



Town Bulletin

www.washingtongrovermd.org

301-926-2256

February 1, 2025

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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, February 10, 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 January 2025 Town Council Meeting

- Adopted Robert's Rules of Order for all Town Council meetings.
 - Revised the Town snow removal policy to include the use of salt under certain circumstances.
 - Agreed to explore giving residents an option to receive a paper copy of Town Bulletin.
 - Approved several in-person and virtual (hybrid) Town Council meetings to prepare for the Annual Town Meeting in hybrid format.
 - Deferred action on Resolution 2025-01, Vacant Properties Registry and Maintenance Standards, to explore implementing the revision by ordinance instead.
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Mayor's Kudos

- To all the dedicated organizers, creative production staff, and talented participants whose time and energy went into presenting the 2025 Holiday Show, "Grove-A-Doon". [View a video made by Montgomery Municipal Cable.](#)
- To Bob Booher and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson for their work, while in the midst of their travel and holiday schedules, that made possible award of the Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance contract by the December 31st deadline.
- To Dave Cosson, the Meadows Committee, and concerned residents for working together and with Montgomery Parks on the Conservation Meadow Restoration Plan to make a good plan better and make possible completion of Phase 1 in February before nesting season begins.

Public Notice: Potential Zoning Changes to the Commercial Corner

At its February meeting, the Planning Commission will continue consideration of allowing expanded business uses at the Commercial Corner in conjunction with the proposed renovation of the property by the property owner. ***Interested residents are urged to attend.***

Your Town Needs You

On the HPC: If you support historic preservation in Washington Grove, please consider volunteering as an alternate member of the Historic Preservation Commission. To explore what this entails, email Chair Bob Booher (booherfamily@comcast.net) or Mayor John Compton (johncompton@me.com)

On the BZA: Volunteers for the Board of Zoning Appeals are needed. The board enables residents a recourse when (infrequently) questions of zoning regulations arise. For more details, please email Mayor John Compton (johncompton@me.com)

Signage: Help us update the numerous town signs. If you see an area that needs a new or updated sign, please email the Town Clerk (do not post on the listserv). All signs - not your traffic signs. Please do not include signs that need straightening. Thanks for helping keep the Grove a safe and easy place to navigate.

Public Notice: The Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Process has Begun!

This year residents will have *ample notice and opportunity* to weigh in on the FY26 Town Budget that will be approved at the Annual Town Meeting May 10th. Please see the FY26 Budget Process and Timeline provided with this Bulletin, [or online here](#) (prepared by Treasurer Jean Moyer and by Mayor Compton)

Public Meeting to Learn All About the Washington Grove Connector

On Thursday March 6th at 7:00 pm, MCDOT will present the 35% engineering plans for the Washington Grove Connector, including the route and connection to Brown Street. This hybrid

meeting will be in person in McCathran Hall with an option to participate virtually. Further notice and information will be mailed to you by MCDOT. **Public comment is invited.**

Montgomery Municipal Cable (MMC)

MMC (<http://mmctv.org/>) is a great community source for municipality and county news and interesting programming. MMC is supported by 16 municipalities, including Washington Grove. You can watch their coverage on [YouTube](#), and follow them on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). And of course, access their cable channel (16 on FIOS).

[Subscribe to the MMC weekly newsletter](#) to get a recap of the week's coverage, local events, updates from town and county council meetings, and links to their regular programs on health, cooking, local non-profits, and more.

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News from Grove Boards and Commissions

Historic Preservation Commission News

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 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

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Planning Commission News

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 5, 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 January 2025

- 122 Grove Avenue - Deck

Public Ways & Property Permits (PW&PP) Approved in January 2025

- None

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News from Grove Committees

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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Gateway Committee News

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 13, 2025, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Did you know? In the summer of 2023, the Gateway Committee began cleaning up trash along the heavily used roadways that face the exterior of town with a goal of matching the looks of our interior roads and walkways. This included Railroad Street and Washington Grove Lane.

Soon after, "Washington Grove" (via the Gateway Committee and town volunteers) adopted these two roads, which obligates the group to pick up litter along both roads several times a year, although we were already scheduling monthly pickups.

