



Town Bulletin

www.washingtongrovemd.org

301-926-2256

December 1, 2022

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Town Council News

Next meeting: Monday, December 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 November Town Council Meeting

- Approved an RFP for a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan
- Approved a "Town Assistance by Individual Volunteers" article for the December Town Bulletin.
- Approved "Guidance for Landscaping and Maintenance Tasks Request".

Mayor's Kudos

To *Ali Faupel, Joey Fones, Emily Cavey and everyone* who conceived of, worked on, and contributed to making the Haunted East Woods Spooktacular a resounding success.

Resignation of Councilor Darrell Anderson

At the November 14th Town Council meeting, Councilor Darrell Anderson regretfully announced that he was resigning from the Town Council, citing that he no longer felt able to fulfill his duties to his satisfaction due to his cancer illness.

The Mayor and Town Council members expressed dismay at the loss of Darrell's experience, counsel, and effectiveness. They offered him their support, and thanked him for his lengthy service to the Town as Mayor for three years (2008-2011) and as Town Councilor for over 12 years (2000-2008, 2018-2022).

Open Council Position

Per the Town Charter, at its discretion the Town Council may appoint a new Councilor to serve until the next election in May 2023. The vacancy will be discussed at the December meeting of the Town Council. *Persons interested in being considered for appointment should contact the Mayor and Town Council.*

Contract Landscape and Maintenance Services: Request for Comment

Since last April, without a Maintenance Supervisor employed by the Town, routine groundskeeping and maintenance tasks have been performed under a contract with RJ Landscapers. Other tasks arising are being performed by individual vendor contracts (often also RJL) or by individual residents volunteering their time. We have gained experience managing these episodic tasks, and recently developed a [guidance document for individuals and Committees to request work, and for budgeting expenses for next year](#).

The Town Council and Mayor are proposing to continue the "experiment" of contracting for maintenance and groundskeeping through FY23 (*i.e.*, June 2023).

Your comments are solicited concerning successes and failures so far, and your suggestions for improvements to the task request process, and to the Request for Proposals that we will issue for these services in 2023. ([You can view the 2022-2023 RFP here](#)).

Town Assistance by Individual Volunteers

Washington Grove residents have a long and proud history of voluntarily helping to meet the needs of the Town and its residents. This volunteer work may be done through our many Commissions and Committees, but also through the efforts of individual residents acting alone to improve the Town.

The tasks of maintaining and improving the Town generally involve the policies of the Town Council under direction of the mayor, and often through Committee planning and scheduled

activities. There are also those necessary and/or desirable tasks that aren't being addressed. Clearly no individual will be aware of all these efforts and plans, and it is prudent that volunteers coordinate their activities with any entities designated to address a particular function or situation.

To facilitate that coordination, the Town Council believes it will be most helpful for individual volunteers to utilize the following list of functions and contacts *before beginning* any non-emergency action, or as soon as possible in emergency situations. If the designated contact cannot be reached, the Town Clerk or the Mayor may be contacted.

Forestry and Beautification Committee

Oversees the health and maintenance of trees, shrubs and the general appearance of Town land in the residential area of town, including the parks.

Contact: Chairman Georgette Cole (georgettewg@gmail.com) or Audrey Maskery (trees.beautification@gmail.com) or Council liaison Barbara Raimondo 301-792-2884, (councilorbarb@gmail.com)

Lake Committee

Is responsible for maintaining Maple Lake and grounds as a recreational resource for Town residents.

Contact: Chair John Hutchinson (hutchjm@gmail.com) or Council liaison Gray Yachup 240-731-3742, (gyachup@gmail.com)

Woods Committee

Oversees the health and maintenance of the East and West Woods for the use and enjoyment of residents.

Contact: Co-Chairs Patrice Klein (patriceklein@hotmail.com) or Joan Mahaffey (joanmahaffey@hotmail.com), or Council liaison Dave Cosson 202-236-8833, (dcosson@klctele.com)

Recreational Facilities

Including the Woodward Park fields, tennis courts, playground.

