging with Pepco with other municipalities to create a process for potential ownership of our streetlights.
-

News from Grove Boards and Commissions

Historic Preservation Commission News

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 15, 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

In October, we started a series of excerpts from Robinson & Associates' 2019 Historic Context Report, Town of Washington Grove, to be included in the Bulletin over the next several months. We first looked at the establishment of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association; this month the focus is:

The Washington Grove Campground and the Early Camp Meetings

The Washington Grove campground was located southwest of Emory Grove, a Methodist camp meeting established by African Americans. Although the exact date of the first Emory Grove camp meeting is unknown, it is believed to have begun informally in the 1860s by area slaves who gathered together in a local grove. The Emory Grove revival attracted participants from across Maryland as well as surrounding states. When the railroad opened in 1873, Emory Grove participants could travel to the camp meeting by train, disembarking at the Washington Grove station.

The first camp meeting at Washington Grove began on August 13, 1873 and lasted for ten days. Although the weather was poor, with days of torrential rain, the event was declared a success. On a plateau of high ground within a clearing in the woods was the preacher's stand and rows of wood benches. Initially, the tents at Washington Grove were arranged in a grid pattern, with their entrances facing the preacher's stand and assembly area. This arrangement has its origins in early nineteenth-century campgrounds, which were typically laid out along one of three plans – rectangular, circular, or open horseshoe.

By the second camp meeting in 1874, the initial rectangular grid plan had been altered to accommodate an octagonal central gathering space. An article in the Evening Star newspaper from July 6, 1874, described an excursion to Washington Grove in advance of the ten-day camp meeting, "Numbers who are contemplating a sojourn in the grove...inspected the newly arranged grounds, and endeavored to locate their proposed homes in the woods. The stakes show that the inner court has been changed in shape from a square to an octagon, with radiating avenues entering upon it from four opposite directions." Eventually the octagon evolved into a circle, and

the camp meeting took on a wheel plan featuring a central gathering space, the “Sacred Circle,” surrounded by tent sites and radiating paths, also lined with tent lots. The radial paths were designated First Avenue through Sixth Avenue.

As previously noted, this arrangement was a derivative of the radial concentric plan most notably used at the Wesleyan Grove camp meeting on Martha’s Vineyard. Washington Grove historian Philip K. Edwards postulates that the rectangular plan may have evolved into a wheel form due to the weather, writing that, “There must have [been] much moving about of boundaries as tents were placed where they were practical instead of in neat rows.” The site’s topography may have also influenced the spatial configuration of the grounds. The founders of Washington Grove placed the preacher’s stand and assembly area at a high point within the property (roughly 522 feet or 159 meters above sea level), and the principal pedestrian route into the grounds followed along the crest of a ridgeline. Because the ridgeline curved slightly east around the assembly area, the wheel plan may have been a more natural fit for the shape of the land.

A flyer distributed by the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association in advance of the first camp meeting indicates that three sizes of canvas tents were available for rent in 1873 – 10 by 12 feet, 12 by 16 feet, and 14 by 20 feet. These tents came with a fly and were erected on wood platforms. Participants could also provide their own tent but were charged a fee to rent a lot. According to Edwards, lots measured 15 by 20 feet or 15 by 30 feet. An article in the *Evening Star* newspaper from August 13, 1873, reported that tents were “mostly about 14 feet square,” perhaps indicating that most attendees furnished their own tents rather than renting them from the association. In addition to the tents used by individual families and by church groups, open air tents were used to shelter “boarding saloons” that provided meals for campers and for daily excursionists. Market stands sold straw, furniture, perishables, and other goods.

In September 1873, one month after the official opening of the camp meeting, the *Evening Star* reported that “the railroad had erected a station house at the grounds.” (While nineteenth century newspaper articles refer to this building as both a station house and as a depot, the term depot will be used to describe the original building, which was a large frame structure with a gable roof that sheltered an open waiting area and enclosed storage space. The term station will be used to refer to the enclosed structure built across from the depot in 1906.) In 1877, the preacher’s stand and assembly space were replaced with a permanent pavilion known as the tabernacle. Typical of the form, it was open on all sides, and heavy timber posts and beams supported a wide hipped roof. Bracing at the top of the posts resembled tree branches. A description of the tabernacle written in 1879 gives its dimensions as 48 by 70 feet. (Robinson’s entire report may be accessed at [Historic Context Report Town of Washington Grove \(PDF\)](#))

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Planning Commission News

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 2, 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 October

- None

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

- None

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News from Grove Committees

Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee News

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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, November 9, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Join ZOOM Meeting

This meeting will do a final review of the fall tree planting and discuss other F&B issues. The meeting will take place on ZOOM at 7:30pm at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2289422486> . Our agenda can be found on the Town web site by Monday Nov 7. 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).

