



# Town Bulletin

[www.washingtongrovemd.org](http://www.washingtongrovemd.org)

301-926-2256

January 4, 2023

---

## Table of Contents

- **Town Council News**
  - **News from Grove Boards and Commissions**  
*Historic Preservation Commission | Planning Commission*
  - **News from Grove Committees**
    - *Emergency Preparedness and Safety | Forestry & Beautification | Gateway | Lighting | Racial and Social Equity | Recreation | Sustainability | Woods*
  - **News from Other Grove Organizations**  
*Film Society | WG Cares | WG Methodist Church | Woman's Club*
  - **Other Notices**
  - **Coming Events Calendar**
- 

## Town Council News

**Next meeting: Monday, January 9, 2023, 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 December 2022 Town Council Meeting

- Approved appointment of Rob Gilmore to serve as Town Councilor until the Annual Town Election on May 13, 2023.
- Approval of Mayor's appointment of Barbara Raimondo as Mayor Pro Tempore.
- Increased the number of paid holidays for Town employees from 7 to 12 days, in line with the Federal government and State of Maryland.
- **Mayor's Kudos:**
  - Thanks to the "light fairies" who decorated the Gazebo with the pretty colored lights.
  - Thanks to Bruce Rothrock and Terry Cox for putting up the wreath at McCathran Hall. What a beauty!!

### Elections News

New and old residents alike are reminded that Washington Grove is a self-governing town and member of the Maryland Municipal League. Our mayor and councilors are citizen volunteers who generously give of their time to keep the Town functioning. Candidates for mayor must have resided in Town for two years immediately preceding their election. Candidates for Council

---

must have resided in Town for one year immediately preceding their election. Both are nominated in writing on or before the second Monday in April via a submission to the Board of Supervisors of Elections. Nominations require the signature of two qualified voters as well as acceptance by the nominee. The terms are one year for mayor and three years for Council.

This year we will elect a mayor and two Councilors to regular terms. We will also elect a candidate to complete the final two years of stalwart Councilor Darrell Anderson's term. Election Day will be Saturday, May 13. Nominations will close April 10. Watch future Bulletins or contact Nick Suzich at [nicholassuzich@gmail.com](mailto:nicholassuzich@gmail.com) to answer questions. Consider whether or not this volunteer opportunity is a way in which you might want to serve the Town and thank you!

### **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.

### **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](#)).

## **Attention Volunteers! 150th Anniversary of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Established in 1873**

**An ad hoc “150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration” meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Seven score and 10 years ago (in August), our Grove forefathers established the Washington Grove Camp Meeting. Today we cherish our unique community that has evolved from the days of the summer Methodist bible camp and tents and tiny summer cottages into year-round residences and incorporation as the Town of Washington Grove eighty-six years ago. Many residents and the Historic Preservation Commission are enthusiastic to observe this year with appropriate events.

Now is the time for an organized effort to plan how we want to commemorate our historic past. Ideas have been floated and suggestions have been made. Meredith Horan has graciously agreed to chair this initial meeting.

**All residents interested in the notion of 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration events are welcome to participate. Bring your ideas and help get things started at this initial virtual meeting.** Email Meredith Horan for info at [horanm@hotmail.com](mailto:horanm@hotmail.com).

**Zoom videoconference access information:**

[Join via Internet](#)

Dial-in: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID 858 1259 3651

[Return to the top of the document](#)

## **News from Grove Boards and Commissions**

### **Historic Preservation Commission News**

**Next meeting: Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 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](mailto: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*, looks at the practical complications of **Stocks, Lots and Platting** during the Camp Meeting Association era and the subsequent order afforded by the **Lang and Maddox Plans**.

Initially, the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association issued stock at \$20 a share. Around 1880, the Association embraced the concept of "located stock," wherein ownership of stock ensured the investor one vote at stockholders' meetings and a tent or cottage site depending on the number of certificates held. One share entitled the stockholder to one tent site. Once the tent site was selected, it was said to be "located." Five shares entitled the stockholder to one cottage site. Administration of this system was difficult, as most of the Grove had not yet been platted. As Philip K. Edwards noted in his *Washington Grove, 1873-1937: A History of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association*, this quickly created a messy state of affairs that involved "leaseholders without stock, stockholders without lots, and lots without leases." The Association corrected the situation in 1882 when it adopted a new charter and bylaws (submitted to the Maryland legislature in 1883) that included a provision for 99-year leases.

