

Town Bulletin

www.washingtongrovemd.org 301-926-2256 November 1, 2023

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Town Council News

Next meeting: Monday, November 13, 2023, 7:30 pm.

<u>Join Zoom meeting</u> (or dial in to 301-715-8592 using meeting ID: 297 850 640 and password 074385).

Actions at the October 2023 Town Council Meeting

- Renewed Town consent for operation of the Community Garden at the present tennis court location, including 20% additional cultivated land, for an additional two years ending October 31, 2026.
- Approved a Sustainability Committee proposal for a small-scale trial leaf composting project to explore composting Town-collected leaves.
- Revised McCathran Hall Use Regulations to clarify that recycling is required at all Town or rental events.

Mayor's Kudos

• To 2023 BluestoberFest organizers Lawren and Eric Selby and participants who again made this annual Grove music event successful.

- To the Gateway Committee "Adopt-a-Road" volunteers for cleaning up trash along Railroad Street and Washington Grove Lane.
- To Ali Faupel, Joey Fones, Peggy Booher, and all responsible for the successful Labor Day events.
- To resident yoga instructor Rachel Schwartz for her free near-weekly classes for residents.
- To Joan Mahaffey and Dave Cosson for pulling stiltgrass in the East Woods.
- To Rob Gilmore for starting a chess club in town, which is calling itself, what else, but "The Chess-Nuts".

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News from Grove Boards and Commissions Historic Preservation Commission News

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 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.**

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

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Planning Commission News

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 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 2nd 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 October 2023

• 203 Washington Grove Lane - Fence

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

None

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News from Grove Committees Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee News Next Meeting: DECEMBER 2023.

EPSC Seeking New Chairperson or Co-Chairperson.

The EPSC strives to improve our Town readiness in cases of local and regional emergency situations and raises awareness of Town residents about how to be prepared for emergencies and contribute to an emergency response. If you are interested in a leadership position on the committee or in joining as a regular member, please contact Town Councilor Eva Patrone at counciloreva@gmail.com.

House Numbers--Can EMTs, Police and Fire Find You in an EMERGENCY?

According to Montgomery County Fire & Rescue, in an emergency, rescue workers depend on house numbers to locate you. Finding your home - especially at night - can be challenging if address numbers are unreadable, hidden, unlighted or have missing numbers and may delay emergency responders from getting to you as quickly as possible.

The unique layout of Washington Grove streets and avenues presents extra challenges to our first responders. Please consider displaying your house number and street name on/near the front and back of your house as appropriate. For additional guidelines, please visit the **Montgomery County Fire and Rescue website**.

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Forestry & Beautification News

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

Join ZOOM Meeting

All are welcome! Our agenda can be found on the Town website by Monday, November 6. We will review our Fall plans. 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) or Audrey Maskery (trees.beautification@gmail.com) or our Council Liaison Barbara Raimondo (councilorbarb@gmail.com).

Gateway Committee News

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 9, 2023, 7:30 pm.

Ioin Zoom Meeting

New members are encouraged!

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Lake Committee News

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 7:30 pm Join Zoom Meeting

There will be a three-month hiatus for Lake Committee meetings. The Lake Committee will resume meetings on Tuesday, February 13th, 2024. The Lake Committee has hybrid meetings -- in-person in the old Council Room and by **online via Zoom**. New members are welcome and encouraged! Call Tom Land or John Hutchinson if you have any questions or suggestions.

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Lighting Committee News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 961 798 0177

The Lighting Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. That schedule becomes a problem for us during the winter holidays. The fourth Wednesday in November is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the fourth Wednesday in December is in between Christmas and New Year's. Since F&B will not be meeting the second Wednesday in December, they have graciously allowed us to use that time. Therefore, the next Lighting Committee meeting will be Wednesday, December 13th at 7:30pm via Zoom.

The Lighting Committee is working with other Maryland municipalities to work out a process to allow the option of municipal streetlight ownership. We have made significant progress, and it looks like we are close to a deal that will make municipal streetlight ownership in Maryland a reality!!

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

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Racial and Social Equity Committee News

Next meeting: Sunday, November 12, 2023, 2:00 pm.

Join ZOOM Meeting

Meeting ID: 874 1892 4038, Passcode: 228324

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RASEC November Activities

On Thursday, November 2 at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Emory Grove Community representatives and RASEC representatives will meet for a discussion about the WG and the WG/EG UMC Resolutions, "Acknowledging the Racially Exclusionary Past and Committing to an Equitable and Inclusive Future."

The discussions will focus on the clauses at the end of the resolutions that delineate future aspirations. The goal is to use the feedback from the discussion to guide RASEC and the Methodist churches regarding future actions to make the aspirations a reality.