Contact: Councilor Eva Patrone (504-220-1760, (counciloreva@gmail.com))

Gateway Committee

Addresses appearance and issues along the borders of Washington Grove

Contact: Chair Peter Nagrod (pnagrod@msn.com) or Council Liaison Eva Patrone 504-220-1760, (counciloreva@gmail.com)

Roads and Walkways

Signage and the condition of Town roads and walkways.

Contact: Councilor Gray Yachup 240-731-3742, (gyachup@gmail.com)

Floodwater control in residential Washington Grove

Contact: Councilor Gray Yachup (240-731-3742, gyachup@gmail.com)

Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee

Promotes preparedness and addresses safety issues throughout Town.

Contact: Chair Dave Lutter 703-862-7445 (DLutter@gmail.com) or Council liaison Gray Yachup 240-731-3742 (gyachup@gmail.com)

Maintenance and Groundskeeping Guidance for All Residents: Who to Contact?

Emergencies (e.g., downed trees, water main breaks, downed electric wires)

- Issues that involve utility companies like a water main break or downed wires require contacting the utility company.
- For other emergency issues contact:
 1. The Town Office.
 2. Committee/Commission having responsibility.
 3. The responsible Town Councilor (listed on the home page of the Town website).

Non-emergency Maintenance Issues

- For general landscaping issues (e.g., missed mowing areas or signs blocked by foliage) contact the Town Office.
- For other non-emergency maintenance issues not including mowing or landscaping, notify the appropriate Committee or Councilor in charge of that area. (See website for listings). For example, if it involves a tree, notify Forestry and Beautification. If it involves a guardrail or roadway, the Councilor in charge of roadways would be contacted.
- For projects that require price estimates, consult the appropriate Committee Chair or the responsible Town Councilor.
- Although we cannot cover every issue, residents can always contact the Town office.

Gazebo News

The Gazebo hopes to continue its holiday tradition of festive decorations during the holiday season. The Gazebo seeks a willing volunteer to acquire an appropriate tree and set it up with lights (using Town hardware and funds, of course). Please contact Town Clerk Kathy Lehman at 301-926-2256.

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News from Grove Boards and Commissions

Historic Preservation Commission News

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 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

This month's excerpt from Robinson & Associates' 2019 *Historic Context Report, Town of Washington Grove*, reminds us that the founders' broad vision for Washington Grove was not limited to the spiritual revival afforded by the annual camp meeting...

Washington Grove – A Comfortable Summer Resort

The founders of Washington Grove intended from the start that it would also operate as a summer resort. A promotional pamphlet from July 1873 read, "After the land has been plotted, it is the intention of the Trustees to issue renewable leases to sites suitable for summer residences, for which its nearness to the railroad, its elevated position...its salubrity, and numerous other advantages, renders it more desirable to the public than any other place in the vicinity of Washington."

In fact, newspaper reports from the period reveal that Washington Grove was being used as a summer retreat rather than simply a temporary revival site and had its first permanent summer cottages as early as 1878. A newspaper account ("God's First Temple," *Washington Post*, August 3, 1878) reported that the cottages were painted white, "so as not to mar the beauty of the contrast made under the thick green foliage of the forest trees and the clear white of the tents."

The same article noted that the houses were "handsomely arranged with Venetian doors and divided into rooms to suit the convenience of their families, and ornamented according to the taste of the inmates...." Summer residents set up house well before the camp meeting, making good use of the grounds and its amenities for the entire season. Features such as Maple Spring were popular destinations for nature walks, picnics, and other passive recreational activities.

For those who resided at Washington Grove, whether for a week or two to attend the camp meeting or for the entire summer season, the association provided many of the civic amenities offered by contemporary suburban communities. The most viable and enduring nineteenth-century suburban developments offered a range of facilities such as hotels, schools, libraries, churches, club buildings, athletic fields, public parks, and sometimes small business districts.

The suburb of Kensington had the first public library (the Noyes Library) in the Washington, D.C., area, which opened in in 1893. Francis G. Newlands, the founder of Chevy Chase, induced buyers to his community by providing a post office/library, public schools, a hotel, a recreational lake, and a country club.

