



# Town Bulletin

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

301-926-2256

July 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**  
*WG Methodist Church | Woman's Club*
  - **Other Notices**
  - **Coming Events Calendar**
- 

## Town Council News

**Next meeting: Monday, July 10, 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 June 2023 Town Council Meeting

- Approved Resolution 2023-03, Budget Transfers for FY 2023
- Approved contracting for supply of community solar electricity with Skyview Anacostia LLC.
- Approved entertaining at a future meeting a resolution creating a renewable energy conversion incentive pilot program.

### The Grove Needs Audiovisual Expertise!

We are in the process of upgrading the Town's audiovisual capabilities at McCathran Hall. *Do you have even a little knowledge and/or experience with sound or visual systems, and an interest in learning more?* Would you consider becoming a Town expert on audiovisual equipment and its use?

Volunteering is the lifeblood of the Town. Unfortunately for us, Charlie Challstrom is transitioning from his decades long volunteer role in this capacity and we need to fill his shoes (...but no

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dancing skills are required)! To explore, please contact Tom Land ([thomasland@outlook.com](mailto:thomasland@outlook.com)), Charlie Challstrom ([chacha4498@gmail.com](mailto:chacha4498@gmail.com)) or John Compton ([johncompton@me.com](mailto:johncompton@me.com)).

## Maintenance and Groundskeeping Work

Town Councilor Peter Nagrod has volunteered to take on the role of *Maintenance Coordinator*. Any resident with a suggestion for maintenance work or issues with groundskeeping should contact Peter ([pnagrod@msn.com](mailto:pnagrod@msn.com)) or Mayor Compton ([johncompton@me.com](mailto:johncompton@me.com)).

## 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 the 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 if individual volunteers **contact one of the following responsible individuals *before beginning any non-emergency action, or as soon as possible in emergency situations:***

1. *Town Maintenance Coordinator:* Town Councilor Peter Nagrod by email at [pnagrod@msn.com](mailto:pnagrod@msn.com)
2. *Town Clerk* Kathy Lehman at 301-926-2256 or at [washgrove@comcast.net](mailto:washgrove@comcast.net)
3. *Mayor* John Compton at [johncompton@me.com](mailto:johncompton@me.com).

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

The 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee is seeking volunteers for the following subcommittees:

- Music at the Circle Subcommittee,
- Welcoming Subcommittee (greet guests, includes souvenir sales),
- Logistics Subcommittee (set up, clean up, parking, misc.),
- Saturday Potluck Subcommittee.

Each group will meet to plan before the celebration weekend. To volunteer, contact Meredith Horan at 301 926 1054 or [horanm@hotmail.com](mailto:horanm@hotmail.com).

[View the schedule of events.](#)

## Gear Up for the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration with Hats, Tees, Car Magnets

On or around the Fourth of July, watch for an announcement about ordering gear to help celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Town of Washington Grove.



A dedicated website will be available for you to select your preferred sizes and colors, then pay for your order directly on the site. Items will be distributed at a WG location to be announced, beginning on or around August 4. Out-of-towners can pay for shipping directly to their homes.

**The site will only be open for two weeks, so act quickly to purchase your items!**

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

## News from Grove Boards and Commissions

### Historic Preservation Commission News

**Next meeting: Tuesday, July 18, 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

### Architecture and Planning of Independent Assembly Chautauquas

[View a report on the architecture and planning of independent assembly chautauquas](#) based on Robinson & Associates' 2019 historic context report, Town of Washington Grove.

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

### Planning Commission News

**Next meeting: Wednesday, July 5, 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 June**

- 336 Ridge Road -- fence

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

- 11 Center Street – sewer - lateral

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

## **News from Grove Committees**

### **Dog Park News**

Join us for Yappy Hour on Friday, July 14 at 5:30pm at the Dog Park in the West Woods. Dogs and well-behaved humans are welcome! [Dogs can register on site or in advance here](#). For more information, reach out to [Liz Gillanders](#) or [Ali Faupel](#).

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

## **Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee News**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 27, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 822 3794 4778

Passcode: 804224

### **Summer Heat Safety Guidance**

During extremely hot and humid weather, it is important to know the symptoms of excessive heat exposure and the appropriate responses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides a list of warning signs and symptoms of heat illness, and recommended first aid steps. [View more information on all of these heat related illnesses](#)

The EPA, NOAA, CDC, and DHS also have collaborated to provide guidance on excessive heat safety. [View the guidance](#).

