



Town Bulletin

www.washingtongrovermd.org

301-926-2256

January 2, 2024

Table of Contents

- [Town Council News](#)
 - [News from Grove Boards and Commissions](#)
Historic Preservation Commission | Planning Commission
 - [News from Grove Committees](#)
 - *Emergency Preparedness and Safety | Forestry & Beautification | Gateway | Lighting | Racial and Social Equity | Recreation | Sustainability | Woods*
 - [News from Other Grove Organizations](#)
Film Society | WG Cares | WG Methodist Church | Woman's Club
 - [Other Notices](#)
 - [Coming Events Calendar](#)
-

Town Council News

Next meeting: Monday, January 8, 2024, 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 December 2023 Town Council Meeting

- Set January 23, 2024, 7:30 pm, for the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2023-08 (ZTA) Enabling Accessory Dwelling Units.

Notice of Public Hearing

The Washington Grove Town Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 7:30 pm. The meeting will be online via Zoom videoconference. The purpose of this hearing is to take public comment regarding the proposed Zoning Text Amendment No. 2023 - 08; Ordinance Amending the Washington Grove Zoning Ordinance to Expand Housing Opportunities and Update Vehicle Parking Requirements. To access the videoconference hearing, contact the Town of Washington Grove, P.O. Box 216, Washington Grove, Maryland 20880 (301-926-2256). [View the proposed amendment and related materials here.](#)

Mayor's Kudos

To all the participants and organizers of the wonderful Holiday Show on December 9th. The show returned to an in-person production featuring residents showcasing their entertainment skills. Once again Judy Mroccka deserves accolades for pulling off the show, Christine Dibble and Rob Gilmore for their repartee introducing the acts, and Marilynn Frey for her behind-the-scenes costume work.

Washington Grove Connector Multi-Use Pathway

MCDOT reported on 15% engineering work for two alignments supported by the Town that directly connect Brown Street to the end of Crabbs Branch. The least expensive of the two, with a cost estimate of \$811,000, is the option with the least impact on the environment. At this level, funding earmarked for construction will be required from the County. The Mayor and Liaison Committee will be advocating for its inclusion in the MCDOT 2025 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). We will reach out for support to our neighbors who also will benefit (Gaithersburg, and the Emory Grove and Amity neighborhoods). [Learn more here.](#)

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

News from Grove Boards and Commissions

Historic Preservation Commission News

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 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

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

Planning Commission News

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 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 December 2023

- None

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

- None

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

News from Grove Committees

Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee News

The EPSC is searching for a new chairperson. If interested in learning more, please contact Eva Patrone at counciloreva@gmail.com. The next EPSC meeting will be determined at a later date. Please watch the listserv for more information.

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

Forestry & Beautification News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

The Forestry & Beautification Committee has finished the fall tree planting and maintenance. We are now on hiatus until our next meeting on Wednesday March 13, 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).

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

Gateway Committee News

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 11, 2024, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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

Lighting Committee News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 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!

The Lighting Committee is working with other Maryland municipalities to work out a process to allow the option of municipal streetlight ownership. We are close to a deal that will make municipal streetlight ownership in Maryland a reality!!

The bollards we installed look nice at McCathran Hall this holiday season.



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

Racial and Social Equity Committee News

Next meeting: Sunday, January 14, 2024, 2:00 pm.

[Join ZOOM Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 874 1892 4038

Passcode: 228324

Some current initiatives include the following:

Per our RASEC guidelines, an election for the Leadership Team will occur at our January meeting.

Among other ongoing projects, a workgroup is crafting recommendations to the Town Council based on RASEC-solicited feedback from Washington Grove residents and the Emory Grove community.

Please check the RASEC page on the Town website and click the link to view our meeting minutes to become familiar with our continuing work.

Call Paula Puglisi at 240-506-2340 if you have questions.

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

Recreation Committee News

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 7:30 pm. We will be planning events for 2024. Please watch the listserv for the Zoom link.

New Co-Chairs

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 January yoga schedule is as follows:

Jan 2

Jan 9 — class will be taught by sub, Lee Carruba

Jan 16, 23, 30

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

Sustainability Committee News

Next Meetings: Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 7:30 pm and Tuesday, February 6, 2024.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

What will be more sustainable a year from now?

Will more homes and businesses have ...