While Washington Grove did not have a school or a library, there was a hotel, a market, and open spaces for games and organized sports. Built in 1881, Washington Grove's hotel (variably called the Albany Hotel or Hotel Albany) served long-staying seasonal guests as well as day-trippers. It was located within Howard Park, a small park along the north side of Center Street between Grove Avenue and Chestnut Road. Its design and construction were supervised by one of the Grove's founding trustees, Richard H. Willet, who operated large lumberyards in Washington, D.C., and Maryland.

In 1884, the Grove could also lay claim to a barbershop and a dentistry. Starting in 1886, a seasonal post office operated out of the hotel; year-round postal service began in 1890.

Washington Grove had a dedicated stop on the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad, and the Humpback Bridge, a timber, pony truss bridge built by the B&O in the 1870s and located about 600 feet northwest of the Washington Grove station, greatly facilitated local travel, trade, and communication by providing a safe above-grade crossing at a blind curve in the tracks.

The subdivision of Oakmont on the west side of the tracks from Washington Grove was platted in 1888 by Henry Beard and James G. Craighead of Washington, D.C. Oakmont's developers hoped to take advantage of the popularity of the camp meeting and the convenience and proximity of the railroad to subdivide and sell the land for residential development. The initial plat for Oakmont included a park "dedicated for public recreation," that was located directly across from the railroad depot. The parcel north of the park was owned at the time by the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association. (This land was later sold.) The parcel to the south was improved in 1889 when Beard and Craighead built a two-and-a-half story, frame building on the lot, which operated as a general store (likely with living quarters above).

In 1894, the Washington Grove post office moved into the store, where it remained for over eighty years until 1978. For the residents of Washington Grove, the market and the post office were an important part of camp meeting life. *(Yes, the aforementioned two-and-a-half story, frame building now houses Hershey's Restaurant and Bar.)*

Washington Grove's earliest cottages typically featured steeply pitched, front gable roofs that evoked the shape of canvas tents. While the massing and form of Washington Grove's cottages were in part influenced by the canvas structures that initially made up the community, nineteenth-century trends in architecture and vernacular building had a strong influence on the Grove.

Nationally, the Carpenter Gothic style, which was developed by builders as an American domestic interpretation of the Gothic Revival, was pervasive. At Washington Grove, this style was expressed using scroll-sawn bargeboards, bracketed pendants, decorative dressings over or around windows and doors, and turned or chamfered porch posts. Board-and-batten construction created a visual quality consistent with the vertical emphasis of the style. Interior spaces were high and narrow. Gable windows provided ventilation and natural light. In some cases, a loft was built to create sleeping quarters above the ground-floor level. Many cottages

featured double front doors, sometimes with flanking full-height windows. When the front doors and windows were open, much of the interior was exposed to view.

Another significant feature was the front porch, which was typically built on grade or slightly raised. Most porches had hipped roofs and extended across the entire width of the cottage. A visitor writing in 1879, noted, “[The cottages] are all diversified in their architecture as in their internal appointments. Yet there is an air of harmony about them, standing amid the white tents, that is pleasant to the eye.”

Many of Washington Grove’s cottages were built within close proximity to one another. One observer, writing in 1887 described, “a jumble of gable ends and ridge roof, airy verandah and picket fence.”

Like many religious campgrounds, the transition from tents to permanent cottages at Washington Grove took place over a number of years. A historic photograph of the Grove from 1886 depicts the two generations of dwellings standing side by side. As was the case at many camp meeting sites, the cottages at Washington Grove were initially built on tent lots, which constrained their size and massing.

