



# Town Bulletin

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

301-926-2256

February 1, 2023

---

## Table of Contents

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

## Town Council News

**Next meeting: Monday, February 13, 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 January 9, 2023 Town Council Meeting**

- Accepted the resignation of Gray Yachup from the Town Council.
- Approved appointment of Sylvie Favret to serve as Town Councilor until the Annual Town Election on May 13, 2023.

### **Actions at the December 12, 2022 Town Council Meeting (correcting the January Bulletin)**

- Increased the number of paid holidays for Town employees from 7 to ~~11~~ 12 days, in line with the federal government and State of Maryland.

### **Mayor's Kudos**

- To Steve Werts for repairing the Dog Spot gate (who knew Steve had such skills?)

### **Elections News**

Annual Town elections will be held Saturday, May 13. We will elect a mayor to a one-year term, two Councilors to three-year terms, and one Councilor to a two-year term. Nominations close

---

April 10. Those for Council are specific to length of term (i.e., indicate whether the nominee is running for a three- or two-year term).

Candidates for Mayor must have resided in Town for two years immediately preceding the election. Candidates for Council must have resided in Town for one year immediately preceding the election. All nominations must be submitted in writing to the Board of Supervisors of Elections. Nominations require the signatures of two qualified voters as nominators as well as acceptance by the nominee. A qualified voter is defined as anyone registered to vote in Montgomery County at a Washington Grove address.

[You can check your current voter registration here.](#)

Thank you for considering helping the Town in this most essential of volunteer efforts or encouraging a worthy neighbor to accept a nomination!

Questions can be directed to any member of the Board: Nick Suzich, Margo Cavenagh, Dave Hix, and/or Mary Blake.

### **Maryland State Income Tax Washington Grove Subdivision Code: 1612**

Every year the Town of Washington Grove receives a portion of the Maryland State income tax paid by Town residents. Because most residents do not have mail delivered to street addresses, this presents a challenge for the State Comptroller's office when attributing the taxes collected to Washington Grove. It is critical that all Washington Grove residents (including renters) designate "1612" and "Washington Grove" on the tax form. For those filing electronically or using software, there should be a drop-down menu to select Washington Grove. Please share this information with your renters and your tax preparer if appropriate. This DOES NOT increase your taxes but DOES help ensure the Town receives its proper share of income tax revenue. Thanks for your help! Questions? Call Treasurer Jean Moyer at 301-775-1168.



### **Washington Grove 150th Celebration**

Our first camp meeting was held Wednesday, August 13, 1873. In March 2023, we begin a walk into our past using online and in-person approaches to celebrate our rich history. Over twenty residents from the boomer generation were children here. We have one resident who is a direct descendent of a founding father. The WG 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration Planning Committee, which meets twice a month, is dedicated to making 2023 an educational, fun, and memorable tribute to our special town within a forest. **Mark your calendar now for the main events, August 10-13, 2023.**



Peter Nagrod is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting on Tuesday, February 28 at 7:30 pm to plan events to commemorate the 150th. All residents are welcome to participate. For more

information, see below and/or email Meredith Horan ([horanm@hotmail.com](mailto:horanm@hotmail.com)) or Peter Nagrod ([pnagrod@msn.com](mailto:pnagrod@msn.com)).

### [Join us on Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 871 6669 3202  
Passcode: 245019

## Casey Community Center Farmers Market

Visit the Casey Community Center Farmers Market to enjoy some fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables. Come get some eggs, beef or pork ready to put on the grill. Bring home some savory homemade breads or artisan sweets. Get some fresh ground coffee. How about some made-to-order bags of trail mix? A different food truck vendor is there to serve lunch when open. Or, just come by and chat with all the friendly vendors and neighbors that are visiting that day. FMNP, eWIC and SNAP are accepted at the Casey Farmers Market through the Market Money Match Program.



The Market is open every 3rd Thursday in December through April and every Thursday from May through November, from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm. Casey Community Center, 810 South Frederick Avenue. Visit [the market's web page](#) for any updates or changes.

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

## News from Grove Boards and Commissions

### Historic Preservation Commission News

**Next meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 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

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

### Planning Commission News

**Next meeting: Wednesday, February 1, 2023, 7:30 pm.** The public is invited to attend this virtual meeting via ZOOM. Residents and the public may access these meetings [by Zoom videoconference](#), or dial in to 301-715-8592, meeting ID: 228 942 2486 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 January

- None

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

- None

## Work Session

The Planning Commission will hold a work session at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

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

## News from Grove Committees

### Dog Park News

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 23, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 203 070 5107

Passcode: WOOF

All are welcomed and encouraged to come!

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

### Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee News

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 23, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 856 1053 0958

Passcode: 256062

## 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.

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

## Forestry & Beautification News

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

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. [Join the Zoom meeting](#). Our agenda can be found on the Town website 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)).

## Evaluation of Canopy Tree Replacement in Washington Grove

A significant number of older canopy trees on Town property have died in recent years. The Committee has already responded by increasing the number of trees installed over the past three years, and recommends continuing with our current planting rate of about 24 new trees per year while continuing to increase the overall species diversity.

