



## April 2025 Town Bulletin

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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, April 14, 2025, 7:30 pm.**

This is a hybrid meeting, so join us either in person in the Council chambers, or [join the meeting via Zoom](#) (or dial in to 301-715-8592 using meeting ID: 297 850 640 and password 074385).

### Actions at the March 2025 Town Council Meeting

- Agreed not to offer an option to receive a paper copy of the Town Bulletin, but to improve readability on mobile devices and inform residents of their various options for receiving or accessing the Bulletin.
- Deferred action to resurface the basketball court with FY25 funds pending cost quotations.
- Voted to table Resolution 2025-01 “Vacant Properties Registry and Maintenance Standards” in favor of Ordinance 2025-01, “Vacant Properties Registry and Maintenance Standards” introduced and discussion continued to the March meeting of the Town Council. [View the proposed ordinance.](#)
- Introduced Ordinance 2025-01 “Vacant Properties Registry and Maintenance Standards” – Discussion continued to the April meeting of the Town Council.

### Mayor's Kudos

*Kudos* to Sandra Yerkes for generously providing pickleball supplies for the “Pickleball for Kids” events coming in April and early May.

### The Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Process Continues

This year residents will have ample notice and opportunity to weigh in on the FY26 Town Budget, which will be approved at the Annual Town Meeting May 10th. View the [FY26 Budget Process and Timeline document](#).

### Council's Draft FY26 Budget Available

The Council's draft FY26 budget will be discussed at the April 14 Town Council meeting and finalized for the Annual Town Meeting. [View the Council's draft FY26 budget](#). Comment on the budget is welcome.

### Public Notices

#### Public Hearing

The Town Council will hold a public hearing on Ordinance 2025-01 “Vacant Properties Registry and Maintenance Standards” on Monday, April 14 at 7:30 pm.

[Join via ZOOM with video](#) or dial-in: 301-715-8592, Meeting ID: 297 850 640, Password: 074385

### Potential Zoning Changes to the Commercial Corner

At its April 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 BZA

Volunteers for the Board of Zoning Appeals are needed. The Board provides residents a recourse when (infrequently) questions concerning the application of the Town's zoning regulations arise. For more details, please email [Mayor John Compton](#).

### **Town Elections News**

Annual Town elections will be on Saturday, May 10 this year. As usual we will be electing a mayor to a one-year term and two Town Council members to three-year terms. Nominations will close on Monday, April 14. See the Town website for details regarding residency and nomination requirements and consider this opportunity to participate and serve. Nominations so far are:

- John Compton – Mayor
- Mary Warfield – Town Council

### **Maryland State Income Tax**

#### **Washington Grove Subdivision Code: 1612**

Every year the Town of Washington Grove receives a portion of the Maryland state income tax paid by Town residents. Because most residents do not have mail delivered to street addresses, this presents a challenge for the State Comptroller's office when attributing the taxes collected to Washington Grove. It is critical that all Washington Grove residents (including renters) designate "1612" and "Washington Grove" on the tax form. For those filing electronically or using software, there should be a drop-down menu to select Washington Grove. Please share this information with your renters and your tax preparer if appropriate. This DOES NOT increase your taxes but DOES help ensure the Town receives its proper share of income tax revenue. Thanks for your help! Questions? Call Treasurer Jean Moyer.

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

### **Historic Preservation Commission News**

**Next meeting: Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 7:30 pm.** The public is invited to attend this virtual meeting via Zoom. For a copy of the agenda or to get the Zoom address, email Chair Bob Booher at [booherfamily@comcast.net](mailto:booherfamily@comcast.net).

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### **Planning Commission News**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, April 2, 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 **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 March 2025

- 400 Chestnut Avenue: Fence

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

- 123 Grove Avenue: Dumpster

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## News from Grove Committees

### Forestry & Beautification Committee News

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 7:30 pm.**

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](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)).

### Free Trees for Your Property

**Tree Montgomery** is a FREE program to plant shade trees across Montgomery County, Maryland. Its goal is simple – to plant shade trees and increase our tree canopy, which will provide an array of benefits for you and for our community. Many of the large old trees that have died in Town in recent years were on private property. This is an opportunity to help replace them without cost to the homeowner. **Tree Montgomery's** trees are more than 10 feet tall when planted and will eventually grow to more than 50 feet tall, providing benefits for you and for Town. Over three dozen species of trees are available for planting. Complete information is at <https://treemontgomery.org>.