As a result, many cottages had a rectangular plan that measured 14 feet wide by 30 feet deep. The house at 315 Grove Avenue, which faces Second Avenue and dates to circa 1888, still retains its historic, 14- by 30- foot core. The original size of the cottage at 1 the Circle was 14 by 40 feet. Cottages were typically built on posts (often locust or cedar due to their resistance to decay) without foundations. The framing was minimal, typically consisting of 2- by 4-inch studs on 54-inch centers for both walls and roof. According to oral tradition, canvas was used to insulate and weatherproof the walls and roofs. Local builders of this period used triple-beaded, tongue and groove lumber for interior paneling, exterior siding, and porch ceilings, and some of the cottages at Washington Grove featured this distinctive type of lumber.

Frequently, cottages were expanded as more space was needed. A newspaper article from 1880 noted that while new cottages continued to be put up, “many of those already built have been enlarged by the addition of kitchens and dining rooms.” Canvas was sometimes used for exterior passages between the main house and kitchen wings.

While the names of many of the carpenters and builders who worked at Washington Grove are unknown, records indicate that one “pioneer cottage builder” was W. A. Scott. Scott was an African American who was living in the area when Washington Grove was founded. In 1883, he was appointed superintendent of the grounds and was given year-round use of a one-and-a-half-story, frame, Carpenter Gothic-style house located near the corner of Center Street and Chestnut Road (the site of the current parsonage at 101 Center Street). Behind the superintendent’s cottage stood several outbuildings and fields.

Because outdoor space was limited, some families planted small gardens in front of their cottages. A newspaper account from 1884 provides a description of the trend. “Perhaps the prettiest cottage in the grove is that of Mr. Ignatius Knott. It is surrounded with a miniature

garden in which are tiny beds of flowers in unique design and several urns filled with flowering plants," it reads. The trees, tabernacle, and fire stands at Washington Grove were whitewashed. This tradition encouraged a "beautiful and cleanly appearance" and allegedly protected the trees from insects and fungus. Lamplight and moonlight reflected off the painted trunks, helping with nighttime visibility.

(Robinson's entire report may be accessed at [Historic Context Report Town of Washington Grove](#))

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Planning Commission News

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 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 November

- None

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

- EV Charging Stations near McCathran Hall

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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](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 851 8902 1929

Passcode: 281990

Holiday Safety Tips for Pets

The holiday season is upon us, and many pet parents plan to include their furry companions in the festivities. As you gear up for the holidays, it is important to try to keep your pet's eating and exercise habits as close to their normal routine as possible. Please visit the following sites for additional information and guidance:

- [ASPCA -- Holiday Safety tips](#)
- [The Humane Society of the United States -- Holiday safety tips for pets](#)
- [AVMA -- 7 Ways to Make the Holidays Safer for Pets](#)

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, March 8, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

The Forestry & Beautification Committee will take a winter break in December, January, and February.

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Gateway Committee News

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 8, 2022, 7:30 pm. New members are encouraged.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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Lighting Committee News

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

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 who normally meet on the second Wednesday of the month but often do 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.

[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.

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.

On November 10th, our Mayor, John Compton, and several members of the Lighting Committee met with several subject matter experts from the Maryland Pepco Team. Pepco initiated this initial meeting.

Good afternoon, Mayor Compton,

Thank you for taking my call this afternoon. Per our conversation, I would like to know if you and the town's Lighting Committee would like to meet with a couple of our Pepco subject matter experts (Paul Lipari, Lance Schafer) on a one-on-one basis and discuss the following:

- *Understanding of where the Town of Washington Grove is in relation to the streetlight ownership process*
- *Opportunity to address any direct concerns*

We're looking at meeting on-site at your Town Hall, if possible, for approximately 1½ to 2 hours, next Wednesday (Nov 9) or Thursday (Nov 10).

Looking forward to our continued partnership.

This discussion on November 10th was very useful but there is still a very long way to go in the process of negotiation.

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

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Racial and Social Equity Committee News

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

[Join ZOOM Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 874 1892 4038

Passcode: 228324

Accessory Dwelling Units

The third and final informational program about Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) will take place on Thursday, December 1 at 7:30 via Zoom. One of the RASEC Housing Workgroup members, Nick Patten, is an attorney who practices housing law in DC. He will discuss research regarding ADU's, diversity, and social equity.

