



Town Bulletin

www.washingtongrovemd.org

301-926-2256

December 1, 2023

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Town Council News

Next meeting: Monday, December 11, 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 November 2023 Town Council Meeting

- Approved a revised contract with Action Hauling for the use of Town land behind Railroad Park on Railroad Street.

Mayor's Kudos

- To the ghouls, gals, and guys who put together the 2nd Annual Halloween Spooktacular fun - and turning the woods near the Gazebo into a Haunted Forest.
 - To Meredith Horan and Wendy Harris and all the 150th Anniversary Committee for organizing and hosting the final event of our 150th Anniversary Celebration year: a presentation by Don Housley on the history of native Americans in North America, Montgomery County, and Washington Grove.
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- To the Green Team and the Sustainability Committee for achieving the award of “Sustainable Maryland Certification” (Bronze level) for Washington Grove.
- To all of the Woods Committee volunteers who contributed to the West Woods workday last Saturday, collecting trash from throughout the woods.

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News from Grove Boards and Commissions

Historic Preservation Commission News

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 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.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

Circulation

Robinson & Associates’ **2019 Cultural Landscape Analysis of Washington Grove** defines circulation to include the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute the systems of movement in a landscape. This month, we present [their analysis of our Town’s systems of circulation \(PDF\)](#). More recently, a sidewalk was installed along the east side of Washington Grove Lane. Individual descriptions of each road, avenue, and alley in Washington Grove can be found starting on [page 36 of Robinson & Associates’ Cultural Landscape Analysis \(PDF\)](#).

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Planning Commission News

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 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.

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 November 2023

- 352 Ridge Road - Awnings
- 201 Washington Grove Lane - Fence

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

- None

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News from Grove Committees

Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee News

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 28, 2023, 7:30 pm. Contact Dave Lutter or Town Clerk Kathy Lehman for information.

We are Actively Seeking New Committee Members

Please consider attending a meeting if you are a resident who is interested in keeping Washington Grove a safe and prepared community, and have just a little time to volunteer. Chairman Dave Lutter has been doing an exemplary job, but has indicated he will be stepping down. The Committee is actively seeking his successor.

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Forestry & Beautification News

The Forestry and Beautification Committee has finished the fall tree planting and maintenance. We are now on hiatus until our next meeting on Wednesday March 13 (2024) when we will start planning for the spring tree planting. 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).

[See this new article "Invasive Vines Not Wanted in the Grove".](#)

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Gateway Committee News

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 14, 2023, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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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

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.

We meet the fourth Wednesday of every month. All are welcome to attend!

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Racial and Social Equity Committee News

Next meeting: Sunday, December 10, 2023, 2:00 pm.

[Join ZOOM Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 874 1892 4038

Passcode: 228324

RASEC welcomes all to our meetings. We appreciate your voice. RASEC has several subcommittees, and we currently have three workgroups. However, some people choose to attend specific committee meetings only or to participate in time-limited workgroups related to a specific issue or event. Please check the Town website to view the subcommittees. Feel free to call Paula (240-506-2340) if you would like more information or if you would like to see past minutes to understand our work.

A virtual activity that has been interesting, fun, and bonding is the Adventures with Wilson Community Stories. Everyone is invited to tell a story related to the topic or to be part of the listening audience. One does not have to be an expert storyteller. The audience is expected to be non-judgmental. There is usually a variety of stories and interesting discussions arise from the stories. We will have the final Community Stories session for the year on December 14 from 7 to 9 pm. [Please use this link to register and look for an email after you register \(check spam and trash\). Click to confirm your registration.](#)

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Recreation Committee News

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 20, 2023, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 841 8808 4053

Passcode: 419003

New Co-Chairs for the Recreation Committee

Lisa Bielen

lvbielen@gmail.com

973-534-2605

Kristina Kough

KKoughWG@gmail.com

(240) 388 7379

Yoga in the Grove Continues!