Last fall Mayor Compton requested the Forestry and Beautification Committee consider further increasing the number of canopy trees planted annually. In January, the Committee responded with a letter to the Town Council. [Please read more about the status of our canopy and the Committee's thinking \(PDF\)](#). The Town Council may discuss this issue at their February 13th meeting.

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

## Gateway Committee News

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

New members are encouraged.

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

## Lake Committee News

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 16, 2023, 7:30 pm**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

## Meetings

Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month starting on Thursday, February 16, 2023. We will meet by Zoom (see the link above) until we decide to meet in the Town Hall. New members are welcome and encouraged! Call John Hutchinson or Tom Land if you have any questions or suggestions.

## Looking for Lifeguards and Lake Guards for Summer 2023

Lifeguards are needed for Maple Lake this summer. Hours are from 12-6 pm, seven days a week (including ½ hour break). Lifeguard pay is \$17/hour. Lifeguards must be certified in Lifesaving, CPR, and First Aid (we can help pay for the training.) Call Tom Land or John Hutchinson for details.

Lake Guards are also needed, and hours are the same as for lifeguards. The Lake Guards will assist the Lifeguards. Pay is \$15/hour. Call Tom Land or John Hutchinson for details.

## Looking for Swim Instructor for Summer 2023

A swim instructor needed for Maple Lake for afternoons during the month of July. The pay is \$20/hour. Call Sung Chang or John Hutchinson for details.

## Geese at Maple Lake

We use the Humane Society's protocol to humanely prevent eggs from hatching in the spring. A pair of geese has nested in an area easily accessible to our egg-oiling team in past years. They drive away the other geese during nesting season and then leave when their eggs do not hatch. Please do not feed or harass the nesting pair or disturb the nest. If you see a nest built, please call John Hutchinson. We encourage visitors to the lake to take along a plastic bag and scoop droppings. THANKS!

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

## Lighting Committee News

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 7:30 pm**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 961 798 0177

TWG Lighting Committee is working with other Maryland Municipalities to work out a process for municipal streetlight ownership.

A redline response to Pepco's initial (one-sided) sales and pole attachment agreement was created under the leadership of attorney Suellen Ferguson along with help from our Lighting consultant, George Woodbury from Lightsmart and our Town Councilor, Dave Cosson.

On January 25, 2023, Suellen Ferguson, George Woodbury, Virginia Quesada and Andy Leon Hardy testified to the Maryland Public Service Commission (MD PSC) in Baltimore, MD. We were

testifying on the status of the discussions between Pepco and interested Maryland municipalities on creating a viable path for municipal streetlight ownership.

Going forward, this February, a smaller group of decision makers from both Pepco and the interested municipalities, will be meeting to try to get closer on some agreements on the process of municipal light ownership. The MD PSC is expecting a filing from this smaller group on April 7th, 2023.

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, February 12, 2023, 2:00 pm.**

[Join via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 874 1892 4038

Passcode: 228324

### *Deconstructing Karen*

On Saturday, February 25 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm there will be a viewing of the documentary film, "Deconstructing Karen", in which two nonwhite facilitators invite white women to dinner to discuss race. We will invite women from Emory Grove and Washington Grove for a discussion after the viewing. We plan to have a men's group about two weeks later. Be on the lookout for a flyer with registration information.

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

## Recreation Committee News

**Next meeting: March 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 838 5854 5352

Passcode: 727938

### *Invitation to an Irish Ceili Friday, March 4.*

What is a ceili? Come and find out at McCathran Hall from 7 – 10:30 on Friday, March 4. Get an early start in celebrating with the Blackthorn Ceili Dancers. Try out those dance steps while listening to live music by local Irish musicians. Don't want to dance? Just come and enjoy the music. A potluck supper is served about halfway through, so don't forget to bring a dish to share. The ceili is free to Grove



residents though contributions to pay the musicians are always welcome. Sponsored by the Blackthorn Ceili Dancers and the Washington Grove Recreation Committee.

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

## Sustainability Committee News

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

One of the Sustainability Committee's highest priorities is to encourage Town residents to switch to heat pumps for heating and cooling their homes.

In the May 2022 Town Bulletin, we published an introduction to the subject of heat pumps, "Convert to Heat Pumps." In the July 2022 town bulletin, we published "Switching Your Home Heating from an Oil or Propane Furnace to a Heat Pump."

This month, you will find ["Switching Your Home Heating from Radiators to Heat Pumps"](#), covering 13 Q&A's.

In the future, we plan to address switching to geothermal systems and mixed systems.

We invite you to visit the [Sustainability Committee web page](#) for information on how to cut your carbon emissions.

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

## Woods Committee News

**Next meeting: Monday, February 6, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 881 3422 9572

Passcode: 090012

The Woods Committee will be discussing several projects:

- Continue trail maintenance and signage to increase residents' enjoyment of the Forest Preserves and to protect newly sprouting trees and understory;
- Develop digital maps of trails in the East and West Woods;
- Continue reforestation projects;
- Finalize the proposed Woods Committee budget for FY2024 to submit to Town Council.
- Consider Woods Committee activity for Washington Grove 150th Anniversary.