Since the first camp meeting, Grove Avenue served as the principal pedestrian route into Washington Grove. Road improvements came early. The Avenue, which cut through a wooded section of the property, was described in 1883 as "an inviting walk, because of its deep and cooling shade." For these reasons, residential development along Grove Avenue was inevitable, despite its independence from the "Sacred Circle." In a plat map recorded with the county in 1883, the 1,000-foot-long avenue was divided into thirty-nine building lots that measured 50 feet by 150 feet. These generously sized and regularly spaced lots contrasted greatly with the small, often irregular parcels around the Circle, an area that came to be known as the Tent Department.

Although Washington Grove's initial layout (comprising the Tent Department) derived from camp meeting traditions, its later development had a gridiron plan typical of many late nineteenth-century suburbs. Outside the Tent Department, the layout of the roads and the arrangement of lots was primarily guided by two plans – the 1886 Lang plan and the 1897 Maddox plan. As previously mentioned, the Association adopted an amended charter in 1882, which prompted an evaluation of its undeveloped lots and open spaces. Thus, around 1885, it hired surveyor and civil engineer J. C. Lang to survey and prepare a plan for the grounds. The plan, which was dated 1886, created new building lots along a system of alternating avenues (for pedestrian use) and roads (for vehicular use). This scheme reinforced the sylvan character of Washington Grove and had a beneficial impact on the health, safety, and appearance of the grounds.

It can be seen as an early precursor of the Radburn scheme of community planning, which derived from Garden City principles and became popular in the late 1930s and 1940s as an alternative to standard suburban subdivisions that placed houses facing the street and sidewalks. The Radburn system utilized a circulation system that separated pedestrian and

automobile traffic by grouping houses on a common green facing a network of pedestrian paths. Access roads and driveways were located at the back of the lots. In theory, this plan increased neighborhood safety by reducing traffic accidents. The Lang plan also dedicated several blocks of land for public parks and set aside the undeveloped, wooded area in the northeast quadrant of the Grove, now known as the East Woods, as a “Laundry Reserve” and “Carriage Park.” The latter indicating one of the areas where camp meeting attendees who did not arrive by train could leave their coaches and wagons.

The later plan, prepared by Montgomery County surveyor C. J. Maddox in 1897, carried over many of the concepts of the Lang plan, but took into account the entire property, with the exception of the woods west of Laytonsville Road (Washington Grove Lane), now known as the West Woods. Outside the Tent Department, in what came to be known as the Cottage Department, the Maddox plan laid out generous building lots, measuring 50 by 150 feet or larger, 50-foot-wide avenues, and 25-foot-wide roads. The plan identified several small parks within the Tent Department, including Wade Park and Knott Park, and set aside three blocks within the Cottage Department as a public park named in honor of William R. Woodward, one of Washington Grove’s founding trustees.

In contrast with the Lang plan, the roads and avenues east of Grove Avenue were set parallel to it rather than parallel to Ridge Road, eliminating many of the irregular lots of the earlier plan and defining a gridiron system. The gridiron plan was an efficient and inexpensive way to subdivide and sell, or, in the case of Washington Grove, lease the land. As Edwards has noted, “The Maddox subdivision plan is almost indistinguishable from the present Town plan, a testimony to both its sensibility and its adaptability.” While the Maddox plan subdivided the northeast quadrant of the Grove (identified as a “Laundry Reserve” and “Carriage Park” on the Lang plan) into residential lots, the area – now known as the East Woods – was untouched until the late 1940s-early 1950s, when several parcels along the north side of Center Street were developed. By 1964, however, the East Woods were designated as a forest preserve. Two fire hydrants in the East Woods remain today as evidence of the residential growth once projected for the land.

The original, 267-acre tract purchased by the organizers of the Washington Grove camp meeting included nearly 47 acres on the west side of Laytonsville Road (now Washington Grove Lane). As the location of two springs (Whetstone Spring and Maple Spring), this wooded area was a vital source of water, and an essential part of the camp meeting grounds. Separated by a roadway from the Tent and Cottage departments, the woods were never platted for residential development. In fact, the West Woods were not included in the 1897 Maddox survey. Instead, the woods were harvested for timber, and camp meeting attendees and summer residents used the logging trails for picnics and excursions. A Washington Post newspaper article chronicling the camp meeting of 1894 gives the following description of the West Woods, “Beyond the buildings rustic rambles lead to the mineral springs and many other beautiful shade spots, which lie outside the fence that surrounds the settlements. It is a model picnic ground, where every spot is shady, and a pump or spring lies at every turn...”