Jay Everhart applied to the **Tree Montgomery** program in May of 2024. They contacted him in November to discuss what kind of a tree he'd like. The tree was installed in February 2025 and he was very pleased with the careful and

professional way it was planted. It's a sturdy native burr oak, about 2" caliper and 15 feet tall (photo follows). He's now looking forward to seeing it leaf out this spring. Several town residents have successfully used this program. If you are interested but feel a little overwhelmed by the process, the Forestry and Beautification Committee is ready to help.

To get started, contact:

Audrey Maskery  
[trees.beautification@gmail.com](mailto:trees.beautification@gmail.com)

Jay Everhart  
[j54ay@icloud.com](mailto:j54ay@icloud.com)

Deb Mehlferber  
[dkmehlferber@gmail.com](mailto:dkmehlferber@gmail.com)

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## **Lake Committee News**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

The Lake Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The Lake Committee has hybrid meetings — in-person in the old Council Room and [by Zoom](#). Come join us. New members are welcome and encouraged! Call Tom Land if you have any questions or suggestions.

## **Looking for Lifeguards for the 2025 Summer**

Lifeguards are needed for Maple Lake this summer. Hours are from 12 noon – 6 pm, seven days a week (including a 1/2 hour break). The pay for a lifeguard starts at \$18.50/hour. Lifeguards must be certified in Lifesaving, CPR, and First Aid (we can help pay for the training.) Call Tom Land for details.

## **Lake Clean-Up Scheduled for April 12th from 10:00 am to 12 Noon**

Please put the lake clean-up on your calendar for Saturday, April 12th from 10:00 am to 12 noon. Come join the fun getting Maple Lake ready for the 2025 swim season! Bring gloves, rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels and clippers, if you have them.

## **Geese at the Lake**

We use the Humane Society's protocol to humanely prevent eggs from hatching in the spring. A pair of geese has nested in an area easily accessible to our egg-oiling team in past years. They drive away the other geese during nesting season and then leave when their eggs do not hatch. Please do not feed or harass the nesting pair or disturb the nest. If you see a nest built, please call Tom Land. We encourage visitors to the lake to take along a plastic bag and

scoop droppings. THANKS!

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## Lighting Committee News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 2025 at 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 893 1602 0615

Lighting Committee generally meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month but we have re-scheduled for the month of April 2025 in order to accommodate the schedules of some committee members. So, the next Town of Washington Grove (TWG) Lighting Committee will be on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

We are working with Pepco and other municipalities to create opportunities for each community to have both cost effective and aesthetic options for their streetlights.

[Report a streetlight that is out.](#) You will need the pole number or address. We can also help — 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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## Meadows Committee News

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

### Why Meadow Restoration?

The head of Montgomery Parks' Meadow Restoration program, Ryan Colliton, told us that grassland species are the ones that MoCo is most in danger of losing. [This new report from the U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative](#) confirms that observation at the national level, and says that habitat conservation is the answer — for the birds and for us.

### Mowing

The annual mowing to hold back woody encroachment was started on February 24 but remains incomplete due to equipment failure. Parks will return to complete the job once the mower is repaired.

### Non-native Invasive Plant Removal

Our first Weed Warrior event of 2025 included Grovers and volunteers from Gaithersburg High School. We removed garbage including a car tire, pulled wineberry, and spread wood chips in the understory to help smother stiltgrass and mile-a-minute ahead of the planting event. Weed Warrior events will continue, complemented by further invasive plant species control carried out

by Parks. We need volunteers, and no experience is necessary!

### Planting Event

Parks is preparing for a planting event in early May. The exact date will not be known until Pope Farm finishes growing the plants. Several hundred wildflower plugs are on order for this event. Again, volunteers welcome!

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### Recreation Committee News

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 7:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

### Art in the Park

Originally scheduled for April 26; RESCHEDULED, DATE TBD

Please join us in Woodward Park for a family-friendly art event. We will have arts and crafts activities for all ages as well as refreshments. A great opportunity to gather with neighbors and enjoy the spring weather! (Rain location: McCathran Hall)

### Tennis Court Combo

Although Woodward Park is open to the public, the tennis courts are for use by residents and their guests only. In order to keep the courts from becoming damaged (and to protect the Community Garden), we will begin locking the courts. If you need the combination, please contact Linda Baim, Meredith Horan, the Recreation Committee liaison (currently Eva Patrone), or Kathy in the town office. Thanks for understanding!

