



## March 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, March 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 February 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.](#)

### **Mayor's Kudos**

*Kudos* to the Commission and Committee chairs who attended the recent DEIB workshop (with two more to come). They are demonstrating their commitment to improving on the welcoming nature of our Town.

### **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, which will be approved at the Annual Town Meeting May 10th. View the [FY26 Budget Process and Timeline document](#).

### **Mayor's Draft FY26 Budget Available**

The mayor's draft FY26 budget will be discussed at the March 18 Town Council meeting and budget worksession. [View the Mayor's draft FY26 budget.](#) Comment on the budget is welcomed.

### **Public Notices**

#### **Hybrid Town Council Meeting and Budget Worksession**

This meeting will be hybrid (both in-person and by Zoom) in McCathran Hall at 7:30 on March 18.

[Join via ZOOM with video.](#)

Or Dial-in: 301-715-8592, Meeting ID: 297 850 640, Password: 074385

#### **Public Comment Requested**

Ordinance 2025-01, “Vacant Properties Registry and Maintenance Standards” has been introduced. [View the proposed ordinance.](#)

#### **Potential Zoning Changes to the Commercial Corner**

At its March 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](#) or [Mayor John Compton](#).

#### **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](#).

### **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. [Find more information on participating](#). Public comment is invited.

### **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.

### **Signage — We Need Your Help!**

Help us update the numerous town signs. If you see an area that needs a new or updated sign, please contact the Town Clerk. 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.

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

### **Historic Preservation Commission News**

**Next meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 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, March 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 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 February 2025**

- 411 Grove Avenue: Fence

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

- None

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## **News from Grove Committees**

### **Forestry & Beautification Committee News**

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

At this month's meeting, 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](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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### **Lake Committee News**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

The Lake Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11th, 2024, at 7:30pm. 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.

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### **Lighting Committee News**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 7:30 pm**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

**Meeting ID:** 893 1602 0615

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).

We meet the fourth Wednesday of every month. All are welcome to attend! Comments and ideas welcome.

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### **Meadows Committee News**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 7:30 pm**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

For anyone new to the topic of the meadow restoration, here's a summary of what we are doing, starting with why:

- **Habitat restoration:** The species that MoCo is most in danger of losing are the meadow species. A treeless expanse populated by a variety of native grasses and wildflowers will attract and help sustain these species.
- **Protecting our open space:** By honoring our legal agreement with Montgomery Parks to maintain the Conservation Park as a meadow, we are in a strong position to prevent the Park from being used for anything other than passive recreation – and not a lighted soccer field with parking, for example. Townsfolk spent roughly one half million dollars and years of effort to achieve this strong position.

## Phase 1 Completed

Myers and Laws completed the phase 1 tree reduction on February 24, and Montgomery Parks performed the once-annual mowing the same day. These steps prevent the meadow from becoming an early succession forest. The tree reduction was funded by a grant from Sustainable Maryland. Parks will remove a Bradford pear on the south edge of the park shortly.

## Weed Warrior Events

We held three Weed Warrior events last year to remove invasive plant species. By the time this is published, a 4th event with volunteers from Gaithersburg High School will have taken place. These events will continue, complemented by further invasive plant species control carried out by Parks.

## Planting Events

Parks is preparing for a planting event in April or May. Several hundred wildflower plugs are on order for this event. The goal is to increase the biodiversity of meadow plants so that flowers will be in bloom throughout the growing season, providing a steady food source for wildlife. In addition, Parks will be ordering trees to place in the hedgerow between the meadows to help hide the view of the highways and provide additional food and shelter. Finally, we will be seeking input as to whether there is support for additional planting along Ridge Road.

## Bluebird Trail

Ken Shapiro is once again managing a bluebird trail in both meadows and around town. New and repaired boxes will be installed this month. There is already much bluebird activity along the trail.

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## Recreation Committee News

**Next meeting: Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 7:30 pm.**

At this meeting we will be planning a family art event for April.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

## 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.

For the month of March, Ingeborg will also offer a slow- and-gentle (**Hatha-style**) yoga class on Tuesdays from 7:15–8:15 pm in McCathran Hall. Beginners welcome. If there is enough interest in this class, we will continue offering it after March.

