



# Town Bulletin

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

301-926-2256

March 1, 2023

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## 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*
  - **Other Notices**
  - **Coming Events Calendar**
- 

## Town Council News

**Next meeting: Monday, March 13, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom meeting](#) (or dial in to 301-715-8592 using meeting ID: 869 5847 3699).

### Actions at the February 13, 2023 Town Council Meeting

- Approved distribution of the RFP for Landscaping and Maintenance services from April 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.
- Appointed Mayor John Compton to the Montgomery Municipal Cable Board of Directors.
- Re-appointed all members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections to serve through February 2025.
- Appointed Jonathan Dail as a regular member of the Planning Commission.
- Appointed Councilor Dave Cosson as Interim Mayor Pro-Tempore while both Mayor John Compton and Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Raimondo are out of County March 9<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Mayor's Kudos

- To Emily Cavey for her countless hours serving as the Chair of the Recreation Committee, and especially through the period of Covid-19 restrictions. Many thanks Emily!!

## Elections News

We are dependent on citizen volunteers to govern. On 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. There is no more essential volunteer opportunity. The work is rewarding, collegial, and an excellent way to get to know the town and its workings while making a significant contribution. Please consider running or nominating a willing and worthy neighbor.

Nominations are made in writing and close April 10. They require the signatures of two residents as nominators as well as a signature of acceptance from the nominee. They can be submitted to the Board of Election Supervisors directly or given to Kathy in the Town Office. Nominations for Council must indicate whether they are for the two-year term or one of the three-year terms. If you have questions, the Board members are Mary Blake, Margo Cavenagh, Dave Hix, and Nick Suzich at [nicholassuzich@gmail.com](mailto:nicholassuzich@gmail.com)

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. A qualified voter is defined as anyone registered to vote in Montgomery County at a Washington Grove address.

Thanks to all for who serve or participate in any way!

## 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.



## Budget Work Session

The Town Council Budget Work Session for FY 2024 will take place on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 7:30 pm via ZOOM. The Mayor and Council will hold a work session to plan a budget for the coming year, which begins on July 1, 2023. Public input is welcomed.

At their April 10 meeting, the Council will adopt a recommended budget to present to the Annual Town Meeting. A summary of the proposed budget will be published in the May Town Bulletin and copies of the budget detail will be available. The Town will adopt a tax rate and budget at the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 13.

The public is invited to [attend this virtual meeting via ZOOM](#) (Dial in to 301 715 8592 using Meeting ID: 827 7790 4971 and Passcode: 382614).

## Notice of Public Hearing

On Tuesday, March 27, 2023, the Mayor and Council will hold a public hearing on proposed Resolution 2023-01: Acknowledging Washington Grove's Racially Exclusionary Past.

The purpose of this hearing is to take public testimony on Resolution 2023-01. Copies of the proposed resolution are available for inspection:

- [on the web](#),
- upon request to the Town Clerk (phone 301-926-2256), or
- by e-mailing [washgrove@comcast.net](mailto:washgrove@comcast.net) or by mail to P.O. Box 216 Washington Grove, MD 20880.

## Washington Grove 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration

*Washington Grove Turns 150 Years Old – Let's Celebrate!*

Our first camp meeting was held Wednesday, August 13, 1873. In 2023, we begin a walk into our past using online and in-person approaches to celebrate our rich history. We have some residents who are direct descendants of a founding father. The WG 150th Celebration Planning Committee is dedicated to making this 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. The next planning meeting will take place on March 28, 2023 at 7:30 pm.



Details and to sign on to help,  
Meredith Horan, Peter Nagrod, Co-Chairs

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

## News from Grove Boards and Commissions

### Historic Preservation Commission News

**Next meeting: Tuesday, March 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

An excerpt from Robinson & Associates' 2019 [Cultural Landscape Analysis, Town of Washington Grove \(PDF\)](#), under the heading [Vegetation \(PDF\)](#), details the value ascribed to plant material by Washington Grove's founders and its successive leaders and residents.