Certified yoga and fitness instructor Ingeborg McCright offers an all-levels yoga class on Tuesdays from 6 – 7 pm in McCathran Hall. Ingeborg has been teaching yoga and exercise classes for many years and is able to give modifications for those just starting out and those looking for extra challenge.

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 dressing in layers. If this is your first Grove Yoga class, be sure to print out and complete this [waiver form \(PDF\)](#) and bring it to class. Yoga is free for Washington Grove residents with a suggested \$5-10 donation. Non-residents may attend for \$10 a class. Ingeborg accepts cash or check.

The holiday season yoga schedule is as follows: NO CLASS Nov. 21

Nov 28

Dec 5

Dec 12

Dec 19

NO CLASS DEC 26

Jan 2

and so on every Tuesday

The Holiday Show Will Be LIVE This Year!

Please join 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 live streamed, it will be filmed by Montgomery Municipal Cable and available for viewing at a later date.



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

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Sustainability Committee News

Next Meetings: Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 7:30 pm and Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

Steps to Help You Get Started in Lowering Your Home Energy Consumption and Costs

On October 28, a special town event outlined a new incentives program available to help you purchase a heat pump and/or an electric vehicle. [Find out more about the incentives here.](#)

Beyond the decision of which heat pump to buy, there are many other actions you may be considering to improve the energy efficiency, safety or comfort of your home. Complexity can lead to paralysis. Here are three steps that we have found helpful to getting underway.

Start with a home energy audit

An audit will pull together many basic but crucial facts, such as the square footage of the home, its construction and leakiness, the details of its HVAC system, your recent energy use history, and how you use the home. This will inform all subsequent decisions.

In establishing the pilot program [Electrify MC](#), Montgomery County has contracted with [Elysian Energy](#) to conduct energy audits and make recommendations to homeowners. The audit will confirm the correct size HVAC for your house. Too small a unit won't deliver the comfort you want, while too big a unit will cost more, be less efficient, and will probably be noisier. Contractors have a financial incentive to sell you more system than you need; the audit is your protection against that.

A standard home energy audit costs \$100. An audit that includes calculation of the heat load (known as the "Manual J" calculation) costs \$200; this calculation allows you to correctly size the heat pump for your particular house. The cost of the audit can be offset by county cash incentives on subsequent expenditures you make to electrify your home.

Crunch the numbers on your energy bills

Whatever HVAC system(s) you have, you can estimate from past bills what you spend on heating and cooling, and your normal baseline energy consumption. If you are going away for a few days, turn off or unplug everything that's not essential and see how low it goes. If the only appliance running is your refrigerator, then energy expenditure should be very low, but you might discover for example that the dehumidifier running in your basement or an old freezer in your garage is costing you hundreds of dollars per year. That may be necessary in your case, but it helps to know what can be cut and what cannot.

You can use a device such as a "Kill-a-Watt" meter to find out how often an appliance is running and how much power it draws. There are also devices that monitor indoor air quality (temperature, humidity, CO2 levels, fine particulates) that might suggest actions like replacing your gas cooktop or adding an energy recovery ventilator (ERV).

If you haven't already done so, sign up for [clean electricity](#) while you have your Pepco account information handy. That will save you some money to help pay for improvements and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with your home.

Begin a dialogue with Elysian or the energy auditor of your choice to develop a final plan

Take the first step toward a plan that sets a path to take you from where you are to where you want to be. It might be a staged journey over several years. By having a plan and taking steps to make changes before a crisis hits, you are less likely to find yourself stuck making an emergency repair that doesn't leave you with the solution you really wanted. The auditor should also tell you about rebates and tax credits that are available and recommend vetted contractors to do the work.

Community Leaf Composting Pilot is Underway

A small test to compost leaves from town common property is underway near the maintenance building on Center Street. Occasional loads of leaves collected from our parks, walkways, and common areas are being shredded and poured into the 6" x 4' test bin. We are mixing coffee grounds into the shredded leaves to speed up the composting process. Leaves provide the carbon and coffee grounds provide the nitrogen that microbes require to make compost, a rich natural fertilizer.