As residents began to extend their stays past the summer months, demand increased for a place for religious assemblies that would provide greater comfort in poor weather than the tabernacle.

To provide such a space, the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association built an assembly hall (now known as McCathran Hall) at the south end of Howard Park in 1901. Designed by architect A. L. Harris of Washington, D.C., the building was comprised of an octagonal hall that measured 20 feet to a side and an attached meeting room that measured 20 feet square.

By the end of this period of its development, Washington Grove had become an established resort community with hundreds of residents that made it their home for the entire summer. It boasted a popular hotel, postal service, some paved roads, a fine collection of summer cottages, and recreational facilities, including tennis courts. By August 1892, a Washington Post account characterized it as “a veritable *urbe un rus*, a sylvan city...nature and modern improvements combined.”

*(Robinson’s entire report may be accessed at [Historic Context Report Town of Washington Grove](#) where the Lang Plan is shown as Figure 8 and Figure 12 illustrates the Maddox Plan.)*

[Return to the top of the document](#)

## Planning Commission News

**Next meeting: Wednesday, January 4, 2023, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 December

- None

### Public Ways & Property Permits (PW&PP) Approved in December

- None

### Planning Commission Work Session

The Planning Commission will hold a work session at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

[Return to the top of the document](#)

## News from Grove Committees

### Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee News

**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 26, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 851 8902 1929

Passcode: 281990

[Return to the top of the document](#)

### Forestry & Beautification News

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 7:30 p.m.**

**Join ZOOM Meeting**

The Forestry and Beautification Committee is on hiatus for the winter. Our next meeting will be Wednesday March 8 to plan for spring tree planting. The meeting will take place on ZOOM at 7:30 pm at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2289422486>. Our agenda can be found on the Town web site by Monday March 6. 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](mailto:georgettewg@gmail.com)) or Audrey Maskery ([trees.beautification@gmail.com](mailto:trees.beautification@gmail.com)) or our Council Liaison Barbara Raimondo ([baraimondo@me.com](mailto:baraimondo@me.com)).

[Return to the top of the document](#)

### Gateway Committee News

**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 12, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

New members are encouraged.

[Return to the top of the document](#)

### Lighting Committee News

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 7:30 pm**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 961 798 0177

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.

Interested Maryland municipalities have been meeting to draft a response to Pepco's very one-sided sales and pole attachment agreements that they have presented to us. Despite six meetings since September 2022, with a lot of discussion, Pepco has refused to budge on their initial draconian proposals. There is a scheduled meeting with Pepco, the MD-PSC, and interested municipalities on January 25, 2023 in Baltimore. At this meeting we will be discussing the "progress" on municipal street light ownership.

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

[Return to the top of the document](#)

## Racial and Social Equity Committee News

**Next meeting: Sunday, January 15, 2023, 2:00 pm.**

[Join ZOOM Meeting](#)

**Meeting ID:** 874 1892 4038

**Passcode:** 228324

### Restrictive Covenant Modifications

#### Background

Beginning in about 1929 and continuing until about 1953, a significant number of properties in Washington Grove were burdened by a set of restrictive deed covenants. These covenants included:

- building cost restrictions;
- mercantile, manufacturing, and mechanical use restrictions; and
- racially based restrictions on who may own an interest in the property. The Supreme Court in a 1948 ruling (*Shelley v. Kraemer*) declared that racially restrictive covenants were unenforceable by States because they violated the equal protection clause of the Constitution. Such deed covenants were also made illegal by the 1968 Fair Housing Act.

In 2021 the Town Council amended the Washington Grove Zoning Ordinance to declare these restrictive covenants as terminated. This 2021 Town amendment also authorized the mayor to execute legal instruments suitable for filing in the County land records to reflect the Town's termination of the restrictive covenants. Since 2018, for racially based deed restrictions, the Annotated Code of Maryland authorizes the filing of "Restrictive Covenant Modification Intake Sheets" with a copy of the Original Deed with the language of the unlawfully restrictive covenant shown as stricken, if signed by the current property owner(s).

