



# Town Bulletin

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

301-926-2256

November 1, 2024

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## Town Council News

The new email address [mayorandcouncil@washingtongrovermd.org](mailto:mayorandcouncil@washingtongrovermd.org) can now be used to communicate directly with the Mayor and all Town Councilors.

**Next meeting: Monday, November 11, 2024, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom meeting](#) (or dial in to 301-715-8592 using meeting ID: 297 850 640 and password 074385).

### Special Town Council Meeting

The Mayor and Town Council will hold a Special Town Council Meeting on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 9 am. This meeting will include:

- an informational session for residents and the Town Council, bringing together facts about the Upper Meadow and the proposed restoration plan, and
- a Town Council hearing for public input on restoration.

[View the agenda and meeting materials \(PDF\).](#)

## Actions at the October 2024 Town Council Meeting

- Approved negotiation of a stormwater infrastructure maintenance contract with SMI Environmental.
- Scheduled a Special Town Council Meeting for November 2, 2024 on the proposed restoration of the Meadow Conservation Park.
- Disapproved a request to remove documents supporting Resolution 2023-01 from the Town website.

## Mayor's Kudos

- To Tom Land and other residents who conceived and organized the Contractor Appreciation Event at the lake.
- To Sharon Sisson, Renee Moloznick, Margo Cavenagh and Tom Land and others for holding the birthday party for residents in their 70s.

## For Sale

The Town truck is available for purchase. Inquiries should be directed to Town Clerk Kathy Lehman at [washgrove@comcast.net](mailto:washgrove@comcast.net) or 301-926-2256.

## Community Safety Update

Hello, neighbors! We want to keep everyone informed about recent activity in our area. We've noticed a few unlocked cars have been checked out—the good news is, nothing appears to have been taken! In response, the Town has reached out to the local police Community Services Officer at the 6th District Station, who emphasizes the importance of locking your doors, as these incidents seem to be crimes of opportunity. To further enhance our safety, the Officer has graciously offered to conduct presentations on crime safety for our community. We're excited about this initiative and will keep you posted on upcoming events. Let's work together to keep our neighborhood safe and secure! If there are any questions, please call Councilor Kriss Grisham at 202-365-0399. Thanks!

And if you see something say something.... to the police! Residents are reminded that if you see someone trespassing on your property or exhibiting suspicious behavior near your home, the appropriate thing to do is report it to the Montgomery County Police. The non-emergency number is 301-279-8000. Otherwise dial 911.

## Public Art in Washington Grove

### Seeking Donations for Carving the Oak Stump Near the Playground

Thanks to everyone for contributing your ideas for carving the stump near the playground and to create a great work of public art!

Earlier this year I shared your ideas when I met with Colin Vale. Colin was in Town working on the owl and woodpecker carved into a stump at Keith Gillis and Leigh Partington's house. [Colin Vale is a local stump carver](#) who did a beautiful stump carving at Brookside Garden, and carved the historic 300 year-old [Linden Oak into a beautiful bench](#).

Please consider donating to this project. The money raised will be matched by funds the Town Council set aside up to \$5,000. Write checks out to “The Town of Washington Grove” and in the Memo section of the check write “stump carving”. Thank you for your support of this very Washington Grove project. Please give the checks to Kathy Lehman at the Town Office or mail them to the Town. Jean Moyer will keep track of donors and amounts that will be kept separate from the Town budget. If for any reason this project does not happen, your donation will be returned.

## **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Workshop**

*Sign up for the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Workshop!*

Saturday, November 16, 9 am - noon.

Provided for Washington Grove residents by Leadership Montgomery.

In this training, participants will be introduced to key concepts related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) that will enhance their ability to create an atmosphere where all community members can thrive regardless of their backgrounds and identities. Participants will leave with practical takeaways to implement immediately.

Outcomes: As a result of this training, participants will be able to:

- Build empathy and relationships with each other to understand various backgrounds, experiences, and identities to heal ruptured relationships.
- Demonstrate a baseline understanding of DEIB concepts through a shared common language.
- Identify the impact of assumptions, stereotypes, and unconscious bias in everyday interactions and apply tools to approaches to overcome/mitigate implicit biases.

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## **News from Grove Boards and Commissions**

### **Historic Preservation Commission News**

**Next meeting: Tuesday, November 19, 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](mailto:booherfamily@comcast.net).

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

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### **Planning Commission News**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, November 6, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month** prior to the PC meeting at which the permit will be reviewed (this will be in the following month). This timing ensures the HPC will be able to complete a formal review before the PC meeting as this review is required for the PC to approve the permit in a timely fashion. If you are considering any renovation or building project at your house, be sure to get a copy of the procedures to apply for a Town Building Permit which will help you through the Town's process.

### **Building Permits Approved in October 2024**

- 121 Maple Road - Porch
- 201 WG Lane - Shed
- 103 Brown Street - Fence
- 205 Grove Avenue - Dog Fence

### **Public Ways & Property Permits (PW&PP) Approved in October 2024**

- 328 Ridge Road
- 103 Brown Street - Parking Pads

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## **News from Grove Committees**

### **Forestry & Beautification News**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 7:30 pm.**

The F&B Committee will be installing 13 trees and eight or nine shrubs along Grove Avenue between Railroad Street and 206 Grove Ave in late October. Our goal is to enhance areas newly cleared of invasive bush honeysuckle, especially in Morgan Park between Railroad and Brown Streets. Several residents along Grove requested trees next to their property and those will also be added. Please remember that if you see a space anywhere on Town land you think could really use a tree, please let us know!

The next Forestry and Beautification Committee meeting will be on Wednesday November 13 at 7:30 pm to review the fall tree planting. The agenda and zoom link will be posted by Sunday November 10 on the Town website with a link on the F&B page. If you have feedback or a suggestion for where a new tree is needed, please contact one of the F&B Co-Chairs: Georgette

Cole ([georgettewg@gmail.com](mailto:georgettewg@gmail.com)) or Audrey Maskery ([trees.beautification@gmail.com](mailto:trees.beautification@gmail.com)) or our Council Liaison Barbara Raimondo ([councilorbarb@gmail.com](mailto:councilorbarb@gmail.com)).

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## Lighting Committee News

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 7:30 pm**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

**Meeting ID:** 893 1602 0615

**Passcode:** 194354

The Lighting Committee usually meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month. During November and December, this becomes a conflict with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Since F&B generally does not meet in December, they have generously allowed us their time on the second Wednesday of the month.

Pepco is proposing a new outdoor streetlight tariff that could affect the Town. We are not sure when Pepco's new tariff will be published. If necessary, we will convene a special meeting of the Lighting Committee prior to our scheduled December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, to submit commentary concerning the tariff.

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

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## *ad hoc* Meadow Committee News

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 7:30 pm**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

### Restoration Plan for the Conservation Park

We are most grateful to Montgomery Parks for their Meadow Management and Restoration Program. Their experts developed the restoration proposal which will be the focus of a Special Town Council Meeting Town on November 2. See the Mayor's announcement for details. We urge all interested residents to review the background story of the Conservation Park meadow and the restoration proposal. If you have questions, please feel free to contact a member of the Meadows Committee.

### Grant Awarded

The Town has been awarded a Sustainable Communities Grant from Sustainable Maryland, funded by Pepco. We were informed by Sustainable Maryland that "The selection committee faced a difficult task in selecting the recipients, with the total requested funds exceeding the

funds available by a factor of three. We received many worthy grant applications representing exciting projects from across Pepco's service territory." In that context, the Town received the maximum award, \$10,000. The full funding given to our project is due to the importance attached to the restoration of now-rare meadow habitats and the native pollinator species they support.

This is not a loan; we only need to repay any unused funds. The award is specifically for the tree reduction proposal. It might be possible to apply some of the funds to other meadow restoration activities should we identify an unfunded need, but at this time we believe all other costs such as replanting expenses are covered by Montgomery Parks. There are no anticipated costs to the Town, only volunteer hours.

### **Bollard Replacement**

Montgomery Parks replaced all 40 bollards along Ridge Road using ground contact 4x4s.

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## **Recreation Committee News**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

### **Yoga in the Grove**

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 with both less and more yoga experience, however the class is not recommended for those who are absolute beginners.

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.

*NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO CLASS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 (Election Day).*

### **Toys for Tots**

Starting November 5<sup>th</sup>, Washington Grove will again be collecting new, unwrapped toys and books for children, from toddlers to age 12. Please leave toys in the Toys for Tots box, in the carport at 204 Ridge Rd. Text Terri Johnson with questions. The donation deadline is Friday, December 13. Washington Grove has been very generous in the past! Let's do it again this year.

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## Sustainability Committee News

**Next Meetings: Thursday, November 7, 2024, 7:30 pm and Tuesday, December 3, 2024.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

### Composting Leaves in Your Yard

The Sustainability Committee (SC) is currently helping interested Town residents set up their own leaf bins to begin composting the abundant leaves in their yards. We recently assembled yard bins for four Washington Grove families and hope to do more soon. We are using free bins provided by Montgomery County. The bins can be set up in about five minutes and placed in any flat well-draining spot in your yard. Single bins can hold about a cubic yard of compost and the larger double bins can hold over four cubic yards.

The SC recommends filling the bins with leaves and green material, such as grass or yard trimmings. The leaves will decompose better if you can run a lawnmower over them to break them into smaller pieces, but even intact leaves will decompose eventually; it will just take longer. We can also explain how certain additions and practices, such as aeration and keeping the pile moist, will accelerate the process if you want finished compost faster.

We've learned that much of the soil in Town is of poor quality, which has been caused by many years of removing the leaves that should, by nature, go back into the earth to replenish it and feed the soil. The loss of our leaves has made the effects of drought worse as well. A good covering of leaves helps hold the moisture in the ground and around growing things. This is why we also recommend retaining and even adding to the leaves that are under your trees and bushes. The leaves will nourish them and help retain essential moisture.

We hope use of the additional bins will divert even more leaves from the collection truck this year and will create compost to nourish our gardens, trees, and shrubbery.

If you are interested in having a compost bin in your yard and would like assistance getting underway with composting your leaves, please contact Monica Maher at [MonicaM.Maher@gmail.com](mailto:MonicaM.Maher@gmail.com).

### Dehumidifiers

Technology improvements and higher minimum standards have resulted in many new home appliances becoming more energy efficient over time. For example, a new standard refrigerator today uses about a quarter as much electricity compared to one bought in 1974. The Department of Energy sets mandatory efficiency standards on many categories of appliances, while the EPA's voluntary Energy Star program helps companies benefit by attracting customers who buy their energy efficient offerings. Using less electricity where possible helps free up generation resources (and money) to electrify transportation and home heating.

Many homeowners use a portable room-size dehumidifier to control moisture and prevent mold growth in a basement or other damp parts of the home. Dehumidifiers function much like refrigerators, so it's no surprise that they too have become more efficient. Older room-size dehumidifiers often used 500 watts or more; if running constantly, that would consume more than 4000 kwh per year, although in most cases it would not be that extreme due to the unit cycling on and off.

The Energy Star program maintains a list of the [most efficient dehumidifiers](#). Pepco offers an [instant \\$50 discount](#) on efficient models purchased at Lowe's or Home Depot and will also pay \$25 if you recycle your old working dehumidifier, pickup and disposal included.

To maximize your savings, minimize sources of excess moisture entering the space you are dehumidifying, and follow maintenance instructions (such as periodic filter cleaning). One Grover found that his crawlspace dehumidifier was using more than 6 kwh per day. He reduced that somewhat by repairs to gutters and downspouts that moved rainwater falling on the roof at least 10 feet away from the foundation. Then he bought a new Energy Star top-rated dehumidifier. The new unit is using less than 2 kwh per day. Even without the Pepco incentives, it should pay for itself in 1-2 years.

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## Woods Committee News

**Next meetings: Monday, November 4, 2024, 7:30 pm and Monday, December 2, 2024, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592  
Meeting ID: 821 9254 1811  
Passcode: 035624

Our volunteer Bow Hunter Fire Fighters of Maryland (BHFFMD) began bow hunting in our Woods on September 6th. To date, four deer have been harvested (one doe in the West Woods, two does in the meadows, and one buck in the East Woods). 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, 2025. Please contact Joan Mahaffey or Pat Klein if you have any questions.

At their meeting on October 14, the Town Council voted to award a contract to SMI for the Town's Storm Water Management Project on areas west of Grove Avenue. Work will include the upgrading of existing culverts and swales and with addition of some bioswales to control the volume and velocity of storm water which drains into the West Woods.

**IMPORTANT! The Woods Committee has scheduled a Fall Workday in the East Woods on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – noon** to remove or reposition tree stakes and repair small box-enclosures to protect young and recently planted trees. We will meet at the



intersection of Center Street and the Maple Avenue Trail. Please join us! Dress for the weather including wearing waterproof boots and using work gloves. Bring a rake and clippers, if you have them. Please call Joan Mahaffey or Pat Klein if you are able to help us.

If you notice trees falling and blocking East and West Woods trails or hanging dangerously over the trails, please call Joan Mahaffey or Pat Klein. Please do not dump yard or tree clipping in our woods. The Woods Preserves are wild spaces, so please take caution before entering the Woods on windy days. Stay healthy and safe and enjoy the autumnal beauty of nature in our East and West Woods Preserves.

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## News from Other Grove Organizations

### Film Society News

November's film is a 1980's classic, both romantic and metaphysical. It will be shown on the Friday after Election Day in McCathran Hall.

**Yes, Friday!** It has been suggested to us that folks may prefer a different weekend night for going to a movie than our usual Sunday, so we're switching things up. In January, we'll screen "Game Night" on a Saturday evening, 1/11/2025. Mark your calendars! Tell your friends! All films this season are free and unticketed.

#### **Wings of Desire**

**Friday, November 8, 7:00 pm**

*Directed by Wim Wenders, 1987, West Germany, in German with English subtitles, 128 minutes.*

In Wim Wenders's hauntingly beautiful and poetic masterpiece, angels roam the streets of Berlin, bearing silent witness. One such, Damiel (Bruno Ganz), grows weary of merely observing and longs to experience life in all its tangible, messy glory. When he falls in love, Damiel faces a profound choice: remain an immortal observer or relinquish his celestial status to embrace human love and suffering.

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### Washington Grove Cares News

We encourage you to take a look at our page on the Town's website. Find us on the main menu under "Community" or use [washingtongrovecares.org](http://washingtongrovecares.org) to go there directly. You'll find links to our forms for making requests for a bit of help and for volunteering, as well as links to neighbors' recommendations for local services and professionals.

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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

Our **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE BAZAAR**, featuring handcrafted center pieces, wreaths, small trees, décor and much more will be held at the Church on **Saturday November 23, 2024, from 9 am to 3 pm!** Don't miss these wonderful gifts and decorations.

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

Many thanks to all who attended, bid and made purchases at the Gold Elephant auction. The Club generated funds to meet the Club's expenses and more.



## November Outreach Programs

### For Washington Grove Elementary School

Although our Club no longer routinely collects used clothing, the exception is for the needs of the children of WGES! We are way behind in donations compared to the last several years, which means that many WGES kids will be going to school without warm coats, hats, gloves or scarves. Please, consider giving either slightly used or new coats to this very important program!

A longstanding WGES project for our Club is keeping the Teachers' Closet stocked with supplies that teachers would otherwise buy and pay for out of their own pockets. As with the coats, we are way behind donations from prior years, which means that all too often the teachers will end up buying supplies out of their own pockets.

### For Our Archways Families

These families have so many needs, and we know we can't meet them all, but we do try to make the upcoming holidays at least a little special for them. We depend on you for donations of cookies, candy and treats for the holiday bags we make for them. Whatever you can give will go a long way towards making the holidays a little more special for these families.

We always need shelf-stable food for the Archways families. We have enough jars of pasta sauce for our eight Archways families for the next few months, but we don't have enough boxes of

pasta to go with them. So, we're asking for pasta, pasta, pasta! Spaghetti, penne, bow ties, whatever you can give will help our families.

### **The Easiest Way 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 foods because those needs never stop!

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## **Other Notices**

### **Bulk Trash Collection**

The Town has scheduled a bulk trash collection for November 23, 2024. 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.

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## **Coming Events Calendar**

November 2	Special Town Council Meeting	9:00 am	ZOOM
November 3	<b>SET CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR</b>		
November 4	Woods Committee Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 5	ELECTIONS	7 am – 8 pm	McCathran Hall
November 6	Planning Commission Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 6	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
November 7	Sustainability Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 7	Swing Time Big Band	6:30 pm	Town Hall
November 8	Film Society	7:00 pm	Town Hall
November 9	Woods Workday	9:00 am	East Woods
November 11	Town Council Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 12	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
November 13	Forestry & Beautification	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 13	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
November 14	Gateway Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 16	DEIB Training	9:00 am	Town Hall
November 16	Private Hall Rental	3:00 pm	Town Hall

November 17	Private Hall Rental	12:00 pm	Town Hall
November 19	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
November 20	Recreation Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
November 20	Tai Chi	6:00 pm	Town Hall
November 21	Swing Time Big Band	6:30 pm	Town Hall
<b>November 23</b>	<b>Bulk Trash</b>		<b>TOWN WIDE</b>
November 23	Holiday Show Rehearsal	1:00 pm	Town Hall
November 24	Holiday Show Rehearsal	1:00 pm	Town Hall
November 26	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
November 27	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
November 27	Lighting Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM

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