Remaining Survey Data Community Presentation Dates and Topics

November 20: Town Meeting Attendance, Application of Town Rules

November 27: Next Steps, Wrap Up

All meetings are virtual and will be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

A final report includes the aggregated data tables discussed at the presentations and the graphic depictions of the survey respondents' comments and the sentiments expressed by residents. The report will be given to the Town Council no later than December 5 and then posted on the Town website. If there is feedback from residents after the final report is posted that further discussion is warranted, RASEC may organize discussion sessions or focus groups.

Zoom meeting information for all presentations is the same:

Join ZOOM Meeting

Meeting ID: 845 3183 2805

Passcode: 490940

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Recreation Committee News

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 7:00 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 841 8808 4053

Passcode: 419003

Our 2023 Holiday Show Will be LIVE This Year!

Please join us on us on Saturday, December 9, at 7:30 pm at McCathran Hall for the holiday show, Live from the Grove!: A Holiday Feast.

Inspired by the splendid Music on the Circle during the 150th anniversary celebration, the show will feature musical talent gathered from the far reaches of Washington Grove (including New Jersey!).

Although it will not be livestreamed, it will be filmed by Montgomery Municipal Cable and available for viewing at a later date. And please bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

PS: Please bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

PPS: Contact Judy Mroczka at mrascal107@gmail.com or Marilynn Frey at

MarilynnF@comcast.net if you want to help with the show.

Yoga in the Grove

Our wonderful yoga instructor, Rachel Schwartz, has had to step down from teaching weekly classes. We are sad to see her go, but incredibly grateful for the many months she taught (for free!). If you didn't get a chance to give a donation, she accepts Venmo donations. You can find her on Venmo through her email address: soferrs@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, Eva Patrone is looking for a new yoga instructor. If you know anyone who would be interested in teaching a weekly, donation-based class, please let her know at counciloreva@gmail.com. We can be flexible about the day and time.

Looking for a new Chair or Co-Chair for the Recreation Committee

After an amazing 15 years (!!) of service, Emily Cavey is stepping down as the Chair of the Recreation Committee. Emily has put an incredible amount of time, love, and dedication into making sure that town social events continued and flourished, even during the height of Covid. She will stay on the committee and be available to give advice and guidance. Many of the traditional town activities already have a point-of-contact person, so the Rec Committee Chair position is more about hosting the monthly meetings and making sure everything runs smoothly. If anyone is interested in chairing the committee, or working with a partner as a co-chair, please contact Eva Patrone at counciloreva@gmail.com.

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Sustainability Committee News

Next Meetings: Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 7:30 pm and Tuesday, December 5, 2023.

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

Washington Grove Earns Sustainable Maryland Bronze Certification

BIG NEWS! Washington Grove has earned the bronze-level certification from *Sustainable Maryland!*

Monica Maher and Bruce Daggy of the Sustainability Committee's Green Team accepted the certification award for Washington Grove at the Maryland Municipal League conference in College Park on October 16. Bob Booher participated in discussions at the event about measuring and lowering community carbon footprints.

Since 2021, the Town has worked diligently to act on our commitment to sustainability in its broadest sense and to document actions for the certifiers. We are making progress towards:

- the elimination of fossil fuels and the implementation of renewable energy throughout Town;
- the use of heat pumps, electric vehicles, and energy-efficient appliances;
- a community-based food system; social equity; and
- other goals.

As a certified member of *Sustainable Maryland*, the Town has joined forces with the Sustainable States Network, which currently comprises 14 states (including populous California, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Florida) and their 65 million residents. Our membership gives us access to a strong peer network, expert advice, and training to help us achieve our sustainability ambitions. More about the benefits of our membership will appear in a future Bulletin.

Many volunteers on Grove committees and commissions helped the Green Team, which was led by Ernie Kawasaki, reach this substantial goal. We congratulate and thank everyone involved, including the Mayor and Council members who have strongly supported this effort from its beginning.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Grove's New Cash Incentive Program for Heat Pumps and Electric Vehicles

Q1: Where can I find details about the incentives program?

A1: You can read about the program here.

Q2: How do I get an application form?

A2: Pick it up at the Town Office or download and print it here.

Q3: Who can help me apply?

A3: Paul Patrone or Bob Booher can help you complete your application. (Contact information is in the Town Directory.)

Q4: How much cash can I get?

A4: Cash incentives are \$1,000 or \$1,500. See details on the web page about the program.

Q5: I just installed a heat pump/bought an electric vehicle. Can I apply for a cash incentive? A5: Purchases completed on or after July 1, 2023 qualify for the cash incentive under certain conditions, such as relying on community solar energy (or the equivalent) for your home electricity.