If you are interested in working on any of these projects, please contact Joan Mahaffey or Patty Klein (Woods Committee co-chairs) or join us at our February 6 meeting. New Woods Committee members and new ideas are always welcome.

The Town Council distributed a request for proposals (RFP) to environmental engineering companies to analyze stormwater drainage issues and mitigation measures in the residential part of Town west of Grove Avenue, along Washington Grove Lane, and the Towne Crest boundary area causing flooding and erosion in the West Woods. Proposals are due and will be reviewed by the Town Council and Woods Committee in February.

Our volunteer Bow Hunter Fire Fighters of Maryland (BHFFMD) harvested seven deer in the East Woods and Lower Meadow during this archery season between September 6, 2022 and January 31, 2023. Please contact Joan Mahaffey or Pat Klein if you have any questions.

A reminder to please stay on the walking trails to protect understory native plant vegetation and avoid tick exposure to you and your pets. Do not use trails that are too wet and muddy to avoid soil erosion and damage to your boots. We hope that the new trail identification signs are useful to you. We will install a few more interior trail signs when the weather improves. We hope you have many opportunities to enjoy the seasonal beauty of our East and West Woods Preserves.

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

## News from Other Grove Organizations

### Film Society News

The Washington Grove Film Society returns to showing movies in McCathran Hall after a years-long absence owing to the pandemic. All are invited to attend screenings in February and March AT NO CHARGE as a way of introducing ourselves to residents new and old.

First up, **Sunday evening, February 5 at 7:30**, is “**The Outfit**.” Oscar winner Mark Rylance heads the cast of this taut thriller set in 1956 Chicago. He plays a tailor whose customers, including members of the Irish mob, draw him into a violent world in which he struggles to maintain his quiet existence as a craftsman and, ultimately, to stay alive. But who is he, really? And what in his past has brought him to these associations? The story twists and turns on its way to a surprising end.



This is an American film from 2022, a crisp 106 minutes, in English. Presented with subtitles as is our usual practice. Graham Moore makes his directorial debut. Please join us and stay for the discussion!

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

## WG United Methodist Church News



Please join us at 11:00 AM Sundays  
Children of All Ages are Welcomed!

WGUMC makes church fun for kids and for parents. My six-year daughter looks forward to Sunday school and singing. I enjoy being able to listen to the service as well as sharing joys and concerns with the church community. It was evident the first time that we came to WGUMC that it is a place where everyone is always welcome. --*Lisa Bielen, 342 Ridge Rd*

Please join Minister Margie Matthews and our congregation in person or over Zoom 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 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.

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

## Woman's Club News

### Welcome Back, Chili Supper!

Finally! We're back on track and ready to host this popular event on Saturday, February 25, at 6:00 pm in McCathran Hall. In case you haven't attended before, the (somewhat) Annual Chili Supper is where towns-people gather to sample homemade chilis of all types and levels of heat, to warmly welcome new residents, and to check in with people we haven't seen since winter weather began! All are welcome, and we'll be sending out more information soon about how you can sign up to bring chili and other items.



### Annual Dues Are Due, and (Shockingly) They Have Increased!

Yes, you read correctly. Annual dues, which have been \$15 for the past 375 years, are now going up to \$20. We welcome new members, young and old, **regardless of gender**. We'll be accepting dues payments at the Chili Supper (which is a free event), or you can mail a check to Cynthia Werts, WCWG Treasurer, at 410 Oak Street, PO Box 354. Don't forget that you can always round up your check to \$25 to support our community outreach programs.

### Officers for 2023

The WCWG Officers for 2023 were inducted at the January meeting. They are Arlene McCrehan, President; Caitlin Bethetu, Vice President; Sandra Gallagher, Recording Secretary; Cynthia

Werts, Treasurer; and Sylvie Favret, Corresponding Secretary. We look forward to working with Sandra and Sylvie, our new officers, and hope you'll support them in their new roles.

### **Priscilla's House Dinners**

We're grateful for the support for Interfaith Works' Priscilla's House monthly dinners! The following people stepped up to help provide a dinner in February, March, or April: Linda Winter, Carol Samour, Margo Cavenagh, Wendy Weisbard, Sandra Gallagher, Arlene McCrehan, Paula Puglisi, and Carrie and Judy Banachowski. Thank you for your generosity!

### **Clothing 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.

### **Ongoing Outreach**

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 354.

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

# Coming Events Calendar

February 1	Planning Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
February 2	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
February 6	Woods Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
February 7	Sustainability Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
<b>February 8</b>	<b>BUILDING PERMIT SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b>		
February 9	Gateway Committee	7:30 PM	ZOOM
February 12	Racial and Social Equity Committee	2:00 pm	ZOOM
February 13	Town Council	7:30 pm	ZOOM
February 16	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
February 18	Town Hall Private Rental	All Day	Town Hall
February 21	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
February 22	Lighting Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
February 23	Emergency Preparedness Safety Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
February 23	Dog Park Committee Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
February 25	Racial and Social Equity Comm. Meeting	9:30 am	ZOOM
February 25	Woman's Club Chili Supper	6:00 pm	Town Hall
February 28	150th Commemoration meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM

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