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

## Planning Commission News

**Next meeting: Wednesday, March 1, 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 February

- None

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

- None

### Work Session

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

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

## News from Grove Committees

### Dog Park News

The Dog Park Committee met on February 23rd. We discussed scheduling a clean-up day; cameras to deter vandalism; and plans for events at the park. How about a "Yappy Hour"? Stay tuned!

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

## Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee News

**Next Meeting: Thursday, March 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.**

**Join ZOOM Meeting**

The weather this winter has been positively confusing but in March the Forestry and Beautification Committee begins to prepare for planting trees this spring! Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 8 and [will take place on ZOOM](#) at 7:30 pm. [Our agenda will be available at this link 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 ([councilorbarb@gmail.com](mailto:councilorbarb@gmail.com)).

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

## Gateway Committee News

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

New members are encouraged.

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

## Lake Committee News

### Maple Lake Cleanup

The annual cleanup will be on Saturday, April 15th at 10 AM. Please join and bring your leaf rake, shovel, and wheelbarrow if you have one. Rain date is Sunday, April 16th at Noon. Call John Hutchinson at 240-997-5820 for details or questions.

### Lake Committee Meetings (CHANGE)

Second Tuesday of every month, and next meeting is Tuesday, March 14th, 2023, at 7:30 pm. We will meet by Zoom 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 12-6pm, 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). 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

Swim instructor needed for Maple Lake for the month of July in afternoons. 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, March 22, 2023 at 7:30 pm**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 961 798 0177

The Lighting Committee is working with other Maryland municipalities to work out a process to allow the option of municipal streetlight ownership.

Mayor John Compton and many others testified in support of [Maryland Assembly HB 459](#), enabling legislation for municipal streetlight ownership.

Municipalities around the U.S.A. that have switched to street light ownership have saved money and improved service.

Cities and towns are motivated to save energy while utilities derive their income by selling electricity, so the motivation is different.

HB459 is enabling legislation that clarifies the process for municipalities and counties to acquire utility-owned street lights and establishes fair rules for valuing lights.

HB459 is also supported by the climate change and sustainability communities in Maryland.

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

[Join ZOOM Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 874 1892 4038

Passcode: 228324

## Are We Segregated by Design Forum

Please join Washington Grove residents and our neighboring community residents on Saturday, March 25 from 1-4 pm for a discussion of housing policies and their enduring effects. We will view a short film and feature a panel of three speakers. You may choose to attend in person at McCathran Hall or virtually by Zoom. To attend remotely or in person, please register at <https://tinyurl.com/segregatedbydesign>.

## Deconstructing Karen Virtual Sessions

The dates for the viewing of the film *Deconstructing Karen* and the discussion sessions have changed. This documentary is about two nonwhite facilitators who invite white women to dinner to have a frank discussion about race. We will invite women from Emory Grove and Washington Grove for a discussion after the viewing on **Saturday, April 22 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm**. 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

### A Message from the Chair

Hi Everyone!

It has been an honor and a pleasure to work on SITP for the last 15 years, but alas it is time for me to pass it on to the next group of parents. When I first started organizing SITP there was a large group of parents who all pitched in. I'm trying to pull together the next group of parents. Please text me at 240-838-1840 and I'll set up a zoom to help pass along all info I have so you can get the ball rolling for the Grove kiddos.

Warmly,  
Em

### Yoga Returns to the Grove!

Town resident and certified yoga instructor Rachel Schwartz will be offering a free yoga class on Tuesday evenings from 6-7 pm in McCathran Hall. Rachel practices Ashtanga and will teach a vinyasa (flow) class with modifications for all levels. Please bring your own mat and feel free to bring a block if you use them. The class will end on our backs with a cooling relaxation, so consider bringing a sweatshirt or fleece.

(Yoga will be offered every Tuesday in March, and if there's interest Rachel will continue teaching weekly classes — so be sure to come out!)

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

## Sustainability Committee News

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

### Updated Notes on Recycling

Print and post [this summary \(PDF\)](#) for the latest on recycling in Washington Grove:

- What goes in your "Blue Bin" for roadside collection
- How to handle yard waste
- How to recycle paper and cardboard

And what to put (and NOT put) in the plastic bag bin at your local grocery store.