The cleanup crew, which has consisted of 32 unique volunteers so far, has cleaned up over 800 pounds of trash since inception, and over 560 pounds in 2024! This is trash and recycling that may have ended up in our waterways, collected in the woods, or sat on the side of the road.



A big thank-you to all the volunteers who keep the roads clear, including Joan and Dan who cleaned before this group existed and still clean regularly. If you're interested in lending a hand, watch for listserv announcements from jd.inthegrove for upcoming cleanups usually scheduled for the end of the month.

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Lighting Committee News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 893 1602 0615

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!

Pepco has proposed a new outdoor streetlight tariff that will affect the Grove. 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.

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Meadows Committee News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

No Longer an *ad hoc* Committee

Town Council at its January meeting recognized the Meadows Committee as a standing committee. Our regular meetings will continue to be scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 7:30, via Zoom. We also expect to hold at least two Weed Warrior events and one planting event this year, timing tbc. New members, visitors, and additional volunteers for events are most welcome!

Phase 1 Moving Forward: Montgomery Parks will be marking the cedars selected for removal in early February and a contractor will complete the work shortly thereafter, before nesting season and the once-annual mowing. The cost will be covered by a grant from Sustainable Maryland.

Monitoring the Health of the Meadow: In addition to tracking the changing flora of the meadow over time, as Weed Warrior and planting events shift the balance of what's growing, the Committee hopes to track changes to the fauna as well. We will petition the DC area's Nature Forward (formerly known as the Audubon Naturalist Society) to recognize the Conservation

Meadow Park as a hot spot to record bird observations. (The East Woods are already a hot spot.) Interested birdwatchers will be encouraged to enter their meadow observations using [eBird](#). While the meadow is too small to appeal to some meadow bird species for nesting, we hope that more species will find it attractive for resting and feeding. We are also exploring collecting longitudinal data on butterflies and pollinators.

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Recreation Committee News

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 7:30 pm.

At this meeting we will discuss upcoming 2025 events, including the spring family event.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Mark Your Calendars!

The following are the dates for the 2025 rec events:

- **Spring Family Event:** April 26th
- **Circle Fest:** May 24th
- **Music Weekend:** June 20th through 22nd
- **Fourth of July:** July 4th
- **SITP:** July 7th through July 31st (Camp-Out is August 1st)
- **Lake Event/Fun Run:** August 16th
- **Labor Day Events:** August 30th through September 1st
- **Bluestoberfest:** October 11th
- **Haunted Gazebo Halloween Party:** October 25th (rain date Oct. 26th)
- **Holiday Show:** December 13

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 hall is heated, but the floor tends to stay cold. The class ends on our backs with 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.

New Yoga Class! Ingeborg has offered to teach either a gentle Hatha yoga/stretch class OR an absolute-beginner yoga class on Sundays at either 9 or 9:30am, if there is resident interest. These options would be slower-paced than the current Tuesday evening class. If you would attend one

or both of these classes on Sunday mornings, please email Eva at counciloreva@gmail.com to let her know. We will only offer the class if there is significant interest.

Summer in the Parks

Washington Grove's annual day camp will be held this year July 7 - July 31, 9am-1:30pm with the end-of-summer program and family camp-out on August 1. Campers will enjoy sports, games, crafts, nature activities, and lots of swim-time at Maple Lake. Camp is open to rising kindergarteners through rising 7th graders. The cost is \$250 for residents and \$350 for non-residents.

To register your camper(s), [fill out the following form](#).

To apply to volunteer (rising 8th graders through rising 12th graders), [fill out the following form](#).

Summer in the Parks is hiring!

We are hiring for three paid positions:

- [Camp Director](#) (age 21+) (pay starts at \$25/hr)
- [Senior Counselor](#) (age 18+) (pay starts at \$18/hr)
- [Junior Counselor](#) (age 16+) (pay starts at \$16/hr)

The Camp Director position, especially, would be great for a classroom teacher looking for a summer job. The Camp Director works with the counselors and Camp Moderator to both plan AND carry out daily camp activities. (It is definitely not a desk job!) We are looking for someone with strong organizational and creative skills who also has the energy, patience, leadership, and classroom management skills needed to implement activities in a camp setting.