#### Deed Covenant Modification Project

As the first part of a project endorsed by the Town Council, an initial set of "Restrictive Covenant Modification Intake Sheets" was prepared, and then each was signed by the current property owner(s). The signed documents were delivered to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for

Montgomery County. After a review completed by the Office of the County Attorney, the covenant modifications for five properties in Washington Grove were successfully filed in the Land Records on November 30, 2022. This was a good learning experience, and this process could be repeated for additional properties, with signatures by the current property owner(s).

The second part of this project has also been initiated to solicit and gain support of our representatives in the Maryland General Assembly, seeking amendment of Section 3-112 of the Maryland Real Property Article to add Municipal Governments. This would facilitate filing of “Restrictive Modification Intake Sheets” for 100+ additional properties in Washington Grove identified thus far as burdened by racially based deed restrictions, and only would require the mayor’s signature without coordinating signatures with property owners. As exploration of the restrictive covenants continues, there is growing awareness of such covenants used in other neighborhoods within Montgomery County and across the country.

### **Next Steps**

The support and engagement of other interested neighborhoods will be pursued to move forward with legislative action during next year’s session of the General Assembly. Meanwhile, Town residents who want confirmation if their property has been identified as burdened by these restrictive covenants may contact Charlie Challstrom via email at [chacha4498@gmail.com](mailto:chacha4498@gmail.com). Filing “Restrictive Covenant Modification Sheets” for additional affected properties can be initiated, if there is interest.

[Return to the top of the document](#)

## **Recreation Committee News**

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 838 5854 5352

[Return to the top of the document](#)

## **Sustainability Committee News**

**Next Meetings: Tuesday, January 3, 2023, 7:30 pm and Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 7:30 p.m.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

## **Town Residents Making Sustainable Choices**

In December, at least two Grove households acquired plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs). Ned and Nancy Helme now have a Toyota RAV 4. On an overnight charge, the new car runs on electricity for about 42 miles.

And Kitty Seiferlein and Mark Frederiksen bought a Ford Escape. About three hours' charging on their carport level-2 juice box powers the Escape up to 37 miles, usually enough for all local errands.

Both vehicles also have regenerative braking that returns some electricity to the power system when the brakes are pressed. For longer travel, these hybrids rely on gas.

To reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, both households also subscribe to local solar farms for their home electricity: Ned & Nancy with Neighborhood Sun and Kitty and Mark with Clean Choice.

If you would like to share news of sustainability choices you've made recently, please let us know by emailing [washingtongrovesustainability@gmail.com](mailto:washingtongrovesustainability@gmail.com).

## **Eat Less Meat and Help Heal the Planet**

Many actions to address climate change require investments of time and money by government, industry, business, or individuals. Here's something everyone can do right now that will make a difference immediately: reduce meat consumption.

### **How does meat promote climate change?**

Raising animals for human food requires a lot of land. Global deforestation is a serious climate problem. According to the World Resources Institute, "...rising beef production requires increasing quantities of land. New pastureland is often created by cutting down trees, which releases carbon dioxide stored in forests...During the first two decades of this century, pastureland expansion was the leading direct driver of deforestation. Continued demand growth will put pressure on forests, biodiversity and the climate." Furthermore, in digesting grasses and plants, animals such as cattle and sheep emit methane, which is a strong greenhouse gas, and the animals' manure emits even more methane.

In general, producing plant protein directly for human consumption is a much more efficient use of land, water, and energy than applying those resources to raise animals as a source of human protein.

### **What meats have the biggest impact?**

According to the [New York Times \(NYT\), "Your Questions About Food and Climate Change, Answered," updated April 15, 2022](#), "In general, beef and lamb have the biggest climate footprint per gram of protein, while plant-based foods tend to have the smallest impact. Pork and chicken are somewhere in the middle."

In data from Poore and Nemecek, *Science*, quoted in the NYT, average greenhouse gas emissions (in kilograms of carbon dioxide) that result from consuming 50 grams of protein from the following food products are: beef 17.7; lamb 9.9; farmed crustaceans 9.1; cheese 5.4; pork 3.8; farmed fish 3.0; poultry 2.9; eggs 2.1; tofu 1.0; beans 0.4; and nuts 0.1. Lowering consumption of beef and lamb and increasing use of nuts, beans, and tofu will have a very positive effect on the climate.

