



Town Bulletin

www.washingtongrovermd.org

301-926-2256

December 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, December 9, 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 November 2024 Town Council Meeting

- Set a Special Town Council Meeting to further discuss the terms of the Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance contract for November 25

Playground Equipment Concerns

At the December 9 Council Meeting, Eva Patrone plans to make the motion to remove the metal jungle gym near the baseball field in Woodward Park. The jungle gym was struck by a tree many years ago, causing damage, and it was never repaired. All three playground consultants Eva spoke with flagged it as not meeting safety standards and named it as a priority for removal. In the recent playground survey, it was not listed by anyone as a favorite piece of equipment, and

some residents listed it as a safety concern. Eva has asked for a price quote for the removal, and though she has not yet received a quote, she has been assured it will be within the maintenance budget for the park.

If any residents would like to comment on the proposed motion to remove the metal jungle gym, they may do so by emailing mayorandcouncil@washingtongrovesmd.org or making a public comment at the beginning of the meeting on December 9.

Mayor's Kudos

- To the Recreation Committee and volunteers for their time and resourcefulness spent creating the spooky Haunted Gazebo and other fun events for the Halloween Spooktacular.

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News from Grove Boards and Commissions

Historic Preservation Commission News

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 17, 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, December 4, 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 November 2024

- 103 Brown Street -- Driveway
- 205 Grove Avenue -- Fence

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

- None

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News from Grove Committees

Emergency Preparedness and Safety News

As we transitioned to Standard Time and the days are getting shorter, it's important to stay vigilant on the road, especially when driving at night. The Montgomery County Community Services Officer, Officer Romano, shared some valuable safety tips below to help keep our community safe during these darker hours. From ensuring you are not distracted to being extra cautious of pedestrians and wildlife, these tips can make a big difference in reducing risks and improving visibility. Please take a moment to review the information and drive safely as we adjust to the shorter daylight hours.

- ✓ **Stay alert and awake – Driving drowsy slows your reaction time.**
- ✓ **Turn on headlights and use high beams when safe and necessary – be aware of the drivers around you.**
- ✓ **Maintain extra following distance – This will enable you to see further ahead and react to what is going on.**
- ✓ **Reduce your speed – Especially in unfamiliar areas.**
- ✓ **Pay extra attention to pedestrians and bikers that may or may not be in designated crosswalks or bike lanes.**
- ✓ **Do not become distracted by cellular devices – It is against the law to use any handheld device.**

Forestry & Beautification News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 7:30 pm.

The next Forestry and Beautification Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 7:30 pm to review the spring tree planting. 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) or Audrey Maskery (trees.beautification@gmail.com) or our Council Liaison Barbara Raimondo (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 do not meet in December, they have generously allowed us their time on the second Wednesday of the month. Therefore, the next Lighting Committee meeting will be on December 11th at 7:30pm via ZOOM.

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 11th meeting, to submit commentary concerning the tariff.

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.

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ad hoc Meadows Committee News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Enhancement of the Conservation Park Meadow

Following the Special Town Meeting on Saturday November 2nd, an additional assessment of the renewal plan proposed by Parks was made by some town residents and Committee members. This involved walking the meadow and marking with blue tape any damaged or distressed cedars that could be preferentially removed by Parks, with the goal of achieving Parks' objective of opening the meadow while being sensitive to the viewshed issues posed by both I-370 and the cedars themselves. Some of these trees were already tagged by Parks and some were alongside. Montgomery Parks has expressed willingness to adjust the plan so long as it is consistent with opening the center section of the meadow.

Additionally, gaps in the understory were identified as future planting sites, especially in the band of trees between the upper and lower meadows; planting there could both further block the view of I-370 and provide additional food for wildlife. Parks has been asked to consider native shrubs and trees such as Spice bush, Serviceberry and American Holly.

Other meadow maintenance actions discussed with Parks included more aggressive mechanical or chemical suppression of persistent woody species (both natives and invasives), some of which are growing to more than 5' tall between mowings.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact a member of the Meadows Committee.

Next Weed Warrior Event

Under the supervision of Montgomery Parks, volunteers will remove invasive plant species from the meadow on Saturday, December 14 from 10 am to noon. No prior experience necessary. We expect to be joined this time by students from Gaithersburg High School. [Here is the registration link](#); if this is your first time, you will also need to set up an account.

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Recreation Committee News

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 7:30 pm. There will be no meeting in December.

[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. Questions? Please contact counciloreva@gmail.com.

Note: There Will Be No Yoga Class on Dec 17, Dec 24, or Dec 31

Holiday Show

It's Almost Time for the Washington Grove Holiday Show!

The sets are almost done, the rehearsals are almost finished and we're almost ready for you, our audience! So be sure to put us on your calendar.

December 14, 2024, 7:30 pm at McCathran Hall.



Toys for Tots

Washington Grove is again 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: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 and Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

How to Deal with the Overwhelming Threat of Climate Change

Climate change is so big and worrisome that it can be overwhelming. One is tempted to think it's useless to fight it. Don't go that way. Get involved to address the coming changes and help push back.

Do what you can...small changes in habits add up. Here are suggestions of actions we can take right away to have a positive impact:

- Eat less meat and more plant protein because plant-based food requires far less use of land, water, and energy.
- Conserve electricity. Turn equipment off when not in use.
- Manage window curtains, drapes & blinds to let in the warmth from the sun and to keep the cold out as we move into winter.
- Wash laundry in cold water as much as possible. Most items don't require hot water to get them clean.
- Reduce dryer loads. In winter, hang clothes indoors and benefit from the bonus humidity in your home. In warm weather, hang laundry outdoors.
- Buy fewer new clothes; wear them longer; repair what you can; pass them on to others; and repurpose cloth from clothing you can no longer wear.

