



Town Bulletin

www.washingtongrovemd.org

301-926-2256

January 1, 2025

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Town Council News

To communicate directly with the Mayor and all Town Councilors, please use the email mayorandcouncil@washingtongrovemd.org.

Next meeting: Monday, January 13, 2025, 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 2024 Town Council Meeting

- Passed **[Resolution 2024-07 "Award of a Design-Build Contract for Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance" \(PDF\)](#)**
- Approved the **[revised Washington Grove Meadow Restoration Plan \(PDF\)](#)**.
- Introduced Resolution 2025-01 "Requiring Registration of Vacant Properties and Establishing Vacant Property Maintenance and Security Standards".
- Approved removal of the jungle gym from the Woodward Park playground.

Mayor's Kudos

- To residents who participated in the East Woods clean up: Bob Booher, Peggy Booher, Dave Cosson, Kriss Grisham, Deb Mehlferber, Virginia Quesada, Anna Spector, Joan Mahaffey, Patty Klein.
- To the 30 or so Town residents who attended the Town's first Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging workshop.
- To Steve Werts, for his continued guidance educating RJ Landscapers on the many unique maintenance requirements in the Town.
- To Virginia Quesada and the Lighting Committee for getting the Town on track to potentially purchase and control our streetlights.

Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Vacant Properties Registry

The Town Council is entertaining the creation of a Vacant Properties Registry and is seeking public comment. Please email your thoughts on [draft Resolution 2025-01 "Requiring Registration of Vacant Properties and Establishing Vacant Property Maintenance and Security Standards"](#) to mayorandcouncil@washingtongroved.org.

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News from Grove Boards and Commissions

Historic Preservation Commission News

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 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

The HPC presents [an article about the Damascus Camp Meeting](#).

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Planning Commission News

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 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 2024

- None

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

- None

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News from Grove Committees

Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee News

Even though the holiday shopping season is behind us, we thought these shopping safety tips from Officer Romano, our Montgomery County Community Services Officer would still be helpful as we look forward to the January deals and beyond. These tips, focused on protecting your personal belongings and ensuring a secure shopping experience, is just as important during the bustling holiday rush as it is during the post-season sales. Be sure to always remain aware of your surroundings, keep your bags and wallets close, and avoid leaving valuables unattended in your vehicle. Staying vigilant and following these simple precautions can help make your shopping experience safe and enjoyable, no matter the season!

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Forestry & Beautification News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

The Forestry and Beautification Committee is on hiatus until our next meeting on Wednesday March 12 (2025) 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).

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Lighting Committee News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 893 1602 0615

Passcode: 194354

Pepco has proposed a new outdoor streetlight tariff that will affect the Town. We are working with Pepco and other municipalities to create and expand options for municipalities that will provide Maryland municipalities with the most cost-effective and aesthetic options for their streetlights in the future.

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, January 15, 2025 at 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Enhancement of the Conservation Meadow Park

The Town Council at its December 9 meeting unanimously approved phase 1 of Montgomery Parks' restoration plan. The committee is currently at work on a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the tree reduction work, which is being funded by a grant from Sustainable Maryland.

Weed Warrior Event

On Dec. 14, volunteers supervised by staff from Montgomery Parks removed bittersweet, English ivy, wineberry, and Japanese honeysuckle from the northeast corner of the Conservation

Meadow Park. This was our third Weed Warrior event of 2024. Please consider joining us next year. No prior experience is necessary. [Learn more about this program.](#)

Reminders

Pruning, removing plants, or planting in the park is prohibited unless authorized by Montgomery Parks. If there is an issue with, for example, a fallen tree or branches blocking a path, please notify a member of the Meadows Committee and we will take it up with Parks. And if you have any questions, comments or concerns about the meadow restoration project, please contact a member of the Meadows Committee.

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Recreation Committee News

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

At this meeting, we will discuss and schedule events for the 2025 calendar year.

Yoga in the Grove

Certified yoga and fitness instructor Ingeborg McCright offers an all-levels vinyasa 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 as the hall tends to be cool. 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.