- switched to heat pumps and away from oil and gas furnaces?
- joined community solar electricity programs?
- installed solar panels and geothermal systems?
- improved insulation against energy losses?
- changed to induction stove tops relying on electricity instead of gas for cooking?
- replaced natural gas water heaters with heat pump water heaters?
- reduced energy to heat water for showers by installing control valves or low flow shower heads?

Will transportation systems be improved for ...

- electric vehicles and chargers?

- bicycles, buses, and mass transportation?
- air, rail, and shipping industries, shifting away from fossil fuels and toward renewable resources?

Will we have better options at stores for . . .

- products in cardboard packaging in place of plastic jugs?
- products in condensed form, lightweight and less costly to transport?
- bags that are compostable rather than single use plastic?
- alternatives to meat in our meals?
- locally grown foods that support area farmers and require less transportation?

Will consumers make more sustainable choices about their clothing, such as . . .

- buying fewer new clothes?
- buying more sustainable clothing?
- repairing clothing?
- washing clothes less and line-drying them indoors and out?
- sharing clothes and passing them on to others to extend the life of wearable products?

It's a new year with new opportunities and new hope. ***Let's pull together to imagine good change and work to make it happen.***

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

Woods Committee News

Because of the New Years Holiday, there will be no Woods Committee Meeting in January. Our next meeting will be Monday, February 5, 2024, 7:30 pm via Zoom Video Conference. The Zoom link will be sent in the February Bulletin.

The Woods Committee will be working on several projects in the New Year:

- continue trail maintenance and signage to increase enjoyment for all of the Forest Preserves and to protect newly sprouting trees and understory.
- develop digital maps of trails in the East and West Woods.
- improve stormwater drainage in the West Woods coming from the residential part of Town, from Washington Grove Lane and from the Towne Crest area.
- continue reforestation projects.

If you are interested in working on any of these projects, please contact either Joan Mahaffey or Patty Klein (Woods Committee co-chairs) or join us at our February 5 meeting.

Our volunteer Bow Hunter Fire Fighters of Maryland (BHFFMD) continued their bow hunting in our East and West Woods and the lower meadow. Two does and one buck were harvested in December. Members of BHFFMD are EMTs and firefighters who are vigilant about public safety, and therefore, there is no reason to curtail our use of the Woods. They will bow hunt at sunrise

and sunset. The archery season extends through January 31, 2024. Please contact Joan Mahaffey or Pat Klein if you have any questions.

A reminder to please stay on the walking trails to protect understory native plant vegetation and avoid tick exposure to you and your pets. Do not use trails that are too wet and muddy to avoid soil erosion and damage to your boots. Be careful entering the Woods on windy days, especially after heavy rain. We hope the New Year brings you many opportunities to enjoy the seasonal beauty of our East and West Woods Preserves.

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

News from Other Grove Organizations

Film Society News

Crip Camp

January's movie will change the way you look at the world and the people in it. Come to watch and discuss this inspiring, joyful documentary. Admission is free; no tickets are required.

Sunday, January 21, at 7:00 pm in McCathran Hall

Directed by James Lebrecht and Nicole Newnham, 2020, US, English, shown with English subtitles, 102 minutes.

In the early 1970's, teens with disabilities found camaraderie at an unconventional, liberating summer camp. Years later, their activism and radical commitment to disability rights secure historic legislation, changing the future for millions.

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

Washington Grove Cares News

Do you need a ride somewhere, an errand run, a walking partner, a homemade cookie, or a strong arm for a quick task? How about a solution to a math problem or insight into knitting instructions. Life isn't all about AI; a helping hand can be better!

We live in a caring community. Washington Grove Cares can marshal help when you need it. Please reach out to us for help by calling 301- 944-2962 or emailing washingtongrovecares@gmail.com. To add you name to our roster of town volunteers, fill out our [volunteer form](#).

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

WG United Methodist Church News

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.



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

Woman's Club News

Help Us Welcome Our New Officers in January

On Saturday, January 20, at 10 am, we'll hold a special meeting to meet and greet our new and returning officers for 2024. Join us at McCrehans' house, 410 Brown Street, for a light brunch, and provide input on plans for the year. We will also officially install our officers:



- President – Caitlin Bethepu
- Vice President – Monica Maher
- Recording Secretary – Sandra Gallagher
- Corresponding Secretary – Carrie Banachowski
- Treasurer – Cynthia Werts

Don't Forget that Dues are Due in January!