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and ASPCA have guidance to protect pets and other animals safe from excess heat. See tips on keeping pets safe from heat from [HSUS](#) and [ASPCA](#).

## Fireworks – Know the Law!

In Montgomery County, ALL fireworks are illegal to possess or discharge including gold label sparklers. Snap-and-pop noise makers, snakes and party poppers are the only exception to this law. [Learn more here.](#)

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

## Forestry & Beautification News

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 7:30 p.m.**

The F&B Committee is on summer break. Our next meeting will be on August 9 as we start to plan for planting trees this fall. 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, July 13, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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

## Lake Committee News

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 11 2023, 7:30 pm**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

## Lake Committee Meetings

Lake Committee meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. The next meeting, on **Tuesday, July 11, 2023**, will be a hybrid meeting; in-person in the Council Room and by [Zoom](#) (this is the link). New members are welcome and encouraged! Call John Hutchinson or Tom Land if you have any questions or suggestions.

## Swim at Your Own Risk

We are fortunate to have lifeguards for most days. When we are unable to staff sufficiently, the diving board will be closed. We ask that parents be responsible for their children and should always watch them when they are in the water.

## Change in the Gate Combination

The combination for the lock to the 'inner' gate of Maple Lake has been changed. Please contact Tom Land (240) 801-0646, or anyone on the Lake Committee, to get the new combination. Please do not share the lock combination with non-residents of Washington Grove. We changed

the combination because someone who lives outside of Town knew the combination and took the lock.

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

## Lighting Committee News

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 7:30 pm**

[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](mailto:vq@qmediainc.com), or Robert N. Johnson at [rnj@elecdev.com](mailto:rnj@elecdev.com).

The Lighting Committee is working with other Maryland municipalities to work out a process to allow the option of municipal streetlight ownership. At the next meeting will share the recent developments of the Maryland Public Service Commission negotiations.

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

## Racial and Social Equity Committee News

**Next meeting: Sunday, July 9, 2023, 2:00 pm.**

[Join ZOOM Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 874 1892 4038

Passcode: 228324

Please join us. We would love to see more people from our large mailing list attend and further enrich the conversation. Our new members have added new ideas which are always welcome.

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

## Recreation Committee News

**Next meeting: TBD; there will NOT be a meeting in July.**

### Independence Day

Town of Washington Grove July 4th festivities take place on Tuesday the 4th. Costume judging at 11:00 AM in Woodward Park. Flag raising at NOON followed by the parade to McCathran Hall where there will be prizes, bell-ringing and singing.

### Calling All Muskrats!



The Muskrat Band will ride again on the 4th of July. Dust off those instruments and join in the fun. New Muskrats welcome! Meet at McCathran Hall at 11:00 AM. Come a little earlier if you want to practice a bit. Please contact Kathy Lehman 301-926-1253 or [kathylehman@verizon.net](mailto:kathylehman@verizon.net) for more details.

## Softball Game!

**Tuesday, July 4th at 2:00 pm.** We encourage participation from all ages and abilities and hope for lots of spectators and cheering! If you'd like to help with the event, or take on any of the roles as scorer, umpire or team captain, please contact Joey Fones, Ali Faupel, Em Cavey or Rob Gilmore.

## Summer in the Parks

Summer in the Parks camp has been going great! If anyone is interested in helping to chaperone lake days or leading an activity, please contact Eva at [counciloreva@gmail.com](mailto:counciloreva@gmail.com). The family camp-out will be held Friday, July 21 at Town Hall.

## Yoga in the Grove Continues for the Summer!

Town resident and certified yoga instructor Rachel Schwartz will continue to offer a free yoga class on Tuesday evenings from 6-7 pm in McCathran Hall.

Please note: there will be **no yoga class on July 4.**

Also note: **For July and August, you will need to RSVP to Rachel at [soferrs@gmail.com](mailto:soferrs@gmail.com) by noon on Tuesdays.** Since people are often busy during the summer months, yoga class will be held each week as long as there is sufficient interest.

Rachel practices [Ashtanga yoga](#) and teaches a vinyasa (flow) class with modifications for all levels. Please bring your own mat and feel free to bring blocks if you use them. The class ends on our backs with a cooling relaxation, so consider bringing a sweatshirt or fleece. Be sure to print out and complete this [waiver form \(PDF\)](#) and bring it to your first class.