In the longer term, make the investments needed to shift away from fossil fuel consumption by electrifying your home and transportation wherever you can. See our webpage for advice.

And get involved. The Sustainability Committee usually meets the first Tuesday every month. You are always welcome to zoom in and find out what we're working on. We are not helpless. Action is the best remedy for worry.

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Woods Committee News

Next meetings: Monday, December 2, 2024, 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 846 3208 4245

Passcode: 467953

Our meetings are regularly held on the first Monday of each month. The January 2024 meeting date is January 6th.

Woods Committee Co-Chairs Joan and Patty would like to thank our team of hardworking volunteers who helped with our Fall Clean-Up in the East Woods in November. Bob and Peggy Booher, Dave Cosson Driss Grisham, Deb Mehlferber, Virginia Quesada, and Anna Spector repaired and cleaned damaged exclosures, cleared the stream under the bridge and installed deer protection in preparation for the following week, Stadler Nurseries planted 15 new trees and four shrubs. New plantings are marked with orange tape to facilitate watering this fall and in the spring. The Woods Committee depends on the work of dedicated volunteers like these to keep our Forest Preserves safe and usable for all.

With unpredictable rainfall, the fire hazard in the woods can become extreme. Please, no fires in the woods, including smoking. If you spot anyone with a campfire, please contact Joan or Patty immediately or call the Town Office at 301-926-2256.

Our deer management program continues in the East and West Woods and the lower meadow with our volunteer Bow Hunter Fire Fighters of Maryland (BHFFMD) this Fall-Winter season. BHFFMD has harvested three does and two bucks – a total of five deer. The season runs until Friday, January 31, 2024.

Woods Committee members continue to work with other Town volunteers to prepare and sign a contract with SMI, to control environmental damage from stormwater volume and velocity in the residential part of Town and eventually into the West Woods.

Stay healthy and safe and enjoy the beauty, tranquility, and rustle of leaves in our East and West Woods Preserves. We wish you all Happy Holidays.

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News from Other Grove Organizations

Film Society News

The Film Society is on hiatus in December. We'll return to McCathran Hall on Saturday, January 11, with "Game Night," a comedy played as a twisty thriller (or should that be vice versa?). Mark your calendars! Tell your friends! All films this season are free and unticketed.

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Washington Grove Cares News

We send best wishes to all in the holiday season! Are you looking for ways to contribute to civic well-being? Perhaps you have special skills to share. Consider adding your name to the list of Grovers who volunteer when neighbors in town need a bit of a hand. Find links to our forms for volunteering and for requesting help on the town's website under "Community" or at washingtongrovecares.org. You can also reach us at washingtongrovecares@gmail.com or 301-944-2962.

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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

Project SPIRIT Sickle Cell Blood Drive

Friday December 13th – 10 am -3:30 pm
@Goshen UMC, 19615 Goshen Rd., Gaithersburg

To schedule an appointment
CALL 800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
VISIT www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter: "ProjectSPIRIT"

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Woman's Club News

Make Plans to Feel the Heat in February! Circle your calendar for Saturday, February 22, 2025 -- it's the date for the Annual "Hot Stuff" Chili Supper!

The chili's hot, the vibe is chili, and it's a 'souper' opportunity to meet and warmly welcome Town newbies.

Watch for more details in the January Town Bulletin.



December Outreach Programs

To date, we've collected less donations of winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves for the kids than in the past, which means that too many WGES kids will be going to school cold. Please, consider giving either lightly used or new coats to this very important program!

A long-standing 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.

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

Recyclable Yard Waste Collection Ends

Please note that THURSDAY December 26, 2024 will be the last date for collection of recyclable yard waste by Casella 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, 2024. 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.

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Coming Events Calendar

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|-------------|--|----------|-----------|
| December 2 | Woods Committee Meeting | 7:30 pm | ZOOM |
| December 3 | Yoga | 7:30 pm | ZOOM |
| December 3 | Sustainability Committee | 7:30 pm | ZOOM |
| December 4 | Tai Chi | 11:00 pm | ZOOM |
| December 4 | Planning Commission | 7:30 am | ZOOM |
| December 5 | Swing Time Big Band | 6:30 pm | Town Hall |
| December 6 | Holiday Show Rehearsal | 6:00 pm | Town Hall |
| December 7 | Holiday Show Rehearsal | 1:00 pm | Town Hall |
| December 8 | Holiday Show Rehearsal | 1:00 pm | Town Hall |
| December 9 | Town Council Meeting | 7:30 pm | ZOOM |
| December 10 | Yoga | 6:00 pm | Town Hall |
| December 11 | Tai Chi | 11:00 am | Tow Hall |
| December 11 | Holiday Show Rehearsal | 7:00 pm | Town Hall |
| December 12 | Gateway Committee | 7:30 pm | ZOOM |
| December 12 | Wedding | Noon | Gazebo |
| December 13 | Holiday Show Rehearsal FINAL | 7:00 pm | Town Hall |
| December 14 | Holiday Show | 7:30 pm | Town Hall |
| December 18 | Tai Chi | 11:00 am | Town Hall |
| December 19 | Swing Time Big Band | 6:30 pm | Town Hall |
| December 26 | FINAL Yard Waste Collection by Casella | 7:30 am | Town-wide |

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