To apply for one of these positions, please [fill out the following form](#).

Questions? Reach out to Camp Moderator, Eva Patrone, at counciloreva@gmail.com

St. Patrick's Day Ceili Saturday March 8

What is ceili? Come and find out at McCathran Hall from 7-10:30 pm on Saturday, March 8. Get an early start in celebrating with the Blackthorn Ceili Dancers. Try out those dance steps while listening to live music by Joe DeZarn and Tina Eck. Don't want to dance? Just come and enjoy the music. A potluck supper is served about halfway through so don't forget to bring a dish to share. Free to Grove residents though contributions to pay the musicians are always welcome. Sponsored by the Blackthorn Ceili Dancers and the Washington Grove Recreation Committee.



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Sustainability Committee News

Next Meetings: Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 7:30 pm and Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

Reducing the 'Foodprint' of Washington Grove

You may have read that eating a more plant-based diet is better for the planet, better for your health, and better for your wallet. The Sustainability Committee wants to share some additional food for thought as we look for ways to reduce the overall carbon footprint of our town. Consider this! Eating less meat is:

Good for the planet: The foods we eat account for 10-30% of our total personal carbon footprint. Of that footprint, people who eat a plant-based diet can reduce their carbon footprint from food by 73%. Believe it or not, skipping meat for just one day a week can reduce your annual carbon footprint as much as not driving your car for a whole month!

Good for our health: You can lower your risk of cardiovascular disease, and all-cause mortality by following a predominantly plant-based diet. The number one cause of death in the United States is heart disease and we can significantly reduce that risk! A plant-based diet also reduces the risk of developing diabetes and is effective in keeping diabetes in check. If preventing heart disease and diabetes were not motivation enough, eating less red meat and processed meats is associated with a lower risk of mild cognitive impairment and dementia.

Good for animals: Concern for animal welfare is one reason many people are trying to avoid or are cutting back on eating meat. Many of us are now painfully aware of how animals are treated in the large-scale commercial production of animal source foods. We are also learning, however, about the impact on wildlife, whose habitats are often decimated to grow soy, corn, and wheat currently used to feed cattle, pigs, and chickens. Consider the fact that around 60% of the world's agricultural land is used for beef production, yet beef produces less than 5% of the world's protein and less than 2% of its calories. If you can't cut back on or skip meat altogether, perhaps try to reduce your consumption of the most environmentally unfriendly meats - beef and lamb.

Good for our wallet: Did you know that you can save anywhere from 16-30% on food bills by reducing your consumption of meat? Not only can we save money by going plant-based, people who have diabetes and eat a plant-based diet require less insulin, so that's an additional saving!

The **great news is** that we don't need to give up our favorite dishes if we reduce or eliminate meat and other animal foods in our diet. Here are a few websites and recipes to get your creative -- and salivary -- juices flowing. We encourage you to share other ideas with us or on the listserv and plan to join us in April for the Sustainability Committee's **Annual Meatless Potluck!**

Please consider trying the wide variety of healthy, protein-rich, naturally meatless dishes focused on beans and lentils, traditional pastas, and a growing assortment of interesting grains! Enjoy these dishes with cheese or try adding tofu, tempeh, nuts, and other plant-based meat

alternatives. There are now substitutes for virtually any meat, dairy or egg product that your recipes call for!

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Woods Committee News

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 895 4449 5913

Passcode: 915013

Our volunteer **Bow Hunter Fire Fighters of Maryland (BHFFMD)** finished their bow hunting in our East and West Woods and the Meadows on January 31, 2025 when the MD-DNR archery seasons ended. To date, they have harvested seven deer (three bucks and four does). 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. Please contact Joan or Pat if you have any questions.