Q6: I think I should get a heat pump but have no idea how to get started. What should I do? A6: Learn about heat pumps on the web page "Switching Your Home Heating From Radiators To Heat Pumps – 13 Q & A's". In particular, read item 9, "How do I get started in making the change to a heat pump?" Getting a home energy audit is an important early step.

Q7: I'm interested in buying an electric vehicle but need to learn more before I get serious. Where can I find information about these vehicles?

A7: Helpful information about electric vehicles and chargers is **on the "Charge Up With Electric Vehicles" page**.

Q8: How much will the Town spend on the incentives program?

A8: The Town budgeted \$20,000 for the incentives program. If all funds are spent, applications will be held in the hope that the next town budget will replenish the money for this effort.

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Woods Committee News

Next meeting: Monday, November 6, 2023, 7:30 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

By Phone: 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 875 1282 4573

Passcode: 046918

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News from Other Grove Organizations Film Society News

The Film Society has had to reschedule the first two films of our season. Please be sure you have the correct dates on your calendar. If you've already received your tickets, please correct the dates on the ticket set for the following two films:

- Frozen River will be shown on November 12
- Moonstruck will be shown on December 10

The January, February and March dates on your tickets are correct. Our upcoming film is: *Frozen River* on Sunday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m. *Directed by Courtney Hunt, 2008, US, English, shown with English subtitles, 96 minutes.* Beset by financial hardship, two women find themselves thrust into the dangerous world of smuggling illegal immigrants across the St. Lawrence River. Melissa Leo was nominated for Best Actress in the powerful drama that delves deep into the human condition.

Purchase at the door: Each set of five film society tickets is \$25. Single tickets are \$7.

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Washington Grove Cares News

The holidays are approaching, and while it is a joyous time of year, it can also be fraught. We live in a caring community. If errands are overwhelming you or a recipe won't work or you would love an invitation to join a table at Thanksgiving, Washington Grove Cares can find a neighbor to lend a hand. Please reach out to us for help or to volunteer or with your ideas for keeping us all connected. Call 301- 944-2962 or email washingtongrovecares@gmail.com.

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 at 303 Chestnut Road, Washington Grove, MD.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Village Bazaar featuring handcrafted centerpieces, wreaths, small trees, décor and much more – Saturday November 18th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

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.

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Woman's Club News

Join Us on Saturday, November 4th for our Final Coffee and Donuts on the Woman's Clubhouse Porch

Please join us as we enjoy our last morning of coffee and donuts on the porch before the Clubhouse is closed for the winter. It's **Eat Sweets and Bring Sweets** so bring us your leftover Halloween candy, and we'll see that it's shared both with various shelters and with an Air Force Chaplain who's deployed, so she can distribute candy to the troops.

The Holidays are Hard for Those in Need

Like parents everywhere, the families in Archways and Seneca Heights want their children to have a memorable holiday season! For the Archways families, the Woman's Club is providing them with cookies, hot chocolate and marshmallows, in addition to their regular non-SNAP boxes. Donations of these holiday treats would be greatly appreciated!

For All Community Outreach Programs

You can drop off all donations and also leftover candy at the Clubhouse or on the porch at 119 Grove Road.

Please think about the Kids Without Coats and the Homeless Men Without Socks During the Coming Long and Frigid Winter!

The winter cold is brutal when you don't have a coat, hat, scarf or other outerwear, and far too many of our local children could be going to school without them. The Woman's Club does what it can to fill this critical need by collecting gently used or new children's coats and outerwear. In

the past, our Town's generosity has helped keep the kids at Washington Grove Elementary School warm.

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

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. Because of their limited storage space, please try to donate seasonal clothing, so, winter clothing at this time of year.

The Needs are Great

With the increasing number of people becoming homeless every day and the money for SNAP (food stamps) severely cut, the need to help them is also growing at a frightening rate. 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 storehouse of your donations, which we use every month to put together boxes for each of the seven Archways families we support. While we can't feed them every day, we can make sure they have some occasional 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 Archway 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! Each month we're going to highlight the most critical non-snap needs, although many of the items are needed. This month we are again emphasizing the need for toilet paper, all-purpose cleaners or kitchen wipes, shower gel, clothing detergent, liquid dish detergent and paper towels.

Would You Prefer to Donate Financially?

If you would like 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.

Other Notices Toys for Tots

Washington Grove is again collecting for this important program. We've been generous in the past and let's be even more so this year! We're collecting for children up to the age of 14.

The best gifts are toys that you would enjoy giving to the children you know and love. That said, shopping for pre-teens can be challenging! Toys for Toys suggests sporting equipment/bags/ balls; books, backpacks, cosmetics, purses, watch/wallet gift sets; bath gift sets, board games; radio control cars/trucks; hand-held electronics; skateboards/helmets for this group. We always give art supplies.