Yoga is free for Washington Grove residents, although donations are accepted. Non-residents may attend for \$10 a class (cash only, please).

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

## Sustainability Committee News

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

## Sustainability Incentives Pilot Program Proposed for Grove Residents

To intensify our efforts to reduce the Grove's GHG emissions, the SC has drafted a program to incentivize our town's conversion from fossil fuels to renewable electricity that augments the evolving federal and state incentives. The incentives will target conversion from fossil fuel heating to electric heat pumps, electric back up, and electric vehicles as long as the household uses renewable power. Conversion from Pepco-generated power to renewable power alone can save 20% of our emissions. Widespread conversions could reduce our emissions by two-

thirds. Watch for news about the forthcoming Sustainability Incentives Pilot Program for Washington Grove.

### **The Grove Applies for Certification in Sustainable Maryland**

Washington Grove joined the Sustainable Maryland organization in 2022. This organization comprises 88 municipalities (out of 163) and is part of a larger Sustainable States Network of 14 states that has influence over 66 million people in 2,524 municipalities. The overall goal of the network is to help the Nation attain a more carbon neutral environment as defined by the Paris Climate Accords. Washington Grove has applied for Bronze Certification to gain access to the knowledge base and influence of the state and national organizations. Our application details many Sustainable Actions by the Town, each of which earns points towards certification. Actions include promotion of composting and gas-free yard equipment, establishing the community garden, education and outreach efforts, watershed stewardship, earning recognition as a Tree City, installing electric vehicle chargers, and several more. The Green Team portion of the Sustainability Committee has submitted the application to Sustainable Maryland for review. Certification Awards will be announced in October.

### **Slots Available to Join Community Solar Farm**

Kevin Cheung and Crystal Robinson from Utility Advisor attended the ribbon cutting celebration on June 10th for the town's new electric vehicle chargers and answered questions about enrolling in the community solar program that supports solar electricity generation. Community solar offers a guaranteed savings of up to 10%, and much higher savings for those who qualify as low- or moderate-income households. If your household income is in the range of \$70,000 - \$105,000, Kevin advises applying for the 25% discount. Many residents in Washington Grove are already enrolled. In the past, there was a long wait time to enroll but slots are currently available. If you'd like to explore this option to support solar electricity generation, contact Kevin Cheung, Utility Advisor, at [kevin@myutilityadvisor.com](mailto:kevin@myutilityadvisor.com) or 410-670-5511.

### **Town Council Approves Switching Town Electricity Accounts to Solar Generation**

On June 12, the Town Council agreed to sign the town's three qualified municipal accounts (for electric power at McCathran Hall, the maintenance building, and the lake) to community solar with Skyview Solar Energy. Activation is expected starting this fall.

### **Town's 2021 Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Completed**

The Sustainability Committee (SC) has completed an inventory of the major contributors to our town's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The major factors are electrical generation (Pepco's sources for our power); cars (mostly internal combustion); and heating (mostly oil and gas furnaces). An alarming fact is that the average Grove house emits 76% more GHG than the average county house. Clearly, we have a bigger challenge than our neighbors and need to be more ambitious. See related files: [GHG Inventory](#) and [2021 Carbon Dioxide Breakdown](#).



## Two More Heat Pumps Installed in Washington Grove

Two more homes in town recently converted from fossil fuels to heat pumps to heat and cool their homes:

- Kirk Greenway reports that, utility wise, his home is now decarbonized, with solar offset on electricity, a hybrid hot water heat pump, and a heat pump for heating and cooling the house, as well as an electric vehicle. Next, he'll be looking into upgrading home insulation.
- The Rivard household immediately converted their oil furnace upon moving in, as they did not want to live in a house with what they considered a dirty energy source.

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

## Woods Committee News

**Next meeting: Monday, August 7, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

There is no scheduled Woods Committee meeting in July because of the long Fourth of July weekend. Our next scheduled meeting: Monday, August 7, 2023, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom Video Conference. Zoom details will be included in the August Town Bulletin.

## Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan

In the next few weeks, Soltesz Engineering is scheduled to submit their design plan for Storm Water Management in the residential portion of Town, west of Grove Avenue, and in the West Woods. Our next steps will be to examine the design plan, when submitted, and decide on priority areas for construction. This will be done in collaboration with the Mayor and Town Council.