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Gateway Committee News

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 10, 2022, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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Lighting Committee News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 961 798 0177

The Lighting Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month. During the holiday season the fourth Wednesday of every month is right before Thanksgiving and during the week between Xmas and New Year's.

In order to make it easier for our members and the community to participate, we contacted the F&B committee, which normally meets on the second Wednesday of the month but often does not meet in December.

We asked F&B if we could use their time on December 14th for our next Lighting Committee meeting. F&B graciously are letting us use their time on December 14th, 2022.

To avoid conflicts with events – one can easily check volunteer committee schedules on the Town’s website. The Coming Events Calendar is always on the last page of the bulletin.

Due to advocacy on the part of many Maryland municipalities including The Town of Washington Grove; the Maryland Public Service Commission (MD-PSC) rejected Pepco’s recent streetlight tariff and directed them to directly discuss with Maryland Municipalities the process of obtaining municipal ownership of streetlights. This has been a big and complicated ongoing discussion and process. We are now working with Pepco and other municipalities trying to get forge an agreement by end of January 2023. This is no small task.

Please note that the Lighting Committee’s charter and mandate is to advise on public lighting in the Town. Public lighting includes streetlights, walkways, and some lighting around McCathran Hall and the Maintenance Building.

The Lighting Committee does not deal with residential lighting! There seems to be some interest in dealing with issues associated with residential lighting in TWG and we encourage interested individuals to form a committee to deal directly residential lighting issues. It is my understanding that the Sustainability Committee may be adding this to their issues of concern.

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.

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Racial and Social Equity Committee

Next meeting: Sunday, November 13, 2022, 2:00 pm.

[Join ZOOM Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 874 1892 4038

Passcode: 228324

Next Accessory Dwelling Unit Meeting

Please join your neighbors on Thursday, December 1 at 7:30 via Zoom for our third in the series of three Accessory Dwelling Unit Informational webinars.

You will hear from Nick Patten, an attorney who practices housing law in DC, and he will discuss research regarding ADUs, diversity, and social equity.

[Join the ADU meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 854 1546 5840

Passcode: 841322

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Recreation Committee News

Plan to be *Clueless in the Grove* with us!

Please plan to join us on Saturday night, December 10th, 7:30 PM at McCathran Hall for a grand Watch Party of Montgomery Municipal Cable's livestream of our hybrid Holiday Show *Clueless In The Grove: A Musical And A Mystery!*



If you prefer, you can watch from your own home – and don't forget to let your family and friends who aren't local know that they can also enjoy the show by going to www.mmctv.org and click on Watch LIVE in the upper right-hand corner. Viewers can also watch this on TV on Channel 16 on Comcast, Verizon, and RCN.

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Sustainability Committee

Next Meetings: Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 7:30 pm, and Tuesday, December 6, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022: Energy and Climate

On August 16, 2022, the President signed the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 into law. This major legislation includes the largest investment to address climate change in American history.

In particular, the Sustainability Committee will be watching developments in the following areas that may help Washington Grove residents:

- \$9 billion in consumer home energy rebate programs to electrify home appliances and for energy efficient retrofits.
- 10 years of consumer tax credits to make homes energy efficient and run-on clean energy, incentivizing heat pumps, rooftop solar, and electric HVAC and water heaters.
- Per household tax credits: up to \$8,000 for a heat pump; \$1,750 for a heat pump water heater; and \$850 for an induction cookstove. There'll be credits up to \$500 to help cover the cost of converting from natural gas or propane to electric and up to \$4,000 to upgrade your electrical

panel if necessary. The credits in our area will be available for household incomes below \$210,750.

- \$4,000 consumer tax credit for lower/middle income individuals to buy used, clean vehicles.
- Up to \$7,500 in tax credits to buy new clean vehicles.

In a broader view, the legislation includes important investments in the future, including:

- Tax credits to build clean technology manufacturing facilities that make electric vehicles, wind turbines, and solar panels; and to accelerate their production at existing facilities.
- A Defense Production Act investment to accelerate production of heat pumps and critical minerals.
- Grants to retool existing auto manufacturing facilities to build clean vehicles.
- Loans to build new clean vehicle manufacturing facilities around the country, and
- Investments in our national labs to accelerate breakthrough energy research.