After the presentation there will be a brief discussion among the attendees. We will pose the following questions:

- Are you open to the idea of allowing ADU's in Washington Grove?
- If so, what do you see as advantages and concerns?
- Do you have any ideas about how to maximize benefits and avoid or minimize pitfalls?

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Recreation Committee News

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 7:30 pm.

There will be no meeting in December.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 838 5854 5352

Passcode: 727938

The Holiday Show is Coming!

Save the Date to be *Clueless* with us!

Plan to help us search for Clues at the Town's **Holiday Show Watch Party** on Saturday night, **December 10th, 7:00 pm for a singalong at McCathran Hall or 7:30 PM** for the Montgomery Municipal Cable's livestream of our hybrid Holiday Show **Clueless in the Grove: A Musical and a Mystery!**



Find the livestream by going to www.mmctw.org and clicking on **WATCH LIVE** in the upper right-hand corner. Viewers can also find this on TV on Channel 16 on Comcast, Verizon and RCN.



Terri Johnson at 204 Ridge Road is collecting new, unwrapped toys and books for children, from toddlers to age 12, for Toys for Tots. Please leave toys in the box in Terri's carport. Text her at 301-943-7530 with questions. Donation deadline is Sunday, December 11. Washington Grove has been very generous in the past.

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Sustainability Committee News

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

Subscribing to Community Solar Electricity

In the past, the Sustainability Committee has encouraged Grovers to switch from Pepco's standard-offer electricity (which is only 6% renewably generated) to a renewable electricity supplier via MD Energy Choice. This program made it possible to source renewable energy from an alternate supplier, while Pepco remained responsible for energy delivery. In recent months, this program has no longer offered competitive rates, and the requirement to renew annually can be a nuisance. So, in this article, we present a clean energy alternative which can save you money with a minimum amount of fuss: become a community solar subscriber. Community solar in Maryland, created by state legislation in 2015 and regulated by the Public Service Commission, was launched in 2017. Dozens of your neighbors have already signed up.

Community solar makes affordable solar available to many families who could not have it before. Here's how it works: When you enroll you are assigned a share of the output of a regional solar farm. The solar supplier aims to offset your electric usage over the course of a year. Since the

solar farm will produce more power in the summer and less in the shorter days of winter, the power provided each month by the solar farm will rarely if ever be an exact match for your actual usage. If your assigned share of the output of the solar farm ends up generating more electricity than you use in a summer month, you will earn credits that carry forward. If your share of the farm's output covers less than your full electric use, then Pepco (or your MD Energy Choice provider) makes up the difference. This is why one community solar provider, Clean Choice Energy, says, "You could save up to 10% on your electric bill." Ten percent savings means that what you used and what the solar farm generated were a perfect match.

Energy delivery is still handled by Pepco, so you will see two electric bills per month. Pepco is required to buy the solar electricity from you and will credit your next month's bill for the amount they paid. Then you pay the community-solar subscription management company for the electricity you actually used, but at a rate discounted from Pepco's rate by 5% to 10%, depending upon your contract. If you qualify as low- or moderate-income, your discount can be as high as 30%.

Advantages of community solar:

- There are no costs to subscribe.
- You don't have to be the homeowner, or have a roof with the right orientation, pitch, and lack of shading; you don't need to purchase or maintain equipment, but you are getting the use of a specific regional solar farm.
- Even if you don't monitor your bills closely to watch credits go up and down monthly, your contract guarantees a cost saving compared with Pepco.
- Contracts are typically for 20 years but can be ended with little or no penalty (a notice period may be required unless you are leaving the service area). If you move within Pepco's service area, your contract can move with you.
- If the community solar company were to go belly up or its solar field were destroyed by a catastrophe, there won't be a power disruption. Pepco would still deliver electricity, charging its regular rates.
- You can subscribe to community solar even if you are already signed up for an alternative renewable energy supplier through [MD Energy Choice](#).