### Yoga in the Grove

Certified yoga and fitness instructor Ingeborg McCright offers TWO classes on Tuesday evenings in McCathran Hall:

1. An all-levels **Vinyasa** yoga class from 6–7 pm (not advised for absolute beginners.)
2. A slow-and-gentle (**Hatha**-style) class from 7:15–8:15 pm (beginners welcome.)

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.

For yoga class, please bring your own mat, and feel free to bring blocks if you use them. Each class ends with a cool-down 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](mailto:counciloreva@gmail.com).

### Summer in the Parks

The Summer in the Parks day camp is now FULL. If you are a town resident and did not get your child or grandchild registered but would like to, please contact Camp Moderator Eva Patrone to see if an exception can be made.

SITP is also fully staffed, but we are accepting more high school volunteers (ages 14 and up). Eva is also looking for an adult to serve as the high school volunteer coordinator. This is a low-time commitment that would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Eva Patrone, at [counciloreva@gmail.com](mailto:counciloreva@gmail.com), for more info.

### CircleFest 2025

**Save the Date!** Saturday May 24th at 5 pm, join neighbors from far and wide on The Circle. Bring family and friends to enjoy music, games, and international potluck food. Widen your circle and make community connections at CircleFest!



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### Sustainability Committee News

Next Meetings: Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 7:30 pm and Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

### 3rd Annual Meatless Potluck, Saturday, April 26, 6 pm

Please join us at the 3rd Annual Meatless Potluck to celebrate Earth Day 2025. Share your favorite meatless dishes and recipes and try some new ones offered by your neighbors.

Reducing meat consumption is something most of us can do right now to lower emissions. [Here's more about why we think it's important to eat less meat.](#)

In Washington Grove tradition, we look forward to a variety of tastes and ideas to help us expand our meatless menus. [Please let us know what you would like to share by signing up here.](#)

To keep this a low-waste event, reusable products are encouraged. Please bring your own plates, cups, and utensils.

### Borrow a Thermal Imaging Camera from MCPL to Find Energy Leaks in Your Home

As the costs of electricity and home heating fuels continue to rise, a new tool available from Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) might help residents reduce their heating and cooling costs. MCPL has made available



thermal imaging cameras as a loan item, the same way you can reserve and check out books. Find the three models in the library catalog to place a hold.

Some of these cameras work by attachment to your cell phone, while others are standalone handheld devices. Either way, they can be used to inspect your home for areas that would benefit from weatherstripping or insulation. You can also use them to spot leaky ductwork or detect devices that consume phantom power by their heat signature. And who knows, you might point it at a wall and discover the heat signature of a squirrel snoozing in its nest. Or, point it outside at night to determine who or what is eating your flowers and shrubs.

The cameras can be checked out for two weeks, with no option to renew. A Grover checked one out and five Grovers used it to inspect their homes. It's quick, easy, and informative.

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## **Woods Committee News**

**Next meeting: Monday, April 7, 2025, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 881 6563 4679

Passcode: 784055

Our May meeting will be on Monday, May 5. All are invited to attend. We welcome new members who want to protect our two Forest Preserves, the East and West Woods.

## **Save the Date!**

The Woods Committee has scheduled a West Woods Clean-Up event for Sunday, April 27th from 10 am – noon in celebration of the life of Joan Mahaffey and of Arbor Day (4/25). Please dress for the weather with waterproof hiking boots. Bring work gloves, garden clippers, small wagons (to haul trash). Trash bags will be provided. Please meet in the Maple Lake parking lot at 10:00 AM. See you there!

## **Summer Employment Opportunity**

The Woods Committee is looking for a teenager to water trees in the East Woods. The employee must be available to work 8 to 10 hours a week during the spring and summer months. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Patty.

## **"Adopt-a-Tree" Initiative**

The Woods Committee is also planning an "Adopt a Tree" initiative to help water and care for newly planted trees in the East Woods. Trees will be

identified with numbered tags. Town residents will choose their adopted tree and coordinate care with the Woods Committee. A great experience for the whole family to help a tree grow in our Woods!