The Woods Committee (WC) attended a meeting with the Mayor, Green Bank, and their contractors who are conducting a **detailed environmental assessment of the West Woods including stormwater drainage issues** from the Town and neighboring properties. The assessment report will be used to develop a stormwater mitigation and restoration plan for the West Woods. Green Bank will reference this plan to seek funding to support implementation. The WC also is working with RJ Landscaping to restore the Maple Spring in the West Woods.

The WC is preparing **our FY2026 proposed budget** which will be finalized at the February 3rd meeting and submitted to the Mayor and Town Council for consideration. We also received approval to transfer the remaining Town's dedicated funds of "Nicho's Trees" to the WC budget to support tree planting and care in our East and West Woods Preserves.

A reminder to **please stay on the walking trails** to protect understory native plant vegetation, especially as these ephemerals emerge in the early Spring. Please do not use trails that are wet and muddy to avoid soil erosion and be careful entering the Woods on windy days. Avoid any dead or damaged trees leaning over the walking trails and promptly report those to us.

This is an excellent time for new members to join our Woods Committee! All are welcome! Please come to our February 3rd meeting and/or contact Pat Klein or Joan Mahaffey, WC Co-chairs. We hope this year brings many 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

Landfill Harmonic

February, when winter feels endless, calls for a hopeful movie. Our selection is great viewing for teens as well as adults, and admission is free. Washington Grove's own Virginia Quesada worked as an editor on this film and will attend the discussion after the screening. Mark your calendar and join us. You'll leave with a warm feeling!

Landfill Harmonic, Friday, February 7, at 7:00 pm, at McCathran Hall

Directed by Brad Algood and Graham Townsley, 2015, Paraguay and US, in Spanish, shown with English subtitles, 84 minutes.

This inspiring documentary introduces us to the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura, a group of young musicians from Paraguay who play instruments resourcefully crafted from bits of junk discarded in an enormous landfill. The orchestra gains international recognition, demonstrating how even the most impoverished communities can bring forth unimaginable beauty.

Please note: this film will be shown on the first **Friday** of February.

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Washington Grove Cares News

Request assistance or volunteer by contacting WGC via:

- www.washingtongrovecares.org or
- washingtongrovecares@gmail.com or
- 301-944-2962.

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Woman's Club News

Chili Supper

Everyone is invited to attend the Grove's annual "Hot Stuff" Chili Supper at McCathran Hall on Saturday, February 22, from 6-8 pm. Again, this year, we'll have cozy fire pits just outside the hall and flights of yummy chili inside. Dig out your favorite recipes for chili, cornbread, coleslaw, dessert, and more, then [sign up online to let us know what you'll be bringing](#). At the link, you may also sign up to volunteer at the event.



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

ALSO NEW THIS YEAR at the Chili Supper, we're making it easy for you to join or renew your \$25 membership in WCWG. Simply swipe your credit card and it's done! Points anyone?

Outreach Programs

This cold and snowy winter is presenting even more challenges for our Archways families, since school closings for snow days mean the children do not get school meals. Our supply of snacks, treats, games and books are almost depleted, so we're asking for your help in resupplying these needed items. The kids won't care if the books and games have been gently used, they will still enjoy them.

Thanks to our always generous Town, we've been able to provide Washington Grove Elementary School with many winter coats, hats, scarves and gloves. Plus, we're always trying to help keep the Teachers Closet filled. Some of the most appreciated supplies are glue sticks, pencils and erasers.

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

February 1	DEIB Workshop	9:00 am	Town Hall
February 4	YOGA	6:00 pm	Town Hall
February 5	Planning Commission Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
February 5	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
February 6	Swing Time Big Band	6:30 pm	Town Hall
February 7	Film Society	7:00 pm	Town Hall
February 10	Town Council Meeting	7:30 pm	ZOOM
February 11	YOGA	6:00 pm	Town Hall
February 12	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town Hall
February 12	Building Permit Submission Deadline		
February 15	DEIB Workshop	9:00 am	Town Hall
February 18	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
February 18	YOGA	6:00 pm	Town
February 19	Tai Chi	11:00 am	Town HALL
February 19	Recreation	7:30 pm	ZOOM
February 25	YOGA	6:00 pm	Town Hall

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