This project is distinctly different from the many compost piles on private property in Washington Grove, some of which have been providing great compost for owners' gardens for years. The community project is testing how we can work with the town's contractors to compost town leaves on town land and is a first step in trying to find ways to benefit from this natural resource while reducing the number of leaves hauled to sites outside of town.

We invite you to take a peek at the Community Compost Pilot bin but please don't put anything into the bin. We are carefully recording activities associated with creating compost and taking measurements, such as the loads of leaves going in, when we mix the pile, when we water it, and what temperature the compost pile is generating.

We will need more used coffee grounds (which may include the filter papers). If you have coffee grounds from home or are able to pick any up at coffee shops---which often are happy to donate them if you ask---please put them into the metal can behind the compost bin. The can is clearly labelled for coffee grounds.

[Learn more about composting](#)

If you have questions or comments about the pilot, please contact Bruce Daggy (bruce.daggy@gmail.com) or Kitty Seiferlein (keseife@me.com).

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Woods Committee News

Next meeting: Monday, December 4, 2023, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 838 3197 7665

Passcode: 899358

Woods Committee co-chairs Joan and Patty would like to thank our team of volunteers who helped with the Fall Clean-up in the East and West Woods in November. First, thanks to Charlie Challstrom and Bruce Rothrock for cleaning up the trash pile at the Silver Dollar Court entrance to the East Woods. Thanks to our many volunteers who cleaned out trash from the West Woods on our November 11th Fall Workday: Bob Booher, Bob, Christin, Dave Cosson, Bruce Daggy, Larry French, Monica Maher, Virginia Quesada, and Cynthia Werts. Additional thanks to Dave and Chuck Cosson, Jane Souzon, and Bill Robertson for hauling two truckloads of trash to the dump. The Woods Committee depends on the work of dedicated volunteers to keep our Forest Preserves safe and usable for all.

Our deer management program continues in the East and West Woods and the lower meadow with our volunteer Bow Hunting Fire Fighters of Maryland (BHFFMD) this Fall-Winter season. The season runs from Friday, September 8, 2023, until Wednesday, January 31, 2024. During the month of November, one doe was harvested bringing the total to six does so far this season. 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 remain open during this archery season.

Woods Committee members continue to work with the Mayor and Town volunteers to prepare a Request for Proposals to control environmental damage from stormwater volume and velocity in the West Woods and the upstream residential part of Town.

Stay healthy and safe and enjoy the beauty, tranquility, and rustle of Fall leaves in our Woods Preserves.

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News from Other Grove Organizations

Film Society News

Moonstruck

December's movie is a charmer, perfect for the season. Even if you've seen it before, you'll be glad you came out to watch it again.

Moonstruck

Sunday, December 10, at 7:00 pm in McCathran Hall

Directed by Norman Jewison, 1987, US, English, shown with English subtitles, 102 minutes.

Reflecting on love, family, and opera, this delightful comedy is guaranteed to leave you smiling. Cher and Olympia Dukakis won acting Oscars and are joined by Nicolas Cage, Vincent Gardenia, and Danny Aiello. *Moonstruck's* classic lines are too many to count!

If you're purchasing tickets at the door, single tickets cost \$7, while a set of five costs \$25.

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Washington Grove Cares News

We live in a supportive community. In November, Washington Grove Cares arranged rides to medical appointments 8 times as well as several meals for a recuperating neighbor. Thank you to all of our generous volunteers.

In addition to what you do for your neighbors every day, consider joining the ranks of the Washington Grove Cares volunteers by completing this [Volunteer Form](#).

Warm and happy holidays to all!

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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. 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

Vote this Month for WCWG Officers

Watch your email for news about the proposed slate of officers for 2024-2025. The voting will be conducted online, and the new officers inducted at a special meeting in January. More to come....