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Sustainability Committee News

Next Meetings: Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 7:30 pm and Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 7:50 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

Community Garden Update: Big Donations to Local Food Banks

With our final delivery to St. Martin's on November 24, Washington Grove's community garden donated 822-1/4 pounds of fresh vegetables to local food bank organizations. That's just over 100 pounds less than last year, but a good outcome considering that our tomato crop -- along

with that of every garden we heard from in the region -- was way down, due to the excessively hot dry weather. Still, we donated nearly 200 pounds of tomatoes, and over 100 pounds each of salad greens, tromboncino squash, and butternut squash. The sweet potatoes, beans, zucchini, cucumbers, potatoes and onions also did well, and although not much in weight, our big jalapeno pepper crop delivered heat. The flower garden filled in and added color most of the year. We were assisted in getting through the hot dry weather with a new automatic irrigation system.

St. Martin's, our major food bank recipient organization, is providing food assistance to more than 400 families each week. Washington Grove's garden is under the [HarvestShare](#) umbrella. HarvestShare gathers produce from multiple sources, including farmers markets, Pope Farm, and community gardens, and delivers to 15 local food banks. In 2024 the total delivery exceeded 12 tons of fresh produce.

We enjoyed for the first time hosting young visitors from Summer in the Parks, who had the chance to taste freshly picked produce, and the garden was also included in Sustainable Maryland's tour of our Bronze certified town.

We have planted garlic for harvest next summer and are placing seed orders to be ready to resume next spring. We're always looking for volunteers, no experience necessary! Please contact David Stopak, Anne Vincent or Bruce Daggy if interested.

It's Not All Bad News

The Economist (November 23-29, 2024) reports on several positive technological developments that will help address climate change. For example,

- "Grid-scale energy storage is on the rise..." boosted by "...the global surge in deployment of solar and wind power" and "...can now make up half or more of generation capacity in some markets."
- According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), "...grid-scale storage is now the fastest-growing of all the energy technologies."
- "The IEA predicts that in 2025 the combination of solar-photovoltaic generation and battery storage will be cheaper than the cost of coal-fired power in China, and new gas-fired plants in America."

Source: From the "Business" section, Vijay Vaitheeswaran, Global energy and climate innovation editor.

- "Solar power is about to transform the economics of energy."
- "Solar is getting 15-20% cheaper every year as manufacturing becomes more efficient."
- "Solar synthetic fuel will soon be cheaper than conventional fuel in some markets, and by about 2040 it will be cheaper everywhere."

Source: "By Invitation", Casey Handmer, founder of Terraform Industries.

- “...the coming year will mark a decisive shift from the public to the private sector in the decades-old quest to generate cheap and abundant power from nuclear fusion.”
- Commonwealth Fusion, a spin-out from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, “... hopes to reach ‘Q > 1’, the point where a reactor releases more energy than is put into it, in early 2026.”
- And “...if Commonwealth Fusion fails to deliver, many other startups are lining up right behind it.”

Source: From “Science & Technology”, Geoffrey Carr, Senior editor, Science & technology.

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Woods Committee News

Next meetings: Monday, January 6, 2025, and Monday, February 3, 2025, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 834 9381 7045

Passcode: 495065

The Woods Committee (WC) will be changing our focus in the New Year to concentrate on drainage issues in the West Woods. RJ Landscaping will be clearing out non-native vegetation from Whetstone Spring and Maple Spring in the West Woods. We will continue to protect newly sprouting trees and understory, and trail maintenance and signage to increase enjoyment for all of our Town’s Forest Preserves.

This is an excellent time for new members to join our Woods Committee! All are welcome!

Please come to our January 6 meeting or contact Pat Klein or Joan Mahaffey, WC Co-chairs.

Our volunteer Bow Hunter Fire Fighters of Maryland (BHFFMD) continued their bow hunting in our East and West Woods and the Meadows. One antlerless buck was harvested in the West Woods in December, bringing the total to 3 does and 3 bucks. Members of BHFFMD are EMTs and firefighters who are vigilant about public safety. 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 or Pat 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 opportunities to enjoy the seasonal beauty of our East and West Woods Preserves.