Please drop off your donations at Marida and Terri's house at 204 Ridge Rd between October 12 and December 11, 2023. We'll have a box in our carport for toys. Contact Terri Johnson at maridaterri@gmail.com if you have questions. Thank you for your generosity!

Bulk Leaf Collection Began October 31, 2023

New and long-time residents alike are reminded of the Town contract for bulk leaf removal each autumn. The contractor, Green Earth, Inc., will make regular but unscheduled pickups of leaves raked or blown into windrows within six feet of any roadway or walkway, excluding Railroad Street, 2nd Ave., 3rd Ave., 4th Ave., 5th Ave., and Boundary Street. This service begins October 31, 2023 and ends January 5, 2024, or as soon thereafter as we agree the work is complete. This is the only time to have leaves removed without bagging for recycling.

The contractor will time pickups based on the availability of full truckloads for vacuuming. One or two spectacular fall weekends in November or early December usually have most of us raking at the same time. If you rake when most others are raking, the windrows will probably disappear relatively quickly.

Please place your windrows within six feet of the road or walkway (keeping in mind car and pedestrian traffic).

Green Earth will collect leaves by working from one end of the Town to the other, typically starting with Ridge Road working their way across the community, first removing piles along roads for safety reasons. After making one pass along roads, they will focus on walkways. If roads become obstructed before walkways are completed, roads will be cleared until they are safe. Then collection will resume along walkways. Weather may affect this process. Rain can restrict movement of large trucks on the avenues and accumulated snow, or freezing rain may make piles too heavy to vacuum. The contractor will not remove leaf piles that contain branches, brush, pruned limbs, and cut ornamental grasses. Please do not add these to leaf piles. They foul the vacuum and Green Earth will not collect piles containing this material. If a particular leaf pile has lingered for an inordinate amount of time, please call Kathy Lehman at the Town Office, 301-926-2256, or by e-mail washgrove@comcast.net.

Bulk Trash Collection

The Town has scheduled a bulk trash collection for November 4, 2023. Materials may include furniture, appliances (nothing with freon like air conditioning units), rugs, large toys, small auto parts, etc. Material may NOT include construction by-products from your renovation projects, large automotive parts, or tires. Items should not contain gasoline or motor oil. Please keep your metal separate from the rest of your trash.

Peopling of the Americas and Native American Presence in Montgomery County: A 12,000+ Year Story

On Saturday, November 11, 2023, 3 pm, McCathran Hall, Don Housley, president of the Mid-Potomac Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland will give a Power Point presentation covering briefly the theories concerning the peopling of the Americas before turning to a discussion of the three major archaeological time periods (Paleo, Archaic, and Woodland) associated with the pre-Contact (before European settlement) history of Native Americans in the Mid-Atlantic. Discover the environment, social structure, and tool development of the three time periods in Montgomery County and Washington Grove including a discussion of the Washington Grove Steatite Quarry site and other possible pre-Contact sites in the area. Some of those actual artifacts will be on display. Attendees are invited to bring any potential pre-Contact artifacts they have collected on their property or elsewhere in Washington Grove.

Bring local artifacts if you have them.

Don Housley retired in July 2005, after 36 years teaching U.S. history and serving the last 25 years of his teaching career as chairman of the Social Studies Department at Wheaton High School in Montgomery County, Maryland. Currently, he volunteers in the Office of Archaeology for Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (Montgomery County). Mr. Housley also serves as president of the Mid-Potomac Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland and from 2016 to 2020 served as president of the Archeological Society of Maryland. He is member of Montgomery History and its Speakers' Bureau, and for many years helped teach Life-Long Learning archaeology courses at Montgomery College-Rockville campus.

Coming Events Calendar

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November 1	Planning Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 1	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
November 2	RASEC Meeting	2:00 pm	ZOOM
November 2	Swing Time Big Band	6:30 pm	Town Hall
November 4	Bulk Trash Collection	7:00am	Town-wide
November 6	Woods Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 7	Sustainability Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 8	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
November 8	Forestry & Beautification	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 8	Building Permit Submission Deadline		
November 9	Gateway Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 11	Don Housley Presentation	3:00 pm	ZOOM
November 13	Town Council Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 15	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
November 15	Recreation Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 16	Swing Time Big Band	6:30 pm	Town Hall
November 17	Holiday Show Rehearsal	7:00 pm	Town Hall
November 19	Holiday Show Rehearsal	2:00 pm	Town Hall
November 19	Private Rental	4:30 pm	Town Hall
November 20	RASEC	7:00 pm	ZOOM
November 21	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 22	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
November 27	RASEC	7:00 pm	ZOOM
November 29	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall