



Town Bulletin

www.washingtongrovermd.org

301-926-2256

July 1, 2024

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Town Council News

The new email address mayorandcouncil@washingtongrovermd.org can now be used to communicate directly with the Mayor and all Town Councilors.

Next meeting: Monday, July 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 June 2024 Town Council Meeting

- Approved Mayor's appointment of Jeff McCrehan to the Planning Commission as a full member for the five-year term June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2029.
 - Approved Mayor's appointment of Bob Christin to the Planning Commission as the Alternate Commissioner of the remainder of the five-year term June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2028.
 - Approved bids from MT Laney and Ross Contracting for road work for ~\$80,000 total.
 - Extended the Renewable Energy Conversion Incentive Pilot Program into FY25.
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- Resolution 2024-02 “Guidelines to Provide for Proper Governance of Washington Grove Committees” introduced. Action deferred until July 8 to allow for public comment (see “Public Comments Welcome” below).
- Continued discussion of education programs in diversity, equity and inclusion proposed by RASEC. Requested written answers to Council questions on the proposed programs for July 8.

Public Comments Welcome

Resolution 2024-02 has been introduced to revise the existing “Guidelines to Provide for Proper Governance of Washington Grove Committees”. [The latest draft of Resolution 2024-02 may be viewed here.](#) Public comment may be submitted by email to mayorandcouncil@washingtongrovesmd.org.

Mayor’s Kudos

- To the ***Town Weed Warrior work party of 14 resident volunteers*** who labored to remove unwanted plants from the Meadow Conservation Park along Ridge Road under the supervision of a Natural Resources Specialist with Montgomery Parks.
- To ***Peter Nagrod and other organizers and contributors*** for making CircleFest 2024 such a great, better-than-2023 town party attended by so many residents and invited neighbors and friends.
- To ***Bruce Rothrock, Terry Cox, Phil Mento, Bruce Crise, and Chris Blosky***, who cleared fallen tree branches and storm damage at Maple Lake last Saturday.
- To ***Steve Werts and Terry Cox***, who repaired a damaged tennis net on the clay court.

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News from Grove Boards and Commissions

Historic Preservation Commission News

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 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

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Planning Commission News

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 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 June 2024

- None

Public Ways & Property Permits (PW&PP) Approved in June 2024

- None

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News from Grove Committees

Forestry & Beautification News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 14, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

The Forestry and Beautification Committee has completed the spring tree planting and is now taking a break until August when we start planning for Fall planting. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday August 14 at 7:30 PM. Please remember that the F&B Committee keeps a list of resident requests for town trees. If you have a suggestion for where a new decorative tree/s, or any tree at all, 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).

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Lake Committee News

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

The Lake Committee holds hybrid meetings -- in-person in the old Council Room and by Zoom. Please join us. New members are welcome and encouraged! Call Tom Land if you have any questions or suggestions.

Swim Lessons

The Town will offer swim lessons for children ages 18 months - 13 years in the afternoon following Summer in the Parks (SITP), from July 8 to August 1. If you would like to enroll your kid in swim lessons, please use the on-line [Maple Lake Swim Lesson application form](#) (if you struggle with the on-line form, please contact Tom Land).

Lake Permits

We are resuming the practice of issuing Lake Permits to help lifeguards and give them another way to interact politely when the season begins as they get to know people. We **recommend taking a picture of your Lake Permit with your smartphone** as one way to have it with you. If you need a Lake Permit, please contact Tom Land.

Swim at Your Own Risk

We are fortunate to have lifeguards for most days. When and if we are unable to staff sufficiently, the diving board will either be closed or will not be installed. 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, July 24, 2024 at 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 961 798 0177

The Lighting Committee is working with other Maryland municipalities to allow the option of municipal streetlight ownership.

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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ad hoc Meadow Committee News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Restoration Plan for the Conservation Park

The Meadows Committee continues to work with Ryan Colliton, Principal Natural Resources Specialist with MoCo Parks, to develop a plan to restore the meadow by decreasing the number of red cedars, removing non-native invasive plants (including Bradford pears), and planting native species. We expect to receive a tree removal proposal from Parks in about two weeks. No trees will be removed before the town has an opportunity to review and approve the action plan.

Next Weed Warrior Event

On July 13 at 8:30 am, volunteers will meet at the junction of Ridge Rd. and Oak St. for a work party in the Conservation Park supervised by Silvia Nuñez, a Natural Resources Specialist with the Montgomery Parks Weed Warrior program. [Register for this event here.](#)

Alternately you may register at the start of the event if there are still spaces available. Students 16 and older can participate and earn SSL hours. No experience necessary -- in a few minutes you can learn what to do. Parks also offers Weed Warrior training and certification so you could work independently on your own schedule. If you have questions, please contact Bruce Daggy.

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Racial and Social Equity Committee News

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

[Join ZOOM Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 874 1892 4038

Passcode: 228324

RASEC welcomes all to our meetings. We appreciate your voice.

Town Council Meeting

Monday, July 8, 7:30pm

RASEC's DEI recommendations will probably be an agenda item.

Fourth and Final Session, Reckoning with Race

Sunday, July 21, 1:30 - 3:30pm

True stories involving race issues are told and the audience has an opportunity to comment.

NOTE: There is a change in the location for this session. Instead of the Washington Grove Woman's Club, the location is the Washington Grove United Methodist Church, 303 Chestnut Rd., Washington Grove MD 20880. For those with mobility issues, we invite you to attend via Zoom. Light refreshments will be served. [Register here.](#)

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Recreation Committee News

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 7:30 pm. We will be planning events for 2024. Please join us!

Art Night Summer Session Started June 27th!!

Bring your pencils, creativity, and love of fun to Art Night in Town Hall! We'll meet weekly to experiment with unique activities like Drawing Night Fever (drawing to music), Plagiarism is Fun (finish your neighbor's drawing), Drawing from the Wine Side of the Brain, and more.

The 2024 Summer Session runs June 27 to July 25 (with the exception of July 4), on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 pm. We'll kick off in Town Hall and potentially find other venues depending on summer temps.

Attendees provide their own art supplies (paper, charcoal and/or pencils, and a large drawing board). We will provide drawing easels and tables. Art Night is organized by Marida Hines and sponsored by the Recreation Committee. There is no fee, but advance registration is required so we know how many easels are needed.

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Sustainability Committee News

Next Meetings: Tuesday, July 2, 2024, 7:30 pm and Tuesday, August 6, 2024.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

Sustainable Energy Renovation in a WG Historical Home — *It Can Be Done*

Mimi Styles' beautiful home at 301 1st Avenue was built in 1880, so you can imagine what was between the house's ceiling and the roof! The answer, of course, is not much. It seems some old newspapers or cellulose-like material pretended to insulate the house.

From the fall of 2023 into early 2024, Mimi oversaw a major renovation to greatly enhance that insulation while maintaining the historic status of her home. Her first step was to have an energy audit done. The next big step was to replace the roof. Then the real work began...carefully pulling down each piece of the original beadboard that makes up the long, high ceiling; moving the pieces to a work area established in the kitchen; and individually cleaning each one and coating it with linseed oil to refresh the color and refinish the wood.

Then some form of insulation had to go in. Mimi's goal was to find insulation of the highest R-value possible that would comply with the Maryland Historic Trust Tax Credit requirements for a historic home. This is not an easy condition to satisfy because any work on an historic home has to be "reversible" so it can be returned to its original form if full restoration is desired in the future. That point ruled out any form of spray foam insulation, which, of course, would be one of the most efficient solutions to insulate any newer home. For Mimi's home, the answer turned out

to be sheep's wool. It's a great insulator, is biodegradable, and it meets historical standards. So, clean, pure sheep wool was blown in to do the job. A vapor control membrane (Intello Plus) and a layer of 1/8" plywood were added before finally reinstalling the original beadboard. Contractors also insulated the crawl space walls and added a vapor barrier over the dirt floor. These steps help control temperature and humidity inside the home.

The insulation project also presented the opportunity to supplement the typically understructured roof (2x4 rafters on 4' to 5' centers typical of the original Grove cottages) and reinforce damaged roof rafters. Four new tie-beams acting as trusses completed the strengthening of the roof.

It's too soon to measure energy savings in the house from this investment, but Mimi can already report that her upstairs office is noticeably more comfortable.

Other noteworthy features in the home are wood storm windows over the home's original windows, keeping the original wavy glass; heavy, insulated window curtains; a heat pump with propane backup; two ceiling fans in the main room of the house; and a wood stove that is the principal source of heat on the coldest days and biochar to boost the compost pile in the backyard. In addition, Mimi is enrolled in community solar electricity.

This home is truly a Washington Grove treasure, already recognized by the Historic Preservation Commission for an earlier major renovation completed in 2004. That renovation opened an attic gable, and removal of the faux brick asphalt siding and interior drywall revealed secrets -- a large, intact horizontal window and an additional entrance door on the side porch.

The former kitchen, likely added early in the 20th century, was in poor structural condition and was demolished. In its place, a 1-1/2 story addition was built over a newly dug-out basement. The addition consists of a new kitchen, an upstairs bedroom and bathroom as well as porches both downstairs and upstairs. All windows and doors in the 2004 addition were salvaged vintage pieces, which saved the energy and resources that would have been needed to manufacture new products.

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Woods Committee News

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 3, 2024, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 884 6846 4076

Passcode: 047720

Our August meeting will be on Monday, August 5, 2024, at 7:30 pm. We are always looking for new members to help protect our East and West Woods Forest Preserves. Please consider attending a Woods Committee meeting to learn about our projects and join us!

Controlling Invasive Plants

Our contractor, Invasive Plant Control, has been working in the East and West Woods during the end of June to control non-native invasive plants, such as mile-a-minute, Japanese knotweed, wisteria, wavy leaf basket grass, and stilt grass along trails. IPC may return to the East and West Woods during July to continue minor control of non-native invasive plants. Signs will be posted near work areas. A harmless blue dye is used and visible whenever there is target spraying.

Stormwater Infrastructure RFPs

The mayor and Town Council are awaiting bids in early July for a stormwater infrastructure maintenance contract. The Town's goal is to control stormwater drainage in the residential part of Town and ultimately to reduce runoff into the West Woods. Storm Water Infrastructure Maintenance will be on the Town Council Agenda for the July 8 meeting.

Planting in the Fall

The Woods Committee is planning a fall tree-planting project. We are open to suggestions of planting sites in the East Woods where the canopy is open to sunlight. If you have suggestions for planting areas, please attend our July meeting or contact Co-chair, Joan Mahaffey. Several trees have fallen in the East Woods across sections of the Challstrom trail. Woods Committee Co-chairs, Joan Mahaffey and Pat Klein, are working to remove the downed trees blocking the walking trails. Please do NOT try to remove or cut back fallen trees on your own without first contacting the Mayor, Town Office, or Woods Committee co-chairs. Your safety comes first! If the dry heat continues into the summer, fragile trees may begin to wilt. If you notice small trees at risk, please notify Joan Mahaffey or Patty Klein so that we can support them with additional water.

Please stay on the trails to protect newly recovered native plants as you enjoy walking in our forest preserves.

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News from Other Grove Organizations

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 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

Keepin' It Cool Donuts and Coffee – July 6

Catch the chill at our First Saturday Coffee and Donuts on Saturday, July 6, from 9-10:30 am at the WCWG Clubhouse. Cold brews, frappuccinos and iced donuts will help you keep your cool as you start off this dog days weekend. (Well-behaved dogs are welcome, too!)



Visit with neighbors, share vacay stories, and remember to bring non-perishable breakfast foods for our Archways families with school age children.

Volunteers Needed for Gold Elephant Auction Planning

Can you donate your time to support WCWG's major fundraiser? The auction, scheduled for Saturday, September 28, supports the ongoing expenses for the clubhouse, as well as our community outreach programs. Volunteer roles include securing donations from your neighbors and contacts, creating gift baskets, and helping at the actual event.

Gold Elephant Auction Donations

Now is the time to identify your potential auction donations -- antiques, collectibles, artwork, mid-century furniture -- or fabulous experiences such as restaurant and hotel certificates, concert tickets, vacation home stays, etc. To donate these items, contact Auction Chairs Arlene McCrehan or Peggy Booher. We are accepting items NOW!

Helping Families and Children

Summer can be hard for children who are living in poverty. The families we help in the Archways Program and the Seneca Heights Family Shelter are lucky enough not to be homeless, but they still have extremely limited resources to help their children. Too often they lack transportation to get to the food giveaways, or to get their children to the schools to take advantage of the summer food programs. They are also often too far away from a local library for the kids to borrow books.

We try to help fill the food needs for the Archways kids and their families with your donations of shelf-stable breakfast bars, fruit cups, graham crackers, treats such as fruit cups, individually wrapped bags of cookies and other snacks, and non-SNAP items. Monthly we fill individual family boxes, which are then picked up and delivered by their Social Workers. But our cupboards are getting bare, and more donations are badly needed.

For the Seneca Heights kids, we try to respond quickly when someone here in Town advertises that they are giving away used toys, games, bubbles, and books. We collect as many of these as we can, and the Shelter is always so grateful because they receive so few donations. Donations for these kids would be wonderful!

For the other needy children around us, far too many of whom face the humiliation and discomfort of going to school without underwear. Through July we will be collecting underwear for toddlers to teens, boys, and girls. At the end of summer, we will deliver them to Interfaith to be included in their donated back-to-school backpacks.

The Easiest Ways to Donate

Your donations are always needed! Just drop them off either in the box on the Clubhouse porch or on Wendy Weisbard’s porch at 119 Grove Road. And of course, monetary donations are always appreciated. 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 something specific. Checks can be dropped off with Cynthia Werts at 410 Oak Street or mailed to Cynthia at PO Box 354.

Our outreach work can only happen with the continued support of our “Little Town with the Big Hearts”. We always need shelf-stable foods and non-snap items because those needs never stop!

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Coming Events Calendar

| | | | |
|----------------|--|---------|-----------|
| July 3 | Planning Commission | 7:30 PM | ZOOM |
| July 4 | Swing Time Big Band | 7:00 pm | Town Hall |
| July 8 | Town Council Meeting | 7:30 pm | ZOOM |
| July 9 | Yoga | 6:00 pm | Town Hall |
| July 9 | Lake Committee | 7:30 pm | ZOOM |
| July 10 | Building Permit Submission Deadline | | |
| July 11 | Art Night | 7:30 pm | Town Hall |
| July 11 | Gateway Committee | 7:30 pm | ZOOM |
| July 14 | RASEC | 2:30 pm | ZOOM |
| July 16 | Yoga | 6:00 pm | Town Hall |
| July 17 | Recreation Committee | 7:30 pm | ZOOM |
| July 18 | Art Night | 7:30 pm | Town Hall |
| July 18 | Swing Time Big Band | 7:00 pm | Town Hall |
| July 23 | Yoga | 6:00 pm | Town Hall |
| July 24 | Lighting Committee | 7:30 pm | ZOOM |
| July 25 | Art Night | 7:30 pm | Town Hall |

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