This Time of Year is Difficult 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 cookies, hot chocolate, and marshmallows, along with their regular non-SNAP boxes. Donations of these Holiday treats would be greatly appreciated. You can drop off all donations at the Clubhouse or on the porch at 119 Grove Road.

Meals for Priscilla's House

We still have a few openings for dishes for the January and February 2024 Priscilla's House meals. This has been one of our most popular programs. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Marilyn Frey (marilynnf@comcast.net), and she will send you the link.

Winter is Coming – Let's Rustle Up Some Coats and Socks

The winter cold is brutal when you don't have a coat, hat, gloves, and scarf, and far too many of our Washington Grove Elementary children are 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 the Elementary School warm.

We are also collecting new white socks for the new men's shelter once again. 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.

What are Non-SNAP Donations, and Why Do We Collect Them?

With the increasing number of people becoming homeless every day and the money for SNAP (food stamps) severely cut, the need for help is also growing at a frightening rate. Your generous contributions and donations go a long way toward making life a little easier for individuals and families in need.

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 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. 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.

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Seasonal Reminders

Volunteer(s) to decorate the Gazebo?

The Gazebo hopes to continue its holiday tradition of festive decorations during the holiday season. The Gazebo seeks a willing volunteer to acquire an appropriate tree and set it up with lights (using Town hardware and funds, of course). Please contact Town Clerk Kathy Lehman at 301-926-2256.

Recyclable Yard Waste Collection Ends

Please note that THURSDAY December 28, 2023 will be the last date for collection of recyclable yard waste by Potomac Disposal this year. This service will resume in early March.

Leaf Collection by GREEN EARTH Ends

Bulk leaf collection by our contractor GREEN EARTH will end for the Winter on January 5, 2023. There will be a final collection in the Spring.

Deer Fences Down

Residents are reminded that deer fencing must be down by November 30th per Town Ordinance 3.328(g). Thanks!

Christmas Tree Disposal

Beginning in late December, Christmas trees will be picked up roadside. When you place your tree out for collection, please remove all tinsel, ornaments, the stand and any other metal.

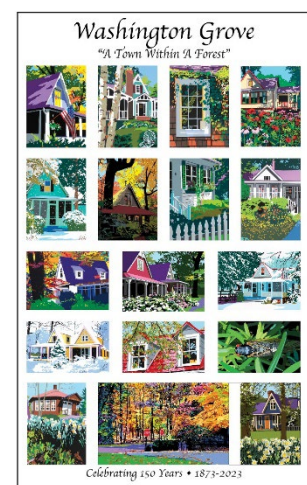
Postcards Available

Contact Arlene McCrehan

mccrehans@gmail.com

240-447-6875

\$7.50 per package



Coming Events Calendar

December 1	Holiday Show Rehearsal	5:00 pm	Town Hall
December 3	Holiday Show Rehearsal	12:00 pm	Town Hall
December 4	Woods Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 5	Sustainability Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 5	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
December 6	Planning Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 6	Holiday Show Rehearsal	7:00 pm	ZOOM
December 6	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
December 7	Swing Time Big Band	6:30 pm	Town Hall
December 8	Holiday Show Dress Rehearsal	7:00 pm	Town Hall
December 9	Holiday Show	7:30 pm	Town Hall
December 10	Violin Recital	11:00 am	Town Hall
December 10	Film Society	6:30 pm	Town Hall
December 10	RASEC	2:00 pm	ZOOM
December 11	Town Council Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 12	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
December 13	Building Permit Submission Deadline		
December 13	Forestry & Beautification	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 14	Gateway Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 14	RASEC	7:00 pm	ZOOM
December 19	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 19	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
December 20	Recreation Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
December 21	Swing Time Big Band	6:30 pm	Town Hall
December 26	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
December 27	Lighting Committee	7:30 pm	Town Hall
December 28	Emergency Preparedness Committee	7:30 pm	Town Hall

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