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News from Other Grove Organizations

Film Society News

For January, we bring you a comedy to brighten a winter night. Come on out; it's free!

Game Night

Saturday, January 11, at 7:00 pm.

Directed by John Francis Daley and Jonathan Goldstein, 2018, US, in English and shown with English subtitles, 100 minutes.

Max and Annie (Jason Bateman and Rachel McAdams) enjoy having friends over for a weekly game night. But when a murder-mystery game becomes too real, the partygoers turn out to be not quite what they had seemed. Part screwball comedy, part twisty thriller, this film features a crackerjack team of actors. It promises a good time for its audience.

Please note the day and date. The screening is on Saturday, January 11, at 7:00 pm, in McCathran Hall. To test the idea that folks may prefer a different weekend night for movie-going than our usual Sunday evening, we've been switching things up. Mark your calendars! Tell your friends! All films this season are free and unticketed.

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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 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 lists of Grove neighbors' recommendations for local services and professionals.

Thanks to Grovers who have provided meals and rides this fall. You know who you are, and you are appreciated!

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Woman's Club News

Feel the Heat in February!

Circle your calendar for Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 6 pm sharp -- it's the date for the Annual "Hot Stuff" Chili Supper at McCathran Hall!

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

Watch for more details in the February Town bulletin.



January 2025 Outreach Programs

With the holidays over, and the long, cold, sometimes snowy January days ahead, the Archway kids will sometimes have unexpected days at home. Our supply of snacks, treats, games and books are almost depleted, so we hope this month to restock them all. They don't care if the books and games are already gently used, they will still enjoy them.

On "snow days" off from school, the kids don't get their usual meals, so any treats and snacks would be so very appreciated.

Another ongoing need for the Archway families is laundry detergent. Without our help, they are forced to spend their precious food money to keep their clothes clean. Also, many of them aren't too close to grocery stores so they have to carry the heavy bottles for long distances.

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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Other Notices

Recyclable Yard Waste Collection Ended...

... THURSDAY December 26, 2024. 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.

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.

Toys for Tots Results

The 2024 Toys for Tots campaign has ended. Many thanks to all who contributed! Washington Grove was again very generous. We donated a large collection of new, unwrapped toys, art supplies and books. Please see below a photo of our contribution. Thanks again Washington Grove!



Grove Gatherings

Rosalie Shantz's 1975 memoir of Washington Grove, *Grove Gatherings*, is now available in paperback and e-book versions from Amazon. While first edition copies are still available from The Woman's Club, the second edition is augmented by an index and digitally enhanced illustrations. Shantz, a granddaughter of Major Walker, chronicled this remarkable array of facts and personalities, mostly from her personal collection, in celebration of the nation's bicentennial. Her work was digitally scanned, edited and published by a group of current and former residents in the interest of keeping this historical work available to all. Proceeds to be distributed to the Town or its named benefactors.

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Coming Events Calendar

January 2	Swing Time Big Band	6:30 pm	Town Hall
January 3	Sustainability Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 6	Woods Committee Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 8	Planning Commission Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 8	Building Permit Submission Deadline		
January 9	Washington Grove Connector Meeting	1:00 pm	Town Hall
January 10	Private Hall Rental	4:00 pm	Town Hall
January 10	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
January 11	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
January 11	Film Society	7:00 pm	Town Hall
January 12	Gateway Committee	7:30 am	ZOOM
January 13	Town Council Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 14	Energy Audit	10:00 am	Town Hall
January 15	Recreation Committee Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM

January 16	Swing Time Big Band	6:30 pm	Town Hall
January 17	Yoga	6:00 pm	Town Hall
January 18	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
January 19	Swing Time Big Band	6:30 pm	Town Hall
January 21	Historic Preservation Commission Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 22	Lighting Committee Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
January 24	Yoga	6:00 am	Town Hall
January 25	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
January 26	Last Yard Waste collection by Contractor		
January 31	Yoga	6:30 pm	Town Hall
January 31	Private Rental	All Day	Town Hall

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