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](mailto:counciloreva@gmail.com).

## Summer in the Parks

There are only a few spots left for Summer in the Parks, so don't wait -- [get your camper\(s\) registered now!](#)

This year, camp will be July 7, 2025 – July 31, 2025 (weekdays) from 9 am – 1:30 pm. The end-of-summer program and family camp-out will be held on the evening of Friday, August 1. Campers must be rising kindergarten through rising 7th grade. More info about camp can be found on the town website, or by emailing Camp Moderator, Eva Patrone, at [counciloreva@gmail.com](mailto:counciloreva@gmail.com).

Also, we are currently hiring for both paid and volunteer positions at camp. See the information below, and please pass this info along to anyone who might be a good fit for camp.

- Senior Counselor (age 18+) (pay starts at \$18/hr)
- Junior Counselor (age 16+) (pay starts at \$16/hr)
- Volunteers (age 14–19) (Rising 8th grade is OK).

[View the paid staff application form.](#) The deadline to apply is March 31, 2025.

[View the volunteer application.](#) The deadline to apply is June 1, 2025.

## Invitation to Saturday, March 8 St. Patrick's Day Ceili

*What is a 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, March 4, 2025, 7:30 pm and Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)



## **Town Event: Build Bee Hotels for Pollinators, Saturday, March 22, 2 pm**

*It's the bees' knees to help bees' needs!*

Come to the Gazebo to build your own bee hotel. Materials are provided by the Sustainability Committee. Pollinators will emerge from their winter nests soon as flowers get ready to bloom. Many bees, butterflies, and other insects are important to sustain native plants and birds. Bee hotels are one way to provide them with safe places to live and nest over winter. You can also protect and shelter important species if you leave cut stems vertical in the ground or add plants like goldenrod or raspberries to your garden. Avoid pesticides and leave the leaves in your yard until late spring – give pollinators a chance to emerge before tossing them out. Learn more at the bee hotel build! Kids are very welcome to join this event.

## **Save the Date: 3rd Annual Meatless Potluck, Saturday, April 26**

*Celebrate Earth Day at our 3rd Annual Meatless Potluck.* Reducing meat consumption is something most of us can do right now to lower emissions; this event is an opportunity to share meatless meal ideas. [Learn about reducing your meat consumption.](#)

## **The Grove's Renewable Energy Conversion Incentive Pilot Program**

The Sustainability Committee initiated the incentive program in the summer of 2022 to nudge residents to replace their fossil fuel vehicles and furnaces with more efficient and clean electric vehicles (EV's) and heat pumps (HP's). The goal is to reduce the Grove's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by focusing on the things that generate the most emissions – driving, heating and electricity use. We have coupled each conversion of a vehicle or furnace with also converting to clean electricity mostly via signing up for community solar. Thus, if you get an EV or plug-in hybrid vehicle (PHEV) **and** sign up for community solar; or if you convert your heating to a high efficiency HP **and** sign up for community solar, you qualify for the incentive.

To date, we've awarded four incentives for vehicle conversions from fossil fuel to EV, and number five is in progress. There've been 12 fossil-fuel-furnace-to-heat-pump conversions so far; three have already received the incentives; the others are being evaluated, awaiting inspections, or the owners chose not to apply for the incentive.

The conversion from the Pepco standard service (which is 57% fossil fuel, 36% nuclear and only 7% renewable) to a 90% renewable source is a large part of these emission reductions. There are currently over 60 houses in town that rely on renewable sources, roughly 28% of the town, as well as the municipal town meters.



In 2021, Washington Grove's greenhouse gas emissions were roughly 6000 tons of CO2. So far, the incentive program has motivated reduction in emissions by almost 160 tons per year. To match state goals, we will need to reduce our GHG emissions 60% by 2030, so many more conversions are needed.

If you purchased a heat pump in 2024, you may be eligible for a federal tax credit of up to \$2,000 (see IRS Form 5695, "Residential Energy Credits").

We encourage you to take advantage of the federal tax credits on EV's and HP's before they are eliminated.