### Earth Day 2023 Planning is Underway

***Earth Day is Saturday, April 22, 2023. Save the date!***

Planning is underway for Washington Grove to celebrate Earth Day 2023 with several events:

- Kids' scavenger hunt
- Yard waste composting displays and information
- Community Garden tours and work at the site for those interested
- Opportunity to sign up for Community Solar Electricity



- Meatless potluck dinner... start looking for your favorite recipes
- Film *No Impact Man* followed by a short discussion

## **Sustainability Investments in Town: WG United Methodist Church Installs Heat Pumps**

The Washington Grove United Methodist Church has made a commitment to be better stewards of the environment. The church has taken a huge step toward sustainability by removing its oil burning furnaces and oil storage tank and installing two high efficiency heat pumps to heat and cool the church.

Much more is underway. The church is assembling a track record of its electrical usage to determine the viability of using solar panels on the church's south facing roof. Also, the church is beginning to replace its old flat roof with a new TPO roof (thermoplastic polyolefin made primarily from recycled rubber) that will reflect light and be more energy efficient going forward.

Keep an eye out for the rain barrel that's going in alongside of the church nearest Chestnut Avenue. The water will sustain the flower bed on that side of the building.

And talks are underway with advisors about the possibility of the church serving as a Sustainability Hub for the community. A Sustainability Hub is a location that improves resiliency for a community in times of extreme weather by providing a safe place to shelter with back-up heat, cooling and power.

The WG Sustainability Committee commends the church for these important investments and thanks everyone involved in developing the many modifications that are enhancing the sustainability of the United Methodist Church and our town.

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

## **Woods Committee News**

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 871 6591 1430

Passcode: 163616

Our April meeting will be on Monday, April 3. All residents are invited to attend.

## **Stormwater Management RFP**

On February 13, the Town Council opened three bids for proposals concerning stormwater management in the sections of Town west of Grove Avenue and in the West Woods. These proposals address damage due to the volume and velocity of water. Woods Committee members

are preparing a comparison of the three bids so that the Town Council can make a decision within the next 60 days.

## Bridge Replacement

The Woods Committee had the damaged bridge replaced that crosses the creek along the Cherry and Dogwood Trails in the East Woods. Thanks go to the RJ Landscaping team for their help with this project.

## Woods Preservation

This time of year, the woods can be very wet, and the weather can be very windy. Please use caution when entering the woods, especially on windy days. A reminder to please stay on the walking trails to protect understory native plant vegetation. Do not walk or bike on trails that are too wet and muddy to avoid rutting, soil erosion. We hope these precautions allow you to experience our woods preserves in a safer and more enjoyable way.

If you discover fallen trees blocking trails, please contact Joan Mahaffey or Patty Klein, Woods Committee Co-chairs. There is currently a large tree blocking the Poplar Trail in the West Woods near the intersection with the Whetstone Trail and Kelley Park. We are working to have this downed tree cut and the trail cleared soon. We appreciate your patience.

We need volunteers to help us protect trees especially in the East Woods. Six newly planted American holly trees have been severely over browsed by deer over the winter. We would like to protect them with stakes and American fencing. If you have good upper body strength and can help us, please contact Joan or Patty.

As we make progress on control of non-native invasive plants and deer over browsing, we anticipate the return of more native ephemerals, shrubs, and saplings, especially in the East Woods. The spring emergence changes from day to day. For help in identifying your discoveries, websites such as the [Chesapeake Bay Native Plant Center's](#) provide descriptions and photographs of native grasses and ground covers, shrubs, and trees. Search within the Piedmont Region for optimal results. Stay healthy and stay happy!

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

## News from Other Grove Organizations

### Film Society News

#### *The Intouchables*

The Film Society is back in the Hall with a FREE movie, on Sunday, March 5, at 7:30 pm. Based on a true story, *The Intouchables* is a moving, funny tale of a millionaire who uses a wheelchair (Francois Cluzet), and a streetwise ex-con (Omar Sy) hired as his caregiver. Nominated for nine Cesar Awards (the French Oscars) in 2012, *The Intouchables* was described as a "Must See Film of the Year" and "Feel Good Film of the Summer."