This time of year, the Woods can be very wet, and the weather can be very windy. Please use caution when entering the Woods, especially on windy days. A reminder to please stay on the walking trails to protect understory native plant vegetation. Do not walk or bike on trails that are too wet and muddy to avoid rutting, soil erosion. We hope these precautions allow you to experience our Woods Preserves in a safer and more enjoyable way. If you discover trees blocking trails, please contact Patty Klein, Woods Committee Chair.

As we make progress on control of non-native invasive plants and deer over browsing, we anticipate the emergence of more native ephemerals, shrubs, and saplings, especially in the East Woods. The spring explosion changes from day to day. For help in identifying your discoveries, websites such as the [Chesapeake Bay Native Plant Center](#) provide descriptions and photographs of native grasses and ground covers, shrubs, and trees. Search within the Piedmont Region for optimal results. Stay healthy and stay happy! Please contact Patty Klein, Woods Committee Chair, with any questions.

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## News from Other Grove Organizations

### Film Society News

Thanks to everyone who turned out for the 5 films of the 2024–2025 season, now concluded. Attendance at the films and at the discussions afterward was way up from the previous season's numbers. We're grateful, and we hope you enjoyed the selections. Would you like to help us pick next year's films? Email Bob Christin at [bob\\_christin@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_christin@hotmail.com) about attending our two springtime selection meetings when we nominate titles, assign previewing, and finally vote on the 2025–2026 line-up. The meetings are fun rather than onerous, but if you prefer, you can simply email Bob with your suggested titles.

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### Washington Grove Cares News

#### Can You Offer a Hand to a Neighbor?

Are you willing to help out a Grove neighbor in need of assistance? Could you climb a ladder, troubleshoot a %@\$! computer, give gardening advice, or provide a ride or a meal? Do you have a special skill to share?

Washington Grove Cares would like to know whom we can call when requests for help are received. If we get a request in a category for which you sign up, you

may hear from us. If it's not a good time for you, that's not a problem; we'll call someone else.

Please fill out our [Volunteer Form](#). The link to the Volunteer Form is also on the [Washington Grove Cares page of the Town website](#).

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## Woman's Club News

### April 2025 Outreach Programs

We help the Archways families in many ways, but we also try to help their case workers. When they make their home visits, they like to take treats for the children, and that's where we come in 😊. But our supplies are running low, so we're turning to you, the generous donors from our ***Little Town with the Big Heart***. We're hoping to collect enough treats to carry the children through the upcoming spring and summer. Typical favorite things are chips, cookies, fruit cups, gummies, pudding cups, granola bars and graham crackers. They can be individual packages or family-sized bags.



### 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 Heart***. We always need shelf-stable foods and non-snap items because those needs never stop!

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## Other Notices

### Bulk Trash Collection

The Town has scheduled a bulk trash collection for May 3, 2025. 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. Only two large items per address. Please keep your metal separate from the rest of



your trash.

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## Coming Events Calendar

April 1 Sustainability Committee 7:30 pm ZOOM

April 1 Yoga 6:00 pm ZOOM

April 2 Planning Commission 7:30 pm ZOOM

April 3 Swing Time Big Band 6:30 pm ZOOM

April 5 Private Hall Rental 1:30 pm Town Hall

April 6 Private Hall Rental 5:00 pm Town Hall

April 7 Woods Committee 7:30 pm ZOOM

April 8 Lake Committee 7:30 pm Hybrid

April 8 Yoga 6:00 pm ZOOM

April 9 Tai Chi 11:00 am Town Hall

April 9 Forestry & Beautification 7:30 pm Town Hall

April 9 Recreation Committee 7:30 pm ZOOM

April 10 Gateway Committee Meeting 7:30 pm Town Hall

April 12 Lake Cleanup 10:00 pm Maple Lake

April 13 Private Hall Rental 9:00 am ZOOM

***April 9 Building Permit Submission Deadline***

April 14 Town Council Meeting 7:30 pm Town Hall

April 15 Historic Preservation Commission 7:30 pm ZOOM

April 15 YOGA 6:00 pm Town Hall

April 16 Tai Chi 11:00 am Town Hall

April 17 Swing Time Big Band 6:00 pm Town Hall

April 19 Janus Memorial TBD Town Hall

April 23 Tai Chi 11:00 am Town Hall

April 23 Lighting Committee 7:30 pm ZOOM

April 26 Family Event 10:00 am WW Park

April 26 Vegan Dinner 6:00 pm Town Hall

April 29 Yoga 6:00 pm Town Hall

April 30 Tai Chi 11:00 am Town Hall

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