



# Town Bulletin

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

301-926-2256

September 1, 2023

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## Town Council News

**Next meeting: Monday, September 11, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom meeting](#) (or dial in to 301-715-8592 using meeting ID: **82319941312** and password 074385).

### Actions at the August 2023 Town Council Meeting

- Appointed Christine Dibble as Mayor "Pro" Pro Tempore from September 1-18.
- Approved Resolution 2023-04, Authorizing Deer Management Bow Hunting Sessions in East and West Woods Preserves
- Approved Resolution 2023-05, Resolution Authorizing Joint Town of Washington Grove and Montgomery County Parks Deer Management Bow Hunting Sessions in Conservation Meadow and Piedmont Crossing Local Park
- Approved [Resolution 2023-06, Establishing a Renewable Energy Conversion Incentives Pilot Program \(PDF\)](#)

### Joint Emory Grove - Washington Grove United Methodist Churches Resolution

At their joint service at the Washington Grove Methodist Church on Sunday, August 13, the two Methodist churches presented the Town with "A Resolution Acknowledging Methodism's

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Racially Exclusionary Past and Committing to an Equitable and Inclusive Future”. The Resolution was accepted by Councilor Barbara Raimondo. She noted how appropriate it is on this day of 2023 that the Town is celebrating the 150-year anniversary of the first Washington Grove Methodist camp meeting – that now both the Town, and the Methodist churches of Washington Grove and Emory Grove, have acknowledged our racially exclusionary past in Resolutions that set standards for an inclusive future.

- [View the Town’s resolution \(PDF\)](#)
- [View the churches’ resolution \(PDF\)](#)

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## News from Grove Boards and Commissions

### Historic Preservation Commission News

**Next meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 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

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### Planning Commission News

**Next meeting: Wednesday, September 6, 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.

### Attention All Residents

What do you think of allowing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in Washington Grove? The Planning Commission will be discussing possible changes to our ordinances which would allow a resident to add one such unit to their property. Before we send our wording to the Town Council, we would like to get public input on what we are proposing. Your opinions are important and will influence the ordinance language we submit to the Council. More specific information on ADUs and the current draft ordinance will be sent out by September 8 in a Grove Alert. Thanks in advance for adding your input to this process.

## 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 August 2023

- 120 Chestnut Ave. Renovation
- 120 Chestnut Ave. Fence
- 5 Daylily Lane Fence
- 125 WG Lane Fence

## Public Ways & Property Permits (PW&PP) Approved in August 2023

- 103 Brown St. Upgrade Water Line

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## News from Grove Committees

### Dog Park News

Come to the Dog Spot at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 3, 2023 and participate in an agility course with your furry friends.



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### Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee News

**Next Meeting: Thursday, September 28, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 850 9298 2964

Passcode: 657173

## Public Survey on Natural Hazards -- 2024 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Hazard mitigation planning is the process of identifying the risks, vulnerabilities, and the capabilities of our community, and then developing mitigation strategies to reduce the loss of life and damage to property from these natural events.

The second of two [Community Input Surveys](#) is now live! The Town is assisting the County with updates to its Hazard Mitigation Plan and public participation is critical. Your input will help produce a plan that fully integrates what matters most to people living and working in the County.

[This survey, which can be accessed here](#), takes about 5-10 minutes to complete. It will remain open until at least September 8th.

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## Forestry & Beautification News

*There will not be a meeting in September.*

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 7:30 p.m.**

[Join ZOOM Meeting](#)

All are welcome! Our agenda can be found off of the F&B page on the Town website by Monday, October 9. We will be discussing new trees being planted this fall. If you have a suggestion for where a new tree/s are 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)).

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## Gateway Committee News

**Next Meeting: Thursday, September 14, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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## Lake Committee News

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 7:30 pm**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Lake Committee meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. The next meeting will be a hybrid meeting; in-person in the Council Room and by [Zoom](#). 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 many days. When we are unable to staff sufficiently the dock will be closed. We ask that parents be responsible for their children and should always watch them when they are in the water.

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## Lighting Committee News

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 27, 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. The negotiations have taken a positive turn. 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).

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## Racial and Social Equity Committee News

**Next meeting: Sunday, September 10, 2023, 2:00 pm.**

[Join ZOOM Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 874 1892 4038

Passcode: 228324

RASEC welcomes all to our meetings. Find out about upcoming plans and the revitalization of our education subcommittee.

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## Recreation Committee News

**Next meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 7:00 pm.**

### Yoga

Yoga at McCathran Hall with Grove Resident Rachel Schwartz continues in September. At press time, we're still meeting on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm, but please keep an eye out on the listserv, as the day of the week may change. Please continue to RSVP to Rachel ([soferrs@gmail.com](mailto:soferrs@gmail.com)) by noon on class day. Classes remain free, with cash donations greatly appreciated. All levels, just bring a mat.