There is much more to address emissions, including:

- A program to reduce methane leaks in the production and distribution of natural gas.
- Tax credits and grants for clean commercial vehicles and heavy-duty vehicles like school and transit buses and garbage trucks.
- Investments to reduce emissions from the largest industrial emitters like chemical, steel, and cement plants.
- Money for the U.S. Postal System to purchase zero-emission vehicles.
- Grants to reduce air pollution at ports and to build the infrastructure for sustainable aviation fuel, and
- Grants for climate-smart agricultural practices; forest conservation and urban tree planting; and to restore and conserve coastal habitats.

For sources of these notes and more details, [see this summary \(PDF\)](#) and [this Consumer Reports article “What the Inflation Reduction Act Could Mean for Your Next Appliance Purchase”](#).

The Edible Garden Group (EGG)’s First Harvest

A milestone event at the town garden by the tennis courts has occurred. Edible Garden Group (EGG) participants successfully completed their first harvest of the in-ground sweet potatoes just before frost damage would have rendered them inedible. A big shout out to the gardeners who were able to come out on short notice. The harvest is now being “cured” for a week or so at elevated temperatures to enhance their sweetness and flavor and to harden off the skins for better storage.

A lesson from the first year's garden experience is to plant the slips about a month earlier next year to allow more time for the tubers to fatten up. Manna, however, was very happy to receive an earlier sample bucket and glad to have them now "as-is" and even before curing. The sweet potato leaves have also been well received by Manna.

The EGG's next step will be to plant garlic in the sweet potato bed. Most of the garden will remain in cover crop over the winter. Soon we will be planning next year's crops and planting schedule so that we can order from the seed catalogs in January 2023.

The garden will be worked more intensively next year and we are actively looking for volunteers to join in. We invite your participation. For more information contact: Bruce Daggy, David Stopak, or Anne Vincent.

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Woods Committee News

Next meeting: Monday, November 7, 2022, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 871 1359 6284

Passcode: 005395

Fall Workday

The Woods Committee has scheduled a Fall Workday in the East Woods on Saturday, November 12th from 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM. Activities include spreading wood chips along some East Woods walking trails, cutting open plastic sleeves placed on trees, and boxing a few young trees for deer protection. We need your help so please join us! Wear work clothes, boots, and work gloves! Bring rakes, shovels, and cutters. Wheelbarrows and wagons are welcomed! Meet at the Town Maintenance Building.

Deer Management

The Town of Washington Grove's Deer Management Program continues in the East and West Woods with our volunteer Bow Hunter Fire Fighters of Maryland (BHFFMD). This year we are coordinating with MC Parks to extend bow hunting by BHFFMD to the Conservation Meadow and lower Piedmont Crossing Local Park meadow. Bow hunting will occur only at sunrise and sunset. The Woods Preserves and Meadows will remain open during archery season which runs until Tuesday, January 31, 2023. 'Deer Hunting by Permit of TWG' signs are posted at the East and West Woods trail entrances. MC Parks posted deer hunting signs in the Conservation

Meadow entrances. To date, two deer (does) have been harvested in the East Woods. Please contact Joan Mahaffey, Patty Klein, or Mayor Compton if you have any questions or concerns.

Stormwater Mitigation

In collaboration with other town committees and several Town Councilors, the Woods Committee has drafted a 'request for proposals' (RFP) on stormwater mitigation in the West Woods and the residential areas of town using a holistic approach for near-term and long-term improvements through incremental, affordable steps. The RFP will be presented at the November Town Council meeting.

Enjoy the Fall season and all the changing colors in our Woods Preserves.

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News from Other Grove Organizations

Washington Grove Cares News

We are hopeful that the pandemic will continue to ebb and that activities will soon resume in McCathran Hall. So, watch this space, because this winter Washington Grove Cares plans to revive our series of neighborhood speakers called "What's My Line? Grovers Revealed."

Meanwhile, if you need a ride to somewhere or a little assistance with something, remember that neighborhood volunteers can help. Perhaps you'd like to join our roster of helpers. In either case, call 301-944-2962, email washingtongrovecares@gmail.com , or visit www.washingtongrovecares.org.

Operation Green Light Honoring Our Military Veterans

Residents may wish to consider joining Operation Green Light, a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties to honor those who have made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom. The program asks for displays of a green light, from Nov. 7-13, in a window of businesses or residences to honor veterans.