Directed by Olivier Nakache and Eric Toledano, 2011, France, in French with English subtitles. 1 hour, 52 minutes. Rated R for language and some drug use.

Join your neighbors for this entertaining movie and tell us what you thought of it at the discussion following the movie.

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

## WG United Methodist Church News



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

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, 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.

[Join our Zoom meetings](#)

Meeting ID: 964 361 1456

The password, if requested, is Church

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

## Woman's Club News

### Town Directory

**IMPORTANT!!** Time is running out to submit your information for the 2023-2025 Town directory. If you haven't already submitted your information, please [complete and submit the PDF form](#).



### Saturday April 1 Donuts and Coffee to Feature Marché aux Puces (Flea Market)

Stop by the Clubhouse, and you'll agree that the French term sounds so much better for describing the lovely items we'll have for sale that we were not able to include in our 2022 Auction. And we promise, even though it's April Fool's Day, there will be no fleas. Make us an offer on your favorite irresistible! Even if you're not in the mood for shopping, stop by and visit with neighbors from 9:30 to 11:30 am.



## Membership Info and Notice: Annual Dues are Due

If you haven't paid your \$20 dues yet, please send your check, made out to the Woman's Club and marked dues to Cynthia Werts, PO Box 232, Washington Grove, MD. Not a member yet? We welcome all Grovers to join and support the social, civic, cultural and philanthropic work of the WGWC. Learn how to join the club on [our web page](#).

Will you consider "rounding up" your dues to \$25? The extra \$5 will go towards our outreach programs.

## Bringing Comfort through Home-Cooked Meals

In a few more weeks, we'll be sending out a Signup Genius link for [Interfaith Works](#) Priscilla's House dinners for April, May and June. The women at Priscilla's house look forward to this home-cooked meal each month, and we hope we'll continue get great support from our volunteers for the next quarter.

## Closet Cleaning and Not Sparking Joy? Donate to This Community Effort

Our partnership with Emory Grove United Methodist Church facilitates the collection of used clothing in good condition. The church picks up and distributes the clothing 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.

## Ongoing Charitable 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](#)

## Other Notices

### Gaithersburg Farmers Market

Come visit us at 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. We are there from 11:00am to 2:30pm. Casey Community Center, 810 South Frederick Avenue. [View more information here.](#)



## Recyclable Yard Waste Pick-Up Returns

Recyclable yard waste pick-up by our refuse collection company resumes on Thursday, March 2, 2023. Our trash contractor will pick up recyclable yard waste from your properly marked containers and/or large brown bags. You may also bundle your brush and tie it with twine. Bundles should be no larger than 30" in diameter and four feet in length. No individual pieces larger than four inches in diameter. Please keep in mind your container is being picked up by a human being and should not be too heavy.



## Final Bulk Leaf Collection

Per our contract with US Lawns, the spring 2022/23 leaf pick up must be completed by close of business on Friday, March 24, 2023. Residents have one final opportunity to have their spring leaves picked up by the vacuum truck. Please be mindful not to block traffic with leaves on our narrow streets.

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

## Coming Events Calendar

March 1	Planning Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
March 2	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
March 4	Ceili Dance	7:00pm	Town Hall
March 5	Film Society	7:30 pm	Town Hall
March 6	Woods Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
March 7	Sustainability	7:30 pm	ZOOM
March 8	Forestry & Beautification	7:30 pm	ZOOM
<b>March 8</b>	<b>BUILDING PERMIT SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b>		
March 9	Gateway Committee	7:30 PM	ZOOM
March 11	Celebration of the life of Jim Leng	1:00 pm	Town Hall
March 12	Racial and Social Equity Committee	2:00 pm	ZOOM
March 13	Town Council	7:30 pm	ZOOM
March 14	Lake Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
March 16	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
March 18	Town Hall Private Rental	10:00 am	Town Hal
March 21	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
March 22	Lighting Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
March 23	Emergency Preparedness Safety Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
March 24	Final Leaf Collection (by the big vacuum)	All Day	
March 25	RASEC Forum “Are we segregated by design”	1:00 pm	ZOOM
March 27	Public Hearing Resolution 2023-01	7:30 pm	ZOOM
March 29	Budget Work Session	7:30 pm	ZOOM

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