Concerns about community solar:

- Solar fields take up land. Some may prefer that land to be used for agriculture or as a nature reserve. Researchers are exploring growing crops or pollinator-friendly plants beneath solar arrays: [Agrivoltaics](#).
- Billing is a little complicated, with two bills per month as described above.
- Some community solar companies require automated payment from your bank account or credit or debit card. This can be a pro or con, depending on your preference.
- People wishing to subscribe may face a waiting period until spaces open up in existing projects or new projects come online. Having people waiting to subscribe, however, is no doubt an incentive for solar developers.
- Community solar may not cover 100% of your electric use, so if the gap is filled by Pepco, you are still using some of its dirty energy. Some community solar programs target

meeting 100% of your use, some pick a lower figure like 90%. You could use [MD Energy Choice](#) to fill the small gap.

Several of your neighbors have used the assistance of a company called Utility Advisor, which does not charge the consumer for its services to help them find an available community solar subscription. Utility Advisor is paid by the community solar companies for enrolling new customers. Utility Advisor monitors which solar farms currently have available enrollment slots, and the details of their terms, so they can help you consider all available programs and pick the one that's right for you. Utility Advisor makes a \$25 donation to the Woman's Club for every new Grove resident who enrolls in community solar through them. You can review the details of the various solar energy suppliers' current offerings and learn more about community solar at [Utility Advisor's Washington Grove web page](#).

For more information about community solar, see [Solar United Neighbors](#), a national advocacy organization. Are you intrigued? Do you have questions? [Utility Advisor](#) or your neighbors Ned Helme, Mimi Bolotin, Sung Chang, or Bruce Daggy can try to answer them for you, or email us at washingtongrovesustainability@gmail.com. Are you already a community solar subscriber? Please let us know.

Edible Garden Update: What's Done and What's Ahead

The garlic is planted: Garden volunteers planted garlic on November 11, just before the first frost, in the bed that had previously been planted with sweet potatoes. The soil was excellent and was amended with aged horse manure. The garlic was shallow planted and covered with loose straw. The frost will cause the garlic cloves to begin root growth, and we will harvest it next June.

Sweet potato update: The purple sweet potatoes finished curing and were sorted into three piles: 23 pounds donated to Manna; 2-1/2 pounds not good enough for Manna but taken by the volunteers; and the remaining small potatoes, which were white and woody inside instead of purple and starchy, into the compost pile.

Future plans: Most of the garden will remain in cover crop over the winter. Next year we anticipate planting the short rows with potatoes in row 1, nearest the shed, then two rows of tomatoes, then two of greens under row covers and finally a row of sweet potatoes, growing perpendicular to the long bed.

Volunteers are welcome: We'll need many volunteers next year, from starting seedlings at home to harvesting. We are looking for both "regulars" and other supporters willing to pitch in occasionally at times of special needs or high demand. For more information contact: Bruce Daggy, David Stopak, or Anne Vincent.

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Woods Committee News

Next meetings: Monday, December 5, 2022, 7:30 pm and Monday, January 2, 2023, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 891 4119 5607

Passcode: 203387

Our meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. The January 2023 meeting is scheduled on Monday, January 2.

Woods Committee co-chairs Joan and Patty would like to thank our team of volunteers who helped make our East Woods Fall Workday a success on November 13. We recognized Dave Cosson, Bruce Daggy, Monica Maher, Virginia Quesada, and Anna Spector who help to clear culverts along the Frankland and Maple Trails, spread wood chips on Maple Trail, and remove greenbrier vines overgrowing young trees. The Committee depends on the work of volunteers to keep our walking trails safe and usable.

New trail identification signs have been installed at trail entrances in the East and West Woods. We hope these signs make the walking trails more enjoyable, easier to recognize, and efficient to report any incidents such as downed trees blocking trail access.

Our deer management program continues in the East and West Woods, and the Conservation Meadow – Piedmont Crossing Local Park area, with our volunteer Bow Hunter Fire Fighters of Maryland (BHFFMD) who are skilled, safe, and conscientious bow hunters. They are professional firefighters and EMTs. The bow hunting season runs September 9, 2022 until January 31, 2023. Signs are posted at the entrances to the Woods and Meadow area. In November, one doe was harvested in the Meadow area for a total of three does to date.