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## Sustainability Committee News

**Next Meetings: Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 7:30 pm and Tuesday, October 3, 2023.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

### Town Council Approves Renewable Energy Incentive Program for Grove Residents

The Town Council unanimously approved setting up the pilot incentive program recommended by the Sustainable Committee (SC) that was outlined at the Annual Town Meeting in May. The SC adjusted the proposed program by incorporating comments from many sources and presented it

at the August Council Meeting. The program will provide cash incentives for converting from fossil fuel heating to heat pumps, upgrading old heat pumps or replacing backup fossil fuel heating with electric backup, and/or replacing fossil fuel vehicles with electric-powered ones. EV purchases and heating system conversions to renewable energy fuels made as of July 1, 2023, will be eligible on a first-come, first-served basis. These cash incentives will augment the federal and state incentives and can work with the state historic district tax credits that most of the houses in the Grove are eligible for. The SC will provide guidance in the preparation of the documents for the various incentives.

*Look for our formal launch event--probably in October--for more details and for how the **Renewable Energy Incentive Program** will impact you.*

[\*\*View Resolution 2023-06 approving the establishment of a Renewable Energy Conversion Incentives Pilot Program, together with appendices describing the program and its operation \(PDF\).\*\*](#)

### **Edible Garden Update: A Great First Year**

The community garden inside the tennis court area is having a great year. By the numbers:

- Over 400 pounds of vegetables have been donated to the food bank (Manna, So What Else, and St. Martin's) in 2023, plus about 60 pounds in late 2022.
- Fifteen types of produce have been donated (sweet potato leaves, sweet potatoes, lettuce, spinach, kale, collards, mustard greens, peas, garlic, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, peppers, winter squash, and beans)
- About 25 Grovers have volunteered at the garden at least once.
- The garden has been a subject of three presentations: to the MoCo Food Council, the Religious Land Use Working Group, and the Gaithersburg-Washington Grove Garden Club. It also appears in a [video clip on MCC](#) and was open for a tour last month during the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration weekend.
- The garden cost about \$600 in the first year, drawn from the sponsoring Sustainability Committee's budget. The committee has recently voted to continue sponsorship. Our donations are now also being logged with the non-profit [HarvestShare](#), and we are exploring grant opportunities with that organization.

With every delivery of produce to a distribution site, we see firsthand the food insecurity in Montgomery County. St. Martin's for example, helps feed 300 families each week. The food bank is very appreciative of donations of fresh produce to complement the shelf stable foods that they typically receive.

The native plant pollinator garden has been an attractive addition this year. To help with the gnat problem over these recent rainy weeks, we have hung hummingbird feeders from the shed. One hummingbird can eat 1000 gnats per day!

We are currently making plans to plant winter cover crops, garlic and more. The garden crew always welcomes new volunteers. As an added perk of volunteering, the gardeners get to take home the imperfect but still delicious & nutritious food that cannot be donated.

If any home gardeners have extra produce (or canned goods, etc.) that they would like to donate to the food bank, we can add it to our deliveries on either Sunday or Wednesday morning. Contact Bruce Daggy to arrange (call or text 925-918-1828; [bruce.daggy@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.daggy@gmail.com)).

### **Maryland State Incentives: Electric Vehicle Tax Credit...and More**

If you purchase and title an electric vehicle or fuel cell electric vehicle (powered by hydrogen) between July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2027, you may be eligible to claim an excise tax credit up to \$3,000 from the State of Maryland. [View the details here](#). Scroll down on this site for other valuable information, such as a rebate on the cost of acquiring and installing a qualified electric vehicle charger and obtaining a permit from the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) to use the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicle.

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## **Woods Committee News**

**Next meeting: Monday, October 2, 2023, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

**Meeting ID:** 832 3736 4214

**Passcode:** 207090

Woods Committee meetings are regularly held on the first Monday of each month. The September meeting was rescheduled to Thursday, August 31, because of the Labor Day holiday. Our October meeting will be held on Monday, October 2 at 7:30 p.m. All residents are invited to attend. Woods Committee meetings are held by remote access via Zoom Video Conference.

### **Deer Management**

The Town Council has approved continuation of the deer management program in the East and West Woods with our volunteer Bow Hunter Fire Fighters of Maryland (BHFFMD) this Fall-Winter season. The season runs from Friday, September 8, 2023, until Wednesday, January 31, 2024. A deer management program will also occur in the meadows to the east of Town, under the auspices of Montgomery County Parks. The BHFFMD are skilled archers. They will be hunting at sunrise and sunset. Signs will be posted at the entrances to the Woods. There is no danger to hikers using the forest trails at any time during this hunting season. The East and West Woods will be open during this archery season. Please keep dogs on a leash. Contact Joan Mahaffey or Patty Klein, Woods Committee Co-chairs, if you have questions.

### **Stormwater Management**

Jason Mills of Soltesz and his associates have submitted their assessment of our current level of stormwater infrastructure. The report includes short-, medium-, and long-term

recommendations for the Town and residents extending west from Grove Road to Washington Grove Lane, and into the West Woods. WC members will work with the Mayor and Town Council to prioritize projects and develop an RFP for “design to build” construction.