From Nov. 7-13, Montgomery County's Memorial Plaza, which is located adjacent to the County Executive Building at 101 Monroe St. in Rockville, will be lit with green lights. [View more information about Operation Green Light.](#)

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WG United Methodist Church News



Washington Grove United Methodist Church will be holding our annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 19, 2022 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, *featuring unique handmade decorations and gifts.*

Every item at our bazaar is handmade. You'll see wonderful centerpieces, trees, decorations, and gifts that you won't see anywhere else at prices well below retail stores. You'll take special joy in knowing that the funds generated by your purchases support ministries right here in our local community.

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

WGUMC is a reconciling congregation. We believe that each person is a precious creation of God and is of sacred worth. We welcome 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 relationships and marriages.

[Join our Zoom meetings](#)

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Woman's Club News

Thanks to all who donated auction items, who worked on the auction and those who came out to bid on our fantastic Live Gold Auction items!

We will soon be closing our Clubhouse for the winter, but we are already looking forward to spring, when we will resume our popular monthly Saturday Morning Donuts and Coffee Programs. We will also be making plans for our next auction! Because yes, we have already collected enough donations for another, different type of auction in the spring.



Community Outreach

Shoeboxes to help with an Interfaith Works Project

Interfaith Works has reached out to us for help in collecting empty shoe boxes, which they will fill with toiletries to be handed out to homeless people living on the streets. If you have any

empty boxes, please drop them off on Wendy's porch (119 Grove Road) or on the Clubhouse porch.

Donation 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 Archways families. Supporting the seven families with children is a way that our Town makes a real difference in their lives. One of the ways we help is that when there is no school, so no school lunches, we are able to make sure that the kids still have something to eat.

Lately though, donations have slowed up and our cupboards are beginning to look a 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.

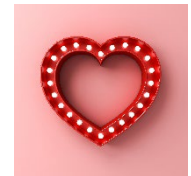
Our Club Helps Out Where SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Leaves Off

Please drop off your donations 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.

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.



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Other Notices

Bulk Leaf Collection Began October 31, 2022

New and long-time residents alike are reminded of the Town contract for bulk leaf removal each autumn. The contractor, Green Earth, Inc., will make regular but unscheduled pickups of leaves

raked or blown into windrows within six (6) feet of any roadway or walkway, excluding Railroad Street, 2nd Ave., 3rd Ave., 4th Ave., 5th Ave., and Boundary Street. This service begins October 31, 2022 and ends January 5, 2023, or as soon thereafter as we agree the work is complete. This is the only time to have leaves removed without bagging for recycling.

The contractor will time pickups based on the availability of full truckloads for vacuuming. One or two spectacular fall weekends in November or early December usually have most of us raking at the same time. If you rake when most others are raking, the windrows will probably disappear relatively quickly.

Please place your windrows within six (6) feet of the road or walkway (keeping in mind car & pedestrian traffic).

Green Earth will collect leaves by working from one end of the Town to the other, typically starting with Ridge Road working their way across the community, first removing piles along roads for safety reasons. After making one pass along roads, they will focus on walkways. If roads become obstructed before walkways are completed, roads will be cleared until they are safe. Then collection will resume along walkways. Weather may affect this process. Rain can restrict movement of large trucks on the avenues and accumulated snow, or freezing rain may make piles too heavy to vacuum. **The contractor will not remove leaf piles that contain branches, brush, pruned limbs, and cut ornamental grasses. Please do not add these to leaf piles. They foul the vacuum and Green Earth will not collect piles containing this material.** If a particular leaf pile has lingered for an inordinate amount of time, please call Kathy Lehman at the Town Office, 301-926-2256, or by e-mail washgrove@comcast.net.

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Coming Events Calendar

November 1	Sustainability Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 2	Planning Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 2	Holiday Show Rehearsal	7:00 pm	Town Hall
November 3	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
November 5	Holiday Show Filming All Day	10:00 am	Town Hall
November 6	Holiday Show Rehearsal	2:00 pm	Town Hall
November 7	Woods Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 8	ELECTION DAY	6:00 AM	Town Hall
November 9	Forestry & Beautification	7:30 pm	ZOOM
NOVEMBER 9	Building Permit Submission Deadline		
November 10	Gateway Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 11	Holiday Show Rehearsal	7:00 pm	ZOOM
November 13	Holiday Show Filming All Day	10:00 am	Town Hall
November 13	Holiday Show Rehearsal	7:00 pm	ZOOM
November 13	Racial and Social Equity Committee	2:00 pm	ZOOM
November 14	Town Council	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 15	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 17	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
November 18	Holiday Show Rehearsal	7:00 pm	Town Hall
November 20	Holiday Show Rehearsal	7:00 pm	Town Hall
November 23	Lighting Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 1	Accessory Dwelling Unit Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM

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