Just a reminder that the Club's annual dues of \$20 are due starting in January. You can pay at our January 20 meeting, or send your check, made out to WGWC to Cynthia Werts at PO Box 232, or drop it off at her house at 410 Oak Street.

If you would like an easy way to support our Outreach programs, consider "rounding up" by including an additional amount to your dues, which will go towards those programs.

If you don't belong to the Club, but would like to, drop off your check with a note that you'd like to join, your name and your email address. Despite the name, men are welcomed to join, and about 30 percent of our members are male.

Thank You for Your Generosity in 2023 – You Made a Difference in Many Lives!

Thank you all so much for your outpouring of generosity in 2023. SOME of the highlights of what the Woman's Club was able to provide for our Community Outreach were because of your generous support.

We provided many coats, hats, and scarves for Washington Grove Elementary School. We plan to collect these needed coats, hats, scarves, and gloves again in 2024.

Thanks to our generous volunteer families and groups, we were able to provide dinner once a month for the residents of Priscilla's House. The Club will be sponsoring these meals again in 2024.

With your generous donations, we were able to provide the Archways families with a box of much needed treats and non-snap supplies each month as well as a birthday gift for each child. SNAP money only goes so far and does not pay for a lot of things. With your continued donations, we will be providing the Archway families with needed items again in 2024. We provided ice cream, goody bags with candy and graduation gifts to students finishing kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, and high school at Seneca Heights Apartments. We also supplied graduation gifts to our Archways families. We look forward to sponsoring end of school and graduation parties again in 2024.

As We Look Forward to 2024

Priscilla's House

We are again looking for volunteers to provide meals on the first Wednesday of every month for Priscilla's. This was one of our most popular programs for both the Club and the Town to reach out to our nearby neighbors. We have volunteers for January and March already, but we still need volunteers for February's main course and for delivery. Contact Marilynn Frey (marilynnf@comcast.net) if you would like the link to sign up. We will also be posting the April to June signups soon.

Partnering with Emory Grove United Methodist Church

In 2024, we will continue our outreach partnership with Emory Grove Methodist Church to collect clothing to give away during the 3rd weekend of each month. You can drop off your donations at the clubhouse porch or on Wendy's porch at 119 Grove Avenue. The Church will pick up the clothes and distribute them. As Emory Grove has limited storage space, please focus your donations on clothes for the current season.

Our Archways Families

We can use treats and non-Snap items all year round for our Archways families. They do not all get the same items each month because their needs are different, so you can, but do not have to, donate multiples of the same items. Any amount of something is appreciated.

If You're Not Sure What to Donate, or If You Don't Have Time to Shop

Donations are always appreciated – just make a note on the check if you want it to go to a particular outreach program – or leave it blank and we'll use the money wherever it's needed most.

Where to Drop Off Your Donations

Please drop off your donations either in the box on the Clubhouse porch or on Wendy Weisbard's porch at 119 Grove Road. Monetary donation checks should be made-out-to the Woman's Club (WCWG) with a notation in the Memo if you want the money to go towards a specific project. Checks can be dropped off with Cynthia Werts at 410 Oak Street or mailed to Cynthia at PO Box 354.

Our Outreach Programs can only happen with the continued support of our Little Town with the Big Hearts.

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

Other Notices

Recyclable Yard Waste Collection Has Ended

Please note that THURSDAY December 28, 2023, was the last date for collection of recyclable yard waste by Potomac Disposal this year. The 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.

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.

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

Coming Events Calendar

January 2	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
January 3	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
January 3	Planning Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 8	Town Council Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 9	Sustainability Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 9	Yoga	6:00 pm	ZOOM
January 10	Tai Chi	11:00 am	ZOOM
January 10	Building Permit Submission Deadline		
January 11	Gateway Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 14	RASEC	2:00 pm	ZOOM
January 16	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
January 16	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 17	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
January 17	Recreation Committee	7:30 pm	Town Hall
January 21	Film Society	7:00 pm	Town Hall
January 23	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
January 23	Public Hearing Ordinance 2023-08	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 24	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
January 24	Lighting Committee	7:30 pm	Town Hall
January 30	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
January 31	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall

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