In the past month, there have been multiple reports of three dogs ‘at large’ running off leash and off the trails in the East Woods. The owner and dogs were recorded on phone and trail cameras, and recordings sent to the Woods Committee. The Mayor and Town Council were notified of these incidents noting these ‘at large’ dogs presented safety risks to walking trail users and interfered with BHFFMD safe hunting practices on at least three separate occasions.

Our *Town Ordinances, Article 1, Section 6 “Animals”* states the following:

(e) Any or all persons who own, maintain, or harbor any animal within the limits of the Town shall exercise such control over such animals as may be necessary to prevent their creating a public nuisance or disturbing the public peace of creating unreasonable hazard or injury to persons or property.

(f) It shall be unlawful for any owner to permit his dog to run at large. A dog shall be deemed to be at large if off the premises of its owner or not under the immediate control of a responsible person.

(g) Further, there is hereby adopted by the Town of Washington Grove for the purpose of establishing rules and regulations for the control of dogs and cats, including licenses and penalties, that portion of the Montgomery County Code 1965, Chapter 76, Article II, Dogs and Cats including any amendments thereof.

The Town of Washington Grove has long adopted Montgomery County “leash laws” for dogs “At Large”. [View information about County leash laws.](#)

At Large -

- Any dog is at large if it is outside the owner’s premises and not leashed, unless it is a service dog, is in a dog exercise area designated by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission or is participating in an approved activity.
- Any other animal (*i.e.*, unaltered cat, livestock animal) is at large if it is outside the owner’s premises and not leashed or immediately responsive to verbal or non-verbal direction.

Please be respectful of your neighbors and the natural environment in our Town and Forest Preserves; and enjoy the beauty, serenity, and tranquility of the season.

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News from Other Grove Organizations

Film Society News

The Washington Grove Film Society invites all to join us in a return to the pre-pandemic practice of watching movies together in McCathran Hall! In place of our usual season of five movies by subscription, we hope to share three movies at no charge this winter. It's a way of introducing ourselves to new residents and welcoming old friends. Please join us!

The first of these movies is appropriate for all ages.

Sunday, January 8, 3:30, McCathran Hall: *The Fantastic Mr. Fox*

Directed by Wes Anderson, 2009, US, in English and shown with English subtitles. George Clooney, Meryl Streep, and Bill Murray are among the actors voicing the characters of Roald Dahl’s children book as imagined for the screen by noted director Anderson. What will clever Mr. Fox do when larcenies lead the farmers to retaliate against his family and friends? Bravura stop-motion animation and Anderson’s witty storytelling will delight children and adults alike.

Public health allowing, we will offer two more free movies in the evening for adults in February and March.

Watch for future announcements.

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WG United Methodist Church News



Washington Grove United Methodist Church...Please join us at 11:00 AM Sundays

For those who want to worship in person, we are meeting at the church, and we hope you will join us at **11:00 AM** Sunday mornings. For those who are not yet comfortable with in-person, please feel free to join us over Zoom, on Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM [using this link](#) or meeting ID 964 361 1456. The password, if requested, is **Church**.

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

Washington Grove United Methodist Church 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.

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Woman's Club News

The Washington Grove Woman's Club: Looking Back on 2022

As the year winds down, we look back on some firsts for the Club. Starting last January, we began delivering monthly meals for Priscilla's House, thanks to volunteers from both the Club and the Town. It proved a fun way for families, groups of friends, and individuals to reach out and help the residents of this program. We will continue these programs in 2023!



In the spring, we introduced a very popular monthly series of **Saturday Morning Coffee and Donuts**. As part of this series, one Saturday morning, we had Patty Klein, our own wildlife veterinarian, talked to us about **Living with Our Wild Neighbors!** This was co-sponsored with the Woods Committee. In September, we co-sponsored with the Sustainability Committee a talk about **Residential Community Solar**. At our last **Saturday Morning Coffee and Donuts**, we collected birthday presents for the children of the Archway program. We are already planning more of these Saturday Morning programs when the Clubhouse reopens in the spring.