## Tips to lower your meat consumption

Here are tips to help transition to a lower meat diet:

- **Be aware of your diet.** Is preparing or ordering a meat-centered meal automatic for you? Take a pause and think of other options. How about a meatless soup? Pasta? Rice, beans, risotto? More fruit, vegetables?
- **Eat meat as a side dish.** If your main dish is usually meat, try instead to think of meat as a side dish, just one of the foods on your plate.
- **Choose smaller meat portions.** Order a smaller cut of meat when you can...or share with a friend. If you enjoy beef or pork in your chili, can you put more beans in the pot and less meat?
- **Add variety with meatless meals or meatless days.** Maybe your typical daily meals include bacon at breakfast, a hamburger for lunch, and a lamb shank for dinner. Can you try a meatless meal each day? Or maybe a meatless day or two per week while you are finding new meals to enjoy?
- **Shift to meats with lower greenhouse gas impact.** Eat less beef and lamb; eat more pork, fish, and poultry.
- **Try meat substitutes.** Tofu and tempeh are good examples of plant-based meat substitutes that will put protein in your diet. Read about many [more meat substitutes](#).

If you are frustrated by thinking there's nothing you alone can do to fight the overwhelming climate challenge, changing your diet and encouraging others to do so as well is an action you can start right now.

[Return to the top of the document](#)

## Woods Committee News

**Next meeting: Monday, January 2, 2023, 7:30 pm. *The February meeting will be on February 6, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.***

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 824 4825 1810

Passcode: 952201

Our meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. The February 2023 meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2023, and the Zoom link will be posted prior to that meeting. The Woods Committee continues to improve our East and West Woods Preserves walking trails with trail identification signs being posted at trail intersections. 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.

Woods Committee co-chairs recently responded to several Town residents' reports of damaged East Woods trees posing physical hazards to their adjacent home properties. A tree-service company was contacted for a site visit. Removal of these precarious trees has been scheduled.

The Woods Committee takes seriously these reports and will act to ensure the safety of our Town residents and neighboring communities.

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 until January 31, 2023. Signs are posted at the entrances to the Woods and Meadow area. In December, one doe was harvested in the lower Meadow for a total to four deer to date. Reports of dogs ‘at large’ (off leash) running loose in the East Woods in the past month have presented public safety concerns and interrupted our deer management efforts. A reminder that our Town of Washington Grove has long adopted [Montgomery County leash laws for dogs “at large”](#).

The Woods Committee will be working on several projects in 2023:

- Continue trail maintenance and signage to ensure walking trail safety, promote residents’ enjoyment of the Forest Preserves, and protect forest trees and understory
- Continue reforestation projects to include native tree plantings
- Work with contracted environmental engineers to mitigate stormwater damage in the West Woods coming from the residential part of Town, Washington Grove Lane and the Towne Crest area.

If you are interested in working on these projects or have new Woods Committee project ideas, please contact Joan Mahaffey or Patty Klein (Woods Committee co-chairs) or join us at our monthly meetings.

We appreciate your support to maintain the natural environment in our Town and Forest Preserves. Please enjoy the beauty, serenity, and tranquility of the season as we welcome the New Year!

[Return to the top of the document](#)

## News from Other Grove Organizations

### Film Society News

#### Fantastic Mr. Fox

The Washington Grove Film Society is presenting “Fantastic Mr. Fox” on Sunday, January 8, at 3:30 in McCathran Hall. The film is the first of three being shown without admission as we return to the pre-pandemic practice of gathering to watch movies in the Hall. Please join us for a delightful, animated tale from Roald Dahl and director Wes Anderson featuring the voices of George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Bill Murray and others. What will clever Mr. Fox do when larcenies lead the farmers to retaliate against his family and friends? Appropriate for all ages! From 2009, running time 87 minutes.

[Return to the top of the document](#)

## Washington Grove Cares News

### Design for Life

Washington Grove Cares began in 2016 with the goal of helping Town residents who were aging in place. We've expanded our reach to include providing assistance to any resident who needs a hand, but we never intended to abandon our first idea.

We want to spread the word about a program from Montgomery County that can help people prepare their houses for aging in place. Since 2014, the **County's Design for Life program** has provided property tax credits to those who build or improve homes to increase accessibility for older people or people with disabilities. For example, homeowners who spend more than \$500 to purchase and install features such as 32-inch wide exterior or interior doorways, reinforced shower walls for grab bars, or ramps to create a no-step entrance are eligible to apply for property tax credits worth 50% of the costs (up to \$2500). Larger tax credits are available for those who bring a house up to standards that make it partially accessible for visitors or completely accessible.