### Stiltgrass

Woods Committee volunteers Dave Cosson and Joan Mahaffey have trimmed stiltgrass along trails in the East Woods to make the trails more passable and to help avoid tick exposure. Whetstone Spring in the West Woods has been beautifully restored by Steve Werts and our Town landscapers, RJ Landscaping. We encourage you to visit this peaceful, breathtaking site along the Whetstone Trail just before you reach Kelley Park. Stay healthy and safe and enjoy the beauty of nature in our East and West Woods Preserves.

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## News from Other Grove Organizations

### 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 on 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 people of every gender identity, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, and physical or mental ability into full participation in the life of this faith community. We celebrate the gift of love and affirm all loving relationships and marriages.

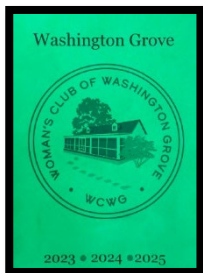
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### Woman’s Club News

#### The New Town Directories are Here!

For a mere \$5, you can now get up to speed with all the latest important contact info for Town Government, residents, and community resources!



The Directory is available for purchase at the Town Office during working hours. You may pay by cash, or a check made out to “WCWG”.



The Directory is produced every three years by the WCWG, and credit for making it happen goes to Marilynn Frey and her team, including Mimi Bolotin and Sandra Gallagher; and the amazing proofreaders Sylvia Favret, Margo Cavenagh, Kathleen McCann, Meredith Horan, John and Betsy Klinger; and the



many Club members who quietly lent a hand or a much-needed word of encouragement. Please convey your thanks to this group. What would we do without them?

If you can't pick up a copy at any of these venues, reach out to Marilyn directly at (301)351-4784 or [marilynnf@comcast.net](mailto:marilynnf@comcast.net) to arrange a pickup time. Or as Marilyn says, "Just flag me down as I'm driving by! I'll have plenty in my car."

You can also contact Cynthia Werts, (301)926-1668, [cynthiawerts410@icloud.com](mailto:cynthiawerts410@icloud.com), to request a copy.

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

The frigid cold of winter is brutal when you don't have a coat, and far too many of our local children go to school without one. The Woman's Club does what it can to fill this critical need.

At this time of year, Amazon, Macy's, and other retailers are having great sales on the types of winter coats we collect for the kids at Washington Grove Elementary School. Consider a little bargain shopping now for this much-needed item. Also, donations of coats, hats, scarves and gloves your children have outgrown would help these children, who might otherwise go through the winter with no outerwear.

### **Another Cold Weather Need**

Now that a new men's shelter has opened near us, we will again be collecting new white socks for them! Polls of homeless people consistently show that if they have a choice of food or socks, they will always choose socks because they might be able to find food other places, but winter without socks is unbearable.

### **Signups for Priscilla's House Meals**

It's time to plan the last two Priscilla's House Meals for 2023, which are November and December. This is a wonderful project for families, groups of friends or individuals 😊. [Please use this link to sign up](#). Hopefully the link will work this time (fingers crossed). If it doesn't work, emails will be sent to the Club and to the listserv.

### **Help Fill the Teacher's Closet at Washington Grove Elementary**

While many of us donated backpacks and school supplies to kids starting back to school, the need doesn't stop there. Paper, pencils, pens, erasers, glue sticks and other school supplies are needed through the year, and all too often, teachers end up paying for these things out of their own pockets. The Woman's Club tries to keep the Teacher's Closet filled with these essentials for children's learning. Please consider continuing to donate these throughout the year.

### **The Needs are 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.

The Woman's Club maintains a store house of your donations, which we use every month to put together boxes for each of the eight Archways families we support. 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! Also always needed are pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter and grape jelly.

In addition to food, there's a critical need for 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.

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

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.

### **Would You 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.

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## Coming Events Calendar

September 1	Pickleball	6:00 pm	Tennis Courts
September 2	Field Games	10:00 am	WW Park
September 2	Softball Game	3:00 pm	WW Park
September 3	Tennis	10:00 am	Tennis Courts
September 3	Pet Agility Event	2:00 pm	The Dog Spot
September 4	Bike Races	10:00 am	WW Park
September 4	Croquet Tournament	3:00 pm	Ball Field
September 4	Potluck Dinner & Awards	6:00 pm	Town Hall
September 5	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
September 5	Sustainability Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
September 6	Planning Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
September 11	Town Council Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
September 12	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
September 12	Lake Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
September 13	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
September 13	Forest & Beautification	7:30 pm	ZOOM
<b>SEPTEMBER 13 BUILDING PERMIT SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b>			
September 14	Gateway Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
September 19	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
September 19	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
September 20	Recreation Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
September 20	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
September 22	Private Rental; Woman's Club		
September 23	Private Rental; McCathran Hall		
September 24	Private Rental; McCathran Hall		
September 26	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
September 27	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
September 27	Lighting Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
September 28	EPSC	7:30 pm	ZOOM
September 30	BluestoberFest	7:30 pm	Gazebo

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