In addition to the Saturday morning programs, we co-hosted with the Town's Forestry and Beautification Committee a **Going Native: How to Turn your Yard into Habitat for Nature** talk by Town residents Anne Vincent and Bruce Daggy. We also hosted **A Peek Behind Closed Doors at the White House** talk by former White House butler Alan DeValerio.

In April we held our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** and in May we held our second annual **Garden Stroll around Town**.

In the spring, in memory of our late President, Liz Robertson, we began what will now be an annual event, the **Liz Robertson Memorial Children's Underwear Drive**. Helping to ensure that all children have underwear was a cause that was close to Liz's heart and with your generous donations, we were able to give over 255 pair to Interfaith Works to include in their Back-to-School Backpacks.

At the end of the school year, we donated the ice cream for the Seneca Heights graduation party, along with graduation gifts for the students.

This fall we held an entertaining and successful combined silent and live auction. We also used this event to introduce our new logo, along with our fundraising green mugs, which are sold with a copy of our cookbook.

Our annual winter coat drive for the children of Washington Grove Elementary School was a huge success! These coats are kept in the Teacher's Closet, so if they see a child in need they can go to the closet and get them a coat, a hat, some gloves, a scarf, whatever's needed to dress them warmly for the winter.

Throughout the year, thanks to your many donations, each month we were able to provide our seven Archways families with food, non-snap items and treats for the children. In addition, we provided birthday presents for the parents to give their children, and graduation gifts for the end of the school year. This Christmas, your donations make it possible for us to give each of the family's hot chocolate mix, marshmallows, cookies, and a gift card to either Giant or Aldi's.

We wound up the year by distributing thousands of pieces of your leftover Halloween candy to Becky and Priscilla's houses, the new men's shelter, Seneca Heights, our Archways families, deployed Air Force soldiers, Wells Robertson House, and thanks to the Soroptimist Club, over 650 bags of candy to needy families. Quite a successful use of your donated leftovers 😊.

We hope you will continue your generous donations in 2023!

Where to Drop Off Your Donations

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.

Our outreach programs can only happen with the continued support of our *Little Town with the Big Hearts*.

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Other Notices

Recyclable Yard Waste Collection Ends

Please note that THURSDAY December 29, 2022 will be the last date for collection of recyclable yard waste by Potomac Disposal this year. This service will resume in early March.

Leaf Collection by GREEN EARTH Ends

Bulk leaf collection by our contractor GREEN EARTH will end for the winter on January 5, 2023. There will be a final collection in the spring.

Deer Fences Down...

Residents are reminded that deer fencing must be down by November 30th per Town Ordinance 3.328(g). Thanks!

Christmas Tree Disposal

Beginning in late December, Christmas trees will be picked up roadside. When you place your tree out for collection, please remove all tinsel, ornaments, the stand and any other metal.

Town Office Holiday Hours

The Town Office will be closed from December 26th – January 1st.

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Coming Events Calendar

December 1	Accessory Dwelling Units Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 1	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
December 2	Holiday Show Rehearsal	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 4	Holiday Show Rehearsal	2:00 pm	Town Hall
December 5	Woods Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 6	Caroling Party	7:30 pm	Town Hall
December 6	Sustainability	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 7	Planning Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 7	Holiday Show Final Run-through	7:00 pm	Town Hall
December 8	Gateway Committee	7:30 PM	ZOOM
December 9	Holiday Show Dress Rehearsal	7:00 pm	Town Hall
December 10	Holiday Show	7:00 pm	Town Hall
December 11	Private Hall Rental – Violin Recital	Afternoon	Town Hall
December 11	Racial and Social Equity Committee	2:00 pm	ZOOM
December 12	Town Council	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 14	Building Permit Submission Deadline		
December 14	Lighting Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 15	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
December 20	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 22	Emergency Preparedness Safety Cmte.	7:30 pm	ZOOM

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*Happy
Holidays!*