[You can learn more about Design for Life here.](#) Note that structural changes to your house would require a building permit from the town and review by the town's Historic Preservation Commission as well as a county permit.

Many of us in the Grove know we want to continue to live here as we grow older. Do you have ideas about how Washington Grove Cares might make staying in your house easier for you? As our committee plans for 2023, we would appreciate hearing from anyone with ideas about this issue. Reach us at [washingtongrovecares@gmail.com](mailto:washingtongrovecares@gmail.com) or at 301-944-2962.

[Return to the top of the document](#)

## WG United Methodist Church News



**Washington Grove United Methodist Church...Please join Minister Margie Matthews and our congregation in person or [over Zoom](#) at 11:00 AM Sundays (Meeting ID: 964 361 1456; PW if requested is Church)**

Washington Grove United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation, which means we believe that each person is a precious creation of God and is of sacred worth. We welcome and celebrate 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 relations and marriages.

[Return to the top of the document](#)

## Woman's Club News

### Annual Meeting

The WCWG Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19, at 7:30 pm on Zoom. Watch your email for the Zoom link. The 2023 officers will be inducted, and annual dues collected at this time.

### Sign Up to Cook for Priscilla's House

Cook for your neighbors at this home for women with behavioral health needs. Times are available February through April. You provide a complete meal for about 10 women on the first Wednesday of the month. [You can sign up here.](#)

### NEW: Partnership with Emory Grove United Methodist Church

This new partnership focuses on collecting used clothing in good condition to give to people in the community on the third weekend of each month. Drop off your donations at the Clubhouse porch or on Wendy's porch at 119 Grove Avenue. The Church will pick up and distribute clothes.

### Outreach Continuing in 2023

WCWG will continue to support the programs you can read about in the 2022 Impact graphic. The needs are ongoing throughout the year, particularly for the monthly boxes of Non-SNAP items. Drop off your donations at the Clubhouse or on the porch at 119 Grove Road. Checks may be made out to the Woman's Club (WCWG). Designate on the check if you want the money to go towards a specific effort. Send checks to Cynthia Werts at 410 Oak Street, PO Box 35.

[Return to the top of the document](#)

## The Impact of YOUR WCWG Donations in 2022!



Created by Made by Made from the Noun Project

**255** packages of underwear collected during the Liz Robertson Memorial Underwear Drive for children in Interfaith Works families



**108** complete dinners (one each month) for the 8+ residents of Interfaith Works' Priscilla House



Created by NixStyle from the Noun Project

Brunch and gifts for **35** women at the Interfaith Works Women's Center on Mother's Day



**84** boxes of treats and non-SNAP supplies to the MC Housing Coalition's Archways families — one per month to each of seven families



Created by Made by Made from the Noun Project

**16** birthday gifts — one for each child in the families we support at Archways



**11** graduation gifts for children living at the Seneca Heights Apartments, (supportive permanent housing), as well as graduates among the Archways families



**19** \$25 supermarket gift cards at the holidays for each child in the eight families we support at Archways



Created by Kevin from the Noun Project

**The most** new coats in many years for Washington Grove Elementary School students

## Other Notices

### Recyclable Yard Waste Collection Ends

Please note that Thursday, December 29, 2022 was 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.

### 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.

[Return to the top of the document](#)

## Coming Events Calendar

January 3	Sustainability	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 3	Woods Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 4	Planning Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 5	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
January 7	Private Hall Rental (Baby Shower)	All Day	Town Hall
January 9	Town Council	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 10	150th Commemoration meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 11	BUILDING PERMIT SUBMISSION DEADLINE		
January 12	Gateway Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 15	Racial and Social Equity Committee	2:00 pm	ZOOM
January 17	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 19	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
January 25	Lighting Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 26	Emergency Prep. Safety Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM

[Return to the top of the document](#)

# Community Stories

Everyone has a story to tell  
Every story needs someone to tell it



Wednesday, January 25th, Virtual  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Session Theme:

## Food Traditions

Food and the traditions wrapped around it tell us so much about where we are from and what we have been through. Storytelling is an essential way of handing down history and customs. This event will combine these two ideas and provide a forum to share and honor our heritages.

We look forward to hearing your story.

Use this link to register and let us know if you want to share a story or be an audience member.

<https://rebrand.ly/mwo77li>

Guidelines for storytellers will be provided upon registration.

Producer

Sponsor