Please go to the following links to join your neighbors in this ambitious but very achievable goal:

- [Washington Grove's Renewable Energy Conversion Incentives Pilot Program](#)
- [Subscribe to Community Solar Electricity](#)

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## **Woods Committee News**

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 891 6256 8957

Passcode: 197268

Our April meeting will be on Monday, April 7. All are invited to attend. We welcome new members who want to protect our two Forest Preserves, the East and West Woods.

## **Summer Employment Opportunity**

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

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 Joan Mahaffey or Patty Klein, Woods Committee Co-chairs.

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!

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## News from Other Grove Organizations

### Film Society News

#### Day for Night

Sunday, March 9, at 7:00 pm, in McCathran Hall

Directed by François Truffaut, 1973, France, in French, shown with English subtitles, 115 minutes.

*Day for Night* captures the magic and absolute madness of movie-making. In directing the melodrama *Meet Pamela*, Ferrand (played by Truffaut himself), along with his motley cast and crew, must find ways to overcome a multitude of problems. Comedy! Romance! Intrigue! Fifty-Year Old Technology! All comprise this masterful tribute to the art of cinema.

Award-winning *Day for Night* is not available on any streaming service, so come on out to this FREE screening on the second Sunday evening of March. Stay for the discussion; we'd love to hear which movie-about-movies is your favorite.

***This is the final film of our 2024-2025 season.*** The Film Society always welcomes new members. Would you like to help us choose and show films next season? It's fun, and the time commitment is not large. Let us know on March 9, or send an email to Bob Christin at [bob\\_christin@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_christin@hotmail.com).

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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

Many thanks to all who ate, drank and were merry at February's Annual Woman's Club Chili Supper! As always, it did not disappoint.

If you did not get a chance to join the Woman's Club at the supper you still can. Membership is \$25 dollars for one year. Checks may be written to WGWC and mailed (PO Box 354) or delivered to Cynthia Werts (WC Treasurer)



## Outreach Programs

As the cost of food skyrockets and too many programs are being cut, it becomes even more painful for our Archways families to be forced to spend grocery money for hygiene needs. Basic things like deodorant, women's sanitary products, shampoo and shower gel, toothpaste and brushes, strain already stretched budgets. This month we're asking for your help in providing some of these essential needs through your donations.

Although meals for Priscilla's House were once one of our most popular programs, there has been less interest this year and filling the slots has become a challenge. So, we have reluctantly decided to take a break for a while. In a few months, we may try to plan some kind of special event for the ladies living there.

## 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

March 1 DEIB Workshop 9:00 am Town Hall  
March 1 Hall Rental 2:00 pm Town Hall  
March 3 Woods Committee 7:30 pm ZOOM  
March 4 YOGA 6:00 pm Town Hall  
March 4 Sustainability Committee 7:30 pm ZOOM  
March 5 Planning Commission Meeting 7:30 pm ZOOM  
March 5 Tai Chi 11:00 am Town Hall  
March 6 Meeting Wash. Grove Connector 7:00 pm Town Hall  
March 8 Ceili Dance 6:00 pm Town Hall  
March 9 Film Society 7:00 pm Town Hall  
March 10 Town Council Meeting 7:30 pm ZOOM  
March 11 Lake Committee Meeting 7:30 pm Town Hall  
March 11 YOGA 6:00 pm Town Hall  
March 12 Tai Chi 11:00 am Town Hall  
March 12 Forestry & Beautification 7:30 pm ZOOM  
March 13 Gateway Committee 7:30 pm ZOOM  
**March 12 Building Permit Submission Deadline**  
March 13 Swing Time Big Band 6:30 pm Town Hall  
March 18 Historic Preservation Commission 7:30 pm ZOOM  
March 18 YOGA 6:00 pm Town  
March 18 Town Council meeting and Budget Work Session 7:30 pm Hybrid  
(in-person and Zoom)  
March 19 Tai Chi 11:00 am Town Hall  
March 19 Recreation 7:30 pm ZOOM  
March 20 Swing Time Big Band 6:00 pm Town Hall  
March 22 Build Bee Hotels for Pollinators 2:00 pm Gazebo  
March 25 YOGA 6:00 pm Town Hall  
March 26 Tai Chi 11:00 am Town Hall  
March 26 Lighting Committee 7:30 pm ZOOM  
March 29 Private Rental TBD Town Hall

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