## Whetstone Spring Restoration

Construction has begun on the restoration of Whetstone Spring in the West Woods. An historic 1961 photograph is the model for the restoration which should be completed in time for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration the weekend of August 12 and 13.

## Control of Non-Native Invasive Plants

Work continues in the East and West Woods during June and July to control NNI plants, such as wisteria, mile-a-minute and wavy leaf basket grass. Signs will be posted near work areas. A blue dye is used and visible whenever there is target spraying.

## Woods Trails

We are installing additional trail name signs at walking trail intersections in the East and West Woods to orient hikers. These trail signs were erected to keep people safe and enjoy our forest preserves. If you find any fallen trees across trails, dumping of plant debris, or any safety issues in our Forest Preserves, please contact Wood Committee co-chairs Joan Mahaffey or Patty Klein.

Please stay on the walking trails to protect these reforestation areas. Enjoy all seasons in our forest preserves!

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

## News from Other Grove Organizations

### WG United Methodist Church News



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 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

#### July Porch Social

Join us on Thursday, July 20, from 7 to 8:30 PM, for a Porch Social with summertime refreshments at the Clubhouse. This is the WCWG regular meeting time, but for this month, we're just going to hang back and get to know our neighbors better.



Hope to see you there!



#### Community Outreach

(Drop off all goods donations at the Clubhouse or on the porch at 119 Grove Road)

#### The Need is Great

With the increasing number of people becoming homeless every day, the need to help them is also growing. We can't end the poverty and homelessness around us, but our Town, through your generous contributions and donations, goes a long way towards making life a little easier for these people, especially the children.

#### Summer Treats for the Kids

School is out and the summer looms long for kids with few resources. If they aren't close enough to a school, they can't always get the supplemental meals they get during the school year. While we can't feed them every day, we can make sure they have some daily treats. We collect fruit cups, individually wrapped bags of cookies, crackers, and other snacks. Imagine what you enjoy snacking on and donate these for the kids in the Archways program!

### **Our Continuing Underwear Drive**

Far too many children in our county face the humiliation and discomfort of going to school without underwear. We collect sizes for toddlers to teens, boys and girls, and supply them to Interfaith to include in donated back-to-school backpacks.

### **Despite the Summer Heat, Winter is Coming**

At this time of year, Amazon, Macy's and other retailers are having great sales on the winter coats we collect for the underprivileged kids at Washington Grove Elementary School. Consider a little bargain shopping now for this much-needed item.

### **Clothing Partnership with Emory Grove United Methodist Church**

We continue to have a great response to our partnership with Emory Grove Church to collect used clothing, in good condition, to give to people in the community on the third weekend of each month. The Church will pick up and distribute clothes.

### **Helping Archways Kids and Their Families**

We support eight Archways families and their 16 children – and they are always in need of non-SNAP necessities like towels, wash clothes, cleaning supplies, feminine hygiene products and deodorant. Other non-SNAP items that are always needed are diaper wipes, hand sanitizers, laundry detergent, paper towels, any flavor of Pedialyte, blue box Similac powder and toilet paper. With the recent major cuts to the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) allowances, our monthly boxes of non-SNAP items mean that families don't have to stretch their budgets to buy those needed supplies.

### **Prefer to Donate Financially?**

If you prefer to contribute financially to these efforts, send your check to WCWG, c/o Cynthia Werts, 410 Oak Street, PO Box 354. Be sure to designate in the memo section the outreach effort of your choice or leave it blank to allow us to determine the area of greatest need at the time.

[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 and updates.](#)

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

## Coming Events Calendar

July 3	Woods Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
July 4	JULY 4 <sup>TH</sup> COSTUME JUDGING	11:00 am	
	JULY 4 <sup>TH</sup> PARADE	Noon	
July 5	Planning Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
July 5	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
July 9	RASEC	2:00 pm	ZOOM
July 10	Town Council	7:30 pm	ZOOM
July 11	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
July 11	Lake Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
<b>JULY 12</b>	<b>BUILDING PERMIT SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b>		
July 12	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
July 13	Gateway Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
July 14	Youth Recital	6:00 pm	Town Hall
July 18	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
July 18	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
July 19	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
July 21	Summer In The Parks Camp Out	10:00 pm	Town Hall
July 25	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
July 27	EPS Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM

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